



**REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA, AT THE 62nd GRADUATION
CEREMONY, 18TH 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. The Vice Chairperson of Makerere University Academic Staff Association (MUASA), Mr. Kiggundu-Musoke Muhammad is also graduating with a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Religious Studies) 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 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 tomorrow, Thursday 19th January 2012 with a Bachelor of Leisure and Hospitality Management. She obtained a CGPA of 4.79.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Today, Wednesday 18th January 2012, I present to you a total of **2277** graduands from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences for conferment of degrees and award of diplomas. The best student in the College is Ms. Caroline Komukama who is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Social Sciences). She obtained a CGPA of 4.74. Congratulations!

After any student has satisfactorily fulfilled the requirements for the award of either a degree or diploma of Makerere University and

obtains 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.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I would like to thank the Makerere University Council headed by Eng. Dr. 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.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, University Ranking done by Academic Performance (URAP) Research Laboratory based in Turkey has ranked Makerere University 8th best University on the African continent. The ranking of the University has improved as a result of the improvement in the quality of staff of the University among others. The quality of the staff of Makerere University is being appreciated world over.

- Makerere University is a host to several regional and international programs and projects such as the African Centre for Tobacco Control, which serves the whole of Africa, The Regional Universities Forum that builds capacity in Agricultural sector across Africa, and the Regional Centre for Quality Health Care that serves the whole of Eastern Africa are housed at Makerere University. This is again a sign of renewed confidence in Makerere University as a centre of excellence in Africa.
- The Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University is among the few Vice-Chancellors/ University Presidents from around the world that is always invited to the Annual Meeting of the Secretary General's Global Colloquium of University Presidents Chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. **The 2012 Colloquium will convene at Columbia University on Monday, April 2,**

2012, and Tuesday, April 3 2012. This year's subject is the global policy impact—particularly in terms of escalating demands on job creation and education—posed by extremely high rates of population growth seen today in virtually every developing nation in the Global South. Several dozen countries are facing a so-called “youth bulge” with as much as 40 percent of their populations between the ages of 15 and 24, while many of these same nations also are experiencing continued rapid population growth as high as four to five births for every death in society. To foster peaceful development in nations with this rising demographic tide, it will be essential to expand access to quality education of all levels, along with complementary policies for achieving economic growth and political stability.

- Similarly on Friday 30th December 2011, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI appointed Sr. Dr. Dominica Dipio, Associate Professor of Literature and Film among eleven others in the field of Social Communication as consultants to the Pontifical Council for Social Communications (PCCS). The Pontifical Council for Social Communications is involved in questions regarding the means of social communication, so that, also by these means, human progress and the message of salvation may benefit secular culture and mores." Article 170 also states that: "The chief task of this Council is to encourage and support in a timely and suitable way the action of the Church and her members in the many forms of social communication. It takes care to see that newspapers and periodicals, as well as film and radio or television broadcasts, are more and more imbued with a human and Christian spirit. Four (4)

cardinals and Six (6) bishops were appointed as members of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. They are Cardinal Josip Bozanic, Archbishop of Zagreb Croatia; Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, India; Cardinal John Njue, Archbishop of Nairobi Kenya; and Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya, Archbishop of Kinshasa DRC. Amongst six (6) bishops who were appointed include: Timothy Michael Dolan, Archbishop of New York USA; Mark Benedict Coleridge, Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Australia; Salvatore Fisichella, Titular Archbishop of Voghenza, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization; Jose Manuel do Nascimento Clemente Macarius, Bishop of Porto Portugal; Joseph Befe Ateba, Bishop of Kribi Cameroon; Barthelemy Adoukonou, Titular Bishop Zama Minor, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture. The Holy Father also appointed a number of consultants to the Council: Fr. Antonino Spadaro S.J., director of the magazine "Civiltà Cattolica"; Fr. Eric Salobir O.P., general assistant for social communications of the Order of Friars Preachers, France; Fr. Augustine Savarimuthu S.J., director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Social Communications of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome; **Sr. Dominica Dipio O.P. Associate Professor of literature at the Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda**; Antonio Preziosi, director of "Giornale Radio Rai" and of "Rai Radio Uno"; Erminio Fragassa, president and managing director of "MicroMegas Comunicazione S.p.A."; Marco Tarquinio, director of the "Avvenire" newspaper; Paul Wuthe, secretary of the media commission of the Austrian Bishops' Conference; Greg Erlandson, president of the Catholic Press Association, U.S.A.; Gian Maria Vian, director of the "Osservatore Romano" newspaper, and Susana Nuin Nunez of the Focolari Movement, executive secretary of the commission for social communications media of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM).

- On 10th October 2011, Makerere University hosted H.E. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, the Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya who gave a talk on "East Africa in Development Transition: The Light ahead is not an Oncoming Train"
- On Friday 21st October 2011, **Makerere hosted HRH Sylvia Nagginda Luswata, the Nnabagereka**, and Patron of the Female Scholarship Foundation, Makerere University. This was Her Royal Highness' first Royal visit to Makerere University.
- On Friday 2nd December 2011, **Makerere hosted a high profile public lecture in rebirth of the *Makerere Africa Lecture Series***; in celebration of East Africa's 50 years of Independence; and for inauguration of the Board of Trustees of the Female Scholarship Foundation (FSF). Our outstanding alumnus and former Guild President, Hon **Professor Peter Anyang Nyongo**, Minister of Medical Services, Republic of Kenya, delivered the lecture on 'Ending the Servitude of Life Givers: the Liberation of East African Women since Nyerere's Equality Call' This was the 1st **MAKERERE AFRICA LECTURE SERIES.**
- Tomorrow 19th January 2011 from 6:00pm up to 08.00pm, H.E Thabo Mbeki, the former President of the Republic of South Africa, will have a Public Question and Answer Session in the Main Hall of Makerere University. The theme of the Question and Answer Session is "Africa and the World: Intervention and Reform." The session will be hosted and chaired by Professor Mahmood Mamdani, the Director of Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR). This is the 2nd **MAKERERE AFRICA LECTURE SERIES.**

