REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMURREBA, AT THE 61ST GRADUATION CEREMONY, 17TH JANUARY 2011

- Honorable Minister of Education and Sports
- The Chancellor Makerere University
- Honorable Ministers Present
- Honorable Members of Parliament Present
- Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners
- The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
- The Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of sister Universities
- Members of Makerere University Senate
- Members of Management
- Members of Staff of Makerere University
- Invited Guests
- Students
- Ladies and Gentlemen

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On behalf of Makerere University and on my own behalf, I welcome you all to the 61st Graduation ceremony of Makerere University, which runs from today the 17th of January to 21st January, 2011. A total of 13,296 candidates are graduating with degrees and diplomas of which 6,495 (**48.8%)** are female and 6,801 (**51.2%)** are male. By the end of the 61st graduation ceremony, a total of 46 candidates will have graduated with doctorate degrees in different disciplines of which 11 are female and 35 male.

Makerere University Council

On behalf of Makerere University, I would like to thank Hon Mathew Rukikaire the former Chairperson of Makerere University Council, Mrs. Christine Kiganda the former Vice-Chairperson of Makerere University Council and all the other members of the former University Council for a job well done. Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to single out other members of the former University Council that deserve special recognition: Prof. Livingstone Luboobi who served as Vice-Chancellor up to 31st May 2009; Prof. DJ Bakibinga who served as Deputy Vice-

Chancellor in charge of Finance and Administration up to 30th October 2009; Mr. Steven Maloba who served as Chairperson Appointments Board and Dr. William Muhairwe who served as Chairperson of the Establishment and Administration Committee of Council.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, let me use this opportunity to introduce to the public Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem the Chairperson of Makerere University Council and Dr. Catherine Namuddu the Vice-Chairperson of Makerere University Council. Let me request both of them to stand up for recognition. Let me also request all the other members of Makerere University Council to stand up for recognition.

Landmark Achievements of Makerere University Council

The former Makerere University Council at its last meeting held on 17th December 2010 took a bold and historical step and unanimously approved the proposal to transform Makerere University into a collegiate University initially with 8 colleges and two semi-autonomous schools that shall in the near future transform into colleges too. Also mid last year, the former Makerere University Council unanimously approved senate recommendations on restructuring Makerere University academic programmes. The restructured academic programmes are not only world class but are also responsive to both national and international human resource needs. Makerere University Council has moved a step further and commenced the implementation of the college proposals by approving the acting Principals and Deputy Principals of all the colleges.

Let me request the Acting Principals and Deputy Principals to stand up for recognition.

After being at the helm of Makerere University for the last 14 months as Acting Vice Chancellor, there is no doubt in my mind that sooner than later Makerere University shall be the top University in Africa and among the top 1,000 Universities in the world. This will happen as long as the alumni, staff and students of Makerere University, the government of Uganda, the general public, the media, friends of Makerere University and well wishers continue to play their critical roles in rebuilding Makerere University. Let all of us find wisdom in the great words of John F. Kennedy and I quote: *And so, my fellow Americans, ask*

not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country. Fellow partners in re-building Makerere University, ask not what Makerere University can do for you, ask what you can do for Makerere University. Makerere University in one way or another has made us all who we are today especially those who went through the gates of Makerere University. So let us be grateful and keep Makerere University on the rise as per the Makerere University anthem: ''From East and West; From North and South; All voices singing; Arise, Arise Makerere; Rise up and rise; High up and high; All voices singing; Arise Makerere University. ''

This dream is a dream of all of us and it shall be fulfilled. Even after Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered *"I have a dream Speech'* to over 200,000 civil rights supporters in which he called for racial equality and an end to discrimination on August 28, 1963; it took him over four years, April 3, 1968; to deliver his prophetic speech **'**I've Been to the Mountaintop**'** in which he assured his followers that he had seen the Promised Land and that as a people they would get to the Promised Land. Indeed it has taken us 89 years since 1922 for all of us to finally believe that Makerere University shall actually be the top University in Africa. Together, we are determined and confident more than ever before that Makerere University shall be the best University in Africa within the next few years but at the very worst not more than 5 years from today.

As John F. Kennedy said, *A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on*. Ladies and gentlemen, I have a dream that one day Makerere University education and programmes shall be equally accessible to all Ugandans regardless of location, time of the day, social or economic status. That is the day all of us shall rise and say Makerere University has finally fulfilled its idea of 'Building for the Future' that is enshrined in its motto.

