

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

**REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR JOHN
DDUMBA-SSENTAMU**

**AT THE GRAND FINALE-CLIMAX OF THE MAK@90
CELEBRATIONS**

FREEDOM SQUARE, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 03, 2013

- Our Guest of Honour, The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Uganda, representing H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Visitor to Makerere University
- H.E Dr. Mwai Kibaki, former President of the Republic of Kenya
- Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic Missions Present
- The Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Maj. Rtd. Jessica Alupo
- Honourable Ministers
- Honourable Members of Parliament
- Religious Leaders
- The Chancellor of Makerere University
- Former Chancellor, and Chancellors of other Universities
- Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
- Former Vice Chancellors
- The entire Makerere University Community
- Our Alumni
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

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On behalf of Makerere University community, I warmly welcome you to Makerere University and to this special occasion - a climax of the Mak@90 year-long celebrations. I thank you all; Alumni, Friends and Well-wishers present here today to witness this occasion, which not only concludes the 90-year celebrations, but also marks the journey towards our Centenary Anniversary in 2022.

Our Guest of Honour, we thank you for taking time off to be here with us. Your presence here is a testimony of your great love for Makerere University.

As we celebrate, we should take pride that Makerere University is now the 4th best University on the African Continent, after the University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University. I must also add that Makerere University is the second on the continent in terms of research output and publications. I would like to thank the entire University community for a job well done.

I wish to thank all our stakeholders and partners who have tirelessly and continuously supported this great institution towards this achievement.

The Government of Uganda has been very supportive not only in contributing core funding but also through the Presidential Initiative for Science, Technology and Innovations. We appreciate all the support from our Development Partners, both local and international.

Our Guest of Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen; while we celebrate this achievement, I wish to point out that our goal is to reclaim our position of number one on the African continent.

However, despite these achievements, the University still has a number of challenges. We need to work together to overcome these challenges. We need the Government, Development Partners, the Private Sector, Students and you, the Alumni.

The role of Alumni in any institution cannot be underestimated. You are core to the existence of any University. As you may be aware, most Universities, especially in the North, have mostly succeeded because of the support from their Alumni. In times when Government funding for higher education is increasingly not enough, the Alumni have a great opportunity to make a substantial contribution. Makerere University has produced over 300,000 graduates. I would like to thank you, Alumni of Makerere University, for your various contributions wherever you are, in Uganda and all over the globe. I am now appealing to you – the Alumni - to come forward and make your contribution towards this great institution.

At this opportune time, allow me to welcome His Excellency, Dr. Mwai Kibaki, former President of the Republic of Kenya and a Gallant Alumnus of Makerere University. He graduated in 1955 with a First Class Honours degree in Economics and holds an Honorary Doctorate of Laws of Makerere University. His Excellency Mwai Kibaki, has had a distinguished and outstanding contribution to public service at the national, regional and international levels,

especially in the areas of Political, Social and Economic reforms. Thank you, Your Excellency, for honouring our invitation and gracing this occasion.

Our Chief Guest, ladies and gentlemen; it gives me pleasure to welcome another great alumnus of Makerere University to this occasion. He is the Composer of the Makerere University Anthem; a timeless and inspiring masterpiece. Mr. Grace Wilson Mutekanga Igaga, you are most welcome to your University. We would like to thank you for blessing us with your musical talent and honouring our invitation to this occasion.

You may recall that on Saturday 4th August 2012, we gathered here to witness the launch of the Mak@90 celebrations, by His Excellency, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. I am happy to report that a number of activities have taken place since then.

Among these activities have been a Stakeholders' Conference, a Public Lecture in honour of Dr. Martin Alier, the I.K. Musaazi Memorial Lecture, the UMOJA cultural show in partnership with the School of Performing Arts and the Norwegian embassy in Uganda, the HIV/AIDS dialogue and the Kasangati Health Centre launch by the School of Public Health, the Commissioning of the second 4000 square meters Library extension, the launch of the NORHED programme for capacity building and the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the University of East Africa. Yesterday, we had a public lecture on "*Oil Resource Management and Its Utilisation for Economic Transformation: The Case of Ghana*", presented by H. E. John Agyekum Kufuor, former President of the Republic of Ghana. I wish to thank all of you who have been attending these functions.

In a special way, I thank all the dedicated teams that have been behind these events led by the Organizing and Ceremonies Committees. May the Almighty God continue to bless the works of your hands and creative imagination. I thank and do recognize the Guild Leadership led by President Anna Adeke Ebaju. Thank you for your support.

On behalf of Makerere University, I extend our special appreciation to all our Corporate Friends for your support to this Grand Finale. Many thanks go to

Bank of Uganda, Stanbic Bank, Centenary Bank, Crane Bank, DFCU Bank, Pepsi Cola, Coca Cola, UBC, NTV Uganda, Daily Monitor and SMS ONE, among others. We thank you very much.

At the launch of these celebrations, four foundation stones were laid by His Excellency the President, for the construction of more laboratories and lecture rooms. I am happy to report that progress has been made towards this initiative. We have received confirmation of Government commitment to finance these buildings with support from the African Development Bank, under the Higher Education Science and Technology programme. We anticipate, that with all factors remaining constant, construction will commence in January 2014. We would like to thank the Government for this commitment. In a special way, I would like to thank the Ministry of Education and Sports, led by Hon. Maj. Rtd. Jessica Alupo.

Our Guest of Honour, the gist of the Mak@90 Grand Finale celebrations today, is launching the fundraising drive for the construction of the Makerere University Students' Centre, whose foundation stone you have just laid. The 30 million US\$ complex, will be of 58,000 square metres. It will be a one-stop Information Centre for Students and will have a multipurpose auditorium. With this Centre in place, we hope to bring services even closer to our Staff and students, while generating employment opportunities for our community. We look forward to the Government's support as we embark on this journey. I call upon our Development Partners, Friends and Well-wishers to rally behind us in this cause. My special appeal goes to you, the Alumni of this great institution. I call on you to play a leading role in this undertaking. As I conclude, allow me to quote the timeless Makerere University Anthem:

*Do not forget, Through all the years
Those who have gone through the gates of Makerere
Give them the pride, Give them the joy
Oh! To remember, The gates of Makerere*

Our Alumni, may you be inspired by these words. Once again, you are most welcome to Makerere University. I thank you.