

**COMMUNICATION BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR AT THE 31<sup>ST</sup> MONTHLY  
MEDIA BRIEFING, MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2012**

I welcome you all to the 31<sup>st</sup> Vice Chancellor's Media briefing for the month of July. Let me take this opportunity to share with you some of the developments at Makerere University.

**1. Makerere University at 90**

Inaugurated on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1922, Makerere University marks 90 years of existence this year. Several activities have been identified to celebrate this milestone in the history of the University and indeed higher education in Uganda. The University has over the years had an impact on the human capital of the country and positively affected the livelihoods of many Ugandans. Apart from the pre-independent period, University transformation has been more evident over the past twenty years. This has been as a result of the liberalized environment that enabled the University to exploit existing opportunities for institutional advancement. More recently, the University has benefited from the Presidential initiative for science and technology. This has enabled the University to demonstrate capacity to advance innovations in engineering and technology, food and value addition as well as enhancement of skills for production in the agricultural and animal Industry. Other innovations have been through information and communication technology in addition to tools to enhance ethics and integrity.

The University has found it befitting to celebrate these and other achievements that have seen it claim a position in the higher education sphere over the 90-year period. The celebrations under the theme *Celebrating 90 years of Makerere University: Leadership towards Africa's Transformation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* will be launched on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012 starting at 9:00 a.m. at Makerere University. H.E The President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri K. Museveni and Visitor of Makerere University will launch the celebrations. Activities will among others include:

- a) An exhibition of the different innovations that have been associated with Makerere University but more especially under the presidential initiative for science and technology
- b) Laying foundation stones on proposed key buildings in the University: the Food and Technology Incubation Centre supported under the presidential initiative; A multi-disciplinary laboratory complex to be supported by the Government of Uganda under the African Development Bank (ADB) initiative for higher education; Two multi-purpose lecture facilities to be supported by the Government of Uganda under the ADB initiative for higher education
- c) Opening the 8000 M<sup>2</sup> library extension

## **2. Mini Stakeholder's Meeting/Conference**

A mini Stakeholders Conference has been scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2012 to kick start the celebrations of 90 years of existence of Makerere – East Africa's oldest and premier University – and the *alma mater* of outstanding alumni: pioneers, achievers and innovators!

## **3. Transcripts and Certificates**

The University will start processing transcripts in September 2012 and will be completed by October 2012. The Academic Registrar shall provide detailed information on the notice boards and Makerere University website so that students can pick their transcripts any time from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012.

Processing of Certificates will start in November 2012. Students who would have fulfilled the requirements for the award of the degrees, diplomas and certificates of Makerere University will receive their Certificates on the graduation day in January 2012.

## **4. Professor Eriabu Lugujjo appointed Vice Chancellor of Ndejje University**

We would like to congratulate Prof. Eriabu Lugujjo upon his recent appointment as Vice Chancellor of Ndejje University.

Professor Lugujjo has been one of our longest-serving members of staff, having joined the University Service as a Teaching Assistant in 1969. He served as the Dean, Faculty of Technology from 1981 to 1989 and represented the then Faculty of Technology to the University Senate. He has also been the longest serving Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

Professor Lugujjo is no stranger to policy formulation for Higher Education. He has been associated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) since 1983 and served for over eight years as a member of the organ's Executive Board. He is also the Chairperson of the Industrial Training Council, established to guide technical and vocational education in Uganda and introduce a qualification framework irrespective of the background of training.

He holds a Bachelors Degree from Makerere University, A Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology (CALTECH), 1971 and PhD in the same field from CALTECH, 1974.

We wish Professor Eriabu Lugujjo all the best as he embarks on his new role as Vice Chancellor of Ndejje University.

## **5. Improving the physical image of the University**

The Makerere University Management has embarked on a process aimed at improving the state of its infrastructure and the overall physical image of the University:

### **a) Painting of buildings along the University Road**

At the 125<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012, The Makerere University Council-the supreme governing body of the University - approved the proposal to use the students of the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) to paint buildings along the University Road.

Under this internship/field attachment arrangement, the Lecturers from the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) and the technical team from Estates and Works Department will supervise the students.

The painting works covering the buildings on the University Road namely, the School of Liberal and Performing Arts (Former faculty of Arts); School of Social Sciences (Former faculty of Arts Buildings) and the Lincoln Flats are estimated to cost **UGX. 78million** shillings compared to the total estimated cost of **UGX.180 million** shillings if a contractor was hired.