Economic growth and Human Development

Mr. Chancellor Sir, all developed countries invest more than 1% of their GDP in research and development. China has consistently invested over 1.5% of its GDP in research and development and its now the 2nd largest economy in the

world. The United Republic of Tanzania beginning with the next financial year will invest 1% of its GDP in research and development. The Republic of South Africa allocated 1% of its GDP to research and development several years ago. Studies have shown that GDP is proportional to research output. Going by the current trends in Uganda, we are optimistic that Uganda shall invest at least 1% of its GDP in research and development with effect from the next financial year. We acknowledge the over UGX 12billion annual allocation from government to Makerere University for science, technology and innovations with effect from the current Financial Year, for the next 5 years. We are also grateful to government through the Ministry of Education and Sports for having secured over US$200 million from African Development Bank and other agencies to finance the improvements and expansion of higher education science and technology facilities at the public universities in Uganda, Makerere University inclusive. We would like to thank our development partners for the continued support to Makerere University. We are requesting government to strategically investment more in **Education for all** at tertiary education level in order to spark economic growth and human development. As a University we are anxiously waiting for the 30% salary increment promised to the scientists in higher education institutions come 1st July 2011.

Transcripts and Certificates

Mr. Chancellor Sir, after any student has satisfactorily fulfilled the requirements for the award of either a degree or diploma of Makerere University and obtaining clearance from the offices on the university, he or she has the **right** to demand for the immediate release of his/ her transcript. Transcripts for Granduands of this year were ready before 1st November 2010 and most of the Granduands have already picked their transcripts. Those who have not yet picked them are encouraged to do so. Issuance of transcripts immediately after completion has enabled the students to apply for either jobs or further studies there after.

Degree and diploma certificates are only issued to Granduands after graduation.

For any student to graduate he/ she must have fully cleared with the university as per the University clearance form. For the 61st graduation ceremony, it's only the students who cleared before 15th December 2010 that are graduating. Starting

with this 61st graduation, certificates shall be issued either on graduation day or a few days after graduation, am glad to report. Makerere University is an organized community and we urge everybody to respect the communicated deadlines for anybody to qualify for graduation to avoid disappointments and waste of time.

Makerere University Brand

Makerere University is a very strong brand in Uganda, Africa and the world at large. You just have to say the words Makerere University and anybody will know what you are talking about. And because of this strong brand, we are seeking partnerships with both the public and private sectors to turn our innovations into commercial products. Before we endorse anything, we are very conscious of our strong brand. Whatever Makerere University endorses is respected in the global market place.

Granduands

To the Granduands of today, your certificates carry the Makerere University **seal** and therefore the world shall welcome you with open hands because of the Makerere University brand. Go out into the world and serve humanity. You have acquired the skills to enable you deliver services, create jobs, and turn challenges into opportunities. The Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector is worth over US$ 5 billion world-wide and the Government of Uganda through the ministries of ICT and Finance is launching training in BPO at Makerere University College of Computing and Information Sciences today 17th January 2011 at 2.30pm. The guest of honour is the by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda. In phase one 2000 graduates will be trained in lots of 500. The target is to have 10,000 youth trained in a year. Training is open to all graduates and is free.

Honorary Awards

On 12th December 2010 Makerere University honoured two of Africa's most illustrious leaders, H.E. Dr. Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and H.E. the late Rashid Kawawa. His Excellency President Dr. Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni received an Honorary Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) of Makerere University, in respect of his outstanding achievements and exceptional contribution to the advancement of humanity; in particular for his commitment to Agricultural

modernisation and value addition, Education, Science, Technology, Innovative leadership and Women Empowerment **whereas** His Excellency Mzee Rashid Mfaume Kawawa was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) of Makerere University posthumously for his distinguished service as a selfless and hardworking person who put all his efforts and life to ensure the freedoms of peoples in his country, the region and Africa as a whole.

The Future of Uganda is in our hands as Ugandans

In 1947 Mahatma Gandhi in his pre-independence speech to the people of India said:"Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we will redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. '' **It came to pass, and today India is one country that has life and freedom at its best; No wonder India is the world's largest democracy**.

On the 18th day of February 2011at the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, Uganda will awake to a new President elect. '' We need to redeem our pledge of re-building our economy and our country, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. It is everybody's responsibility, as a Ugandan, to ensure that when we awake on 19th day of February 2011 the President elect should be someone who believes and has demonstrated capacity to promote science, technology and innovations as the engine of economic growth and human development. It should be someone who believes in education and health services for all as pre-conditions for human development. It should be someone who has demonstrated ability to deliver Education for all and health services for all Ugandans regards of social or economic status.

AS WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE. FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY. I THANK YOU.

It is now my honour and privilege to invite the Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor Mondo Kagonyera to address the congregation.