

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR

PROF. JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU

AT THE

MEMORIAL SERVICE OF PROF. PILKINGTON SSENGENDO

2ND OCTOBER 2015

- **My Fellow Mourners**
- **All Protocol observed**

.....

On behalf of the entire Makerere University community, I extend our most sincere condolences to Prof. Apolo R. Nsibambi and the entire bereaved family upon the loss of Prof. Pilkington Ssengondo. During this sad moment, we join with you in sympathy and pray to the Almighty God to strengthen and comfort you.

The late Prof. Ssengondo is one of the founding fathers of Fine Art in Uganda. We at Makerere University shall always remember and cherish him for his excellent deeds, which continue to impact the teaching of Fine Art and indeed the lives of many who have benefited from his legacy.

He obtained a diploma in Fine Art of Makerere University in the mid 1960s, which was the highest qualification in the Visual Arts at the time, equivalent to a degree. He later obtained a Master of Arts in Fine Art specialising in paint in 1985. Recently, through hard work and persistence, he was awarded a PhD in Studio Art of Makerere University in 2013. The academic and professional journey of Prof. Ssengondo is one of hard work and very strong determination. He, indeed, represents the age-old saying that “Hard work Pays”. I therefore call on all of us to emulate his ways in order to succeed in our endeavours.

Prof. Ssengendo was appointed as Lecturer at Makerere University in 1984 and rose through the ranks to the level of Professor. In 1989, he became Head of the School of Fine Art. We will always remember him for being among the great minds that were behind the transformation of the then Department of Fine Art to School level; from one to three departments. The teaching of Fine Art was completely revamped to become more proactive and relevant to national development.

Prof. Ssengondo was compassionate and generous. Because of his selfless nature, he encouraged many of his subordinates to pursue PhD studies, even though he did not possess one then. At personal level, I first interacted with him during his time as a member of Senate, the supreme academic body of Makerere University. He made substantial contributions towards the shaping of University policies.

Prof. Ssengondo will forever be remembered for his passion in promoting culture in Uganda. The backcloth, popularly known as Olubugo, is one of the items he investigated and made several discoveries. He was a man of rare talent and creativity. He recreated the backcloth in several ways as a painter.

We thank God for his life and pray for his soul to rest in eternal peace.

Goodbye, Prof. Ssengendo.