- 24th February 2012, **2.30PM – 7.00PM** Makerere will host **Dr Shelby F. Lewis, Deputy Chair of the J.W Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Foundation Board**, for a public lecture in our world renowned Main Hall on the topic: “The Fulbright Scholarship and Africa during President Obama’s Administration”. This will take place on **MAKERERE UNIVERSITY MAIN HALL.** This will be the 3rd MAKERERE AFRICA LECTURE SERIES.

It will also be in celebration of Black History Month in North America. **H.E Jerry Lanier, US Ambassador to Uganda** and Dr. William Kalema the Chairman Board of Trustees of Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation has agreed to be discussants of Dr Lewis’ lecture. It is noteworthy that Dr Lewis was once a teacher at Nabumali High School and Tororo Girls School in Eastern Uganda where she began her international career. She also worked as Makerere’s Extra Mural Lecturer at the time.

- Makerere University to host H.E. President Museveni and H.E. President Kibaki on Tuesday 24th January 2012. H.E President Mwai Kibaki, the President of the Republic of Kenya, will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Laws of Makerere University on 24th January 2012, in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding contribution to public service at the national, regional and international levels. His Host President Museveni will accompany him. Section 16 of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001 provides that: The President of the Republic of Uganda shall be the Visitor of each Public University; That the Visitor shall perform an overall supervisory role over the affairs of each public University; and that the Visitor shall, as often as circumstances may

require, in respect of any of the affairs of a Public University conduct a visitation of the Public University.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am glad to report that on 24th November 2011 H.E. Dr. Gen YK Museveni visited Makerere University to tour projects being undertaken at Makerere University especially those under the Presidential Initiative. H.E. President Museveni later convened a follow up meeting at State House Nakasero on 10th December 2011. This meeting was called to discuss ways of how Makerere University can partner with the private sector to translate innovations at Makerere University into commercial products. Stakeholders from Makerere University, government ministries and the private sector attended. President Museveni in his capacity as Visitor is expected at Makerere University again later this month to specifically visit Makerere University College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and advise on how the college should be re-aligned to support government programmes on modernization of agriculture and value addition.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Just like never before the Government of Uganda led by H.E. President Museveni is committed both financially and otherwise to ensuring that Makerere University succeeds in contributing to the economic development of Uganda. As a result, Makerere University is now being put on every government agenda. Thanks to H.E. President Museveni.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, these are a few indicators to show how the government of Uganda and the public world over has confidence and trust in Makerere University that is now ranked 8th best

University in Africa. There is no doubt in our minds that Makerere University is on track to reclaiming its position of being the number one University in Africa.

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.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Let me now highlight a few achievements/developments in the college that is graduating her students today:

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

In 2011, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences played a crucial role in linking research to policy and programme development feeding into the new National Development Plan and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Such research included areas of HIV/AIDS, Gender and climate change, local governance, peace and conflict resolution, reproductive health, rural development, child welfare and development, human rights and mental health.

As academicians, contribution to national development is crucial. Therefore the College endeavors to come up with innovations aimed at bolstering the economy. In this regard, the College through the School of Psychology is finalizing an anti-corruption tool that will be used to assess and identify people with acceptable levels of ethics and integrity to take up positions of responsibility in public and private sectors.

The College continues to attract international and local partnerships that tremendously contribute to the academic progress of the students and lecturers as well as the image of the University. Among these partnerships is the collaboration between the School of Psychology and the University of Vaxjo (now Linnaeus University) in Sweden that involves staff and student exchanges. So far 6 psychology students have benefited and are on masters training in Sweden.

The School of Social Sciences has signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the 'Developing Sustainable Community Health Resources in Poor Setting in Uganda (COHeRe)' Project. The Netherlands Organization funds the project for Scientific Research (NOW/WOTRO). It is a research project bringing together Makerere University and the University of Amsterdam and is aimed at developing sustainable interventions to mitigate the effects of human resource deficit in healthcare. It is also aimed at developing local capacity for applied public health related social science research. Three PhD students are already on the programme.

The College involvement in the Eastern and Southern Africa Humanities and Social Sciences Colleges/faculty network (Programme for African New Generation of Academics - PANGeA) has resulted into four PhD fellowships for the College academic members of staff starting this year. A lot more support is expected for the students and staff from this collaboration.

At this juncture, I wish to inform you that the Department of Literature, Makerere University, will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the June 1962 'Conference of African Writing of English Expression' from 12th-14th July this year. The International Conference will serve as a platform for discussing concerns pertinent to African Literature in the 21st century.

The College also won the bid to host the International Committee on Social Development Bi-annual Conference in 2013. It will be the first time the conference will be held on the African Continent. It is

therefore an opportunity for all of us to fully participate by submitting abstracts on what we think can boost the development of our country and the continent at large.

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 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 to 2012. 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.