**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL AT THE INSTALLATION OF PROFESSOR BANRABAS NAWANGWE AS THE VICE CHANCELLOR, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY MAIN BUILDING, ON THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

HE The President of the Republic of Uganda and Visitor to Makerere University, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Mseveni

Hon. Rosemary Nansubuga Sseninde, Minister State for Education (Primary Education), representing Minister of Education and Sports who is also the First Lady

The Chancellor, Makerere University, Professor Ezra Suruma

All Ministers and Members of Parliament

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Members of the Diplomatic Corps

The Governor, Bank of Uganda

Professor John Dumba Ssentamu, the Out-going Vice Chancellor

Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice Chancellor

The Chairperson, National Council for Higher Education

The Former Chancellors of Makerere University

The Former Chairpersons of Makerere University Council

The Vice Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council

The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Appointments Board

The Chairperson MUBS Council

The Deputy Vice Chancellors

Vice Chancellors of Other Universities

Principals of Colleges at Makerere University and MUBS

Members of Staff of Makerere University

The Guild President and Students of Makerere University

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Your Excellency, I on behalf of Council and the entire Makerere University community, would like to whole heartedly welcome you to Makerere for the installation of the new Vice Chancellor, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe.

Within the limited time I have been given, I shall make a few remarks about our Out-going Vice Chancellor, Professor Ddumba-Ssentamu; shall present to him our token of appreciation for the service he rendered to Makerere; shall introduce to you the new Vice Chancellor, Professor Barnabs Nawangwe and finally I shall invite the Chancellor to install Professor Barnabas Nawangwe as the 11th Vice Chancellor of Makerere University since Makerere University became autonomous in 1970.

Professor Ddumba-Ssentamu assumed office of Vice Chancellor on the 1st September 2012. His tenure ended on the 31st August 2017. By law, Professor Ddumba-Ssentamu was entitled to a second term (“Kisanja”) but he opted not to seek for it. I don’t know whether he may have had the phrase “Kisanja Hakuna Muchezo” at the back of his mind but whatever the reasons we respect his decision.

Professor Ddumba-Ssentamu assumed office at a time when the University was not totally settled. There were many issues that required both immediate and long-term solutions. His immediate task was to understand the working of the University and its relationship with stakeholders, particularly the Government of Uganda and the Development Partners. Many staff related issues were on the drawing board. The endemic problem of financing public University was high on his agenda. For the long term, while Makerere University has the autonomy on paper to determine all matters related to the management of the University, the then VC’shad to live with the hard reality like the inability to determine fees that are commensurate with service**s** deliver**ed**

While many of the challenges he faced at assumption of office have not been fully addressed, we have seen some improvements. Makerere University has forged collaboration with many Universities and Development Partners around the world. Makerere has continued to enjoy relatively good rapport with Government in many aspects. Government support in research in STEM has steadily grown. The University continued to maintain its single digit position among African Universities. We have witnesses some commendable infrastructure developments on the main campus. New facilities constructed through Government and Development Partner support are visible. The roads have been repaired. The main gate is getting a face-lift. The Makerere Holdings Company and the Makerere Endowment Fund were established. Both of these ventures will contribute to the utilization of the vast real estates that Makerere is sitting on to help to provide the necessary supplement to our financial resources.

Today, I pay tribute to Professor Ddumba-Ssentamu for the service he has rendered to Makerere and the country in the last five years. Council wishes to thank him for his cooperation even during the most trying times that we have lived through during his tenure. We all wish to thank him from the bottom of our hearts and wish him very fruitful endeavours in his next steps. Therefore as a sign of our bond with Professor Ddumba-Ssentamu, I wish to present these tokens to him in appreciation for his service to us all.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, today we are installing a new Vice Chancellor for a period of five years. As you heard from the Chairperson of the Search Committee, Hon. Lady Irene Ovonji-Odida, who is also the Deputy Chairperson of the Council, the process was carried out in accordance with the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act (UOTIA) and as amended, in a very transparent and smooth process. I would like to commend the Search team for a job well done. May I use this opportunity to thank and recognize the Committee, members of Senate and Council for discharging their statutory obligation diligently and impartially. I would also like to use this opportunity to thank the other competitors who did not make it for their maturity in accepting the outcome. In particular I would like to thank Professor Edward Kirumira, the Principal of the College of Humanity and Social sciences, a honest competitor, who had to travel to Spain on official duty and couldn’t be with us today but sent his warm congratulations to Barnabas as well as his apology for his absence.

**But who is Professor Barnabas Nawangwe? I will use the opportunity to briefly introduce him. [Separate Bio Sheet]**

Professor Nawangwe comes in at a time when Makerere University is facing many internal and external challenges. The challenges your predecessor faced have not gone away. The endemic causes of staff unrests that often result in closure of the University have not yet been resolved. The University is still waiting for the outcome of the Visitation Committee work established by the Visitor to the University way back in December 2016. The large students numbers, approximately 40,000 continue to put pressure on demand for space for instructions as well as staff to deliver knowledge. Makerere is suffering from a crisis of confidence with staff and students involvement in unethical behaviour of changing marks. The collegiate system that was adopted some seven years ago for which Professor Nawangwe has just established a Review Committee is not running smoothly due to many institutional and financial constraints.

