

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

- 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 61<sup>st</sup> Graduation ceremony of Makerere University, which started on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January and will end on 21<sup>st</sup> 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 61<sup>st</sup> graduation ceremony, a total of 46 candidates will have graduated with doctorate degrees in different disciplines of which 11 are female and 35 male. 236 Students obtained first class degrees and the best student in the sciences is Ms. Nansamba Barbara who studied B.Sc. in Computer Science and obtained a CGPA of 4.9 and will receive a convocation award on Friday this week whereas the best student in the humanities and business is Mr. Abima Boniface who studied Bachelor of Business Computing and obtained a CGPA of 4.82 and will receive a convocation award on Thursday this week.

**Makerere University Council**

In December 2010, the term of the Makerere University Council that was headed by Hon. Mathew Rukikaire came to an end and a new Council was formally

constituted as per the law governing public universities, the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001 (as amended). 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.

### **Achievements of some of the Faculties/ Schools/ Institutes**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to highlight some key achievements by some of the academic units that graduated their students yesterday and those that are graduating theirs today:

#### **College of Health Sciences**

- The College of Health Sciences has received significant financial resources for research from both the public and private sectors as well as national and international funders like Wellcome Trust, Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), USAID, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Gates Foundation, DFID, and EDCTP. The College has continued to be a center for innovations in health professional education consolidating achievements in student centered learning, community based education and service, distance education with the purpose of addressing human resource shortages and inequalities.

#### **Faculty of Agriculture**

- The Food Technology and Business Incubation Centre in the Faculty of Agriculture received a grant of 4.5 billion shillings from the Government of Uganda which is being used to construct working area for incubatees, procure processing equipment as well as support technology development research and commercialization.
- The Faculty of Agriculture has also successfully implemented the Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) model. Makerere University led one of the Task Forces in the Lake Kivu Pilot Learning site, one of the three pilot learning sites of the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme under the umbrella of Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

- Biotechnology research under the BIOEARN Programme and the Department of Crop Science in the Faculty of Agriculture led the development of tissue culture protocols for cassava and sweet potato multiplication, and virus elimination. The BIOEARN and MSI Banana Tissue Culture Projects lab now boasts of the capacity to produce 1 million quality banana plantlets per year.
- As part of Internationalization, the Faculty of Agriculture launched two regional graduate programs; a Master of Science in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology. To-date these programs have attracted over 40 students from Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Uganda. Makerere receives tremendous support through these programs from; the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (**AGRA**) – **USD 1,043,300**, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building (**RUFORUM**) – **USD 1.6m**, In January, **AGRA board** approved an additional **USD 640,000**.

#### **Faculty of Technology**

- In December 2009, H.E Dr. Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni pledged to support the Faculty of Technology to the tune of UGX 25 Billion for the period 2010-2015. In the Financial Year 2010/2011 UGX 10 Billion was approved for Makerere University under the Presidential Support toward Science and Technology Innovations with the Faculty of Technology receiving UGX 4.5 Billion. As part of this funding, an energy efficient electric vehicle, the Kiira EV was produced by Makerere University in partnership with the private sector. The Kiira EV vehicle is expected to hit Ugandan roads in 2012.

#### **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine**

- The Government of Uganda has established a Joint Government-University Institute for strategic services primarily in the animal resources world. The Africa Institute for Strategic Animal Resource Services and Development [AFRISA), has a skills centre at Nakyesasa, a Livestock Technology Centre at Kiboga and Kyankwanzi at Ranch 16, and a biosecurity centre. Government has started funding the skills development infrastructure starting in the 2010/11 FY with **UGX 1bn**.

- The Government of Uganda and the Government of Japan have established, at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, a National Animal Diseases Diagnostic Referral Centre (NADDIC) to synergise the main centre at Entebbe while leveraging University resources. The project is funded by the Government of Japan through JICA Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda.

### **Faculty of Science**

- The Department of Physics won a competitive grant worth **USD 1.2million**, from the Uganda National Council for Science & Technology (**UNCST**) which was co-financed by the World Bank under the Millennium Science Initiative (**MSI**) in 2007. This covered building renovations, purchase of laboratory equipment for undergraduate laboratories and upgrading of the B.Sc. in Physics programme curriculum.
- The Faculty of Science partnered with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop methods for controlling African sleeping sickness in a 5-year (Nov 2008 – Dec 2013) project worth **USD 8,691,707**.

### **Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation**

- The Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation participated in the breakthrough study that revealed that Chimpanzees that live in forests can be used in developing medical solutions to Malaria.
- The Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation is involved in multi-million dollar donor funded research in monitoring the impacts of institutional arrangements and incentives on forestry resources in East Africa; Forest Restoration; Shea Butter and wetland management.

