

REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMURREBA, AT THE 61ST GRADUATION CEREMONY, 17TH 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 61st Graduation ceremony of Makerere University, which started on the 17th of January and will end on 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. 236 Students obtained first class degrees and the best student in the sciences is Ms. Barbara Nansamba who studied B.Sc. in Computer Science and obtained a CGPA of 4.9 on a scale of 5.0, and will receive a convocation award on Friday this week whereas the best student in the humanities and business is Mr. Boniface Abima 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.

Transforming into a Collegiate University

We have revised and restructured all the curricula of Makerere University to meet both national and international standards and be able to address both the local and global human resource needs needed to develop our country and the region. We have also embarked on a strategic direction of taking services nearer to the people, enhancing service delivery and promoting efficiency. On December 17, 2010, the University Council unanimously approved Senate's recommendation to transform Makerere University into a collegiate university. Apart from the already existing College of Health Sciences, there are 7 new colleges, namely; the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Computing and Information Sciences, College of Business and Management Sciences, College of Education and External Studies, College of Natural Sciences and the College of Engineering, Design, and Technology. The Makerere University Council as of January 11, 2011 approved the University Management's recommendations for the positions of Acting Principals and Acting Deputy Principals for the newly-formed colleges. Let me request the Acting Principals and Acting Deputy Principals to stand up for recognition.

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 they have satisfied the requirements for the degree or diploma awards. For example, transcripts for Graduands of this year were ready before 1st 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.

Online Services

Since last year we have been providing online services to our students and other stakeholders. For example students have been registering online, accessing their results online, paying the fees online from anywhere in Africa and evaluating their lecturers online, **to mention but a few**. With effect from March this year all persons wishing to join Makerere University shall apply online after paying application fees from any Stanbic bank branch within East Africa or DFCU bank branch within Uganda or Eco bank branch within Africa. All applicants shall be informed via sms on the status of their applications.

Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)

The Government of Uganda through the Ministries of ICT and Finance Planning and Economic Development launched BPO training at Makerere University on 17th January, 2011. This training is fully sponsored by government and it is open to all graduates. In the first phase 2,000 students shall be trained in **groups** of 500. By the end of the year 10,000 students are expected to be trained. In this year alone, the BPO sector is expected to create over 10,000 jobs for the youth.

Tele-education and Telemedicine

The Ministry of ICT through the National Information Technology Authority – Uganda is about to complete the national ICT backbone. The national ICT backbone is planned to support among others tele-education and telemedicine.

Tele education is education provided through ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies). Tele-education is creating a new environment for training, learning and interactive discussions. It is opening path for transforming the way we live, act, think, learn and communicate. Barrier due to distance will vanish to provide various lectures/courses in far-flung areas for the benefit and development of people across the country initially, then across the region and continent.

The ultimate aim of tele-education system is to transform the student community from reactive to interactive and from interactive to proactive and make them ignited. Once implemented it will serve as an excellent medium to develop capacity building for the country and region where education through electronic

means can promote the well-being and development of the people. Makerere University in partnership with the Ministry of ICT through the National Information Technology Authority –Uganda is to provide tele education to all Ugandans using the ICT facilities including video conferencing facilities that shall be set up by the Ministry of ICT across the country. The plan is to initially have one tele education centre per county. This training is going to first target students coming out of the Universal Secondary Education and it will be free. It is only those that shall finally register for Makerere University qualifications that shall pay a small examination fee. Through tele education students across the country shall access the same lecturers and professors as those at Makerere University main campus hence ensuring quality education services for all at tertiary education level.

Telemedicine includes a growing variety of applications and services using two-way video, email, wireless phones and other forms of telecommunications technology. Patient consultations via videoconferencing, transmission of still images, e-health including patient portals, remote monitoring of vital signs, continuing medical education, consumer-focused wireless applications and nursing call centers, among other applications, are all considered part of telemedicine.

Typical examples of tele medicine include:

- A radiologist interpreting medical images coming from clinics across Uganda.
- A consumer using a wireless phone to automatically upload vital signs and send them to a remote monitoring center.
- A cardiologist checking up on a heart transplant patient while away on a business trip, reviewing the patient's chart, looking at live heart rhythms and talking to the patient.

