

**MAKERERE**



**UNIVERSITY**

**REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL,  
ENG. DR. CHARLES WANA-ETYEM**

**AT THE OCCASION TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF EAST AFRICA**

**MAIN HALL, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2013, 2:20 PM**

- The Guest of Honour, representing H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Visitor to Makerere University
- Your Excellencies, The Ambassadors here present
- Honourable Ministers present
- Honourable Members of Parliament present
- Members of the Diplomatic Corp
- Representatives of Government in your respective capacities
- Religious Leaders
- The Chancellor of Makerere University, Former Chancellors, and Chancellors of other universities
- My Colleagues, Members of Makerere University Council
- Former Vice Chancellors of Makerere University
- The Vice Chancellor and the entire Management team
- Vice Chancellors from the University of Nairobi, University of Dar-es-Salaam and other sister Universities
- Staff of Makerere University
- Alumni and Students (University of London, University of East Africa and Makerere University)
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of Makerere University, I warmly welcome you all, as we continue with the celebrations to mark 90 years of Makerere University's existence. We have a reason to celebrate the continued growth of this institution which started as a humble technical school in January 1922 with 14 day students, but currently has over 40,000 students across different academic disciplines. We are here to celebrate the significant contribution of Makerere University to the transformation of society; training and building human resources at the national and international levels; and journey with her as she seeks to realize her vision, ***"To be the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa."***

Our Guest of Honour, in her admirable history, Makerere University experienced structural growth. On the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1963 she severed relations with the University of London to which she had hitherto been affiliated and witnessed the transformation into the University of East Africa comprising (Makerere University College, Nairobi University College and the Dar-es-Salaam University College)! A true East African spirit! This marriage was consummated very well until 1<sup>st</sup> July 1970 when the three colleges became independent national universities.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, we are therefore here, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 2013, to celebrate 50 years of the University of East Africa. You are all welcome!

### **Welcoming the Guest of Honour**

As I welcome all of you, I take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to our Visitor, His Excellency, The President of Uganda and Visitor of Makerere University, for the support towards the Makerere@90 celebrations. On the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012, His Excellency officially launched the year-long celebrations of Makerere@90 focusing on the theme, ***"Celebrating 90 years of Makerere University: Leadership towards Africa's Transformation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."*** The Excellency's launch of Mak@90

also signaled the official launch of the Presidential Initiative in Science, Technology and Innovations in Makerere University.

The archived pictures of His Excellency, with a beaming smile hoisting the Makerere@90 flag bring vivid memories. At the same occasion, the H.E. commissioned the first-half-of-the New Library Building Extension, and toured the exhibition stalls of research projects and innovations by staff and students. His Excellency, impressed by the high quality research and innovations, pledged a revolving fund of UGX.10billion.

In the same spirit, we have continued to hold high profile events presided over by H.E The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda.

Our Guest of Honour, on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013, the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University together with the Ambassador of the Royal Kingdom of Norway to Uganda hosted distinguished guests to celebrate over 50 years of cooperation between Makerere University and the Government of the Royal Kingdom of Norway. At the same occasion, The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi launched a new initiative, the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED) estimated to be worth NOK 150million, approximately USD 26million. The aim of NORHED is to strengthen capacity of higher education institutions in Low and Middle income countries (LMIC) to educate more and better qualified candidates and to increase the quality and quantity of research conducted by the countries' own researchers.

We know His Excellency would have been here in person were it not for the equally important national engagement that has taken him to Dar-es-Salaam. Nonetheless, your thoughts at this Makerere@90 event dedicated to the commemoration of the 50 years of the University of East Africa is testimony to good will and support to the continuity of the celebrations! In the intellectual spirit, we take this opportunity to welcome H.E. to this celebration as an alumnus of the University of Dar-es-Salaam, and in a very dear way, the Makerere University Council and Senate welcome him, in the academic style as our Honorary Doctor.

His Excellency deserves special recognition for his wisdom, leadership and initiative in getting Government to fund the Presidential Initiative in Science, Technology and Innovations in Makerere University with **UGX 25 billion for five years 2010/11 to 2015/16**. On top of this, the Center for Research in Transport Technology (CRTT) has been allocated **UGX 10 billion**. Some of the visible fruits of the Presidential Initiative include the Kiira-EV Car, the KAYOOLA solar bus (soon to be unveiled), and the solar health and wealth campaign from the College of Engineering, CEDAT. It includes incubations and the mobile food processor in the College of Agriculture (CAES); as well as state-of-the-art bio-security laboratories in College of Veterinary, CoVAB; with the AFRISA platform helping to create SMEs in animal resources--to mention but a few. The funding has also helped Makerere to put up state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories to stimulate scientific innovations.

His Excellency's Presidential Initiative in STI in Makerere University can therefore become the flagship of Vision 2040, namely: **"A transformed Ugandan Society from a Peasant to a Modern and Prosperous County within 30 years."** Significantly, the Presidential Initiative in Makerere University ties in neatly with

one of the key Vision 2040 Strategies, namely: **“Pursuing policies aimed at leapfrogging in the areas of innovation, technology and science, engineering, human resource development...”**

On behalf of Council and on my own behalf, I wish to pledge Makerere University’s readiness to work with His Excellency towards scaling up the Presidential Initiative in STI in Makerere University into a Center of Excellence in Africa.

