

SPEECH BY

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EDUCATION MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

AT THE INSTALLATION OF THE CHANCELLOR

ON

THURSDAY 19 JANUARY, 2012

- Your Excellency Hon. Edward Kiwanuka Sekandi The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda
- Rt. Hon. Amama Mbabazi, The Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda
- Your Excellencies, The Ambassadors
- Honourable Ministers and Representatives of Government present
- The Chancellor of Makerere University
- The Vice Chancellor of Makerere University
- The Chairperson of the Makerere University Council
- Former Vice Chancellors of Makerere University and Vice Chancellors of sister universities
- Members of Council, Management and Senate
- Makerere University Staff and Students
- Distinguished Alumni
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

I congratulate Prof. Kagonyera upon his achievement as the Chancellor of Makerere University. Prof. Kagonyera has demonstrated exemplary leadership at this great Institution and I have high hopes that he will continue doing so.

I am happy to note that Makerere University will officially launch her Constituent Colleges on the 24th January 2012. This is a great achievement for the University in light of the fact that it has already registered positive progress in streamlining University activities. Let me add my voice to the many and say congratulations to Makerere University upon this focused paradigm shift.

Makerere University has done us proud over the years. The recent proper use put to the Presidential pledge worth UGX 25 billion is an evident example more so with the KIIRA EV glitter. Mr. Vice Chancellor, you are steering a University that has great potential, with a vibrant student base. One of the challenges before you right now is to see that this University continues to positively impact on our industrialization as a country. We all know that industrialization is key in driving world economies. I call upon the private and public sectors to look up Makerere and partner with her in advancing many of the ongoing innovations. Students on the other hand should seriously consider making use of the 40b put aside by government to address unemployment by financing innovative ideas. This is your money, go ahead and make use of it.

With the target year 2015 for the realization of the eight Millennium Development Goals, which include halving extreme poverty, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, there is clear indication that more needs to be done. As a country, we have made remarkable progress in the realization of the MDGs especially in the areas of Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education through the 'bona basome' programme. There is no doubt that University education still has many upcoming citizens to see through.

We have now moved into regional cooperation and this means your innovations will have broader reach and relevance. I challenge you to think East Africa now. Here you will ride on the advantage of cohesion and compatibility to gain more ground with your innovations.

I am aware that the world ranking of Makerere University has improved to 8th position, and I congratulate you upon this achievement. I look forward to the day I will be invited to witness Makerere celebrate as the leading University in Africa.

I thank you for listening. For God and my Country.