

The Guest of Honor, Prof Timothy Wangusa  
The Vice Chancellor  
The Deputy Vice Chancellor,  
The Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
The Dean, School of Languages, Literature and Communication  
Principals and Deans Present  
Distinguished Guests  
Members of Staff  
Our University Students,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Like the Vice Chancellor said, we are indeed privileged to be present at an event that honors and acknowledges Makerere's rich heritage. As a College of Humanities and Social Sciences, this has been a chance to show that we are part of that heritage, and cannot be erased from the centennial existence of Makerere or even the hundreds of years to come.

I would like to thank everyone that has been involved in this event, starting with my Principal, Dr Josephine Ahikire, the Dean( SLLC), Dr Saudah Namyalo, Chair, Department of Literature, Dr Edgar Nabutanyi and the team that has put together this event. It shows resilience, commitment and determination to celebrate our heroes when they are still alive. For us, it is a symbolic act of how we value people and see them as models of the future generations to come. Thank you so much for the leadership and inspiration in doing this.

I was excited when I saw that students have been at the centre of this event. Seeing them perform on the stage not only showed how talented our students are, but also showed us various ways of reading and thinking through texts, life and humanity. I am glad that the Department of Literature chose to keep this a student centred event. Thank you to all the students who have actively participated in this event. May this be the start of an amazing journey for the careers you are building for the future, careers that build on knowledge to transform how we see the world and view humanity.

I have been told that Prof Wangusa was a student at Makerere in the 1960s. His 1964 class was notable for its creative abilities. When we speak of him, we also speak of Rose Mbowa, John Ruganda Okello Oculi, and Micere Mugo. For us, celebrating these icons tells a lot about this University and nation. Seeing those that were mentored by Prof Wangusa, like Prof Arthur Gakwandi shows what collegiality does for us all. Teachers transform their students into people that they can admire in the future. It is no wonder that these two have earned a seat on the high table. It is this kind of inspiration for the younger generation that we look forward to in the years to come.

We are all aware of the achievements of Prof Wangusa: first PhD in Literature at Makerere after Makerere became independent in 1970, a Chair of the Department of Literature between 1981-1984, Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1984-5), Vice Chancellor at Kumi University from 2002-2003 among others. His ability to weather the storms even in Uganda's turbulent years

shows a man made for the time. We are glad we can still sit at your feet, Prof, to learn from you, listen to you and work toward being better citizens in this nation. You have shown us the lesson that we cannot run away from the storms, but must face them and work toward overcoming the challenges of life. That, to us, is an extremely valuable lesson.

As I close this event, I am gratified that the Department of Literature keeps the banner up in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, at Makerere and beyond. With energetic academics, I am pleased that the Department is not short on mentoring people for the next generation of academics. For us, building for the future is of great importance. It is no wonder that this energy can do this for us as we celebrate this great literary icon. Thank you so much, Dr Nabutanyi and your team for this enthusiasm in seeing that Literature and the Arts are celebrated at this University.

I would like to thank you all for making time to come here. I believe we have learnt a lot, enjoyed our afternoon and, like Oliver Twist, we would like to say to the Department of Literature, 'Please Literature, give us some more'

I look forward to more engagements like this, not just in this Department, but all over the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, as we work toward enhancing our mantra: CHUSS on the Move. Let us keep working toward building for the future.

With this, I declare this event closed.