



REMARKS BY

PROFESSOR VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA, VICE CHANCELLOR  
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
INSTALLATION OF PROFESSOR GEORGE MONDO KAGONYERA AS  
CHANCELLOR OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, MAIN HALL, MAIN  
BUILDING,  
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

ON

THURSDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> 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
- Hon. Jessica Alupo, Minister for Education and Sports
- The Chancellor of Makerere University
- Your Excellencies, The Ambassadors
- Honourable Ministers and Representatives of Government present
- Chancellors from Sister Universities
- 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.

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Your Excellency Edward Kiwanuka Sekandi, The Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda, I would like to this opportunity to welcome you and all our distinguished guests to Makerere University. We are very grateful that you have set aside time to be with us today as we witness the installation of Professor George Mondo Kagonyera as Chancellor of Makerere University for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last term.

I first heard of Professor George Mondo Kagonyera when he was Chairman of Makerere University Appointments Board. As Chairman of the Appointments Board he did commendable work. My first time to meet him was in 2007 when he appeared before the "Chancellor Search Committee" of which I was a member. In an interview that lasted about 40 minutes, he repeated the sentence I love Makerere University 14 times. He emerged the best candidate for the position of Chancellor of Makerere University. On the recommendation of the University Council, The President of the Republic of Uganda, Dr. Gen. YK Museveni in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Section 30 subsection (1) of the Universities and

Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001 appointed him Chancellor of Makerere University for a period of 4 years with effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007.

The next time I came face to face with Professor Kagonyera was in his office at the National Social Security Fund (NSSF). Then as Dean of the Faculty of Computing and IT, I went to meet him over the alarming duplication of academic programmes at Makerere University. The meeting lasted over 1 hour and again he kept talking about how proud he was to be associated with Makerere University. He promised to support me on the cause of stamping out duplicated programmes.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> time I met Prof. Kagonyera, he had already appointed me as Acting Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University on the recommendation of the University Council. Ever since I was appointed Acting Vice-Chancellor on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009, Professor Kagonyera has been providing constructive advice, which we as Management have taken seriously. We are grateful to H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda for having appointed Professor Kagonyera Chancellor of Makerere University for another term after Makerere University Council unanimously recommended him for re-appointment.

In the past, Makerere University had distanced itself from government. I remember the 1<sup>st</sup> time I attended the Ministry of Education and Sports sector budget meeting, the commissioner for planning at the Ministry was excited and said: "Even the Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University can come to such meetings"? As University Management, we take our mother Ministry seriously and we consult the Minister of Education and Sports, the Ministers of State, the Permanent Secretary and his team regularly. We also provide regular updates to the Ministry. When we came into office on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009, we pledged to improve University-government relations through constructive projects/ interventions with the different government ministries/ departments. We have lived up to our pledge. Today the different colleges are highly involved with government ministries/ departments. As Acting Vice-Chancellor, every six (6) months I provide a comprehensive progressive report to Makerere University Council that is

copied to all stakeholders including the Rt. Hon Prime Minister and the Minister of Education and Sports among others.

I would like to extend a word of thanks to the Minister of Education and Sports, Hon Lt. Jessica Alupo for ensuring that her and her team provide the necessary oversight and guidance in ensuring that Makerere University is well managed. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Sports, Mr. Francis X.K. Lubanga, is very supportive in ensuring that Makerere University matters are put at the forefront of any agenda. We are very grateful.

I would like to thank the Rt. Hon Prime Minister for ensuring that inter ministerial matters concerning Makerere University such as salary change are handled by his office. This has ensured that all stakeholders come under his Chairmanship and agree instead of moving from Ministry to ministry. For that we are very grateful.

Section 16 of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001 provides that: The President of the Republic of Uganda shall be the Visitor of each Public University; That the Visitor shall perform an overall supervisory role over the affairs of each public University; and that the Visitor shall, as often as circumstances may require, in respect of any of the affairs of a Public University conduct a visitation of the Public University or direct the Chancellor of a public University that a visitation be conducted by a person or persons that the Visitor may appoint. H.E. The President of the Republic of Uganda has ably performed his role as a Visitor of Makerere University. Your Excellency, the Vice President, I would like to request you to pass on our greetings and appreciation to H.E. The President of the Republic of Uganda, Dr. Gen. YK Museveni.

At this time in History, Makerere University is undergoing a lot of transformations aimed at ensuring that Makerere University reclaims its number one position in Africa, i.e. becomes recognised once again as the Harvard of Africa. As of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2011 the decision of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 by the National Council for Higher Education to transform Makerere University into a collegiate University with 9 constituent Colleges was gazetted. So, Makerere University Colleges are now fully established

as constituent colleges. As we continue to undertake academic, administrative and financial reforms all aimed at making Makerere University a model University on the African continent we need the support of everybody including the Chancellor. So from today until 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015, I shall at the end of each working day write one achievement in your farewell speech and you should be able to read it out with excitement on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2015. As the Bible says, in Mathew 6:9-10 “Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Your Excellency and our distinguished guests, Makerere University is a great institution. It is now ranked 8<sup>th</sup> best University in Africa. Whatever ranking has been used, Makerere University for the last one and half (1.5) years has remained among the top 10 best Universities in Africa. We continue to count on the support of the government, the University community, the public and development partners in rebuilding 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.”

Leaders can and should make plans, but they must never forget that it's God who controls the future. “The King's 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.”

As we build for the future, For God and my Country, I thank you.