

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
- Justices of the Supreme Court present
- Judges of the High Court of Uganda and all other Judicial officials present
- Religious leaders present
- The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
- The Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of sister Universities
- Members of Makerere University Senate
- Members of Management
- The Makerere University Student Leadership
- 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 tomorrow 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 today.

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.

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.

For students who graduated on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, certificates were issued after graduation to those who needed to go back home with them. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am glad to inform you that certificates of those graduating today have already been delivered by Smith and Ouzman Ltd and we are currently putting on them the University seal. Therefore, some of you will be able to pick your certificates today, immediately after this graduation ceremony; the rest will be ready before end of this coming week.

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.

The Guild Student Constitution and Student Affairs

The student constitution

One of the factors affecting the performance of the Makerere University Guild Leaders is insufficient funds that they have been collecting from the guild subscriptions. With effect from the next academic year, this has been increased from UGX 1,000, that was out in place more than 15 years ago, to UGX10,000 per student. This will enable the Students Guild to raise at least UGX 300 million annually to enable them run their activities. Currently they have been collecting less than UGX 36 Million yet their annual budget is over UGX 300 million.

In the past, there has been a lot of unrest or uneasiness during guild elections. The Students' Guild constitution has been amended by the Guild Representative Council (GRC) to ensure that we have peaceful elections and the majority of the students participate in the choice of their leaders. Also the composition of the GRC has been amended to ensure that it focuses on matters concerning the students.

In particular, the Students Guild Constitution has been amended to provide for:

- (i) Colleges and Schools as polling stations unlike in the past when polling stations were only halls of residence;
- (ii) Every School shall return two members of the G.R.C elected by the members of that school; this was never the case before. This will enable the GRC to concentrate on academic matters affecting students in the schools.
- (iii) Each hall of residence shall return one resident member of the GRC for every 300 resident members and an extra member for a fraction not less than a half thereof voted for by the resident members of that hall. By virtue of their positions, Hall chairpersons shall be members of the GRC. Representation from the halls will ensure that student matters affecting them in the halls of residence are articulated by the GRC.

There are other amendments I have not highlighted but by and large the students' community and the University Management and the University Council are happy with the amended students Guild Constitution that took effect from 11th January, 2011. Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me thank, in a special way, the Guild leadership headed by Hon. Shabaan Ssenkubuge, the Guild President, for

steering the committee that amended this constitution. Well done! Hon. Ssenkubuge, please stand up for recognition.

New Admission Requirements

Mr. Chancellor Sir, for the last three years, there has been an outcry from the public and the media on the unfairness in the admission criteria that the University uses to admit students to its academic programmes. As a result of 1.5 points given to girls, some programmes like Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Information Technology are currently dominated by girls. The girls constitute more than 70% of the students on the Bachelor of Laws programme. Also due to our culture and history, very few ladies take sciences at O and A level and as result most science programmes are dominated by boys. On some programmes like B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering, the boys constitute more than 90%.

On 10th January 2011 the Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA) held their annual general meeting in Arua. I was one of the participants at this meeting. Out of the deliberations it was clear that in some districts there was acute shortage of graduates in the areas of medicine, nursing, engineering, accounting, procurement, public administration, to mention but a few, yet Makerere University and other Universities are training many of these graduates. In light of the above, Makerere University, in consultation with the government through the Ministry of Education and Sports, is revising its admission criteria to: ensure that no more than 60% of either girls or boys is admitted on any programme under government sponsorship. As long as there are qualified applicants from either sex, not more than 60% of either girls or boys is admitted on any programme under private sponsorship. By working with the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Public Service Commission, Health Service Commission, the Uganda Local Governments Association and any other relevant authority; all students on government sponsorship are to be attached to districts and bonded to serve the districts for an agreed period of 2 to 5 years after graduation. In this case the University will hand over the academic credentials to the district authorities for the students bonded by the districts after graduation. Also in the course of the training, the students will spend their holidays undertaking internship training in the districts facilitated by the district

administration. For example, the nursing and medical students will spend their holidays in the health centres and hospitals within the districts on internship but will also be providing services to the community.

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 required 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.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the restructuring of academic programmes and academic units has led to several advantages, namely: The bank accounts in the academic units have reduced from over 116 to 10 and as a result we now have one bank account per college and the two semi-autonomous schools. As a result of this development, Heads of Departments and Deans of schools have reverted to their roles of handling only academic affairs as it used to be before the introduction of the private programmes. The budget for each College is managed by the Principal who serves as the Chief Administrative, Academic and Financial Officer of the college. He is assisted by the Deputy Principal and technical staff like the College Bursar. Departments and Schools no longer have the incentive to duplicate courses and academic programmes since they no longer manage the

money from private students, as all the expenditures including payment of part-time lectures, payment for teaching materials etc are now handled at college level by the Principal. All academic staff have been transferred to the departments within the college and across the colleges where the discipline mandate falls. For example all staff whose highest qualification is in mathematics are now all in the Department of Mathematics and all staff with a highest qualification in economics are now in the School of Economics.

Mr Chancellor Sir, in summary:

- 1). The formation of college is meaningful and this transformation is providing synergic academic and functional relations;
- 2). The Faculties, Schools or Institutes that have transformed into a College are more effective and efficient since they have some degree of autonomy within their institutional frames and are able to constitute and regulate issues which are peculiar and unique to them in a more timely manner;
- 3). The individual staff have more influence in decision making in administration, finance and in developing programs within their Colleges than it had been before thereby ensuring motivation towards up to date team work approaches in teaching and learning;
- 4). The synergies created as a result of the mergers provide each College with a better scope and environment in sourcing for funds, re-organising themselves, re-branding their academic image and undertaking other activities within their mandate.
- 5). With the devolution to colleges, services have been brought nearer to the people and it is anticipated that all colleges shall open up upcountry campuses and centres to provide education and services to the communities. Some colleges will relocate completely from Kampala to other regions of Uganda as and when funds become available.
- 6). As a result of the restructuring of academic programmes and academic units we have had tremendous savings, which savings have been re-allocated to core activities of the University. For example part-time lecturers have reduced from over 500 to less than 50 in the whole University. By 1st July, 2011 we shall have completed all the reforms

including administrative reforms that shall see the University making more major savings.

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 academic programs 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 academic programs leading to the awards of University College London. In 1963, it became the University of East Africa, offering academic programs leading to general degrees of the University College London.** With the establishment of the University of East Africa on 29th June 1963, the special relationship with the University College London came to a close and degrees of the University of East Africa were instituted. On 1st July, 1970, Makerere became an independent national university of the Republic of Uganda, offering undergraduate and postgraduate programs leading to its own awards.

In 2010, the best University in Africa was University of Cape Town which was ranked 340th in the world. The University rankings that came out in July 2010 placed Makerere University at the 13th position in Africa and 2,158th 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. Since 1922 up to 1963 Makerere University was always one of the top 5 Universities in Africa and for the period 1949 to 1963 it was the best University in Africa due to its affiliation with University College London. University College London awarded degrees and diplomas to students of Makerere University and ensured that the quality was as good as that of the main campus of University College London. We are very determined to reclaim our past glory and be once again, the best University in Africa within the next 5

years. Also for as long as Makerere University Business School is affiliated to Makerere University we shall continue to play our role and ensure that the quality of the programmes at Makerere University Business School is the same as that of Makerere University main campus, just like University College London did to Makerere University in the period 1949 to 1963.

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.