**PROFESSOR JAMES P. M. NTOZI REMARKS ON LAUNCH OF A BOOK RECOGNIZING HIS LONG SERVICES ON 23RD MARCH 2017 IN MAKERERE MAIN HALL**

1. Observe a minute of silence for all my colleagues, friends, relatives, schoolmates and students that have passed on, since I was born.
2. Introduction of:
3. Schoolmates:
4. Of Mbarara Junior and High Schools, included Professor Ephraim Kamuntu, Hon. Amanya Mushega whom I was assigned as his senior for protection and Isreal Tuhumwire, a dormitory mate in Oxford. Another celebrated schoolmate is our President Museveni, who still remembered me when I was part of the Makerere delegation to State House last year. One of our young teachers who had excelled at O’level at Ntare School was Hon. Yona Kanyomozi. Professors. Alex Nganwah Baguma and Tumwine Mukubwa were school mates in Mbarara Junior School.
5. At Bishop School Mukono, I was privileged to be a classmate of Prof. Victoria Mwaka, former CA Vice Chair and Dr. Kisamba Mugerwa, Chair of National Planning Authority. The only subject I was sure to beat them was Mathematics.
6. At Busoga College Mwiri, I found Ndugu Ruhakana-Rugunda, who was the most popular boy in the school, despite being a Head Prefect. Others were Professor Francis Tusubira and Architect Tom Kajumba. I understand our current DVC, Prof. Nawangwe joined the school after I had left.
7. At Makerere University, I met many people, including Mr. John Semanobe, who was in our pioneer class of Statistics. We were immediately followed by a class where Prof. Ben Kiregyera was, and two years later by a class where Mr. Boaz Buhamizo, a former Stanbic Banker was. In my University hall, I was with James Kalebo, a former Director of UMI and Chair of Kyambogo University Council. Profs John Iraka and Baguma Nganwah were with me in University Hall. Also around as a student were Prof. Jonathan Baranga, former DVC of MUST and his wife, Deborah, Prof. Eliab Lugujo, the VC of Ndejje and his wife Emma, Specioza Kabwegyere, Godfrey Tumusiime, former DG of EA Devt Bank, Professors Elidad Banda and Yusto Kaahwa.
8. At University of London, I was with Dr. Katwireemu, Moses Musaazi and Katungwensi Rubimbwa and the distinguished international migration scholar, Professor Adelanti Adepoju of Nigeria. Professors Tumusiime Mutebile and Patrick Mangheni as well as Olara Otunu were not far off in Oxford University.
9. I did my Postdoctoral at the prestigious University of Pennsylvania with Dr. John Kabera, formerly with the department of Geography.
10. My friends I did not study with –Prof. Elly Sabiiti, Prof. Maud Kamatenesi (VC of BSU), Prof. Oswald Ndoloreire (Director of Confucius Institute), Olive Kasiime, Prof. Tim Rugumayo, Norad Kiremire. Some of my elders present are Dr. Mpairwe, Lawyer Kagumire, Economist Dan Kireju and Sir Richard Kaijuka.
11. Relatives – my wife, children with their spouses, are all present. In-laws – Prof. Eliazear Chomi of Kabale University and wife Deborah, Patrick Bitature and Carol and Tom Kajumba and Rosemary, and Apollo Mugume and his wife Rosemary are also present. My Brother Kaguma and his wife Beth, Cousins – Justice Jane Kigundu and Commissioner Cissy Mbabazi, Frank and Doreen, Luke and wife, General Ivan Koreta and wife Agnes, Patrick Nkore and wife and Peter Nkore and wife, Mr. John Magara & wife, Mr. Wilson Kumwesiga, David Gabidande, Rose Izizinga and Winnie Kabogoza. The Kyamugambis – Kasingye, Singa, Otaremwa and Otandeka and their spouses and other nephews and nieces are also present.
12. My neighbours of Mosque Hill, who came to my help when my family was attacked by thieves at night in my absence are: Profs. Fred Juko and Consolanta Kabonesa, Prof. Umar Kakumba, Dean of the Business School, Mr. and Mrs. David Kibwana, Mr. &Mrs. Olal Odur and Drs. Saul & Rebecca Nsubugas and Prof. Okello & wife. These are my security.
13. When I was told of this project of writing a book on demography to recognize my long service to Makerere, I was overwhelmed by the love these Makerere, regional and international professional colleagues were showing me. I thank these colleagues led by Associate Gideon Rutaremwa that decided to recognize my work while I am alive through a book which is everlasting. The practice has been to recognize people posthumously, which the deceased would not know about. You may need to know that these individual colleagues invested not only a lot of their time, but also their money to get the project start off. I also thank Ms. Agnes Sekiboobo, the Director of CPAS for leading the management of the project. I must mention that Agnes was one of my first statistics students when I returned from Abroad, late 1970s.
14. My Association with Makerere:

I joined Makerere in June 1968, approximately 49 years ago and was a pioneer undergraduate and masters’ student of the then Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics. I completed masters in 1973 and proceeded to London University where I did my PhD. I returned to Makerere in 1979 and have stayed here up to the present day, despite many temptations in form of offers to take up international jobs, which I declined. I remember, Professors Ohandike and Okonjo, the father of Dr. Ngonzi, former Vice President of World Bank and Nigerian Finance Minister, trying to recruit me to teach demography at the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) at the university of Ghana, Legon, where they were teachers but I refused. I used to use a reason that I would not abandon my ailing mother, but this reason was removed with her death and I had to look for other excuses to remain in Makerere. Many of my international professional colleagues never understood my reasons for staying in Uganda with its overwhelming challenges. My decision to stay put in Makerere, was to service my alma mater Makerere and my country Uganda. So long as my life was not in immediate danger, I reasoned that if everyone including me abandoned Makerere, who would keep the fort. During my stay, I developed all current undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the School of Statistics and Planning. When Population Studies was liked by donors, I attracted millions of dollars from UNFPA, Rockefeller Foundation, the Population Council, USAID, IDRC, SiDA-SAREC, UNDP and the World Bank, which built the capacity of the department of Population Studies and other departments in the school. For seven years, I was the Director of the then Institute which at the time was described as a centre of excellence of statistical and demographic training for Africa. While in Senate and other university committees for over three decades I fearlessly fought for Statistics and Population Studies and in some cases was hated for it. I also served Makerere retirees, one of the most vulnerable groups in Makerere for about ten years and fought for their pensions and other retirement benefits, up to last year when I relinquished the position of Chair of Makerere University Pensioners Association (MUPA). I represented the pensioners at the Council Committee of staff development, welfare and retirement benefits.

1. I started teaching at Makerere in 1971 as I was doing masters in statistics. Among the students I taught as a teaching assistant, were Professor Hyuha, former Makerere university Academic Registrar, James Mugume, former PS of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Boaz Buhamizo, a former Stanbic Executive, who is here. Apart from thousands of undergraduates and hundreds of masters graduates who passed through my hands, I have trained 10 or so PhDs in demography. My other famous students include Richard Byarugaba of NSSF, Tom Buringuriza of National Investment Authority, Ben Paul Mungyereza ED of UBOS and Polycap Musinguzi and Mrs. Katarikawe of Bank of Uganda. Many managers of UBOS and Bank of Uganda were my students. I also had an opportunity to mentor others in the department and other related departments in the university, like Geography, Sociology, Gender and Public Health. Furthermore, I sent many young Ugandans abroad to do masters and PhDs in statistics, quantitative economics, statistical computing and demography. So, I am happy to have left my department and related departments in Makerere and other universities, such as Kyambogo University (DVC – Prof. Nabugoomu) and UCU (DVC – Dr. Benon Musinguzi) in capable hands of these PhD graduates. Several Universities outside, like North West of South Africa, Universities of Nairobi, Dar-es-alaam, Botswana, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, Ghana, and Australian National University (ANU) have used my services as external examiner of students examinations and theses, external vetters of staff and reviewers of university programmes.
2. Summary of valedictory (Retirement) lecture:

Originally, I thought of delivering a valedictory lecture, a lecture one gives on retirement, but found that there will be no time to do justice to such a lecture. I shall instead summarize the lecturein less than 5 minutes. It may be remembered that I was one of the few professors in this university who in 1995 fulfilled my obligations of delivering an inaugural lecture within three years after being promoted to full professorship in October 1992. At the time my lecture was on HIV/AIDS because of its importance to Africa in general and Uganda in particular.

