



**REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMURREBA, AT THE 62nd GRADUATION
CEREMONY, 24TH JANUARY 2012**

- H.E. Dr. Emilio Stanley Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya
- H.E. Dr. Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda
- H.E. The Vice President
- Rt. Hon Speaker
- Rt. Hon Prime Minister
- The Chancellor Makerere University
- Honorable Ministers
- Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners
- Your Lordships the Judges of the Judicature
- Honorable Members of Parliament
- Your Worship the Lord Mayor of Kampala City
- The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
- Religious Leaders
- The Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities
- The Chairman Makerere University Convocation
- Representatives of our development partners
- Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- Representatives of the private sector and business community
- Members of Makerere University Management
- Chairperson and members of Makerere University Senate
- Members of Staff of Makerere University
- Graduands
- Parents and Guardians
- The Media
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of Makerere University and on my own behalf, I welcome you all to the last session of the 62nd Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. I congratulate in a special way H.E. Dr. Emilio Stanley Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya who is graduating today with an Honorary Doctor of Laws of Makerere University in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding contribution to public service at the national, regional and international levels especially in the areas of Academic Excellence, Political, Social and Economic reforms.

Your Excellencies, Makerere University is a symbol of education in the East African Community as East Africa's oldest and Premier University. Makerere University started as Kampala Technical School in January 1922 with 14 students; on 4th August 1922 it changed name to Makerere College; from 1949 to 1963 that is, for 14 years, Makerere University College was affiliated to the University College London and offered programmes leading to the awards of University College London and Makerere University College became a constituent college of University of East Africa from 29th June 1963 until 1st July 1970 when Makerere University became the national University of the Republic of Uganda.

Today, 42 years after Makerere University became a national University of Uganda, it is transforming into a collegiate University (with 9 constituent colleges) just like University of Cambridge and University of Oxford that have operated as collegiate universities for decades. The student population has also grown over the years; for instance in 1970/71, 2.712 students; 1986/87, 4.828 students; and in 2010/ 2011, 38.542 students and today Makerere University has over 40.000 students. Also the number of Makerere University graduates has been steadily increasing; for instance in 1970, 814 graduates; 1986, 1.843 graduates; and in 2011, 14.482 graduates and by the end of this year we shall have over 15.000 graduates. The first private students at Makerere University were enrolled for academic year 1991/92 and were 150 compared to 5,819 government students. As of 2010/2011, Makerere had 31,311 private students against 7,231 government students.

This year as Uganda celebrates its Golden Jubilee of independence, Makerere University will celebrate 90 years of existence on 4th August 2012. You are all invited to attend to this historical event.

Makerere Africa Lecture Series

Just like in the 1950s and 1960s, academia contributed a lot towards the debates on state formation and independence. Makerere University in celebration of East Africa's 50 years of independence has re-started the "Makerere Africa Lecture Series" being delivered in the great Makerere University Main Hall.

- On Friday 2nd December 2011, Makerere hosted the 1st Makerere Africa Lecture by our outstanding alumnus and former Guild President, Hon Professor Peter Anyang Nyongo, Minister of Medical Services, Republic of Kenya, on 'Ending the Servitude of Life Givers: the Liberation of East African Women since Nyerere's Equality Call'.
- On 20th January 2012, H.E Thabo Mbeki, the former President of the Republic of South Africa, delivered the 2nd Makerere Africa Lecture on "The Architecture of Post-Cold War Africa: Between Internal Reform and External Intervention", and this was followed by a public question and answer session on "Africa and the World: Intervention and Reform".
- On 24th February 2012, Dr Shelby F. Lewis, Deputy Chair of the J.W Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Foundation Board, will give the 3rd Makerere Africa Lecture on: "The Fulbright Scholarship and Africa during President Obama's Administration". Many more Makerere Africa Lectures are planned.

Makerere University and the International Community

- Your Excellencies, The Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University was appointed member of the Annual Meeting of the UN Secretary General's Global Colloquium of University Presidents. This is a colloquium of a few Vice-Chancellors/ University Presidents from around the world that meets annually to advise the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-

Moon. The 2012 Colloquium will convene at Columbia University on Monday, April 2, 2012, and Tuesday, April 3 2012. This year's subject is the global policy impact - particularly in terms of escalating demands on job creation and education—posed by extremely high rates of population growth seen today in virtually every developing nation in the Global South.

