PRESS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ENDORSES HONORARY DOCTORATE FOR H.E. MWAI KIBAKI

According to the Makerere University Statute (XIII), there are three categories of Honorary Degree Awards namely the Doctor of Science awarded for academic contribution in the field of science, the Doctor of Letters for academic contribution in the humanities and the Doctor of Laws for Public Service and eminent statespersons.

On the recommendation of the University Senate, the Makerere University Council has at its 123rd meeting held today, Thursday 8th December 2011, noted and unanimously adopted the proposal to honour H.E President Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya, with a Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding contribution to public service at the national, regional and international levels especially in the areas of Academic Excellence, Political, Social and Economic reforms.

The award is in accordance with Section 47 (i) of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001, which stipulates that the University Senate may consider conferring an Honorary Degree upon any person who has excelled in any sector of life as it may deem fit on the recommendation of an Honorary Degrees Committee established jointly by the Senate and the University Council.

His Excellency Mwai Kibaki, the third President of the Republic of Kenya is an alumnus of Makerere University, who graduated in 1955 with a First Class Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, History and Political Science.

The recommendation to award H.E President Mwai Kibaki an honorary Doctor of Laws of Makerere University successfully passed through all the vetting procedures. Upon consideration of his excellent academic performance and teaching service in the then Department of Economics, satisfactory economic record, and laudable gender reforms aimed at empowering women across social and political spheres, two academic units namely the College of Business and Management Sciences and the School of Women and Gender Studies vetted the proposal and highly recommended H.E President Mwai Kibaki to receive this prestigious Award.

On studying the recommendation, both the Honorary Awards Committee and the University Senate observed that H.E President Mwai Kibaki has distinguished himself as a visionary statesman who...
has tirelessly promoted the social welfare and freedom in Kenya and the region. He has also spearheaded economic development, gender and educational reforms and political cohesion in the Republic of Kenya.

While a student at Makerere, he served as the Chairman of the Kenya Students Association and also the Vice Chairman of the Makerere Students’ Guild. In 1955, he secured a postgraduate scholarship to the prestigious London School of Economics (LSE) for a Bachelor of Science in Public Finance and graduated with a Distinction.

In 1958, President Kibaki returned to his alma mater-Makerere University as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Economics where he served until 1960. He then returned to Kenya in December 1960 and became Executive Officer for the Kenya African National Union (KANU), a political party; he had helped found earlier in March of the same year.

Makerere University-his alma mater is privileged to have formed and nurtured his leadership, skills and competences. As such, Makerere is proud of H.E President Mwai Kibaki’s distinguished track record as a Pan-African nationalist; as one of the most brilliant and successful Ministers of Finance in Africa; and as one of the most intellectually accomplished Heads of State with an outstanding legacy in Kenya, East Africa and the African Continent.

Makerere University has since 2001 bestowed upon a select number of distinguished personalities, her prestigious Honorary Degree Awards as highlighted below:

- On 12th December 2010, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni was awarded the Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) of Makerere University in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding public service as an eminent statesman. On the same day, H.E Rashid Mfaume Kawawa was awarded Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) posthumously in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding public service as an eminent statesman.

- On 18th January 2010, Professor Andre Lililethun was awarded the Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) of Makerere University for his initiative and contribution to rehabilitation, capacity and competence building in physical sciences at Makerere University.

- On 27th November 2009, H.E Benjamin Mkapa was awarded the Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) of Makerere University in recognition of his outstanding record of excellence in diplomacy, journalism, administration, governance; regional and global politics.

- On 27th September 2007, Dr. Joyce Moock was awarded the Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) of Makerere University for her strong support towards capacity development in both human and resource which enabled Makerere University to revatilise herself.

-----------------------------------We build for the future-----------------------------------

Sincerely:  Ritah Namisango, Ag. Senior Public Relations Officer, Makerere University