

STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY EDWARD KIWANUKA SSEKANDI
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

DURING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE SECOND HALF OF THE NEW
LIBRARY BUILDING EXTENSION OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

VENUE: MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

DATE: 29th OCTOBER, 2012

TIME: 2.00 PM

The Vice Chancellor Makerere University, Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu,

The University Librarian Makerere University Prof. Maria Musoke,

Officials of the Carnegie Corporation of New York,

Academic and Non-Academic Staff,

Students of Makerere University,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Documentation and information retrieval are key elements in sustaining Education Institutions like Makerere University. The institutional and individual knowledge accumulated over time is best preserved in traditional and hi-tech libraries like the one we are commissioning today. I believe that part of the reason you have gained fame as an academic institution in the last 90 years of existence, is having good repositories of knowledge like this library.

I am therefore glad to join you as we commission this New Extension block whose sitting capacity, equipment and Management are geared towards efficient dispensation of knowledge to your students, in this modern era.

Makerere University has rebounded to rank among the best performing Universities, South of the Sahara, partly because of her investment in ICT infrastructure and focus on research. These are tools which will certainly enhance your performance and improvement in your academic standards. This extension block will therefore strengthen your research capabilities, both for the students and teaching staff. I call on you therefore, to put effort on research as Universities exist principally to generate knowledge and provide solutions to existing and emerging challenges.

Government its part, has not only apportioned a big percentage of the budget to the Education sector but has gone a long way in investing in our human capital through liberalizing this sector. You and I appreciate that an educated population is key to development and adaptation to novel technology. Libraries like this one and

other community-based-libraries will therefore enhance the reading culture among our people, notably researchers, who need this focused knowledge to innovate and to conduct business.

What has been failing most of our infrastructure has been poor maintenance. I argue the management of the University and this New Extension to the Library to put aside resources for maintenance, to ensure long life and preservation.

I hope that whoever steps into this Library shall always come out better informed, knowledgeable and wiser.

I now have the pleasure to officially commission the Second half of the New Library Building Extension of Makerere University, as we continue *'building for the future'*.

For God and my Country.