



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



- **H.E Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, EGH, Governor of Kisumu County and Patron of Makerere University Staff and Students Alumni Association & the Keynote Speaker for today**
- **Mr. John Diro, President Makerere University Staff and Students Alumni Association**
- **Jeremiah Atho Ougo the Secretary General Makerere University Staff and Students Alumni Association and other members of the Executive**
- **Chief Executive Makerere @100, and other members of the University Staff present**
- **Our Distinguished Alumni**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It is with great Joy and pleasure that I stand here today representing our great Makerere University. It is even more exciting to join you our distinguished network of alumni and Alumnae in Kenya. It is humbling to see you joining the rest of the Makerere community in the celebrations on the occasion of marking our centenary.

Mr. President, and your executive, please accept our sincere appreciation for hosting us here, in Nairobi Kenya to this very important commemoration event. I look forward to the critical deliberations on how we can make our University a greater institution.

My senior colleague, the Rt Hon Daniel Kidega, the Vice-Chair of Makere University Council, and the Chair of Makerere @100 organizing committee, had planned to be here as the leader of the delegation from Makerere, but because of unavoidable circumstances,

he was not able to join you here. He however sends his best regards and warm wishes at this celebration, as we mark the first centenary of our alma mater.

The theme “Revisiting “Our Makerere” Story & Celebrating the Contributions of Kenyan Alumni to the Growth of Makerere University”, is a good starting point for introspective conversations. This is the first of many similar conversations that we shall have in other countries within the region as well as other parts of the world.

Today's event is testimony to the fact that Makerere University knows no borders. Makerere University's contribution to not only the EAC and Africa's Human Resource Development but also to the Liberation of Africa Intellectually her contribution to the transformation of Uganda, the East African region, Africa, and the world at large cannot be overestimated.

As we celebrate the milestone of 100 years of this service to humanity, we must take a moment and reflect on the sacrifices and difficult circumstances that shaped the foundation that Makerere stands on today.

To borrow the words of our Vice-chancellor Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, where he challenges that, **“100 years ago, men and women who were less advantaged than us today, have built this institution over the years to make it the great Makerere that it is today. And made us who we are today. This begs us to commit, that if they did what they did what can we also do today so that 100 years later, people can also say that it was us who made Makerere even a great Institution than what it is today.”**

The celebration today with the Kenyan alumni, gives us hope that the challenge the Vice-Chancellor posed to us, will be overcome with action to support the vision of Makerere set for the next 100 years.

As we embark on the next century, with an agenda of positioning Makerere as a more research-led University, we are guided by four over-arching goals.

These include;

1. A research-led university responding to national, regional, and global development challenges
2. Innovations in teaching and learning that respond to the changing environment
3. An engaged university with enhanced partnerships with industry, the community, and international institutions. and
4. A professionally governed, equitable, inclusive and gender mainstreamed institution

We take pride in the various cutting-edge research, and innovations produced by our esteemed students and faculty in both the humanities and Sciences over the years. As we face new challenges of this Century, your Alma Mater is ready and well positioned to carry on this legacy of engaging in impactful research and innovations for the benefit of our people. Indeed, beyond the reflections and celebrations of our history, and commemoration through the year-long activities, such occasions as this present to us an opportunity to renew our commitment to making greater contributions that will make a great impact on our human capital development, and the cohesiveness of society, for generations to come.

I call upon all of you here in Kenya, Africa, and the world over to use the celebrations as an opportunity to reconnect with your alma mater and pledge your commitment to making your contribution, to shaping a greater university that will be more impactful over the next one hundred years.

I once again thank you greatly, for hosting us here in Kenya, and extend the invitation of the Chair of Council, the Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of the Mak @100 organizing committee to join the main celebrations which will take place on 06th October 2022 at freedom square, main campus.

We look forward to welcoming you back to your University.

As We Build for the Future.