

# MAKERERE

P.O. Box 7062  
Kampala Uganda  
Website: <http://mak.ac.ug>



# UNIVERSITY

Tel: (Gen) +256-414-532631/4  
Fax: +256-414-541068  
E-mail: [pro@admin.mak.ac.ug](mailto:pro@admin.mak.ac.ug)

## OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA AT THE OCCASION OF THE JOINT PERFORMANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS AND THE NORWEGIAN COLLEGE OF DANCE, FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2011, MAIN HALL, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

- Your Excellency the Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy
- Members of Makerere University Management
- The Principal and Deputy Principal – College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- The Principal of the Norwegian College of Dance
- Academic Heads from Makerere University and the Norwegian College of Dance
- Members of Press
- Students, Ladies and Gentlemen

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I once again warmly welcome you to Makerere University, and in particular, this evening's performance, LET THEM DANCE.

Today marks yet another important milestone in the longstanding collaboration between Makerere University and the Norwegian people. This relationship which started more than a decade ago, through Norwegian Institutions like NORAD and NUFU has played witness to immeasurable support to Makerere University in terms of capacity building, infrastructural development and academic cooperation. We as a University are indeed greatly appreciative of this relationship.

The Norwegian Government through NORAD and NUFU has previously supported the Department of Performing Arts and Film, through the establishment of the Makerere University Klaus Wachsmann Music archive, and six postgraduate scholarships administered through a sandwich arrangement. Six of these students have already graduated with their Masters Degrees. I am indeed one of the proud beneficiaries from Makerere University, who was supported by the Norwegian government to undertake my Postgraduate studies.

Your Excellency, today's performance is a culmination of numerous meetings with representatives from the Norwegian College of Dance. We are indeed proud that the level of

preparation exhibited both this evening and over the past month is a demonstration of both our institutions' commitment to develop the performing arts to international standards through joint partnerships.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Department of Performing Arts and Film has the potential to be the best Performing Arts institution in this country, and the University Administration is committed to working closely with all stakeholders and development partners to help realize this. During the occasion of the 61<sup>st</sup> graduation ceremony in January this year, I appreciated the planned construction of a modern state-of-the-art Performing Arts complex in Makerere University, as one of the activities that will be undertaken under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Makerere University and The Norwegian College of Dance.

Makerere University in her strategic plan highlights internationalization as one of the crosscutting issues that contribute to the global phenomenon that higher education has become. I am therefore extremely proud of the Norwegian College of Dance for taking on this unique aspect of aspect of the university curricula that is not easily attainable elsewhere, culture. These teaching and learning exchanges have already borne fruit. I would like to appreciate the support of the Norwegian College of Dance towards the refurbishment of two classrooms in the Department of Performing Arts and Film into a dance studio.

This evening's performance has been nothing sort of spectacular! We appreciate the quality of performance and the intercultural education and communication through dance. I would once again like to thank the Department of Performing Arts and Film, the Norwegian College of Dance, Choreographers and Students for the time and the training they have undertaken, and taking time to share their classroom experience with us. The Performing Arts are one of those very few specialized areas where you can share your learning in a practical, educative and entertaining way. The evidence is indeed on stage!

The first phase/year of the collaboration has been a pilot phase and we can only anticipate more profound sharing of teaching, learning, research and student teacher exchange programs in the future. As an Administration, we are committed to supporting collaborations such as these, which augment the global competitive edge of Makerere University. Thank you very much for coming and enjoy the remaining performances as WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba  
**Ag. Vice Chancellor**