- On Friday 30th December 2011, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI appointed Sr. Dr. Dominica Dipio, an Associate Professor of Literature and Film at Makerere University among eleven others in the field of Social Communication as consultants to the Pontifical Council for Social Communications (PCCS), a council that advises the Pope on all matters of social communication. The Pontifical Council for Social Communications is comprised of four (4) cardinals and Six (6) bishops.

President Museveni and Makerere University

As John F. Kennedy said, “Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, if fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation. Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource.” President Museveni has provided leadership in higher education in Uganda first as Chancellor of all Public Universities and later as Visitor of all Public Universities through performing an overall supervisory role over the affairs of each public University. Transforming the higher education system in Uganda has not been an easy task. It reminds me of August 28, 1963 when Martin Luther King, Jr. from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the march on Washington for Jobs and Freedom delivered “*I have a dream Speech*’ to over 200,000 civil rights supporters in which he called for racial equality and an end to discrimination. This was a defining moment of the American Civil Rights Movement. There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor popular, but he must do it because conscience tells him it is right. Your Excellency President Museveni that is what you exactly did on 6th February 1981 when you started the NRA bush war and on January 29, 1986 you were sworn in

as President of the Republic of Uganda, which office you still hold uninterrupted. After being sworn by the British-born Chief Justice Peter Allen, you addressed crowds of thousands outside the Ugandan Parliament at which you assured Ugandans that "This is not a mere change of guard; it is a fundamental change". **Your Excellencies, a fundamental change does not happen overnight, it takes time, it takes years and at times decades.** Today, after about 26 years we can all testify that there is indeed a fundamental change at Makerere University; For instance

- Through the Presidential Initiative, Science and Technology colleges at Makerere University have been supported with necessary funding to put up state of the art teaching and research laboratories and spur scientific innovations. President Museveni is an ardent believer that Science, Technology and Innovations (STI) hold key to the economic development of Uganda in particular and Africa in general.
- Through the Presidential Round Table chaired by H.E. President Museveni the innovators are being linked with the private sector to ensure that the innovations are commercialized;
- At the intervention of H.E. the President, the salaries of academic staff especially scientists shall, in the near future be at par with those of world class universities hence guaranteeing staff retention at Makerere University and other public Universities in Uganda;
- Under President Museveni's leadership, Cabinet, Parliament and NRM Parliamentary caucus are now deeply involved in ensuring that Makerere University is enabled to perform its functions as a higher institution of learning;
- President Museveni as Visitor of Makerere University regularly provides guidance to the management of the University and this has enabled Makerere University to raise academic standards and as of today Makerere University is ranked the 8th best University in Africa, the best seven (7) Universities coming from the Republic of South Africa and Egypt. We are consoled by Martin Luther King Jr. quote: *"I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and*

mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together." We have a dream that one-day, when every hill and mountain is made low; Makerere University will once again be the Harvard of Africa i.e. the best University on the African continent.

President Kibaki and Makerere University

His Excellency Mwai Kibaki, the third President of the Republic of Kenya is an alumnus of Makerere University, who graduated in 1955 with a First Class Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, History and Political Science. President Kibaki also served as Vice Chairman (Vice-President) of the Makerere Students Guild (1954-1955). In 1955, he enrolled at the London School of Economics for a Bachelor of Science in Public Finance, and graduated with distinction in 1958. President Kibaki then served his alma mater-Makerere University as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Economics from 1958 to 1960. In 1960, he returned to Kenya and became a prominent politician who rose through the ranks to become 3rd President of the Republic of Kenya on 30th December 2002 and was re-elected President for the 2nd term in 2007. President Kibaki is currently the longest serving member of Parliament having represented the People of Kenya in Parliament since 1963.

