



Acceptance Speech

by

Professor J. Ddumba-Ssentamu

on

The Handover Ceremony

to the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University

Council Room, Makerere University

Thursday 06th September 2012

The Chancellor;

Chairman of Council;

Members of Council;

The Outgoing Vice Chancellor;

Members of Management;

All invited Guests in your various distinguished capacities;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good afternoon to you all.

It is indeed a great honor and privilege to stand before you on this historical day in my life. With a great sense of humility and honor, I accept this appointment as the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University – to be the Chief Executive of the University responsible for Academic, administrative and financial affairs of the university.

I wish to extend my deepest respect and appreciation to all the stakeholders of this institution. Special thanks go to the Visitor of Makerere University – H.E. The President of the Republic of Uganda; the Chancellor; Chairman and Members of Council; Senate; Staff; Students; and the entire Makerere University community for the confidence and trust vested in me as the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University.

I am truly humbled by the many messages that I received and continue to receive congratulating me as a new Vice Chancellor. These messages have been a source of encouragement; inspiration; and determination to take on the task of redirecting Makerere University to its former glory.

It is indeed my prayer and hope that the Almighty God continues to grant me wisdom, good health and knowledge to diligently serve this great institution.

I would like to pay tribute to the outgoing Vice Chancellor - Professor Venansius Baryamureeba and his team for their contributions to this institution. They will be remembered for a number of achievements but most especially for having spearheaded the implementation of the Collegiate System and for designing and developing manuals for the university reforms. We shall ensure that these reforms are implemented. I, together with my team, will provide full support to the Change Management Committee which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of these reforms.

Under my leadership for the period 2012-2017, all my efforts will be geared toward the restoration of Makerere's glory to a University that will be both locally and internationally recognized as:

- A university that is well governed;
- A university that promotes innovative teaching and learning;
- A university that is research-driven;
- A university with a conducive learning and living environment;
- A university with adequate and motivated staff; and
- A university that is financially sustainable.

I accept this appointment well aware of the challenges that Makerere University is faced with. These include amongst others:

- Inadequate funding;
- High staff turn-over;
- Declining academic, research and ethical standards;
- Non-functional laboratories;
- Overcrowded lecture rooms;
- Poor learning and living environment;
- Poor service delivery; and
- Poor physical environment;

Overcoming the challenges facing Makerere University cannot be the responsibility of the Vice Chancellor alone. Therefore, I call upon all of us - academic, administrative and support staff, to work together as a team. Let us be open and honestly communicate to each other for the good of our institution.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, for Makerere University to achieve her vision of being the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa, we need to work together as a team – government; council; management; senate; staff; students and other stakeholders.

This being a public institution, I have to **honestly work closely** with the government on all matters affecting our University.

I pledge to work closely with you, Mr. Chancellor and Council, to address the challenges within our institution. In particular, we need to work together to convince government to take over the entire wage bill of Makerere University and to actively get involved in infrastructural development.

I pledge to work with the University Senate in ensuring that Makerere University becomes the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa. In this regard, the Directorate of Quality Assurance is expected to play a greater role and be accountable for its actions.

I pledge to work with all Principals to make sure that the collegiate system becomes a success. We should work together to overcome the challenges within the colleges. Colleges should be encouraged to come up with innovations that are relevant to the needs of our society.

I pledge to work closely with:

- All staff associations to make sure that we improve the welfare of our staff;
- The Dean of Students and the Students' Guild to improve upon the welfare of students;
- The University Secretary and the Procurement and Disposal Unit to streamline the procurement processes within our University;
- The DVC (F&A) and the Estates Department to make sure that we have a conducive learning and living environment;

- The DVC (F&A), University Secretary and the Directorate of Investment to ensure that the Directorate becomes relevant by implementing the Investment Policy;
- The DVC (F&A), University Secretary and the University Bursar to make sure that University finances are efficiently used;
- The DVC (A&A) and the Academic Registrar to ensure that we effectively and efficiently deliver quality academic services; and
- The Chaplains; Imam and the Counseling and Guidance Center, to reverse the moral decay within the university.

For additional sources of income, I pledge to closely work with the Private Sector and Development Partners.

As the Vice Chancellor and with God's blessings as well as wisdom, I am ready together with my team, to promote and protect the name, brand and image of our University. I thank you for your kind attention.

For God and My Country.