

ALUMNI HOMECOMING *Dinner*

THEME
THROUGH
THESE GATES



VENUE: FREEDOM SQUARE, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY,
22ND JULY
2022

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL MRS. LORNA MAGARA AT THE MAKERERE@100 ALUMNI HOMECOMING DINNER FREEDOM SQUARE, FRIDAY 22ND JULY, 2022.

- Your Excellencies, the High Commissioners, Ambassadors, and Diplomats here present
- The Executive Director, Kampala Capital City Authority, Mrs. Dorothy Kisaka
- The Chancellor, Makerere University. Prof. Ezra Suruma
- Former Chancellor, Prof. Mondo Kagonyera
- Former Chairperson of Makerere Council, Eng. Wana-Etyem
- Members of Council
- Members of Councils from other universities
- The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe
- Former Vice-Chancellors present
- Members of the University Management
- The Chairperson of Makerere University Endowment Fund, Dr. Maggie Kigozi, and members present
- The Chairperson of Makerere University Holdings, Mr. Christopher Musoke, and members present
- Representatives from the various Government Agencies and Institutions
- Our Partners in the Makerere@100 Celebrations and Your Representatives
- Gallant Alumni
- Our Students
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

With great pleasure, I join the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor to warmly welcome you all to this beautiful celebration of our alma mater, Makerere University. What an incredible journey the last 100 years have been. It is an honor to have you all join us at this Makerere@100 Alumni Homecoming Dinner appropriately themed “Through These Gates”!

As our Department of Performing Arts and Film reminded us in the Makerere Anthem, we should **“not forget, through all the years, those who have gone through the gates of Makerere.”** On behalf of the University Council, I, therefore, wish to thank you all for sparing precious time and resources to be a part of this historic celebration.

Each one of you left a mark on this university. Your footprint was etched into the halls of residence, lecture theatres, library, chapel, mosque, and many areas we often congregated. If walls and vegetation could speak, countless stories would be told of friendships nurtured, dreams birthed, and destinies set on course. This evening is an evening of celebrating those memories, rekindling friendships, and establishing new networks. Makerere will always be our home, a place of new exciting opportunities and legacy creation.

We are here today because of the legacies of great men and women whose ideas helped shape Makerere as we know it. Today’s homecoming dinner is one of many events in our year-long commemoration of 100 years of impactful existence and distinguished service to this nation, region, continent, and the world.

A recurrent event of this celebration is our Lecture Series, in honor of distinguished personalities whose lives and legacies helped shape Makerere’s destiny and that of our beloved continent over the past century. To date, we have held five Public



Lectures, each delivered by our very own gallant alumni.

The First Makerere@100 Public Lecture on the theme **“A Legal perspective on the role of Governing Councils in the Management of Higher Education Institutions”** was delivered on 9th February 2022, by a gallant alumnus and Attorney General of the Republic of Uganda, Hon. Kiriyowa Kiwanuka.

It was followed on 28th April 2022 by our Second Makerere@100 Public Lecture in honor of an equally gallant alumnus, Guild President, great scholar, seasoned economist, and long-serving Governor of the Bank of Uganda, the late Professor Emmanuel Tumusiime Mutebile. The Lecture on the theme **“Economic Recovery and Resilience in a post-Covid-19 world – the role of Higher Education Institutions.”** was delivered by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and Secretary to Treasury Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi.

On 6th May 2022, we hosted the Katikkiro of Buganda Kingdom, Owekitiibwa Charles Peter Mayiga, who delivered the Third Makerere@100 Public Lecture on the theme **“Revisiting the Life of the Late Katikkiro Nsibirwa on the Lenses of Makerere at 100 years: The Contributions of Cultural Institutions in Engendering Public Goods.”**

On 23rd June 2022, we gathered to listen to another distinguished alumna, Professor Joy Kwesiga, deliver the Fourth Makerere@100 Lecture Series in honor of our first Ugandan Vice Chancellor, the late Frank Kalimuzo. The theme on that day was **“Remembering Frank Kalimuzo: Lessons for Universities in Cultivating a Culture of Service and Distinguished Leadership.”**

On 8th July, we were privileged to host celebrations of 80 years of Professor Timothy Wangusa’s vibrant life, distinguished service to Makerere, and outstanding contribution to Uganda, East Africa, and Africa’s literary history. We have also been privileged to host gatherings such as the International Conference on Gender Studies in Africa from 23rd to 27th May, among others.

