



SPEECH BY

H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**AT THE MaK@90 GRAND FINALE CELEBRATIONS,  
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2013**

**FREEDOM SQUARE, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**H.E. Mwai Kibaki**, Former President of the Republic of Kenya  
**Honourable Ministers,**  
**Honourable Members of Parliament**  
**Members of the Diplomatic Corp**  
**Professor Mondo Kagonyera**, Chancellor  
**Eng. Dr. Charles Wana Etyem**, Chairperson of Council  
**Professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu**, Vice Chancellor  
**Development Partners** and Makerere University's Key Stakeholders  
**Other Distinguished Alumni, Staff and Students** of Makerere University  
**Invited Guests**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

May I take this opportunity as Visitor of this great institution to welcome you all to Makerere University's Grand Finale celebrations commemorating 90 years of our existence and to specifically welcome President Mwai Kibaki and President John Kufuor to this historic occasion. I wish to congratulate President Kibaki upon successfully completing his second term of Presidency and introducing fiscal reforms that transformed the nation of Kenya to the vibrant economy that it is today. Congratulations Your Excellency.

I also wish to thank President John Kufuor for graciously accepting to be a part of these celebrations. Yesterday, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2013, His Excellency gave the keynote presentation at a public lecture hosted by Makerere University on the theme ***"Oil Resource Management and its utilization for Economic Transformation - The Case of Ghana"***. During President Kufuor's term of office, his Government enacted extraction and management laws for the Ghanaian Oil and Gas sector which transformed Ghana into one of the World's fastest growing economies and we believe that Uganda has a lot to learn from Ghana in this regard.

Our own Oil and Gas sector has of late been involved in haggling with the oil companies. However, as I said during the State of the Nation address on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013, Our plan is clear and unequivocal – it must include a right-sized

refinery of 60,000 barrels per day, built in two phases according to the dictates of the market. When more reserves are discovered, provided the internal market so dictates, this refinery will be expanded. Whereas our commercial Partners, the Oil Companies seem to have a big interest in building an oil pipeline, we have a renewed understanding the new dynamics in Africa and that what was previously called the Third World is an endangered species. In the next 50 years, certainly, Uganda will be a First World Country and a middle income country by 2017.

We are happy to note that the Government of Uganda has acquired a US \$ 101.2million from the African Development Bank to support the Higher Education, Science and Technology (HEST) project. This project will address the constraints Uganda has had in human resource development and the challenges of high unemployment rates. This project will help to support the NRM Government's plans to expand equitable access to science and technology, training and research, construction of laboratories, lecture spaces, technology workshops, e-learning centres, virtual libraries, faculty offices and business incubator or production units.

At the launch of these celebrations to mark ninety years of Makerere University, I laid foundation stones for; The Food Technology and Business Incubation Centre (FTBIC), The Multidisciplinary Laboratory Complex at the College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS), and two Centralised Lecture Facilities to be located at the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS).

I am glad that the funding under the ADB V Higher Education, Science and Technology (HEST) project will help operationalise the construction of this infrastructure and support the relocation of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES). We are happy that this five-year project is designed in line with Uganda's National Development Plan which aims at making the country more regionally competitive.

## **Ministry of Education and Sports – Student Loans Scheme**

The Government introduced the cost-sharing in Higher Education starting with Makerere University in the 1990/91 academic year. This introduction was aimed at opening up access to those parents who could afford to pay tuition fees for their children. The resulting response was overwhelming and led to the expansion of Higher Education enrolment nationwide. This has however necessitated that the Government also increases its support to the Higher Education sector.

In the coming budget we have made arrangements to introduce the Student Loans Scheme on top of the free education for the top 4,000 best performers admitted to Government Universities. The Student Loans Scheme will increase equitable access to higher education in Uganda, support highly qualified students who may not afford higher education; ensure increased regional balance in accessing higher education in Uganda; develop and support courses which are critical to national development and ensure quality education in public institutions through quality assurance and supervision. The challenge, then, will remain, first of all, the diligent implementation of these schemes, and eliminating all the corruption that may affect the smooth implementation.

## **Mak@90 Celebrations – Recognizing Mwalimu Julius Nyerere**

I would like to thank Makerere University for carrying out all events scheduled as part of the year-long celebrations to mark 90 years of existence. In particular I would like to commend you for recognizing your very own Alumnus Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, a formidable freedom fighter, Pan-Africanist, gallant Statesman and Father of the Tanzanian Nation.

Mwalimu Nyerere's selfless leadership made his vision of a united Tanzania easily acceptable for Sheikh Abeid Karume of Zanzibar. These two leaders were foresighted in uniting Tanganyika and Zanzibar to form Tanzania and Mwalimu Nyerere would later engineer an integrated East African Community (EAC). Unfortunately the EAC later broke down in 1977 partly because the

principled Nyerere was incompatible with President Idi Amin's methods. I am glad that with my fellow leaders from the EAC we have been able to carry this dream forward. The combined EAC regional population of 140 million, offers a huge market that can easily attract investors who can in turn build factories and create jobs for our youth.

I therefore salute the Management of Makerere University for recognizing Mwalimu Julius Nyerere by erecting a bust in his honour. At the same occasion the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere book, '**Women's Freedom: Women are Eagles, Not Chickens,**' which was originally written in Swahili more than 40 years ago was launched. I have always believed that our mother tongues are rich and the English language does not sufficiently bring out some of our cultural expression and meaning. I would therefore like to challenge you all to plan for an economically viable future of our native languages by publishing more literature and books in them. I have personally contributed to the **Katondoozi y'Orunyankore-Rukiga** a Thesaurus of Runyankore-Rukiga alongside my fellow authors Manuel Muranga, Alice Muhoozi and Gilbert Gumoshabe.

### **The Multi-facility Students Centre**

The need for Universities to devote more time to research, innovations and carrier guidance so as to help our children study courses that are relevant to the needs of our societies has never been greater than it currently is. The East African Community population is increasing annually and so are their demands. In future, we are going to be more reliant on universities' innovations and scientific discoveries than ever to address the needs of our people.

We would therefore like to commend Makerere University for extending her innovations to economic self-sustainability by seeking to construct The Multi-facility Students Centre. This laying of the foundation stone for this Centre today will go down in the books of Makerere University's history as a step in the right direction to complement Government subvention.

The Government encourages such innovation by our Higher Education Institutions and we look forward to many more such projects as we build for the future. With revenue from the Oil and Gas sector set to join the Government's sources of income, we are committed to financing such programmes in the not to distant future.

I thank you very much.