Professor Nawangwe has been in Makerere since about 1983 at various academic and administrative positions. You therefore understand the challenges and nuances that affect Makerere fairly well. While the UOTIA Act as amended states your responsibility as **“Vice-Chancellor is responsible for the academic, administrative and financial affairs of the University**”, it is incumbent upon you to unbundle your role so that you are not bogged down with mundane daily administrative issues. You must focus on key strategic issues that benefit Makerere and the nation. You are the focal point for Makerere. You are the Chief PRO for the University. You are the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Makerere. We would like to see firm action on curbing malpractices in the academic arena that erode trust in Makerere’s degrees. We would like to see stronger partnership with the private sector to develop both the intellectual and real estate potential that Makerere holds. We would like to see Makerere at the forefront setting debates and dialougues on national agenda. Therefore live it.

I would like to repeat this counsel that I gave your predecessor five years ago. As the Chief Executive Officer of the University you must lead by example. Show a spirit of statesmanship and put behind you the petty differences, real or perceived that characterized the University during the race to the position of Vice Chancellor. Do not carry any baggage as you enter the office otherwise you will become a prisoner of your own making. Support must be on the basis of principles and not petty considerations. Makerere University is a national institution and please manage it as such; desist from temptations that will give your detractors fodder for maligning you in the management of the University. Two prominent Ugandan politicians on different occasions made very poignant statements that I will use to give you some very sober advice. One said the “seat is very hot”; the other said the “seat is very sweet”. Both were right. You however need to be on your constant guard to defuse the heat on the seat to a manageable level and avoid indulgence in the excesses of the sweetness.

To the staff, I would like to use this occasion to request all staff to cooperate with you. The three staff associations have pending issues that are to be addressed by Council and Government. I would like to use this occasion to appeal to the members of theses associations; MUASA, MASA and NUEI to allow the new Vice Chancellor find his bearing while dialogue continues. As we wait for the outcome of the Visitation Committee work, I would like to implore every member of staff to be patient so that some of the endemic problems in the University can be addressed.

The students who are here to get knowledge will be looking to your fatherly stewardship of the University. Pay attention to their concerns quickly. You have your immediate subordinates to support you; use them otherwise they are a source of idle talks. As for Council I can assure you that you have our full support use us to better the management of the University.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chancellor and the Government of Uganda for the support and guidance they continue to render to me and my Council in managing the affairs of the University. We thank the Chancellor for doing his bidding at the shortest possible time. The President of the Republic of Uganda, who is also our Visitor, has placed Makerere University on top of his priority for the industrialization and modernization of our economy. Let us keep the excellent relationship that has evolved in the last few years for the betterment of the University and the country. The Leader of Government business, the Right Hon. Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda has his doors open for us at all times. Let’s use it. Last but not least I would like to note that the Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, who is also the First Lady, Hon. Janet Kataha Museveni and her team are more than willing to support the University in all its endeavours. My humble advice to the new Vice Chancellor is to keep the communication channels open at all times.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as I conclude, I once again congratulate and welcome Professor Barnabas Nawangwe to the office. Your tasks are well cut out for the next five years. The rest of the members of top management are people you know and worked with over the years and should be able to guide you through the transition period smoothly. Council will give you all the support you need for discharging your duties.

Before I conclude, may I request the Hon. Rosemary Sseninde to convey our warm greetings to the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports. We appreciate the support and guidance she is giving us.

Finally, Your Excellency, The President of the Republic of Uganda, I once again thank you for gracing this occasion. May God bless you in your efforts to lead our Country.

**THANK YOU ALL FOR LISTENING TO ME AS WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.**

**PROFESSOR BARNABAS NAWANGWE’S PROFILE**

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe was born in 1956 in the then Bukedi District, now Busia District. He attended his lower schools in his home environment before joining Busoga College Mwiri in 1970 where he was to pursue both O and A Levels. In 1976 he joined the Kiev National University of Construction and Architecture in the then Soviet Union, now Ukraine where he obtained MSc in Architecture in 1983. He returned briefly to Uganda and went back to the same institution where he obtained PhD in the same discipline.in 1989. He is a happily married man.

Prior to his appointment as Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nawangwe served as the Deputy Vice Chancellor- Finance and Administration from September 2013 to August 2017. He has been responsible for the bulk of the rehabilitation and development work at Makerere University.  He is renowned for chairing the University Research, Administrative and Financial Reforms Committee that recommended the transformation of Makerere University into a collegiate institution.

He served as the Principal, College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (2011 to 2013), Dean of Faculty of Technology (2003-2010), Associate Dean (2000-2002) and Head of the Department of Architecture from its inception in 1987 to 2002.

Prof. Nawangwe has supervised several Masters and PhD students, authored a number of research reports, presented numerous papers at local and international conferences, and published several articles in internationally reviewed journals. He is currently external Examiner at the University of Nairobi, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, and Oslo School of Architecture.

He is a founder member and the National Coordinator of the Innovation Systems and Innovative Clusters Programme for Uganda, which seeks to utilize the synergies of the triple helix (government, academia and business) to make Uganda’s businesses, especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) more competitive nationally, regionally and globally. In 2008, he was elected the first Chairman of Council of the Pan-African Competitiveness Forum (PACF). He is also a Board member of The Competitiveness Institute (TCI).

Prof. Nawangwe is a Registered Professional Architect, and has worked widely as a consulting Architect in Uganda and beyond.  He is Chairman of the Architects Registration Board and a Past President of the Uganda Society of Architects.  He has a long experience in architectural design, physical planning, and interior design.  He has been lead consultant on several projects both in Uganda and internationally.  He is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors and Head, Architecture Division of Technology Consults Limited and an Honorary Member of the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers (UIPE).

He is also the Patron of several organizations and initiatives including the Resilient Africa Network (RAN), Uganda Association for Bamboo and Rattan among others, as well as the Chairperson Steering Committee of the Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa.

14th September 2017