

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

MONDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY 2015

PRESS STATEMENT

HIGH PROFILE LAUNCH OF H.E. MWAI KIBAKI PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY IN MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press:

You are all warmly welcome to Makerere University for this first Chancellor's press briefing this year 2015.

I am delighted to announce that this week on **Friday 13th February 2015**, we shall hold the high profile launch of the historic H.E. Mwai Kibaki Presidential Library in Makerere University that will house:-

- (a) The *H.E. Mwai Kibaki Endowed Chair in Economics* and;
- (b) The *East African Mwai Kibaki Center for Leadership, Public Finance and Public Policy*.

The **H.E. Mwai Kibaki Presidential Library in Makerere University** is estimated to cost **\$50million**. Of this, **\$40million** is projected for the **Presidential Library** and **\$10million** for the **H.E. Mwai Kibaki Endowed Chair in Economics**.

It is noteworthy that:-

- The ***H.E. Mwai Kibaki Endowed Chair in Economics*** will be held by an internationally credentialed and globally competitive Professor of Economics.
- The ***East African Mwai Kibaki Center for Leadership, Public Finance and Policy*** will, among other things, provide a unique forum for equipping and "re-tooling" African Ministers of Finance and Permanent Secretaries/Secretaries to Treasury. They will have unique opportunities, hitherto not available in Africa, to become "Scholars-in-Residence" and engaged in research on topical issues of Public Finance and Policy impacting Africa's Development. They will learn and benefit from the story, experience, memoirs and papers of H.E. Mwai Kibaki-Africa's most successful Ministers of Finance in the 20th Century.

- For **Africa's incumbent and retired or former Presidents**, the historic H.E. Mwai Kibaki Presidential Library will provide:-
 - ✓ **Presidential Forum and Distinguished Speaker, Lecture and Research Platform/Space** for *incumbent African Presidents and Heads of State/Governments*. They will participate in "**Makerere Africa Distinguished Lecture Series**" on topical African and global issues of leadership, public finance, policy and Africa's sustainable development.
 - ✓ "**African Circle of Elders**" **Forum and Distinguished Speaker, Lecture, Research and Writing Platform/Space** for *retired and former African Presidents and Heads of State/Government*. They will be *Visiting or Senior Scholars-in-Residence* and participate in "**Makerere Africa Outstanding Lecture Series**" in Makerere University.

The high profile launch of **Friday 13th February 2015** will kick-start Makerere's robust capital campaign. This is planned to climax with ground-breaking for the H.E. Mwai Kibaki Presidential Library Project expected in December 2015.

Why H.E. Mwai Kibaki, 3rd President of Kenya?

Makerere University is proud to immortalize H.E. Mwai Kibaki because he one of Makerere's most illustrious and outstanding *alumni*, 1951-1955. He studied Economics, History and Political Science at Makerere and became the first African to graduate with a 1st Class Honours Degree (in the Arts) in 1955.

Immediately on graduation, Kibaki received a merit scholarship for post graduate studies in any British University of his choice. He chose the **London School of Economics (LSE)** from where he graduated in 1958 with a **BSc Public Finance with Distinction! Again**, he became the first African to do so at LSE! He returned to his *alma mater*, Makerere University, the same year 1958 and was appointed **Assistant Lecturer** in the Department of Economics and Political Science. **Again**, he was one of the first Africans in the Department of nine (9).

Kibaki lectured from 1958 to December 1960 when he resigned voluntarily to return to his motherland, Kenya, and contribute to its Independence struggle. He became the first Executive Officer of the Kenya African National Union (KANU) which led Kenya to Independence on **12th December 1963**.

As Kenya's 3rd President, 2002-2013, H.E. Mwai Kibaki was credited by Dr Bitange Ndemo, now Senior Lecturer at the University of Nairobi, but former Permanent Secretary for Information Communications and Technology in the Kibaki Administration as follows:-

*When historians come to write about Kenya, they will certainly recognize that it was the Kibaki administration that started what may be called **indigenous thinking on how we can chart our economic future** (Dr Bitange Ndemo, Daily Nation, Nairobi, 14 November 2014)*

Through the H.E. Mwai Kibaki Presidential Library, Makerere will tell and re-tell the story of H.E. Mwai Kibaki, which is the story of African Excellence! This is the meaning of immortalizing H.E. Mwai Kibaki on the Main Campus of his *alma mater*!

Our present and future generations of Africans, in particular; will come, visit, see and use the H.E. Mwai Kibaki Presidential Library in Makerere University and know it is all about **the story of H.E. Mwai Kibaki: the Man, the Genius, the Scholar/Academic, the Public Servant and Statesman *par excellence*.**

In a nutshell: it is the story of the H.E. Mwai Kibaki Presidential Library in Makerere University as **a world-class Center of African Excellence right in the Pearl of Africa!**