



REMARKS BY

PROFESSOR GEORGE MONDO KAGONYERA, CHANCELLOR,
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS EXCELLENCY Dr. Gen. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA'S VISIT TO
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

ON

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2011

- Your Excellency, The President of the Republic of Uganda, Dr. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
- Your Excellencies, The Ambassadors
- Honourable Ministers
- The Chairperson of the Makerere University Council
- The Vice Chancellor of Makerere University
- Principals, Deans and Directors of Makerere University
- The Private Sector and Business community
- Distinguished Delegates,
- Makerere University Staff and Students
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

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I would like to thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda for honouring this invitation, and taking time off your busy schedule to see for yourself, the work of the brilliant minds of the staff and students of Makerere University. You are indeed the epitome of a careful farmer, who after sowing his seed through the Presidential Initiative has not only relied on field reports but has personally come to monitor the progress.

Your Excellency, imagination is the lifeblood of all innovation, and university-based research is the fuel for all innovation processes. We are indeed proud of how far the Presidential Initiative has propelled research and innovations at this great institution. Without this support and more from our development partners, our innovations to date would still be creative imaginations. However, just like the proverbial Oliver Twist, I will take this opportunity to ask the Government of Uganda to please give us some more. We are asking the Government to increase the per capita expenditure per student, to help boost research.

At the 59th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University in January 2009, I was honoured to introduce to the congregation, a brilliant team of students of engineering, who had just participated in the vehicle design summit 2008 in Torino, Italy which had produced the Vision 200 vehicle. Through the Principal Investigator Prof. Sande Stevens Tickodri-Togboa, they appealed for resources to help continue the initiative and I am glad that I was able to make a humble personal contribution then.

I was even more pleased when I learnt that Prof. Tickodri Togboa and Mr. Paul Isaac Musasizi had used the Vision 200 as a stepping stone and had purposed to build an electric vehicle, right here at Makerere University. Ladies and gentlemen, today is a culmination of that dream and a stepping stone to even more innovative projects, thanks to the Presidential initiative.

I thank you all for your kind attention, as ***We Build for the Future.***