



REMARKS

BY

ENG DR CHARLES WANA ETYEM

CHAIRPERSON, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

ON THE

**COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW LIBRARY EXTENSION BUILDING,
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

ON

MONDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2012

Our Guest of Honor: **H.E Edward Ssekandi**, MP, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda

Minister of State for Higher Education: **Hon Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo, MP**

Chancellor: **Professor George Mondo Kagonyera**

Vice Chancellor: **Prof John Ddumba-Ssentamu**

Program Director Higher Education and Libraries in Africa and Representatives from the Carnegie Corporation of New York

Members of the Makerere University Council

Deputy Vice Chancellor (s)

The University Librarian & Members of Management

Distinguished Guests, Students Leadership, Ladies and Gentlemen

Jubilee Greetings and welcome to all in this auspicious gathering!

While Uganda is celebrating 50 years of Independence this year: the Carnegie Corporation of New York is celebrating 100 years of the “**advancement and diffusion and understanding.**”

Today is a significant milestone in the changing skyline of Makerere University. As you can all see: Makerere’s historic landmark, namely, **the Main Building** is sparkling as it undergoes a remarkable face lift! You must have also noticed coming in through the Main Gate today that **University Road** has been repaired. Now you can have a smooth **pot-hole free** ride into Makerere University of the 21st Century!

Collectively, the changing skyline of Makerere University in the recent past includes the **new CIT Complex; new CEDAT faculty building; new Food Science & Technology Departmental building;** and the newly completed **School of Pharmacy Building.**

There are also **upcoming state-of-the-art infrastructure developments**. These include the African Development Bank (AfDB) sponsored shared laboratories of six (6) storeyed complex; multi-complex lecture theaters in CoBAMS and CHUSS; and the E-learning center in the College of Education & External Studies.

All these infrastructural developments are taking place at a time when Makerere University is undergoing a *renaissance* as **His Excellency President Museveni** has observed. The President made this remark when he came to commission Makerere's **Kiira EV Car** on **24th November 2011**. As we all know by now, the Kiira EV Car, other incubations and innovations at Makerere University have been made possible by the Presidential Initiative in Science, Technology & Innovations!

To the credit of H.E the President's leadership and commitment of Government, the Presidential Initiative on Science, Technology & Innovations has unleashed world class talent at Makerere. These can be tapped for transformation of Uganda as a whole.

Therefore, on behalf of Makerere University Council and my own behalf; permit me to applaud and thank His Excellency President Museveni, in particular, and the Government of Uganda in general: for both the Presidential Initiative on Science, Technology & Innovations; and the upcoming African Development Bank (AfDB) funded infrastructure developments at Makerere University.

This time of *renaissance* @Makerere therefore provides the backdrop and context to how the University Council undertook to meet the challenges of library space and usage in Makerere University. In 2004, Makerere embarked on the first 4000square meters of the Library extension using Internally Generated Funds. This project was completed in 2007. The extension provided more space for reading, discussion rooms, Research Carrels, more ICT facilities, as well as toilet and access facilities for library users with disabilities.

Whereas this gave us some breathing space, the University Council was however not yet off the hook. Hence, in 2007/2008 Academic Year, we introduced the Development Fee as part of functional fees payable by students. And in October 2008, we embarked on the construction of the

second half of the Library Extension. This work was successfully completed early this year.

I wish to take this opportunity to especially thank parents and guardians who have faithfully paid both tuition and functional fees to enable their sons and daughters receive quality education at Makerere University. They deserve the credit for facilitating the development of such infrastructure as we see today.

In a profound way, I cannot forget to thank the Ministry of Education & Sports, the Government of Uganda, and the Parliament of Uganda who have supported Makerere University in our continuing struggle for increased funding through Internally Generated Funds, and other sources, towards Infrastructural Developments.

May I also thank our Development Partners in a special way! They have been with us through *thick* and *thin*. I am especially pleased to appreciate the **Carnegie Corporation of New York** for your support to the University Library that covers access to electronic journals, increasing the book stock, guaranteed book security and facilitation of staff re-training and user counseling. In a nutshell: you, Carnegie Corporation of New York have revolutionized library functions and user experiences. For whereas we managed to set up the physical infrastructure: you, Carnegie Corporation of New York have greatly contributed to furnishing and equipping our Library with state-of-the-art ICT facilities!

This contribution from Carnegie will enable Makerere move from its current 10th ranking to 1st ranking in Africa; thus attaining its vision to be the **“Center of Excellence”** in Africa!

May I therefore appeal to all Makerere students and staff to receive this new Library Extension with gratitude, responsibility and ownership? While we, as a Council, are happy for this accomplishment; we are very much aware this is but a “drop in the ocean” compared to other needs still unmet in Makerere University. But let this small achievement assure you, students and staff, that we are determined and resolute to move forward by adding one small step to another until the small steps become ONE GIANT LEAP!

Happy Golden Jubilee Celebrations for Uganda; and happy Centennial Celebrations for the Carnegie Corporation of New York: and happy one year celebrations of Mak@90!

I thank you all for listening to me as: We Build for the Future; FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY!

Speech read by: Hon. Justice Steven Kavuma, Member of Makerere University Council, representing the Chairperson of Council