



REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA, AT THE 62nd GRADUATION CEREMONY, 16TH JANUARY 2012

- The Honorable Minister of Education and Sports
- The Chancellor Makerere University
- Honorable Ministers
- Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners
- Your Lordships the Judges of the Judicature
- Honorable Members of Parliament
- Your Worship the Lord Mayor of Kampala City
- Religious Leaders
- The Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities
- The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
- Former Chancellors and Vice Chancellors of Makerere University
- The Chairman Makerere University Convocation
- Representatives of our development partners
- Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- Representatives of the private sector and business community
- Members of Makerere University Management
- Chairperson and members of Makerere University Senate
- Members of Staff of Makerere University
- Graduands
- Parents and Guardians
- The Media
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

.....
On behalf of Makerere University and on my own behalf, I welcome you all to the 62nd Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. I congratulate all the students who are graduating today. I also congratulate the members of staff and the spouses and children of the staff of Makerere who are graduating today. A member of the Makerere University Council, Mr. Thomas Tayebwa is also graduating with a 2nd Bachelor's degree; Bachelor of Laws from Makerere University.

A total of 11,191 candidates are graduating with degrees and diplomas of which 5,253 (**47%**) are female and 5,938, (**53%**) are male. By the end of the 62nd graduation ceremony, a total of 42 candidates will have graduated with doctorate degrees in different disciplines of which 14 are female and 28 male. The best student in sciences is Mr. Tonny Ongin who did a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering and obtained a CGPA of 4.86. The best student in the humanities is Ms. Michelle Kiconco who did Bachelor of Leisure and Hospitality Management and obtained a CGPA of 4.79.

I warmly congratulate Professor George Mondo Kagonyera for being re-appointed Chancellor of Makerere University for a period of four years with effect from 24th October 2011. Your re-appointment is a re-affirmation of your unquestionable commitment to taking Makerere University forward.

At the last session of the 62nd Graduation Ceremony, on Tuesday 24th January 2012, the Chancellor in the name of Makerere University shall confer upon H.E President Mwai Kibaki, the President of the Republic of Kenya, the Honorary Doctorate of Laws of Makerere University, in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding contribution to public service at the national, regional and international levels.

The Year 2011 has been a prosperous one here at Makerere University. As we celebrate this academic achievement, it is my singular honour as the 14th Vice Chancellor of Makerere University to highlight some significant institutional achievements in teaching and learning, research and innovations, knowledge transfer partnerships and networking.

I am filled with joy to inform you that Makerere University has been ranked 8th best University on the African continent by the University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP) Research Laboratory based in Turkey. This year 2012, we shall focus all our institutional efforts to continue rising to our visionary position, the top in Africa.

Makerere University is committed to establishing centres of excellence in the respective academic disciplines. On 19th December 2011, the National Council for Higher Education in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 29 subsection (1) of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001 established the following 8 colleges as constituent colleges of Makerere University: College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; College of Business and Management Sciences; College of Computing and Information Sciences; College of Education and External Studies; College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology; College of Humanities and Social Sciences; College of Natural Sciences; and College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resource and Bio-Security. The Uganda Gazette of Friday 30th December 2011 Vol. CIV No. 76 contains the Statutory Instrument No. 68 - The Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions (Establishment of Constituent Colleges of Makerere University) Order, 2011 establishing the 8 constituent colleges. The College of Health Sciences was established in 2007 as a Constituent College of Makerere University and was officially launched on 28th October 2009. Therefore, as of Friday 30th December 2011, Makerere University transformed into a collegiate University in accordance with the law governing universities. I am happy to inform you that at the last session of the 62nd Graduation Ceremony, on Tuesday 24th January 2012, H.E Dr. Gen YK Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda and H.E. Dr. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya will jointly launch the constituent colleges of Makerere University.

Makerere University is a living institution- focused on re-positioning herself to meet emerging development challenges. This has been realised through The University Research, Administrative and Financial Reforms (URAFR) Committee recommending reform processes aimed at improving service delivery and effectiveness. A Change Management Committee has been put in place to oversee the implementation of the recommended reforms. In the same spirit, the University Council constituted a Task Force comprising a team of experts to carry out a structural as well as remuneration review of all staff (Academic, Administrative and Support) of Makerere University. This Task force on the Re-organisation of Makerere University is aimed at putting in place mechanisms to improve the staff welfare at Makerere University and other public Universities in Uganda.