Today, I shall talk about another increasingly important topic of Ageing. I started being interested in ageing in late 1990s and have since delivered several lectures at international conferences and other meetings and taught a course in the subject as well as successfully supervising 2 PhD students to completion in the field of ageing and a third one is ongoing.

The population of the aged – 60 years and above is still low in most of Africa including Uganda, but increasing, suggesting that the ageing problems are growing. Older persons in Uganda were found by the 2014 census to be 4% of the total population only. My PhD student, now Dr. Abel Nzabona found several challenges of the aged in Uganda, which included: loneliness, living in dilapidated housing, frequent ill health, lack of health care and lack of old age social protection. Other researchers have added disabilities, neglect, violence, abuse, discrimination and negative images.

The Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing of 2002 committed all world governments, including Uganda, who attended the summit to develop and implement policies and programmes to mitigate these challenges. Unfortunately, most African governments have not done what they promised to do, partly because they think that old age is the responsibility of traditional systems to handle alone. But with education and urbanization, the young people are no longer in the rural areas to help the older persons. Another belief of African governments is that the population of the older persons is small and should not be given priority. Hence, most older persons are quietly suffering in their villages, without support.

While this is happening the young generation must know that these suffering older persons can be of much value to the development of our countries. Such values were also studied by Dr. Nzabona, which included participation of income generating activities, care taking of the vulnerable in the society like orphans and the sick, being instrumental in many social organizations where they volunteer their leadership, possess ethnoscience knowledge like mat making and extracting back clothes from trees (olubugu), which may disappear if not passed on to the young generation, propagating cultural norms, dispensing traditional medicine to supplement modern medicine ( like traditional birth attendants helping in delivering mothers in the absence and shortages of modern doctors), mediation in conflicts in the communities, protecting family properties in the rural areas from being grabbed. The older persons also have an institutional memory of society history, if they went too soon, some of this memory will be buried with them and younger people will not know it.

In Makerere professors retire at age 70 and there is a reluctance on the part of the university organs to extend this age as has happened at the University of Nairobi. In UK, Europe and USA, professors are retired when they are incapable of delivering output. By the way most professors in Makerere including me have no immediate replacement at the level of full professorship and hence the departments will stop doing what professors can do, which is detrimental to the university. Most of my colleagues who retired when still able to deliver have joined other universities. Recent examples include Professors Luboobi of Mathematics who is in Nairobi and Banda of Physics, who has joined Kampala International University. I know that draft Human Resource Manual which recommended that academic staff should retire later than it is now has been gathering dust in some university managers’ drawers for several years, because top managers who were supposed to present it to Council have not done so to date.

In conclusion of this summarized lecture, I appeal to government and Makerere universityto develop policies and programmes that would keep older persons active until their days are over.

Knowing that my contract would not be extended beyond last November 2016, I planned for alternative on my farm, which makes me busier than when I was in Makerere. However, I still would like to keep in touch with Makerere to exercise my brains as a researcher. Hence, my present association with the Center for Population and Applied Statistics where I can continue mentoring more younger people, and I hope no university manager would quarrel with that.

1. I thank authors of the book and organizers of this function. I am highly grateful to Prof. John Oucho, a person I met at the university of Nairobi in 1977 when I was in exile from Amin Uganda and has been beside me in many international meetings of Population Scientists. He has done an excellent job as Chief Editor of this book free of charge. I wish and hope I can reciprocate your help in future.
2. I wish to thank colleagues, friends, school mates, students and relatives for sparing your precious time to honour this function.
3. I thank the managers of the university and my college to have agreed to host and finance this event.
4. I am exceedingly grateful to the Prime Minister, Ministers and MPs present for finding time to honour the function.
5. Professor Honourable Kamuntu, your dedicated friendship to me, since we last met in 1960 as boys is highly appreciated.
6. I thank all of you present for supporting this event with your presence. Whether you are a student, Makerere staff, or non Makerere member, I cannot take your presence for granted.
7. Lastly, I cannot forget my family, especially my wife Dr. Ida Ntozi, who has supported me since we married in 1975 for 42 years and my children for being good to me and supporting me in many ways.

May God bless youall.

Professor James P. M. Ntozi.

Date: 23rd March 2017.