



SPEECH BY

PROFESSOR VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA, VICE 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
- Honourable Ministers
- Your Excellencies, The Ambassadors and High Commissioners
- The Chancellor of Makerere University
- The Chairperson of the Makerere University Council
- My colleagues in the University Management, Principals, Deans and Directors
- The Private Sector and Business community
- Distinguished Delegates
- Makerere University Staff and Students
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

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Your Excellency, We are gathered here today as witnesses to the innovations potential of the staff and students of Makerere University, some of which have been funded under the Presidential initiative. It is indeed a joyous moment for the University community and the entire nation to observe the values of hard work, tenacity and interdisciplinary collaboration bearing fruit at this great University.

Your Excellency, Makerere University through innovations such as these showcased today, aims at producing graduates with reflective ability to meet the needs of society. We are indeed proud of the hardworking staff and students of Makerere University who are committed to harnessing the power of innovation to not only meet these needs but also address issues such as unemployment of University graduates.

Your Excellency, we thank you for the Presidential Initiative Fund that has enabled the participating units to establish state of the art laboratories for teaching, research and innovations. As a University, we are committed to providing innovative teaching, learning research and services responsive to

National and Global needs. Under a collegiate system adopted by Makerere University at the beginning of this year, related disciplines have been placed under the same college and this synergy of disciplines is already registering more effectiveness and efficiency in the University, and we are confident that continuous implementation of strategic reforms will leapfrog Makerere University from simply being one of the top 10 Universities in the continent to the top most.

As an Institution, we embrace commercialisation and are ready for mass production of some of our innovations in partnership with the private sector. The Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) bill is before Parliament and once enacted into law, will provide an enabling environment for PPPs.

Your Excellency, Uganda is on the verge of being the regional education, business and food hub. This calls for continuous support to the Science and Technology colleges to ensure that they continue to have state of art laboratory equipment to spur innovations. Out of the top 100 best hospitals in the world 61 are University teaching hospitals. So Uganda as a regional education and business hub needs a state of art teaching hospital that can provide the medical services being sought by most Ugandans and expatriates abroad. This will complement the efforts of the private hospitals. Makerere University has allocated 700 acres of land in Katalamwa to house this teaching hospital. Your Excellency, when you took over power in 1986 you promised Ugandans that two strategic universities, one for Science and Technology and the other for Agriculture would be established in Uganda. Indeed in 1989 Mbarara University of Science and Technology was established and later the proposed Gulu University of Agriculture was later

established as a general University, "Gulu University", focusing on all disciplines including humanities. Your Excellency, Makerere University in pursuit of your vision to make Uganda a regional food basket has established a College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to play the role of an Agricultural University and allocated it 800 acres of land in Kabanyolo to provide room for the setting up of demonstration and learning sites for modern farmers. Your Excellency, a concept note by the Ministry of Education and Sports on relocating the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to Kabanyolo and establishing Makerere University teaching hospital in Katalemwa is before the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. We seek your intervention to ensure that we get a concession loan to fund these critical projects.

Your Excellency, we are grateful to the government of Uganda for having decided to have a roadmap for enhancing salaries of staff of Makerere University. This will not only motivate our staff but also ensure that they are retained.

Your Excellency, all we are witnessing today would not have been possible if we did not have excellent leadership at all levels in this country. Your Excellency, when you decided to personally take keen interest in Makerere University after your visit of December 2009, a lot of progress has been made and we appeal to you to continue guiding us. The Ministers have followed into your foot steps; for example in the last one month, the Minister of Education and Sports and that of ICT have been to Makerere University more than 3 times to establish areas of collaboration with the different units. Hon Jesca Alupo dedicated one of her visits to

understanding how the CU@School software being piloted in 100 primary schools can help the ministry in school management.

Your Excellency, Makerere University is fortunate to have a great Chancellor that loves Makerere University and we are benefiting a lot from his great experience as a University Professor, former Dean of School of Veterinary Medicine and Member of Parliament and Minister in your government for a very long time. Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem, the current Chairperson of Council, now in private practice was once a member of staff at Makerere University and has been able to draw from his experience and guide Council and Management in moving the University forward. Within Makerere University, excellent leadership is evident at all levels.

I therefore have no doubt that these positive interventions at different levels by all the key stakeholders will propel Makerere University to be the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa. As “We build for the Future”; “For God and My country”; I thank you.