Makerere University strives to be a research led university and currently has over 74 Professors and over 150 Associate Professors. It is on record that Makerere University has

the highest concentration of staff with PhDs in the region and also the highest number of staff graduating with PhDs annually. 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.' We therefore don't want to continue losing some of our staff due to low salaries. It is therefore very important, that government provides better pay to staff in Universities just like it has done for authorities and other statutory agencies.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Let me now highlight a few achievements/ developments in the colleges that are graduating their students today:

College of Natural Sciences

Together with the development partners, the College of Natural Sciences has acquired state-of the art laboratories. On 18th October 2011, we launched the Exploration and Production Technology Laboratory in the College of Natural Sciences. At a time when Uganda has just discovered oil and is on the verge of starting production, the Exploration and Production Technology Laboratory will greatly enhance capacity and infrastructure efforts for the University. We commend the Schlumberger Oilfield Eastern Limited for providing software, hardware and services to establish the state-of the-art Lab that cost over US\$3.5 million. We also thank the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development for initiating this partnership and providing the furniture for the Laboratory. Makerere University has also partnered with the University of Bergen-Norway to develop a Master of Science programme in Petroleum Geosciences. On 19th of January 2012, we shall witness the launch of another state-of- the- art Seismic Laboratory in the College of Natural Sciences.

College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT)

The College is a renowned centre of excellence in the area of technology. The students and lectures of the College have been involved in research which has greatly contributed to the promotion of the University's mission-To provide world class innovative teaching, learning, research and services responsive to national and global needs. The Government of Uganda earmarked Shs25 billion to support research and innovation in the College under the 'Presidential Initiative' over a period of five (5) years. The President of the Republic of Uganda H.E. Dr. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta on 24th November 2011 visited Makerere University to tour projects under the Presidential Initiative. The supported projects include:

- 1. The Vehicle Design Project; Kiira EV.** The Vehicle Design Project is an innovative research project aimed at applying contemporary technologies to develop sustainable transportation solutions for Uganda and Africa. The vision of the project is to be at the forefront of research and development of green transport technologies in Africa, while its mission is to carry out research aimed at development of cost effective and environmentally friendly transportation technologies for Africa. The President officially launched the Kiira Electric Vehicle, which was designed and produced by the staff and students of the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) under the Vehicle Design Project (VDP) during his visit to Makerere University on 24th November 2011.
- 2.** In addition, ground-breaking innovations like the **Makapads** are ensuring that students i rural Uganda have access to free sanitary towels. Makapads are sanitary pads are made from papyrus and paper waste.
- 3. The Low Cost Irrigation Project,** which has designed an irrigation pump that will ensure that our farmers can produce crops all year round. The rainfall patterns have become unpredictable over the last few decades because of climate change. This has often resulted in frequent crop failure and widespread food shortages, famine, death and

widespread poverty and thereby slowing development/ economic growth. Through this project farmers in rural areas have been helped to start irrigating their crops.

- 4. iLabs@MAK.** The Makerere University iLabs Project (iLabs@MAK) was established in 2005 to principally undertake research in the development and deployment of iLabs (Internet Laboratories) to support curricula of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Makerere University. The Project is implemented in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), ObafemiAwolowo University (OAU) of Nigeria, University of Dar-es-Salaam (UDSM) and Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (CUAS) of Austria. Since August 2008, twenty six (26) online laboratories have been developed; with over 1,000 students at the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) utilizing the iLabs Infrastructure.

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Over the years, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) has transformed its research and development agenda for client-responsiveness and development impact. The College implements programmes that promote farmer participatory research and development integrating the University into Uganda's rural transformation processes. The College has trained human resources capable of generating ideas that can be nurtured into profitable businesses. The College has also pioneered and implemented many technologies in agro-processing, improved animal breeds and crop varieties, integrated paste, water, waste and environmental management. The College has:

- Established the Food Technology and Incubation centre and on 24th November 2011, President Museveni launched two production lines at this Incubation Centre.
- Bred, developed and released four (4) Maksoy bean and cowpea varieties resistant to diseases.
- Implemented Artificial Insemination in pigs in Uganda.
- Developed the Soil Testing Kit.
- Developed a Bio-fertilizer and Integrated Paste Management (IPM) packages widely produced in the country.
- Developed Tissue culture bananas and other related technologies for cassava, sweet potato.
- Constructed an artificial wetland at Seeta High School Mukono for treating all the wastewater.
- Embarked on Research to produce HIV/AIDS drug from Medicinal plants.
- Developing a new technology of water purification using Moringa, Jack fruit and Java plum seeds.
- Worked on the conservation of the shear butter tree and extraction of products like soap lotions and the college is in final stages to acquire a machine to commercialize it.
- Designed the briquette machine to make charcoal out of small branches.

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) has the capacity to produce more products for commercial production and contribute to the country's economic development.

Plans are underway to relocate the college to the off campus site at Kabanyolo to expand enrolment and develop modern facilities in order to enhance innovative teaching, learning, research and outreach services. The College wants to put more emphasis on Business Technical and Vocational Education Training (BTVET) to equip the youth with vocational and practical skills to engage in profitable agro/crafts/tourism enterprises suitable for their environment and available resources.

