

## Monitor plans at Makerere, Museveni tells alumni

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**Tumwine offers a Kitenge to Anna Mkapa at the Makerere University reunion**

**By Raymond Baguma**

PRESIDENT Yoweri Museveni has asked the Makerere University alumni to monitor developments at the university and provide feedback on the relevance of courses and academic programmes.

"The alumni as professional and commercial partners should use their experience to give the institution a feedback. You are a link between the university and society and you must take advantage of this to serve both ends, for the transformation not only of the university but also of East Africa," he said.

The President's speech was read by Prime Minister Apolo Nsibambi during the Makerere University alumni reunion dinner, hosted in a huge white marquee erected at the university's Freedom Square on Saturday.

The reunion was held under the theme: "Makerere University in the 21st Century; the Alumni at the Centre of its Transformation."

Former Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa, an outstanding alumnus of the university, was chief guest. He was accompanied by his wife, Anna. Also in attendance were government officials, politicians of both the ruling NRM and the opposition, students, as well as alumni.

Museveni noted that other Makerere alumni who have risen to become presidents include Mwai Kibaki of Kenya, the late President Milton Obote and the late President Julius Nyerere.

"There is no doubt Makerere has had a tradition of producing world leaders. It is in the interest of all of us, alumni, to ensure that the tradition is maintained," Museveni said.

He added said that Makerere University was proud that President Mkapa, one of its alumni, continues to be a player in diplomacy and environmental conservation, even after leaving the presidency.

He also hailed Mkapa for supporting the drive for East African integration.

The Makerere Convocation chairperson, Bruce Balaba, said the university has allocated five acres of land in Katanga to establish an alumni centre and appealed to the alumni to contribute to the realisation of the project.

Also, an alumni fund has been started. Other alumni chapters will be established in Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, UK, Canada and the US.

Makerere vice-chancellor Venansius Baryamureeba said the university was in the process of implementing administrative and academic reforms.

This will include opening up community outreach centres, improving student services for receiving transcripts, student registration and tuition payments.

Highlights of the reunion included a music show by General Elly Tumwine as he presented his latest release: "Live your dream and enjoy your life."

Mzee Anania Akera, the university's oldest living alumnus who shared a room with Nyerere, was also a big attraction as crowds clamoured for a handshake from him.

This article can be found on-line at: <http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/13/702799>