A few days ago, on Monday 18th July, we were privileged to hold our Fifth Makerere@100 Lecture Series in honor of a truly global icon of peace and reconciliation, the beloved “Madiba.” On that occasion, the keynote address on **“The Legacy of Nelson Mandela & the Role of Higher Education in the African Union Agenda 2063”** was delivered by alumnus Professor Augustus Nuwagaba.

Makerere University has impacted lives beyond the borders of Uganda. Alumni in the diaspora have joined in these celebrations. On 8th July, we joined our Kenyan Alumni at a convention in Nairobi, where gallant alumnus H.E. Prof. Peter Anyang’ Nyong’o delivered the keynote address on **“Leveraging 100 Years of Excellence in Building a Transformed Kenyan Society”**.

On 25th February, our student leaders held a symposium at the East African Community Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

On 15th June, we held our First Twitter Space hosted by none other than the Vice Chancellor, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe. This was graced by our Chairperson Makerere Endowment Fund, Dr. Maggie Kigozi, and not one, not two, but three former Guild Presidents. They included Mr. Opio Oloya, Hon. Nobert Mao and Mr. Ivan Bwowe. Over 3,300 listeners tuned in from all over the world to hear our speakers share **“Reflections on the past century and Makerere’s next 100 years”**.

Our Second Twitter Space was held on 20th July, where close to 2,000 listeners tuned in to listen to Mr. Don Wanyama and Alumni; Mr. Onapito Ekomoloi, Ms. Carol Beyanga, Dr. Sara Namusoga-Kaale, and Mr. Ivan Rugambwa **“Discussing Makerere University’s Contribution to Shaping Uganda’s Media Landscape.”**

All these events, Ladies and Gentlemen, have allowed us to reflect upon the legacies of great men and women who resolved to ‘Build for the Future’ despite various challenges of their day.

One legacy I wish to single out is the Late Katikkiro Martin Luther Nsibirwa, who was at the forefront of securing land resources that helped expand Makerere’s estate. Although he paid the ultimate price for this decision, with this single act, he forever wove his life into those of countless generations of Makerereans. He permanently etched his name into the annals of our history.

Ladies and gentlemen, the onus is now upon us to do the same or even better for the coming generations. As part of the Makerere@100 celebrations, we have earmarked several legacy projects to lay a foundation for the coming century. These include a University Teaching Hospital in Katalamwa, a Students Resource Centre on the Main Campus, and Student Hostels, especially for girls and postgraduate students at the Main Campus, Katanga, and Sir Apollo Kagga Road.

We sincerely thank the Government of Uganda and the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Honourable Janet Kataaha Museveni in particular, for kickstarting our legacy projects through negotiations with the BRIDGIN Foundation to secure funding worth USD 300 million for our Teaching Hospital.



Set to be developed on 50 acres of our estate at Katelemwa, the funding will cater for the construction, equipping, and full operationalization of the ultra-modern 300-bed teaching hospital. The facility will serve as a modern medical training center and boost the country's and region's innovation and referral capacity.

What remains of our legacy projects are the Students Resource Centre and Students Hostels. Our Secretariat has made many channels available through which we can donate to these legacy projects, including through bank transfers and mobile money payments. Dr. Maggie Kigozi, the Chairperson of the Makerere Endowment Fund will give further guidance on this matter.

We, therefore, call upon you, our gallant alumni, ladies, and gentlemen, to donate to this cause. Furthermore, we encourage you to engage us for a roundtable discussion on how best we can leverage our 100 years of excellence in building a transformed society for generations to come.

I thank you all for your kind attention and wish you God's blessings and an excellent remainder of the evening. Please take time to meet old and new alumni and celebrate life together.

Thank you and God bless you

Lorna Magara

Chairperson, Makerere University Council.