College of Health Sciences

The College of Health Sciences is a centre of excellence in health research in Uganda and the Eastern African region and is a leader in innovations in teaching and translation of health research and knowledge into relevant products, policy and practice. The staff as well as students in the college do carry out cutting edge, ground breaking research that has been used in the making of policy and program decisions in various fields like management of research HIV in children, management of malaria, management of co-infections in HIV patients, management of the different types of cancer, among others. The College is also conducting and disseminating research in the management of the health systems in Uganda.

Through innovative approaches to teaching and instruction, the college has created very strong linkages with districts where the students are placed for internship and field experience. These include students on the Community Based Education and Services (COBES) rotation, Master of Public Health and Environmental Health students placed at districts. This strengthens district structures to manage health needs of the people.

The College of Health Sciences continues to attract collaborations from developed and developing world. For instance, mid last year, the College received a delegation from China whose mission was to explore ways in which the Chinese government working with the Government of Uganda can construct a teaching hospital for the College. This is an exciting prospect and innovation the University is pursuing through the Government of Uganda and once it comes to fruition, medical and health education in Uganda will change for the better. Most of the cases being referred to hospitals abroad would now be undertaken in Uganda. In turn, this will positively impact the delivery of health services in the country.

Makerere University continues to attract strategic partners at both National and International levels. The first-ever World Health Organisation/Tobacco Free Initiative (WHO/TFI) Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa (CTCA) was launched on 1st November 2011 at the Kasangati Makerere University premises. This is an initiative of the School of Public Health in the College of Health Sciences.

College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resource and Biosecurity

The College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security is committed to enhancing employment opportunities in Uganda. It is for this reason that it transformed from offering just one degree in Veterinary Medicine to offering other degree programmes in Wildlife Health Management, Animal Production and Laboratory Sciences.

In the same regard, the College is now embarking on a new skills programme that shall take the university into the communities, hence increase the general welfare of our population that largely depends on animals in terms of food security and poverty eradication. Through this programme, youths in Uganda will be trained in programmes ranging from leather production to bee keeping to fish production as well as animal feed production and so on.

The unique and flexible programme enables anyone right from a Primary School leaver to join an education value chain at their own time and exit with skills to form a Small and Medium Enterprise whenever they wish. A number of skills training centres shall be established across the country for this purpose.

The Ugandan Government is supportive of this course and is funding the College to set up a skills and technology centre at Nakyesasa that will be used to train youths to learn by production so that they can immediately engage in gainful employment. This initiative by the College is helping to drive forward Makerere University's agenda of repositioning to meet emerging development challenges in the country.

School of Law

This year, the School of Law established a Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) which will provide students with an opportunity to access practical elements in Clinical Legal Education. This is aimed at building the capacity and skills of Ugandan Lawyers to enable them initiate and pursue public interest litigation, to teach Clinical Legal Education (CLE) as well as organize and manage the students' clinics. This serves as an avenue for provision of services to civil society organizations that use public interest litigations as one of their strategies, and creating a network with legal aid clinics in Uganda, Africa and the world. It will also be a centre for research in public interest litigation cases in the courts of Uganda. The program, is administered under the Human Rights and Peace Centre.

In another development, The School of Law was approved to offer The Administrative Officers Law Course by the Office of The President of the Republic of Uganda, which supervises all administrative officers in the country. The Course is necessary and a must have for all levels of administration at recruitment or entry, at promotion and confirmation of the Administrative Officers in the Public Service in Uganda. It is offered at the main Makerere University campus, as well as at Makerere University Jinja campus and Makerere University study centres in Gulu and Mbale.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, This year 2012, Makerere University will focus on promoting interdisciplinary and cross-cutting academic synergies within units and across units in the respective colleges. In addition, the respective colleges through their Academic Boards will explore and propose viable ways through which they can pool the human resource with an aim of providing quality service and producing better products.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Kampala Technical School started in January 1922 with 14 Students and on 4th August 1922 it changed name to Makerere College. Therefore, during this same year 2012, Makerere University will officially mark 90 years of existence. This is a historic year in which we intend to commemorate our journey from 1922 as a humble Technical School that later became Makerere College on 4th August 1922. We therefore appeal to you dear graduands, alumni, parents, and well wishers to be a part the celebrations to mark 90 years of existence of Makerere University due on Saturday 4th August 2012.

As John F. Kennedy said, "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, if fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation." It is therefore very important, that we all support Makerere University in the provision of education as we build for the future. For God and My Country; I thank you.

It is now my honor and privilege to invite Professor George Mondo Kagonyera, the Chancellor of Makerere University, to address us.