### **Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE)**

- ISAE was appointed to be a member of the Steering Committee for the African Group of Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST) which is to coordinate statistical training activities at all levels in Africa.
- The ISAE has partnered with the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda and UNDP to sensitise communities on the need to localize Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in their development goals.

### **Margaret Trowell School of Industrial and Fine Art (MITSFA)**

- As we are all aware, Bank of Uganda now has a new family of Bank notes which depict natural sceneries and artifacts that remind us of our heritage. The designing of these beautiful Bank notes was done by some of the academic staff at the Margaret Trowell School of Industrial and Fine Art.

### **Makerere University Ranking in Africa and the World**

The webometrics University rankings that came out in July 2010 placed Makerere University at the 13<sup>th</sup> position in Africa and 2,158<sup>th</sup> in the world. We are hopeful that the University rankings that shall come out in January 2011 will place Makerere University among the top 10 Universities in Africa and among the top 2,000 Universities in world.

John F. Kennedy the former President of US had this to say to the American people: *And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.* Mr. Chancellor Sir, the writing is on the wall that sooner than later Makerere University shall be the top University in Africa and among the top 2,000 Universities in the world. This is soon happening as a result of continued support from the alumni, staff and students of Makerere University, the government of Uganda, the general public, the media, friends of Makerere University and well wishers in re-building the image of the University and improving the quality of the programmes and services at Makerere University. As University management, we shall continue to encourage every staff of Makerere University to recite both the National Anthem and the Makerere University Anthem every morning. These two anthems give us hope and courage to face tomorrow with certainty and build for the future.

### **Economic growth and Human Development**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the future of our country lies in its people. It is our people that shall ensure that ideas transcend generations. As John F. Kennedy said, *A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on.* Makerere University as a premier University in the region and the continent has committed itself to produce the best brains on the continent. This is evidenced in the many great leaders that have gone through the gates of Makerere University, and we are still counting.

Countries like Singapore, South Korea, Jordan and Mauritius have no minerals but have developed because they focussed on building human capital in strategic sectors. Makerere University in collaboration with the other institutions in this country is focussing on producing the human resources needed to turn Uganda into the preferred investment destination in Africa. Makerere University is also committed to taking lead in research and development within the East African community.

Innovations, Science and Technology drive economies world over. For Uganda to take lead in Innovations, Science and Technology, in the region, the government must allocate at least 1% of the GDP to this sector. We acknowledge the over UGX 12billion annual allocation from government to Makerere University for Innovations, Science and Technology with effect from FY 2010/2011 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, Makerere University inclusive. The steps the government has taken are commendable but we urge government to strategically investment more in **Education for all** at tertiary education level in order to spark economic growth and human development.

### **Transcripts and Certificates**

As a University, we continue to improve on the provision of services to our students and other stakeholders. We now issue transcripts to students immediately after satisfying the requirements for the degree or diploma awards.

For example, transcripts for Graduands of this year were ready before 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2010 and most of the Graduands have already picked their transcripts. Those who have not yet picked them are encouraged to do so.

Beginning with this graduation, certificates shall be issued immediately after the graduation ceremony.

### **Makerere University Brand**

Makerere University is a very strong brand in Uganda, Africa and the world at large. We would like to use our strong brand to market our products including

alumni of Makerere University. We are also seeking partnerships with both the public and private sectors to turn our innovations into commercial products. Whatever Makerere University endorses is respected in the global market place; so take advantage of our brand either through partnership or association.

### **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. So go out into the world and be of great service to Uganda, the region, Africa and the world at large.

### **Honorary Awards**

On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2010 Makerere University honoured two of Africa's most illustrious leaders; H.E. Dr. Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni with an Honorary Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa), in respect of his outstanding achievements and exceptional contribution to Women Empowerment, Agricultural modernisation, value addition, Education, Science and Technology and **whereas** His Excellency the late Mzee Rashid Mfaume Kawawa was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) posthumously for his distinguished service as a selfless and hardworking person who put all his efforts and life to ensure the freedoms of people in his country, the region and Africa as a whole. The Honorary Doctor of Laws of Makerere University is awarded in recognition of Public Service by eminent statesmen, administrators and lawyers.

### **The Future of Uganda is in our hands as Ugandans**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2011 at 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 to ensure that when we awake on 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 2011 the President elect should be someone who believes in and has demonstrated capacity to promote Innovations, Science and Technology as the engine of economic growth and 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 and health services for all Ugandans regardless of their 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.**





