



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



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**REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR BARNABAS NAWANGWE  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE NELSON MANDELA ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE  
LECTURE AS PART OF THE MAKERERE@100 PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES,  
AT THE YUSUF LULE CENTRAL TEACHING FACILITY AUDITORIUM  
ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2022**

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- **Our Guest of Honour, Your Excellency Lulama Mary-Theresa Xingwana, the South African High Commissioner to Uganda,**
- **The Chairperson of Council, Mrs. Lorna Magara**
- **Members of Council**
- **Members of the University Management**
- **Our Keynote Speaker, Professor Augustus Nuwagaba**
- **The Principal and Leadership of the College Humanities and Social Sciences**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It gives me great pleasure to join Assoc. Prof. Kasaija Apuuli to welcome you all to the Nelson Mandela Annual Commemorative Lecture on the theme *“The Legacy of Nelson Mandela & the Role of Higher Education in the African Union Agenda 2063”*.

This is the Fifth of our Makerere@100 Lecture Series and we are proud to dedicate it to a gallant son of Africa, who fought so hard to deliver his people as well as many of us in Africa from mental slavery, exacerbated by oppressive rule.

In a special way, I welcome you, Your Excellency, to Makerere University, a name which enabled you and many other young men and women who grew up under apartheid to hold onto the dream that you would one day attain higher education qualifications.

As you may be aware, Makerere played a key role in nurturing freedom fighters and political activists that would go on to liberate their respective countries, as the wave of independence swept across the continent in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Despite these victories, we remained conscious that freedom fighters in South Africa such as Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Denis Goldberg, Elias Motsoaledi and Andrew Mlangeni were being condemned to life imprisonment. It was our collective African dream that we would one day see them walk free and thank God we did.

We are therefore extremely pleased that today's commemorative lecture will tackle one of the frontiers where the African continent seems to be condemned to life imprisonment i.e. Higher Education.

Figures from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics shared at World Higher Education Conference 2022 indicate that Sub-Saharan Africa's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in tertiary education has remained below 10% over the last 20 years.

In the same period, the ratios from South and West Asia as well as East Asia and the Pacific grew fastest at more than 200% and 280% respectively. The Gross Enrolment Ratios (GERs) expanded from below 10% to above 20% for South and West Asia and from 16% to 51% East Asia and the Pacific. Central and

Eastern Europe lead this chart with a Gross Enrolment Ratio of over 80%.

At this point, I pause and ask, is it still surprising that we as a continent continue to lag behind in so many other aspects of development?

Therefore, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great expectation to see that the person chosen to deliver our Keynote address is none other than Professor Augustus Nuwagaba. As a gallant alumnus, lecturer with over 20years' experience, and an international consultant of great repute, no one is better placed to piece together the worlds of academia and our continental agenda. Thank you Professor Nuwagaba for accepting to deliver today's lecture.

I am equally happy that we our panel has a good mix of seasoned educationalists and economists, with a renowned political scientist as moderator. Thank you Professor Eriabu Lugujjo, Professor Anthony Mugagga Muwagga and Dr. Fred Muhumuza for accepting to join today's panel.

Finally, I thank Dr. Nansozi Muwanga for accepting to moderate today's panel discussion. Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, in 2014, Dr. Nansozi Muwanga made history as the first female Head of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, a field which is largely male-dominated. We are sure that she will fit right in with our panellists today.

With those few remarks, I once again welcome you all to Makerere University and wish you good listening, as we build for the future.