In addition to being cost effective to the University, this internship/field attachment presents an opportunity to the engineering students to acquire hands-on skills as well as participation in the beautification of their University.

The 15 engineering students are expected to complete the painting exercise, which started on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012, by Mid August 2012.

### **b) Ongoing works-Construction of the University Road**

Prime Contractors Ltd supervised by the University's Estates and Works Department are undertaking the re-construction of the University Road (the 1.2km stretch from the Main Gate to the Round-About at the Main Library/JICA-College of Natural Sciences).

On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the Makerere University signed a Contract for the reconstruction of the University Road (from the Main Gate to the Round-about at the Main Library JICA-College of Natural Sciences).

On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the Site (University Road) was handed over to Prime Contractors Ltd to undertake the aforementioned task for a period of six (6) months.

On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the Makerere University Management, represented by the Vice Chancellor and University Secretary, successfully carried out the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the University Road at the Main Administration parking yard.

As per the terms of contract, the estimated cost of the project is **UGX. 893 million** and the scope of works include:

- Construction of 50 mm Asphalt Concrete mix (AC 14) overlay on the entire length of the road including road side parking at Social Sciences, Main Hall and Library, and 300-metre pedestrian walkway in front of the main entrance of the Main Building, Agriculture and Faculty of Arts,
- Installation of street lighting along the entire road, traffic signs and road markings,
- Drainage improvement; reconstruction of open & closed drains, end structures and de-silting of sub-surface drains,
- Improvement of the entire pedestrian pavement along the University Road,

The re-construction works are ongoing, but the completion of construction on the University road will put the road repairs within the university at 80%. Other repairs have included the Nsibirwa road, Kampala Technical School Road (from Mitchell hall to Police), and the Eastern gate to police road, all with funding from the university. The remaining 20% of the repairs will be embarked on in due course.

#### **c) Improving sanitation at the University**

The Makerere University Council has approved **UGX1.3billion** shillings for the overhaul of toilets, rehabilitation and construction of more toilets in halls of residence and in academic and administrative buildings.

With the allocation of UGX.1.3billion in the budget for 2012/2013 Financial Year, I am happy to note that the procurement process is complete and works will begin starting this upcoming Academic year in August 2012.

#### **d) Construction of lecture theatres and centralized laboratories**

The ADB loan will enable Makerere University to put up at least four buildings (2 buildings for centralized lecture theatres and two other buildings for centralized laboratories).

Makerere University has been allocated US\$ 30million from the, as part of the ADB V loan to the Government of Uganda to improve science and technology in Higher Education Institutions. The loan worth US\$ 100million will cover all the Public Universities in Uganda and two degree awarding institutions. The US\$30million received by Makerere University will go towards rehabilitation and refurbishment of teaching and specialized laboratories in the science based units, setting up central/multidisciplinary laboratories and construction of central teaching facilities.

The centralized lecture theatres and other central teaching facilities are meant to benefit the whole University. However, it is mainly the Colleges with large numbers of students like the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) and the College of Education and External Studies (CEES) that will benefit the most from the centralized lecture theatres.

The funding will aid the commencement of the movement to the Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute Kabanyolo (MUARIK) by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) through setting up the initial facility. The funding will also support establishment of e-learning facilities, capacity building for linkages with the community through entrepreneurship, and community engagement by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) and PhD training for selected units.

The implementation of this project is scheduled to start with the beginning of this financial year (2012/2013) and the Planning and Development Department (PDD) is the coordination unit at Makerere University.

The Makerere University Management is following up additional funding expected from the Chinese Government to support several projects including the establishment of the College of

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) in Kabanyolo, a Teaching Hospital under the College of Health Sciences (CHS) in Katakemwa, Centre for Nuclear Science and Engineering, and Institute of Petroleum Studies at Makerere campus among others.

