

Remarks from the Nairobi event; Dr. Joseph Aluoch, Patron-Kenya Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases



Dr. Joseph Aluoch giving his remarks

It's been 21,577 days since I stepped on the grounds of Makerere, and 54 months since I left Makerere.

My memory of the University was that, Makerere was a place to behold. It wasn't just an institution; it was a place larger than life itself. When you made it to Makerere, you became somebody to behold.

Makerere University has produced leaders around the world especially here in East Africa. Makerere has groomed and produced informed educators, teachers, doctors, advocates of the high court, policy makers, presidents among other distinguished people in society.

For those of us who had the privilege of being trained at Makerere, when we went to the United Kingdom for postgraduate studies, we were constantly asked, "Where were you trained for your Bachelor's degree?" If a student was an alumni of Makerere University, they were not asked to take on any other trainings at the beginning of postgraduate studies. On the contrary, they were always tasked to work on start working on patients immediately. Makerere was famous for its breakthrough research, especially in the medical field where breakthrough research was achieved on kwashiorkor and other epidemics.

Therefore, for us, Makerere was not just an institution. It has remained a symbol of Unity for a lifetime, especially for those who studied medicine and the many good and influential politicians it has produced in East Africa, Africa and the world over.



Dr. Joseph Aluoch in attendance of the Makerere Nairobi Alumni Visit

I must say, we had good times and bad times, but mostly good times. The only bad times, I recall were when the Kabaka was overthrown by Obote's government. I remember, we had to walk through a parade of military tanks in Wandegeya from Makerere to Mulago. This was one of the scariest moments I endured as student in Makerere.

In the good old days, we were only 400 students on campus with few Halls of residence. Mary Stuart, Livingstone, Northcote, CCE & Wandegeya hall which was later named University Hall.

Talking about Makerere University is like reminiscing the good old days. I thank you for celebrating the centenary with us here in Kenya and I look Forward to coming back home for the main celebration in October.