

**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE CHANCELLOR SEARCH COMMITTEE 2017**

**HON. IRENE OVONJI-ODIDA**

**ON THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2017**

* **The Chief Guest-Hon Minister of Education and Sports**
* **The Chancellor of Makerere University**
* **Honorable Ministers Present**
* **Your Excellencies, The Ambassadors Present**
* **Members of the Diplomatic Corps**
* **The Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament**
* **Honourable Members of Parliament**
* **Your Lordships the Judges of the Judicature**
* **Religious Leaders**
* **The Leadership of Kampala Capital City Authority**
* **Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies**
* **Chancellors and former Chancellors**
* **Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council**
* **The Outgoing Vice Chancellor, Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu**
* **Makerere University Senate**
* **Vice-Chancellor and Members of the University Management Team**
* **Former Vice Chancellors**
* **Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Principals of other Universities and Institutions**
* **Members of the University Senate**
* **Members of Staff of Makerere University**
* **Students of Makerere University**
* **The Media Fraternity**
* **Distinguished Visitors**
* **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

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I welcome you all. I am pleased that we have convened in Makerere University Main Hall to celebrate the Installation of the next substantive Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe.

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor Search Committee 2017, I will reiterate my pleasure in witnessing the successful conclusion of the Vice Chancellor Search Process that kicked off in March 2017 being timed by Makerere University Council to finish before the end of the five year tenure for the Out-going Vice Chancellor, Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu on 31st August 2017.

I recall vividly the Makerere University Council meeting held on Thursday 9th March 2017 which set up the VC search team and appointed me to chair it. I am deeply appreciative of the commitment, integrity and professionalism of the 2017 VC Search Committee comprising Mr. Bruce Balaba Kabaasa, Dr. Betty Ezati, Dr. Frank Mwine and Prof. Joseph Y.T. Mugisha.

In execution of this task, we always maintained that the search process was designed to be fair, transparent and competitive in order to produce the best possible outcome. We understood the significance of the role of the Vice Chancellor as the CEO of the university as a leader, strategic thinker, team builder and champion, who puts the entire university community at the centre of Makerere but also connects it to the wider community beyond.

I am glad to mention that on 28th June 2017 when Search Committee Report to the University Senate was presented, the report was endorsed in its entirety and the three candidates recommended in their order of performance ie: i) Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, ii) Prof. Edward K. Kirumira, and iii) Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba, were forwarded to the University council. When the University Council voted; Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe again emerged the best. We heartily congratulate you Barnabas, and look forward to collaborating, supporting and holding you to account in your five year tenure as Vice Chancellor of Makerere University. It is my hope that you will use your power wisely to build, to nurture, to grow Makerere, and its role in shaping the education sector and beyond that, its footprint in public policy and build a Uganda that is inclusive, and that respects excellence, intellectual rigor, merit, diversity, social justice and honesty.

We have also listened to Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu who has delivered his farewell message. On 31st August 2017, I officiated at the brief handover meeting when Outgoing Vice Chancellor, Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu handed over the Office to the Incoming Vice Chancellor-Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe. We congratulate Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu, an alumnus of Makerere University who rose through the ranks up to the level of Professor, on completing his tenure successfully. I congratulate him for choosing to stay, and continue to serve his alma-mater as a Professor of Economics in the College of Business and Management Sciences. Above all we should salute him for demonstrating to Makerere University and Uganda that a key element of good leadership is knowing when to let go, and enabling a smooth transition and transfer of power to the next person. It is recognizing that no one person is greater than an institution or indeed a country and that everything that has a beginning must also have an end.

Our Chief Guest, The Chancellor, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen; it is now my honour and privilege to invite the Chairperson of Makerere University Council, Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem to deliver his remarks.

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