

WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

Mr. John Diro, Makerere University Staff & Students and Alumni Association-Kenya Chapter

What is in a Motto?

In Makerere University, we associate with a simple but powerful 5 WORD motto, "WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE." The Attitude, the Ideals, the guiding principles associated with Makerere is power.

These words may sound simple but not they are not as simplistic because once you understand the purpose and belief in the words you will appreciate why so many who have gone to Makerere University have built for the future.

As an Alumni, we are apolitical but often times are forced to take pride in leaders who have built our future in politics, businesses, International communities, academics, medicine and other social economic spheres of our lives.

Six months before he was assassinated, Martin Luther King Jr spoke to a group of students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia on October 26, 1967.

He asked a question, "What is your life's blueprint?" Whenever a building is constructed, you usually have an architect who draws a blueprint, and that blueprint serves as the pattern, as the guide, and a building is not well erected without a good, solid blueprint. And when he ended his speech, I dare say that he sounded like a Makerere Alumni when he said that in your life's blueprint you must have as the basic principle, the determination to achieve excellence in your various fields of endeavor. In Counties, cities, organizations where a Makerere Alumni is called upon they have shone.

If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, the preacher preached, sweep streets like Mwai Kibaki Led Kenya and turned the Economy around, sweep streets like Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Led Pan-Africanism, Sweep Streets like Thomas Mboya and his wife Pamela represented Kenya Internationally, sweep streets like Prof. Peter Nyongo Sweeps Kisumu County and it is in his economic blue print that Kenya still enjoys the best economic turn-around, sweep streets like the late Prof. David Wasawo read and became the first East African to receive a degree in science and became a Zoologist, a conservationist, and university administrator, sweep streets like Dr Mukhisa Kituyi Led UNCTAD, Sweep streets like Dr. Joseph Amolo Aluoch treats patients across the Globe, Sweep Streets Like Dr. Joseph Mungai was so good that the University of Nairobi in 1967 had to pay off his contract at Makerere University to come back to Kenya and set up the School of Medicine, Sweep street like Prof. Thomas R. Odhiambo directed research and scientific development in Africa, Sweep Streets Like Ngugi Wa Thiongó, the late Prof. Ali Mazrui & Micere Githae Mugo writes books. Sweep Streets

like Otieno Kajwang' Practiced Law, Sweep streets like David Mwiraria guided the treasury, sweep streets like Prof. Bethwel Ogot interpreted History, for those I have not mentioned including myself, take Martin Luther's Challenge to Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well. If you can't be a pine at the top of the hill, be a shrub in the valley. Be the best little shrub on the side of the hill.

Finally, I challenge the University Leadership to take a closer look at the list hereinabove and notice that the Alumni doesn't have a shortage of great men and women to whom university centers can be named after.

Thank you.