REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA, AT THE 62nd GRADUATION CEREMONY, 19TH 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
- The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
- Religious Leaders
- The Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities
- 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
- The Principal, Makerere University Business School
- 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.

By the end of the 62nd graduation ceremony, 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. 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 is a graduating today with a Bachelor of Leisure and Hospitality Management. She obtained a CGPA of 4.79.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Today, Wednesday 19th January 2012, I present to you a total of **2,428** graduands from the Makerere University Business School (MUBS) for conferment of degrees and award of diplomas.

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 Granduands after graduation. Certificates for Granduands 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 Granduands 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, improved research and teaching laboratories among

others. The quality of the staff of Makerere University is being appreciated world over.

- Makerere University collaborates with all the top universities in the world, which is a good indicator of its strength and provision quality education and research service.
- Makerere University hosts several regional and international programs and projects such as:
    - The African Centre for Tobacco Control, which serves the whole of Africa.
    - The Regional Centre for Quality Health Care serves the whole of Eastern Africa.
    - The regional Tele-Education Centre in Eastern Africa, which run under the Pan-African e-Network project. As part of this project, supported by the Government of India and African Union, and coordinated by Uganda's Ministry of ICT, Amity University offers five (5) online academic programmes and has agreed to offer 20 new online academic programmes in the next academic year.
    - The Microsoft Innovation Centre, which serves as 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 Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a consortium of 29 universities in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. RUFORUM has a mandate to oversee graduate training and networks of specialization in the

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) countries. Specifically, RUFORUM recognizes the important and largely unfulfilled role that universities play in contributing to the well-being of small-scale farmers and economic development of countries throughout the sub-Saharan Africa region.

- Infectious Diseases Institute, Uganda's preeminent medical training institution, whose main focus is to strengthen care and treatment of HIV and related infectious diseases – for people living with HIV across Africa. IDI facilitates this through offering high quality training for health workers; research on best practices related to HIV in low resource settings; and advanced clinical services that support the development of new models of care.

This is again a sign of renewed confidence in Makerere University as a centre of excellence in Africa.

- In December 2011, Professor Elly N Sabiiti, one of the longest serving Deans of the former Faculty of Agriculture at Makerere University was appointed the 1st President of ASARECA General Assembly, the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa currently serving 11 countries in Central and Eastern Africa.

- **The Vice-Chancellor Makerere University was appointed member of the Annual Meeting of the Secretary General's Global Colloquium of University Presidents.** The Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University is among the few Vice-Chancellors/ University Presidents from around the world who is a member of 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) that advises the Pope on all matters of social communication. 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." The Pontifical Council for Social Communications is comprised of four (4) cardinals and Six (6) bishops
- 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.**
- Today 19th January 2011, H.E Thabo Mbeki, the former President of the Republic of South Africa,
    - Will deliver a key note address at 10.30am to a select group of delegates on the topic “The Architecture of post-cold war Africa: Between internal reform and external intervention, at Makerere University Institute of Social Research conference room.
    - And in the afternoon from 6:00pm up to 08.00pm he 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 toured 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.

Yesterday, the 18th of January 2012, the staff and students of College Engineering, Design, Art and Technology, College of Agricultural, Environmental Sciences, and College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resource and Biosecurity presented the innovations of their respective colleges at the NRM retreat in Kyakwazi. This is again a strong indicator of the University-Government partnership in nurturing innovations and delivery of high quality education in the country.

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.

Makerere University to open Constituent Colleges in the EA Community member countries and South Sudan, 2012-2014

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as per the current Makerere University Strategic Plan 2008-2018 Makerere University planned to open campuses/ constituent colleges outside Uganda in the period 2012-2014. As we are all aware, Makerere University transformed into the University of East Africa in 1963 with three constituent colleges based in Makerere, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. The relationship with the University of East Africa came to an end on 1st July 1970 when Makerere became an independent national university of the Republic of Uganda and so did Nairobi for Kenya and Dar es Salaam for Tanzania.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, in the spirit of embracing the East African Community, Makerere University plans to open one constituent college in each of the following countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and South Sudan within the next 2 years. We are having discussions with the governments in these countries to ensure that they provide the entire necessary infrastructure as their contribution and Makerere University will provide staff both academic

and administrative to run these constituent colleges. The advantage to these participating countries is that their nationals will now be able to get quality Makerere University education, which is currently ranked the best in the region, from their home countries without having to come to Makerere University main campus. For Makerere University in addition to being a truly EA community University by having a physical presence in the member countries, it will also benefit from charging the same fees as charged by the best Universities in those respective countries for University education, which are currently more than twice what Makerere University charges for similar programmes today.

Makerere University to Open 5 Regional Campuses in Uganda in 2012-2013

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University has been operating Makerere University Jinja campus for the last 2 years and Makerere University Fort Portal campus for the last one. Jinja campus already has over 300 students and by August this year it will have over 600 students. These two campuses have served as pilots. We now have the experience to open one Makerere University campus in each region of Uganda in 2012-2013 as provided for in the Makerere University Strategic Plan 2008-2018. Makerere University campuses will be joint partnerships with the regional governments (local governments). The local governments will provide infrastructure mainly buildings and land and most local governments have expressed interest to partner with Makerere University in opening campuses in their regions and the discussions are in advanced stages. On the other hand, Makerere University will equip the lecture theatres, teaching and research laboratories and provide lecturers among others.

The regional campuses will use problem-based learning with a strong component of **community engagement**. By taking Makerere University to the regions, we hope to contribute to the transformation of the local communities through education.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Let me now highlight a few achievements/ developments at Makerere University Business School that is graduating her students today:

Makerere University Business School

- MUBS has completed the construction of the Main Library that will seat approximately 2,000 people. The Government of Uganda and MUBS funded the construction.
- The School has also graduated four (4) members of staff with PhDs from abroad. The graduands include Stephen Isabalija, Moses Muhwezi, Isaac Magoola and Jotham Byaruhanga.
- Several MUBS staff won research grants totaling to USD 170,000. These include; Rebecca Namatovu, Samuel Dawa, Fiona Mulira, Celestine Katongole and Stella Nyongesa who won a research grant from Strathmore University to carry out research on Entrepreneurship among women, rural youths and disabled persons. The grant is part of Trust Africa's Investment Climate & Business Environment (ICBE).
- MUBS also participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) an International Consortium of Entrepreneurship Researchers. There are only 4 African countries participating, MUBS representing Uganda. This was held at MUBS Conference Hall in March 2011.

- MUBS also graduated the 34 inmates during its 1st lot of Luzira Inmates graduation on 2nd June 2011. This programme is running as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to change the lives of the inmates.
- MUBS introduced “STEP” a training programme for students who do not have entrepreneurship skills to study business in order to start up their own businesses. This programme has also benefited the students of Makerere University main campus.
- The School also hosted four (4) Conferences including: CAPA Conference, 7thEntrepreneurship Conference, 2nd International Leadership Conference, 16th Annual International Management Conference, and actively participated in four (4) other Conferences including: ICT 4 Africa; ORSEA in Nairobi, Kenya; CAPA in Ghana and Syracuse in USA.
- The School also launched the ICT Centre, which has a seating capacity of approximately 50 people and is aimed at training people in ICT skills.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as per the developments at Makerere University Business School, we have no dought that its now ready transform into other degree awarding institution or better still a University of Business Education.

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.