

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY FEMALE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION:

THE APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

By Dr. Thelma Awori,
Honorary Consul General of Liberia in Uganda
and Member of the Board of Trustees,
Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation.

Makerere University started the Makerere University Female Scholarship Initiative (FSI) with a US \$ 4 million grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York that enabled 691 girls from disadvantaged social-economic backgrounds acquire university education from 2001 to 2010. The beneficiaries academic performance was exceptional with a completion rate of 93%, of whom, 60% are gainfully employed.

The Carnegie's US\$ 4 million grant that supported 691 girls in three years could only benefit 8% of all the eligible applicants. The 92% who did not benefit from the scholarship may have dropped out, a few might have gotten married and fewer still may have managed to struggle through university education. The need for scholarships to access higher education is, therefore, still very pertinent.

On 20th November 2010, Makerere University resolved to sustain the Female Scholarship Initiative (FSI) through the launch of the Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation (FSF). On 3rd December 2011, the Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees was inaugurated at Makerere University Main Hall. The Chair of Dr. William Kalema and I am proud to be a member.

In recognition of FSI's success story, its sustainability through the Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation (FSF) and Makerere University's gesture of commitment and ownership by offering 20 scholarships per year; CCNY responded with an offer of US \$1m as a challenge grant from 2011 to 2014. This means that for US \$ 1 raised by Makerere University, CCNY will match it with US \$ 3, thus leveraging the fundraising strategy.

In order to qualify for the US \$ 1m challenge/matching grant, Makerere University needs to raise USD 334,000 (835,000, 000/= : Eight hundred and thirty five million Uganda shillings) and in total, the funds will support a minimum of 300 students for three years. Therefore, the target is to support at least 100 girls per year for three years. Makerere University launched a fundraising campaign and so far has collected USD 14,137 (35,342,500 Uganda shillings): **The outstanding amount is US \$ 320,000 (800,000,000/= : Eight hundred million Uganda shillings).**

Allow me to acknowledge the following that have contributed so far:

- Prof. Emmanuel Tumusiime Mutebile
- FSF Board Members
- Districts of Alebtong, Nakapiripit, Nebbi, Zombo
- Ms. JD Global Education Fund (California)
- Other individuals of goodwill who will be specifically acknowledged in our forthcoming events and publications.

I therefore appeal to the Government of Uganda, Development Partners, Private Sector, Civil Society and individuals of goodwill to partner with Makerere University to the FSF Board of Trustees to raise a minimum of US \$ 320,000 (800,000,000/= : Eight hundred million Uganda shillings), that will trigger the release of US 1 million from Carnegie Corporation to support 300 bright but disadvantaged girls to access higher education at Makerere University, in three years.

The FOCUS Magazine placed in the middle of your tables has details about the FSI/FSF selection criteria and process, and details about how you can contribute, on pages 57 and 58. The last page of the Magazine is a tear-off section that you can fill hand and hand it to the FSF girls who are our ushers tonight, dressed in Makerere University colours. Together we can unite to invest in girls' lives and contribute to **Social Transformation** at personal, family and national levels.