#### **6. International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to support change management process at Makerere University**

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has approved a grant in an amount of up to 449,600 Canadian dollars to enable Makerere University to undertake the research support project, *“Support to Change Management Process at Makerere University and Capacity Building in resource Mobilisation.”*

As per the Research Support Grant Agreement signed on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012, Makerere University through the Directorate of Quality Assurance shall implement the project guided by the following specific objectives:

- Strengthen leadership capacity to effectively implement reforms and manage change;
- Create an enabling environment to ensure effective devolution of powers and responsibilities under the collegiate system;

- Strengthen financial management by implementing the newly upgraded financial system in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences;
- Increase capacity of staff engaged in resource mobilization activities; and
- Document the learning experience

### **Why Change Management at Makerere University?**

Established in 1922 as a humble technical school with 14 students, Makerere University is a living institution that has continued to grow with over 40,000 students on the day and evening academic programmes; transformed from the 1980s and 1990s faculty based institution to a collegiate university in December 2011. Makerere University has nine (9) colleges, the School of Law and two upcountry campuses in Jinja and Fort Portal.

The advent of the 21<sup>st</sup> century therefore presents an opportunity to Makerere University to undertake reforms and embrace change management processes aimed at helping the 90-year-old institution (1922 to 2012) to adapt to the changes in the national and global environments. Makerere University must remain relevant and competitive in an ever-changing environment.

The need for change strongly echoed in the University's vision, *"To be the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa."* If we are to realize this vision, we need to embrace change. Through this change process, we need to bring Management, Staff, Students and the alumni on board to have a participatory approach to improving organizational efficiency at Makerere University as well as improving the information management and financial management systems to improve service delivery.

### **Brief background on Makerere University's journey to Change Management:**

In April 2009, the former Vice Chancellor, Professor Livingstone Serwadda Luboobi appointed the University Research, Finance and Administrative Reforms Committee (URAFRC) to reform Makerere University's academic, research, financial, administrative and support functions in order to make the university more efficient.

The URAFRC undertook a participatory approach and stakeholder participation, which resulted into a documented record of the need for reform in the academic, research, financial, administrative and support functions. The key outcomes of the URAFRC include the transformation of Makerere from a faculty-based institution to a Collegiate university; the elevation of the School of Graduate Studies into the Directorate of

Research and Graduate Training; the Makerere University Organisational Manual; and the Makerere University Research Manual.

On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011, the URAFRC officially handed over its report to the Ag. Vice Chancellor, Professor Venansius Baryamureeba at a ceremony presided over by the Swedish Ambassador to Uganda and the Makerere University Council Chairperson.

In order to move the reform process forward into continuous change management, the vice Chancellor appointed a Change Management Committee (CMC), chaired by Professor Samuel Kyamanywa, Acting Principal, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES).

The main tasks of the Change Management Committee include:

- Assess the level of preparation for the reform
- Ensure that any outstanding work from the URAFRC is completed
- Plan strategies for implementation and establish necessary structures
- Disseminate information on reforms to university stakeholders
- Determine resources required for implementation (human and material resources) of the reforms
- Establish, monitor and evaluate activities of the SCs and TFs that execute the reforms
- Ensure compliance by university units in matters related to reforms
- Advise the Vice Chancellor in all matters related to the reforms
- Develop internal and external communication strategy for the continuous change management in conformity with the overall university communication strategy
- Receive reports from various units on implementation of reforms in their areas
- Center for monitoring, coordination & evaluation of change management
- Give guidance on documentation of all activities related to change management

**The CMC will work through the following sub-committees:**

- (i) Research and Innovation
- (ii) Teaching, Learning and College formation
- (iii) Support Services
- (iv) Communication

**Grateful:**

I thank *the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)* for partnering with Makerere University to financially support change management process, which is expected to be completed in 18 months.

I also take this opportunity to thank all members of staff who have generously given their time and energy to serve Makerere University as members of these committees.

**Appeal:**

I appeal to members of staff to cooperate with the Change Management Committee (CMC) as we embark on this reforms process, aimed embracing change and making Makerere University a model institution; in as far as institutional transformation is concerned.

**7. Makerere University to improve food security for Southern Sudan**

Makerere University through the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) has received a project support grant from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to train the South Sudan Public Crop Improvement researchers at Masters Level in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems.

The training is aimed at improving food security and livelihoods for South Sudanese smallholder farmers through building capacity of South Sudan crop scientists in Plant Breeding at Master of Science Level and to equip them with appropriate skills for crop improvement.

According to the Project Support Agreement, the training shall be conducted at Makerere University from July 2012 to September 2014 (27 months).