Once the national ICT backbone is in place, the Ministry of Health has agreed to put in place the other support infrastructure at health centres countrywide to supplement the tele medicine infrastructure at Mulago hospital set up under the Pan Africa E-Network that was funded by the Government of India and African Union. So by the end of this year, Makerere University, through the College of Health Sciences will jointly provide tele medicine services to Ugandans

especially those in hard to reach and poor communities. This partnership with the government will be a big step towards providing quality health services for all.

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.
- The Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) at Makerere University College of Health Sciences continues to significantly contribute to the University's mandate of service provision to society. In addition to IDI's prolific research programmes as well as the substantial training outputs, the care programme at the IDI has fully supported the ministry of health in responding to the HIV care and treatment needs of Uganda. Specifically, the IDI provides advanced HIV treatment including antiretroviral therapy, and receives referrals of complicated cases from all over the country and region. Access to the more recent licensed HIV medications is available through a number of research studies at the institute. Additionally, the AIDS Treatment Information Centre (ATIC), a toll-free call-in service at the institute continues to support numerous front-line health care workers managing HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. This year, the IDI will have the opportunity to lend its expertise in the advanced management of HIV/AIDS and TB to all the regions of Uganda through the regional referral hospitals. This 18-month project is expected to commence in the first quarter of this calendar year.

IDI was established in 2004 by Makerere University as a private company limited by guarantee and by 2010 its budget had grown to US\$ 20 million. IDI is mainly funded by development partners and foundations.

Faculty of Arts

- The Department of Religious Studies concluded an Intercultural Exchange Course with the School of Mission and Theology, Stavanger, Norway. This is a testimony of our society's integration with the Norwegian community as we create a wider understanding of different cultures as well as appreciation of each other which is a basis for development, feeding into the 8th Millennium Development Goal of Global Partnership.
- Makerere University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Norwegian College of Dance, Oslo, Norway to help put in place the first-ever state of the art Music, Dance and Drama theatre at Makerere University. This is being coordinated by the Faculty of Arts and once completed the University expects to operate it as both a training and commercial facility.

Makerere University Brand

Makerere University is a very strong brand in Uganda, Africa and the world at large. It has been in existence for 89 years since 1922. Makerere University was established in 1922 as a humble technical school, initially with 14 day students who began by studying Carpentry, Building and Mechanics. The College soon began offering various other courses in Medical Care, Agriculture, Veterinary Sciences and Teacher Training. It expanded over the years to become a Center for Higher Education in East Africa. **And from 1949 to 1963 i.e. for 14 years, Makerere University College was affiliated to the University College London and offered courses leading to the awards of University College London. In 1963, it became the University of East Africa, offering courses leading to general degrees of the University of London.** With the establishment of the University of East Africa on 29th June 1963, the special relationship with the University of London came to a close and degrees of the University of East Africa were instituted. On July 1, 1970, Makerere became an independent national university of the Republic of Uganda, offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses leading to its own awards. University College London was ranked 8th in Europe and 63rd in the world in July 2010. If Makerere University had remained affiliated to University College London this would be our ranking in the world. Since University of Cape Town was ranked 1st in Africa and 340th in the world in July 2010 then by just remaining affiliated to University College London would

have been sufficient to make Makerere University top University in Africa. This is one advantage of being colonized. In July 2010 webometrics University rankings placed Makerere University at the 13th position in Africa and 2,158th in the world and we are determined to make Makerere University on our own without affiliation again to the University College London 1st in Africa and among the 1,000 best Universities in world within the next five years. With our Makerere University brand spanning over 89 years and continuously gaining value, it is now common knowledge that whatever Makerere University endorses is respected in the global market place; **therefore**, take advantage of our brand either through association or partnership.

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 and most importantly be the change you want to see in the world.

Honorary Awards

On 12th 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 to eminent statesmen, administrators and lawyers in recognition of their exemplary Public Service to humanity.

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.