President Kibaki has stood out as a champion of girl child education with girls constituting 49% of primary school education and boys 51%. H.E Mwai Kibaki has spearheaded affirmative action policies to empower women with the overall objective of mainstreaming the needs and concerns of the women in the development process. As a result it is now policy that at least 30% of the recruitments in the public service in Kenya should be women. President Kibaki through inclusive policies has empowered women to monitor and influence development that benefits them and children. Gender budgeting and gender aware economics is now the practice in Kenya. President Kibaki is not only an expert of economic analysis but also of

gender policy. "Of what impact" is the opening statement before you can present anything to President Kibaki, once said a senior Kenyan Minister.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy;" Martin Luther King Jr. We all watched news of your re-election as President of the Republic of Kenya and the chaos that ensued thereafter. We also followed the process that led to the promulgation of the new Kenyan constitution on 27th August 2010 and its on-going implementation. We have also followed the reforms and developments taking place in Kenya in all sectors. It goes without saying, your current term as President of the Republic of Kenya has clearly defined both your legacy and ultimate measure as a man.

Role in East Africa and Africa

Your Excellencies President Kibaki and President Museveni, you have distinguished yourselves as true East African and African statesmen; and your dream of a one East Africa will soon come true. The remarkable progress made in both the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is strongly attributed to your leadership. President Kibaki, I would like to commend you for having joined the fight on war on terror in Somalia. Your Excellencies, the President of Uganda and the President of Kenya, your efforts in bringing peace and stability on the African continent are commendable and well documented especially the birth of the new state of South Sudan on 8th July 2011.

Honorary Awards

According to the Makerere University Statute (XIII), there are three categories of Honorary Awards and these include: the Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) awarded for academic achievements or contribution in the field of science; the Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) for academic achievements or contribution in the humanities; and Doctor of Laws (LLD) for Public Service and eminent statespersons, administrators and lawyers.

Your Excellency, President Mwai Kibaki, Makerere University is recognizing your lifetime achievements and illustrious career since the time you were a student at Makerere University to date by conferring upon you an honorary doctor of laws of Makerere University, your *alma mater*.

Distinguished Personalities who have been awarded Makerere University Honorary Degrees since 2001

- On 27th September 2007 Dr. Joyce Moock was awarded the Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) of Makerere University for her strong support and effort towards capacity development in both human and resource, which enabled Makerere University to revitalize itself.
- On 27th November 2009 H.E Benjamin Mkapa, was awarded Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) of Makerere University in recognition of his outstanding record of excellence in diplomacy, journalism, administration, governance; regional and global politics.
- On 18th January 2010 Professor Andre Lillethun was awarded Doctor of Science of Makerere University for his initiative and contribution to rehabilitation, capacity and competence building in physical sciences at Makerere University.
- On 12th December 2010 H.E Rashid Mfaume Kawawa was awarded Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) posthumous in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding public service as an eminent statesman.
- On 12th December 2010 H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni was awarded Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) of Makerere University in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding public service as an eminent statesman.

Today, President Kibaki joins the ranks of eminent statesmen, H.E Benjamin Mkapa, H.E. Rashid Mfaume Kawawa, and H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni who were conferred upon honorary Doctor of Laws of Makerere University. Conferring an honorary Doctor of Laws or Science or Letters is one way of honouring persons that have made a difference in the eyes of Makerere University. However, Makerere University is going a step further

to recognise-in-perpetuity through electing buildings in the name of Makerere University and in the names of eminent statesmen and stateswomen (e.g. *Makerere University Mwai Kibaki xxx*) that shall serve as centres of academic excellence for the current and future generations. For those already honoured we shall wait for their consent before we begin the fundraising drive to raise funds to put up buildings in their names. These projects are very feasible in the sense that for each project a contribution of an average of US\$1,000 per person from 10,000 persons would raise US\$10 million. For President Kibaki, who is being honoured today, we would like to request you to accept to be the Chairperson of Makerere University Mwai Kibaki endowment fund that shall raise funds that shall be used among others to put up a building at Makerere University that shall be named after you. Those who are ready to either contribute or pledge a contribution to "Makerere University Mwai Kibaki Endowment Fund" the book is being passed around.

"The Kings heart is in the hands of the Lord", 'says the Bible. "Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes" (Prov. 21:1). It has been rightly said: " We don't know what the future holds, but we do know the One who holds the future."

Let all of us find wisdom in the great words of John F. Kennedy and I quote: *And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.* So ask not what Makerere University can do for you; ask what you can do for Makerere University. As we build for the future; For God and My Country; I thank you.