This project support grant from the Alliance for a Green revolution in Africa (AGRA) amounting to **USD 199,053** will enable Makerere University's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to train **six (6)** Master of Science students from South Sudan in plant breeding.

The research project is titled: *"Training of South Sudan Public Crop Improvement Researchers at Makerere University at Masters Level in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems."*

**8. Makerere University builds capacity for soil scientists in Uganda and Rwanda**

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) has also embarked on training soil scientists for Uganda and Rwanda to help steer the Africa Green Revolution and other emerging issues related to land degradation.

This follows the decline in the intake of students into soil science courses that have left a deficit of human resource in soil science. Evidence reveals that jobs that require skills in soil science and management are allotted to people in other disciplines due to the scarcity of soil scientists.

With funding from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), 15 Masters Students (10 from Uganda and 5 from Rwanda) are undergoing training under the co-supervision of Rwandese Scientists at ISAR and NUR. Seven Laboratory Technicians are to undergo refresher course in use and maintenance of modern equipment like the Infra Red Spectrometer for rapid soil analysis.

The three-year project titled, “**Building Capacity for Soil Health Research and Development in Uganda**”, commenced in June 2010 and will cost **\$781, 994**. The project is being implemented in collaboration with other AGRA funded institutions including NARO, Africa 2000 Network, Millennium Villages Initiative and the Regional Universities Forum for capacity building in Agriculture (RUFORUM).

Uganda has approximately 132 PhD Agricultural Scientists employed in universities and research institutions that serve the agricultural sector of which less than 20 are Soil Scientists by training. Similarly, at Master’s level, Uganda has less than 20 soil scientists.

In Rwanda, out of 8 PhD holders, 2 are trained in soil chemistry and fertility that are supposed to feed in five agricultural based universities, research institutions and extension delivery in all districts. The country has about 29 Masters holders of whom only 3 are trained in soil chemistry and fertility.

The inadequacy of training at Masters Level has also served as a dis-incentive for the choice of soil science as an option for undergraduates in the region. For example the graduate intake at Makerere University School of Agricultural Sciences in 1999 stood at 46 Masters Students but this dropped to 14 by 2008. In the then department of Soil Science Masters intake dropped from 6 students in 2003 to 3 students in 2008.

Additionally graduate intake has been very erratic due to the inability of students to pay their tuition.

This project will enhance professional capacity in Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) to feed into other training, research and development institutions. The project will also strengthen the analytical capacity of Makerere University’s laboratories to be able to provide services to research, training and farming communities in the country.

## **9. Makerere University Students’ Guild launches Career Week Programme**

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012, the Makerere University Students' Guild under the leadership of H.E, the Guild President, Ivan Kata launched the Makerere University Outreach Week for Schools in Uganda.

Starting 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012, the Makerere University Students' Guild in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda Examination Board, African Global Exchange Development Corporation and Enterprise Uganda shall organize nationwide career guidance conferences for S.4, S.5 and S.6 students, in five (5) regional centres.

The theme for the Academic Outreach Week is: "**Guidance for Prosperity.**"

According to the Guild Academic Affairs Minister, Hon. Gilbert Lwetute, the justification for the Academic Outreach Week in schools is premised on the study carried out by Makerere University Academic Committee, which indicated that most students did not have sufficient information on how examinations are handled by UNEB and admissions to higher institutions of learning are done, irrespective of the schools or regions they come from. The study also highlighted the lack of knowledge on the applicable ways of exploring knowledge acquired from schools to break the myth of studentship into entrepreneurship.

To facilitate this Academic Outreach Week for Schools, the Public Relations Office and the College Communication Officers have provided the required information and publications to the Makerere University Students' Guild.

In addition, the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) together with the Centre for Transport Technologies have accepted to showcase the Kiira Ev- (electric car) to the secondary schools that will participate in the Academic Outreach Week for Schools.

**Special remark:**

As the Acting Vice Chancellor, "I am happy that the Guild President, H.E. Ivan Kata and his Guild Cabinet have planned to reach out to secondary schools in Uganda to showcase the innovations at Makerere University and to educate prospective students on career guidance as well as partnering with Enterprise Uganda to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship."

**For details on the Academic Outreach Week for Schools, please contact:**

The Guild President on 0775 100 130 or the Academic Affairs Minister on 0704279030.

WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

**Sincerely: Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, Acting Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University**