

**REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF.
VENANSIUS BARYAMURREBA, AT THE 61ST GRADUATION CEREMONY, 21ST
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 present
- Religious leaders
- The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
- The Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of sister Universities
- Chairman, Makerere university Convocation
- Chairman Makerere University Academic Staff association
- Chairpersons of Makerere University Administrative and Support Staff Associations
- Members of Makerere University Senate
- Members of Management
- Makerere University Guild President and your cabinet
- 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 today, 21st January, 2011. By the end of today a total of 13,296 candidates will have graduated with degrees and diplomas of which 6,495 (**48.8%**) are female and 6,801 (**51.2%**) are male. By the end of today, 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 overall** who is also 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 is graduating today. She will receive a convocation award today. 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. He graduated yesterday and received a convocation award on the same day.

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). Let me use this opportunity to thank the Council that was headed by Hon Mathew Rukikaire for a job well done. Mr. Chancellor Sir, let me use this opportunity to introduce to the public Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem the current 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 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 appointments 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.

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. By end of yesterday, certificates for BSc. Computer Sciences and Bachelor of Laws had been sealed and are ready for collection 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.

The 1st term of the Chancellor comes to an end on 23rd October 2011

The President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Dr. Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni **IN EXERCISE** of the powers vested in him as President of the Republic of Uganda by Section 30 of the Universities and other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001, **appointed** Professor Mondo Kagonyera to the office of the Chancellor of Makerere University with effect from 23rd October, 2007 for a term of 4 years. So on 23rd October 2011 the first term of the Chancellor of Makerere University will come to an end, but he **deserves another rap**. The Chancellor is the titular head of the University and as such presides at all ceremonial assemblies of the University, and in the name of the University,

confers degrees and other academic titles and distinctions of the University. So Mr. Chancellor Sir today marks the last regular graduation ceremony for award of diplomas and conferment of degrees in your first term as Chancellor. Any other ceremony conducted this year shall be a special ceremony. The next regular graduation ceremony is planned for the period Monday 16th January to Friday 20th January 2012. So on behalf of Makerere University, I would like to thank you for a job well done.

Makerere University Alumni Development Fund

Last year Makerere University opened an Alumni Development Fund Account with the following details: Stanbic Bank (U) Ltd, Makerere University Alumni Development Fund, Account No. 0140071293901.

As John F. Kennedy said 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”*. All of us who have gone through the gates of Makerere University, the parents and guardians of the alumni of Makerere University and friends of Makerere University, have a duty to fund development activities of our University. Harvard University, Stanford University, Caltex University, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge to mention but a few are what they are because of the alumni. As we do to the religious institutions every Sunday and every end of the month let us do to Makerere University that has made us who we are. So we are appealing to all of you to contribute towards the re-building of Makerere University. We have an investment policy that clearly elaborates what we want to invest in as a University in the short-term, medium term and long term.

Development of Makerere University Prime Land

Makerere University has embarked on the development of its prime land around Kampala save for the land grabbers that are interfering with the developments in Kololo and Katanga areas. But as the rightful owners, we shall do everything possible to recover all our assets including land. Uganda is country where the rule of law prevails, and while we still enjoy it, we shall repossess all our land from the land grabbers. Makerere University Council has put in place guidelines on how both the private and public sectors can partner with the University in the development of Makerere University

land. So those interested in partnerships we encourage you to visit our Directorate of Investment, Makerere University.

Makerere University Bank Ltd

Annually, banks manage over UGX 130 Billion Makerere University budget and over USD 60 Million of Makerere University development projects funds from our development partners and foundations. In addition to this they manage over 4000 bank accounts of Makerere University staff and over 40,000 accounts of Makerere University students. In addition, banks manage all payments from applicants wishing to join Makerere University; each applicant pays UGX 2,000 to the bank as a processing fee and Makerere University receives more than 100,000 applicants. Banks also handle tuition fees payments and in a year the transactions on this alone total to over 100,000 and for each transaction a bank charges UGX 2,000 as a processing fee per student. At any one time, Makerere University staff have over UGX 10 billion in unsecured loans with the banks where their monthly salary is their guarantee. From the over UGX 10 billion unsecured loans banks collect from our staff, more than UGX 2 billion is earned as interest annually. Etc

Yet Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme already has over UGX 25 Billion and will have over UGX 30 in cash by the end of this month when National Insurance Corporation Ltd (NICL) pays the 2nd installment of UGX 5 billion as we await for the final audit on the retirement funds held by NICL. As a University, we would like our staff welfare to improve and we have encouraged the academic staff, administrative and support staff through the Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme to open and operate "Makerere University Bank" and we shall give them all the banking business from Makerere University. Then in addition to the business from alumni, friends of Makerere University and well wishers, the sky is the limit for Makerere University Bank Ltd.

Makerere University Insurance Company Ltd

Every year Makerere University pays over UGX 1.5 billion to insurance companies as travel insurance. Makerere University and Makerere University staff pay over UGX 500 million in third party insurance for the vehicles. Some vehicles are comprehensively insured. Annually we claim not more than UGX 30 million from these insurance companies. Again we would like to improve our staff welfare by giving the first opportunity to Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme to take this insurance

company and run it as part of their investments. Makerere University shall give “ Makerere University Insurance Company Ltd” all the insurance business.

Makerere University to transform into a Research Driven University

Makerere University Senate and Council approved a policy that requires every PhD holder to supervise at least 3 PhD students and 5 master’s students at any one time. We shall begin implementing this policy in July this year. Makerere University has over 1000 staff with PhDs and more are still graduating with PhDs. So by 2015, Makerere University shall be graduating annually an average of 1000 PhD candidates and over 4000 master’s candidates in addition to the diploma and bachelors degree graduands. This is going to boost the research output of the University and spur economic growth and development of our country. Studies have shown that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is proportional to research output. As a University we shall waive tuition fees for the PhD students and urge government to support research for PhD students at Makerere University. Government will do this through either PhD grants/ scholarships or paying a lump sum to the University for each PhD completion and every research publication by Makerere University. We hope that this will be part of the national policy on research and development covering all Universities. From the discussions we have already had with H.E. the President Dr. Gen. Yoweri K. Museveni and the responsible ministries funding will be availed in 2011 onwards.

We acknowledge the over UGX 12billion annual allocation from government to Makerere University for Science, Technology and Innovations with effect from 2010/2011 FY 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. We would like to thank our development partners for the continued support to Makerere University.

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 this month 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.

The Future of Uganda is in our hands as Ugandans

On the 18th 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 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.