

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

**REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL, ENG. DR. CHARLES WANA ETYEM**

AT THE OCCASION OF THE LIBRARY DAY CELEBRATIONS

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2017

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES GARDENS, 2:00PM

- The Vice-Chancellor
 - The University Librarian
 - Principal, College of Health Sciences
 - Distinguished Guests
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
-

I thank you for your kind invitation to officiate at the Makerere University Library Day 2017. At 95 years of existence, Makerere University has a long and illustrious history of academic excellence. As I begin my remarks, allow me to reflect on this bit of history. Founded in 1924, the Makerere Medical School as it was called then, is famous for producing East and Central Africa's first female Medical Doctor Prof. Josephine Namboze.

Mulago Hospital which was originally founded in 1917 by Sir Albert Ruskin Cook at the present day Old Mulago site, later on became the Teaching Hospital for the Makerere Medical School. It is therefore no mistake that the Medical School Library was appropriately named the "Sir Albert Cook Memorial Library". I therefore thank the Makerere University Library for meticulously preserving Sir Albert Cook's medical notes, which we were privileged to view during our tour of the various exhibitions.

As the University Council, we are not only aware of the history that forms part of Makerere's rich heritage but are also fully embrasive of it as we seek to address issues of access, quality, efficiency, financing and governance. In other words, we are because of what we have been, and intend to use this knowledge to make what we shall be even better!

In this regard, I wish to congratulate the College of Health Sciences upon the newly opened Sir Albert Cook Memorial Library extension. As University Council, we are happy that we acted promptly to allocate the space that was needed for this project. We remain committed to exercising all powers vested in the Council by the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act to advance teaching and learning, research and innovations, as well as knowledge transfer partnerships.

I therefore urge you all to reflect upon this year's Library Day theme ***Libraries Transforming Society*** as you go about your respective personal and professional duties. The writing is on the wall. Our society is looking up to us to help them transform their daily lives for the better. It is no longer enough for us to simply research, innovate and publish. We ought to transcend the confines of our academic comfort zones and reach out with the sole aim of transforming. Our personal and professional pursuits should no longer be for the sole preserve of amassing new knowledge but rather, in response to the needs of society. Then and only then shall we be content and fully justified to say that *we build for the future*.