Your Honour, we are happy to note that the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education and Sports in a bid to fulfill the Presidential pledge on institutional development for higher education institutions and the recommendations in the higher education white paper accessed funding from the African Development Bank (ADB) and Makerere University was allocated approx. US\$30.4 Million (UA19.4 Million). We look forward to the operationalisation of the ADF grant through the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Education and Sports so that Makerere University will rehabilitate and refurbish laboratories and equipment, construct and equip multipurpose laboratory building, construct two buildings for centralized lecture theatres, support distance and electronic learning, support capacity building for petroleum and mining and staff development in the University among others.

During the reading of the 2013/2014 National budget, we were happy to receive the news that the Government of Uganda will implement the Student Loan Scheme with UGX.5billion to initially, support Science, Medical and Engineering students in higher institutions of learning. As a University, we believe that this will go an extra mile to help brilliant, but needy students to access Makerere University.

### **Special recognition of the University of East Africa alumni**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am glad to note that the alumni of the University of East Africa (1963 to 1970) in addition to excelling in their respective professions, have significantly contributed to the development of Uganda, Africa and the International community. Our Guest of Honour, with your permission, allow me to request the gallant alumni of the University of East Africa to stand up for recognition and wave to the congregation!

As highlighted on the programme, we have allotted time to these gallant sons and daughters of the University of East Africa to share their student experiences in a relaxed environment at the Cocktail. We will also launch the Makerere@90 Souvenir Magazine, a publication of the Makerere University Public Relations Office with an editorial touch of the New Vision team, which presents a representative journey from 1922 to date!

### **Welcoming Professor Ngugi Wa Thiong’o**

Your Excellency, we are also welcoming home, our very own, Makerere University alumnus, internationally celebrated writer, Ngugi Wa’ Thiong’o. He received a B.A. in English from Makerere University College in Kampala, Uganda, in 1963. He is a very special student because during his education, a play of his, *The Black Hermit*, was produced in Kampala in 1962.

According to the Encyclopedia, Britannica, East Africa's leading novelist, whose popular *Weep Not, Child* (1964) was the first major novel in English by an East African. It is therefore right and in order, that as we commemorate the University of East Africa (renewing the East African spirit), we have none other than Professor Ngugi Wa Thiong'o give a key note address on, "**50 years of Education Transformation and Development; Prospects for the Future.**"

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am glad that this keynote address will be followed by prospects of higher education in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania presented by the Vice Chancellors. In a special way, allow me to welcome the delegation from the University of Nairobi and University of Dar-es-salaam respectively.

### **Remembering Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere in perpetuity**

As we celebrate the 50 years of University of East Africa (1963-2013), and Makerere@90, we would like to honour H.E. Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere (RIP), President of the United Republic of Tanzania (1961-1985), who studied education at Makerere University (1945-1947), and the first and only Chancellor of the University of East Africa.

Our Guest of Honour, we are glad that you are with us to unveil the Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere's bust to immortalize him in honour of his contribution to both the scholarly world and the independence struggle within the East African region.

We are equally delighted that you accepted to officially launch the English version of Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere's book, "**Women's Freedom, Women are Eagles, Not Chickens**". Professor Ruth Mukama, a Professor of Linguistics was honoured to translate the book to English for the benefit of the non-Swahili speaking community. May I please request Professor Mukama to stand up for recognition.

We also thank Maama Nyerere and family for being part of the celebrations.

### **Embassy of Sweden**

We are grateful to the Government of Sweden through the Swedish Embassy in Uganda for supporting the gender mainstreaming cause in Makerere University. I am further grateful to note that publication of the Mwalimu Nyerere book "Women's Freedom", not to mention facilitating the travel of our key note speaker, Prof. Ngugi Wa Thiong'o has been made possible by the generous Swedish support. For this and so much more, we thank you.

### **Uganda National Commission for UNESCO**

This commemoration of 50 years of the University of East Africa has received generous support from the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM). In 2012, we celebrated the golden jubilee of Uganda's membership to UNESCO and this year we celebrate the golden jubilee of UNATCOM's existence. We would therefore like to thank UNATCOM under the able leadership of Mr. Augustine Omare Okurut for conceiving the commemoration as a true accolade worth celebrating, owing to its cultural and education significance within the East African region. We would like to commend you for encouraging the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage in Uganda. We are confident

that with our continued collaboration and various innovations, our heritage shall be preserved for not only this generation, but for all those to come, especially the dot com generation.

### **A pitch for the Grand Finale**

Our Guest of Honour, on behalf of the University Council and Senate, allow me to extend another invitation to H.E. The President, to preside over the Makerere@90 Grand Finale, a climax of the year-long celebrations scheduled to take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2013.

Your Excellency, at that high profile occasion focusing on celebrating university alumni together with the Presidents and former Presidents who have passed through the gates of Makerere University, the Mak@90 Organising Committee chaired by the Vice Chancellor, Professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu, extends an invitation to H.E. The President as Chief Guest. It is right and fitting for H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni who presided over the launch of the Mak@90 celebrations on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012; the Visitor of Makerere University; and also the number one supporter of the development of science, agriculture and technology at this University, to preside over the climax of the celebrations at the Grand Finale on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2013.

Finally I would like to thank the Management and staff of Makerere University for their efforts in organizing these commemorative events that will contribute to bringing together directly and indirectly the Alumni of Makerere who are spread throughout the globe to celebrate their past wherever they might be. I thank Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, the then Ag. Vice Chancellor who worked tirelessly to put together the Mak@90 which culminated in its launch on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012. Last but not least I would like to thank the Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor Mondo Kagonyera, a graduate of the University of East Africa for standing with the Council and Management at their most dire hour of need.

I thank you for listening to me. WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE!