



REMARKS BY

PROFESSOR VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA, VICE CHANCELLOR  
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
AFRICAN GIFTED FOUNDATION ACADEMY CLOSING  
CEREMONY, GUEST HOUSE  
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

ON

FRIDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012

- The Chairman African Gifted Foundation
  - The President Uganda National Academy of Science
  - Dean School of Physical Sciences
  - Chief Executive Officer Uganda Securities Exchange
  - Representatives from Tullow Oil
  - Representatives from the Madhvani Group
  - Students
  - Ladies and Gentlemen
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On behalf of Makerere University we are delighted to welcome back the African Gifted Foundation and to host the Foundation's 2012 Academy in continuation of the fruitful partnership that was established last year.

Here at Makerere University we pride ourselves in attracting the best and brightest young people from across the continent and beyond to come and study and enjoy the facilities at our outstanding and ever improving institution of learning. It is therefore fitting that today we celebrate the success of some of the brightest young people from as far afield as South Africa, Botswana and Nigeria as well as our neighbours from Kenya and Zanzibar and our own excellent students from all corners of Uganda as they complete the African Gifted Foundation's 2012 Academy programme.

Makerere University has a proud academic history stretching back many years. It was first established as a technical school in 1922, exactly 90 years ago this year. Today we are proud to offer courses to over 40,000 students. In fact next week, Makerere will hold its 62<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Ceremony at which over 11,000 students will be conferred with their degrees.

So, Makerere is a vibrant and growing institution. In addition to increasing numbers, the quality of our academic achievements continues to rise. According to recent results released by University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP), Makerere University was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> out of 59 institutions across 18 African countries. Our continuous search for academic excellence is echoed in the work of the African Gifted Foundation and as you seek out the best and brightest from across the continent for your Academy, we can assure you that Makerere University is the ideal institute of learning for them to extend their studies at undergraduate level and beyond.

Once again, On behalf of Makerere University, we welcome you and we congratulate all the young people on their achievements over the last week. We encourage you to continue to work hard and to apply your outstanding intellectual gifts to solving the continent's most challenging problems.

We trust that you will remember your time at Makerere University with great fondness and we look forward to seeing all of you back here either as students or for a grand reunion in ten years time when you can tell us of your many accomplishments and contributions to Africa's development.

Thank you