



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL

MRS. LORNA MAGARA

AT THE SARAH NTIRO MEMORIAL LECTURE,

THURSDAY, 1ST DECEMBER 2022.

- Members of the University Council
- Our Distinguished Speaker, Hon. Joyce Mpanga
- The Family of the Late Sarah Nyendwoha Ntiro
- The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, and Members of the University Management
- Country Representative Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Ms. Anna Reismann and Distinguished panelists
- The Dean School of Women and Gender Studies and Members of Staff
- The Students' Community
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to join the Vice Chancellor and the University Secretary to welcome you all to this Public Lecture celebrating history-shaping milestones in the life of our gallant alumna Sarah Nyendwoha Ntiro.

Indeed, our celebrations of icons and alumni that etched their names in the annals of Makerere's 100-year history have been grand, but with today's event, they just became even more significant!

Ladies and gentlemen, the Makerere@100 Lecture Series has, to date, been a window through which we have appreciated the sacrifices made by various men and women and how their respective contributions shaped the legacy of Makerere as we know it today.

Today, we will attempt to do just that again as we examine Sarah Ntiro's life and legacy.

Sarah Ntiro's appreciation for the sanctity of family and the marriage institution may best be expressed by the private member's bill on the Registration of Marriages that she tabled before the Legislative Council in 1961.

Since it was enacted, the impact this legislation has had on protecting the rights, property, and mental health of bereaved women and children can never be quantified.

Our reflective journey of Sarah Nitro's life impact takes us beyond the borders of Uganda to the shores of the UK, where her arrival at Oxford in 1951 spurred a legacy of inspiring the less privileged in the United Kingdom and Europe.

Furthermore, her successful testimony in 1954 as the first East and Central Africa female graduate from Oxford prompted a drastic culture change – fathers who previously did not educate their daughters began doing so. The incredibly impactful life of Sarah Ntiro and the many others that have been the focus of our Mak@100 reflective journey challenges us today to revisit our education policies and systems as we relay the foundations for future generations. We hope that through these engagements and many other networks, we will establish platforms through which various stakeholders, such as our esteemed audience today, can interrogate the current education systems and policies and propose the formulation of new ones.

Therefore, I especially thank our Distinguished Speaker, Hon. Joyce Mpanga, for accepting to deliver today's lecture. The fact that you stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Sarah Ntiro in the male-dominated Legislative Council from 1958-1961, served with distinction, and are here to present today's lecture fills me, and I believe many members of this audience, with great joy and appreciation.

We thank God for preserving you thus far and look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Similarly, I wish to thank the family of the late Sarah Ntiro, represented here by Ms. Enid Kiiza and other members, for accepting Makerere University to hold this celebration.

I thank our distinguished panelists for sparing time to join us this afternoon. As the first female Chairperson of the Council of this great institution, it fills me with great joy to see that this is our first all-female panel since we started holding the Makerere@100 Lecture Series. I eagerly look forward to hearing from every one of you.

I thank you all for joining us physically and online this afternoon, and I wish you great listening. God bless you all.