



**REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE-
CHANCELLOR, PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA, AT THE
62nd GRADUATION CEREMONY, 17TH 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:
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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 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 Mr. Tonny Ongin graduated on Monday 16th January 2012 with B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering and he obtained a CGPA of 4.86. The best student in the humanities is Ms. Michelle Kiconco who will graduate on Thursday 19th January 2012 with a Bachelor of Leisure and Hospitality Management. She obtained a CGPA of 4.79.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Today, Tuesday 17th January 2012, I present to you a total of **2372** graduands from the College of Education and External Studies and the College of Computing and Information Sciences for the award of degrees and diplomas.

Of the 2372 graduands being presented today, **939** are from the College of Computing and Information Sciences. The best student in the College of Computing and Information Sciences is Mr. Joseph Lutaaya who is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He obtained a CGPA of 4.80. Congratulations!

Of the 2372 graduands being presented today, **1433** graduands are from the College of Education and External Studies. The best students from the College of Education and External Studies include: Mr. Kenneth Muhumuza and Mr. Samuel Mugabi who are graduating with a Bachelor of Science with Education. They scored a CGPA of **4.63**. Congratulations!

After any student has satisfactorily fulfilled the requirements for the award of either a degree or diploma of Makerere University and obtain clearance from the offices on the university clearance form, he or she has the **right** to demand for the immediate release of his/ her transcript. All transcripts are ready and those who have not yet picked them are encouraged to do so. Degree and diploma certificates are only issued to Graduands after graduation. Certificates for Graduands from the School of Law, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; College of Business and Management Sciences; College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology; College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resource and Bio-Security; College of Health Sciences; are ready and Graduands are encouraged to pick them. The other certificates for the College of Computing and Information Sciences; College of Education and External Studies; College of Humanities and Social Sciences; College of Natural Sciences; and Makerere University Business School are expected at the end of this week from Smith & Ouzman Ltd, UK.

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.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I would like to thank the Makerere University Council head by Dr. Eng. Charles Wana-Etyem for directing the

administrative, financial and academic affairs of the University in accordance with Section 40 of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2001.

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 the University Ranking done by Academic Performance (URAP) Research Laboratory based in Turkey has ranked Makerere University 8th best University on the African continent. 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 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 Education and External Studies

Since the creation of the College of Education and External Studies in December 2010, its staff profile has changed with the promotion of 9 staff within the first year to higher academic ranks. This has improved the College capacity and potential to fulfill its mandate. The College is currently engaged in various projects aimed at improving its capacity to provide teaching; research and knowledge transfer partnerships to its stakeholders.

1. **Uganda Communications Commission and Makerere University jointly fund Mobile Distance Learning.** This project is aimed at developing applications employing pervasive mobile phones to support students wishing to pursue university education. This project will help the Department of Open and Distance Learning to develop a virtual mobile learning notice board (VmNoB), a collaborative virtual mobile learning component (Colla VmLearn) and a cooperative virtual mobile learning component (Coop VmLearn). The application of these three modules is meant to increase student support and attain higher retention and pass rates in the External Degree Programmes.
2. In an effort to promote lifelong learning, the College is also involved in a collaborative project on **Literacy, Employability and Enterprise development training for out of school and work youth in western and northern Uganda.** Through this project, 500 youth who have not been able to access school education will be helped to learn reading and writing practices that are required to run simple businesses in their everyday lives. This will equip them with hands-on experience of micro-enterprise management and support to start their own small businesses and thus obtain gainful employment. In this way, the College hopes to contribute to overcoming the problem of youth unemployment, which is very common in both rural and urban areas of Uganda.
3. **Tuning Africa project**, which is funded by the European Union. This collaborative and consultative project seeks to harmonize training curricula between European and African Universities. Using an internationally established methodology, the project will help Makerere University enhance degree comparability, graduate mobility and employability. Also, the project will improve staff capacity in the College to design and

develop curricula, provide opportunities for generation of additional resources and will support effective and productive networking opportunities. Makerere University School of Education is the only recipient of the Tuning Africa project funding in East and Central Africa having competed with 200 universities in East, Central and Southern Africa.

College of Computing and Information Sciences

The College of Computing and Information Sciences (CoCIS) is home to several innovations in the fields of computing, mobile applications, ICT and information sciences. Some of the innovations include:

- 1. Crop Disease Monitoring** – a team in the college has recently prototyped a survey system running on a \$80 Smartphone, which can take an image of a cassava leaf and automatically diagnose, with high accuracy, whether that plant is affected by Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD).
- 2. Automated microscopic diagnosis** – the college has developed a system to carry out microscopic tests automatically, with a smartphone connected to the eyepiece of a microscope. This system could make it possible to carry out reliable disease testing in places where there are no laboratory technicians to perform the tests.
- 3. Cyber Learning Buddy: A Virtualized Career Learning Platform** – the focus is on supporting problem based learning where the learners are provided with a platform to create, mix and reuse learning objects. Within the platform, a learner can set long term learning goals such as a specific profession and the system intelligently provides a refined break-down of immediate learning objectives with appropriate learning resources to achieve the desired goal.

4. **Improving the Timeliness and Accuracy of Weather Information in Uganda** – Weather affects everyone at some point. In this era of adverse climatic change effects it is critical to properly manage weather information.
5. **A Mobile Based Early Warning System For Water Level Monitoring In Valley Dams-** This system uses a sensor and GSM based technology to deliver short text messages over a mobile network. This system will help District water officers to warn farmers early so that they can prepare for the drought and floods.
6. **Crimex-** A Mobile Application developed to support the Uganda Police Force in Monitoring Crime in Uganda using analytical tools embedded on the phone to support visualization crime incidence.

This groundbreaking research in the different areas has won researchers local and international awards and research grants. As part of its initiative to promote community outreach programmes, this year, the College has committed over Sh300M from its Internally Generated Funds to fund 20 projects mainly in the area of community health promotion.

The College has a fully-fledged Centre for Innovations and Professional Skills Development (CiPSD), which focuses on accelerating students to jobs, ideas to solutions and solutions to business. On 21st November 2011, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Microsoft Corporation and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology launched the first Microsoft Innovation Centre in Uganda at Makerere University. This innovation centre is an extension of the global Microsoft innovation centre network and is designed to promote the development of innovation and growth of the Ugandan software economy.

The College also hosts the regional Tele-Education Centre in Eastern Africa, run under the Pan-African e-Network project. As part of this project, which is supported by the Government of India and African Union, and coordinated by Uganda's Ministry of ICT, Amity University has agreed to offer 20 new online academic programmes in the next academic year. We encourage Ugandans to embrace this opportunity and enroll for these online academic programmes.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, This year 2012, Makerere University will focus on promoting inter-disciplinary and crosscutting 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.