



REMARKS BY

PROFESSOR VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA ON THE
INAUGURATION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY FEMALE SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION AND LAUNCH OF THE US \$ 1M MATCHING
GRANT, MAIN HALL, MAIN BUILDING,
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

ON

SATURDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 2011

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- The Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga
 - Honourable Professor Peter Anyan'g Nyong'o, Member of Parliament and Minister of Medical Services, Republic of Kenya
 - The Chancellor of Makerere University
 - Dr. Thelma Awori, Honorary Consul General of Liberia to Uganda
 - Your Excellencies, The Ambassadors
 - Honourable Ministers and Representatives of Government present
 - The Chairperson of the Makerere University Council
 - Former Vice Chancellors of Makerere University and Vice Chancellors of sister universities
 - Makerere University Staff and Students
 - Distinguished Alumni
 - Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with pleasure that I address this gathering of noble ladies and gentlemen on this auspicious occasion, where we gather to celebrate the inauguration of the Board of Trustees of the Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation and launch the US\$ 1m matching grant.

On 24th August 2011, I joined the Archbishop of Uganda His Grace Henry Luke Orombi and his wife at Ogenda Girls High School, at a ceremony to install Mrs. Patron Karugire as the patron of Girl-Child Education in Nebbi District. Having arrived in Nebbi quite early, I took some time off to have a look at the facilities, and I was not only touched but greatly humbled. As the 14th Vice Chancellor of the oldest and premier public institution of higher education in Uganda, it suddenly occurred to me, right there on that Saturday morning in Northern Uganda that there was almost no way, any of the beaming faces full of life, would make it to Makerere University, unless someone lent them a helping hand. Ladies and gentlemen, as we gather here this evening, I speak with the renewed hope of a man who has seen a light at the end the tunnel for the University education of the disadvantaged Girl-Child.

I am confident that the eminent citizens who make up the new Board have a wealth of experience needed to take this Foundation to a higher level. I take this opportunity to thank the Female Scholarship Initiative and the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the sowing the seed and giving this Foundation a firm footing.

I also congratulate the first 691 beneficiaries of the scholarship for giving us more reason stay the course. I also thank the administration of Makerere University for furthering this cause through tuition waivers that have seen 20 female students benefit in the last two consecutive academic years.

In Africa and beyond we have had champions of education. I will mention a few:

Ssekabaka Mutesa 1 was the 32nd Kabaka of Buganda and he reigned from 1856 to 1884. Their conversations with a European explorer Henry Morton Stanley lead Mutesa I to seek direct contact with the British, thereby doing away with the Arab middle men. When Sir Edward Mutesa I wrote letters to the Queen of England and among the many offers the British made to Mutesa I, his priority was the invitation for missionaries to introduce education into Uganda. Following the request of Mutesa I, the first Protestant Missionaries came to Uganda in 1877 and Catholic Missionaries came to Uganda in 1879. Consequently, Christian missionaries founded Gayaza High School, a girls' school in 1905 with four students and Kings College Budo, a boys' school in March 1906, with 21 boys. Namilyango College was founded in 1902 by the Mill Hill Missionaries. The Brothers of Christian instruction affiliated to the Roman Christian Church established St Mary's College Kisubi in 1906.

Her Royal Highness Nnabagereka Sylvia Nagginda Luswata has been a champion of education in Uganda especially girl child education. As a patron of the Female Scholarship Initiative (FSI) and now patron of Female Scholarship Foundation she is indeed champion of girl education at Makerere University.

President Julius K. Nyerere was the founding President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Let me begin by quoting one his famous quotes on education: "Those who receive this privilege therefore, have a duty to repay the sacrifice which others have made. They are like the man who has been given all the food available in a starving village in order that he might have strength to bring supplies back from a distant place. If he

takes this food and does not bring help to his brothers, he is a traitor. Similarly, if any of the young men and women who are given an education by the people of this republic adopt attitudes of superiority, or fail to use their knowledge to help the development of this country, then they are betraying our nation” **Julius K. Nyerere**.

As John F. Kennedy said, “our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource”.

As people who are educated, what is our contribution to enabling access to higher education in Uganda?

Rt. Hon Speaker and distinguished guests we need to reflect on issues of: Equity; Access; and Partnerships in the provision of education in our country.

Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation (FSF) has put in place strategies of raising funds to support the poor and disadvantaged female students to access University education.

The strategies include:

- Setting up an endowment fund using
 - Corporate donations;
 - Donations from foundations;
 - Donations from government;
 - Individual donations;
 - FSF Alumni donations/ contributions;
 - Any other donations

- Setting up institutional scholarships in the names of those that have either made great contributions or sacrifices or are role models for the girl child so that contributions can be made in their names.
- Allow individuals to sponsor scholarships upfront.

As we build for the Future; For God and My Country; I thank you.