

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

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

**DURING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS OF FULBRIGHT [1946 -2016] –
“70 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP AND
ACHIEVEMENT - US MISSION AND THE UGANDA-
US EXCHANGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION”**

**HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016 IN THE
MAIN HALL**

- **The Guest of Honour and Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor Ezra Suruma**
- **Your Excellency The US Ambassador to Uganda**
- **Officials from the US Mission**
- **Fellow Vice Chancellors present**
- **Dignitaries present in your respective capacities**
- **Members of Makerere University Management**
- **The Fulbright and Herbert Humphrey Alumni**
- **Members of Staff of Makerere University**
- **Student leaders and all students present here**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:** I am honoured to welcome you to this occasion celebrating 70 years of partnership and achievement for the US Mission and the Uganda/US Exchange Alumni Association. It is a great pleasure for us at Makerere University to be the host of this trademark event.

With great pleasure, I warmly welcome our Guest of Honour and Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor Ezra Suruma. We are happy to be with you this afternoon. Thank you for gracing this event.

I welcome Her Excellency the US Ambassador to Uganda. Thank you for your personal presence here today as we celebrate 70 years of hard work and cooperation between the people of the United States and Uganda.

Your Excellency, allow me, on behalf of Makerere University, to thank you and your staff as well as the US Government, for the continuing support to Uganda and particularly Makerere University. Like many other Universities worldwide, we have greatly benefited from the generosity of Americans through the various Fulbright programmes.

As a University whose vision is *To be the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa*, Fulbright programmes have been very supportive to the realisation of our strategic goals. For example, we have benefited in the area of staff development, joint research, scholarships for students as well as staff and student exchanges. Indeed Fulbright programmes have contributed to the fulfillment of our core functions of *Teaching and Learning, Research and Innovations* as well as *Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and Networking*.

Makerere University is therefore appreciative of this continued support whose products are visible in the development of our various programmes. This continues to impact not only Makerere University in particular but the nation as a whole. The gathering this afternoon, represents how far-reaching Fulbright has impacted and continues to impact our society.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you may be aware that the US Department of State and programme partners have in the recent past showcased the various achievements and innovations of the US Government's first academic exchange initiative, which is the Fulbright Programme.

Started in 1946 by America's distinguished Senator James William Fulbright, this programme has helped to transform the world by bridging barriers especially in academia across the global north and south. Today, many scholars from the south, including Makerere University, have been able to establish linkages with their northern peers, built on mutual intellectual understanding and respect.

This is an achievement to be proud of because in academia, it is important to foster research collaborations, which translate into what Senator James William Fulbright referred to as, in quotes, "*... a little more knowledge, a little more reason and a little more compassion into world affairs.*" Indeed education without knowledge, reason and compassion is meaningless.

It is with this understanding that I, on behalf of the entire Makerere University community, join the Uganda-US Exchange Alumni Association and the US Embassy in Uganda in celebration of Fulbright's 70th Anniversary. I urge the young scholars present here to consider applying for such opportunities with the various Fulbright programmes that are open and all-inclusive based on merit. The world we exist in today is about building global partnerships and establishing linkages in order to ensure continuing progress of humanity.

Distinguished guests, I once again welcome you to this event and wish to thank the US Embassy and the Uganda-US Exchange Alumni Association for choosing Makerere University to host these celebrations, in recognition of the fact that we are one of the main beneficiaries of the Fulbright programme and that many of the members of the Alumni Association are current staff of Makerere University. It is indeed a great honour for us which we do not take for granted.

On behalf of Makerere University, congratulations upon Fulbright's 70 years of Partnership and Achievement, across continents and different cultures. We are happy and excited to be part of this noble programme.

Last but not least, I thank our dear Chancellor for officiating at this event despite the short notice. We are grateful that you are here to mark this celebration. It is now my great honour to invite you to give your remarks

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