



Mwambu's Cradle Publishers

Speech on behalf of the Mwambu's Cradle Publisher at Celebration of Prof. Timothy Wangusa at 80 at Makerere University

**Ayeta Anne Wangusa
Executive Director
Mwambu's Cradle Publishers**

8 July 2022

The Vice Chancellor, Makerere University, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Dr Umar Katumba

The Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Josephine Ahikire

The Deputy Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Eric Awic Ochen

The Dean, School of Languages, Literature and Communication, Dr Saudah Namyalo

The Head of Department of Literature, Dr Edgar Nabutanyi

The Chair, Organizing Committee, Dr Danson Kahyana

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to return to my alma mater 24 years after I graduated with a Masters of Literature. It also gives me great pride to be part of the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Makerere University, because I consider Makerere to be our village, because my siblings and I were all born on the hill, grew up at House 140 Pool Road and went to St Francis Chapel. Transitioning from high school to university, I resided in Mary Stuart Hall and later Dag Hammarskjöld Hall.

It also gives me great joy to see that some of my former lecturers and friends are still part of the Department of Literature. But more so, it great to be standing in this grand hall – the Yusuf Lule

Central Teaching Facility, which is symbolic of the growth of the university, in terms of infrastructure development, as well as the numbers of students accessing higher education.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before I provide the background of Mwambu Cradle's Publishers, allow me to thank our Father in Heaven for granting us good health to be able to witness this day, when our Father on Earth, Professor Timothy Wangusa is being celebrated by Makerere University and all lovers of magical words.

Why Mwambu's Cradle Publishers?

Close to sixty years since independence we need to decolonise and democratise the field of publishing, which is characterized by an exodus of literary writers flocking to the Global North to find publishers and readers. Yet, Africa is full of people that love great stories. The African Union's Agenda 2063 aspires for Africa's strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics through the promotion of the creative arts and businesses. Oral literature remains the root through which our culture is passed down and mediated through the literary word. Mwambu is the central heroic mythical character of Lumasaaba folklore. His sisters Sera and Nambozo the represent Herstories of the Bamaasaba. It is against this background that the **vision** of Mwambu's Cradle Publishers is: **Wangusa's literacy legacy contributing to Africa's Cultural Renaissance.**

Mwambu's Cradle Publishers will champion Ugandan and African Poetry, Folklore and Literature, through publication as well as through dissemination of the oral recordings by the poets and authors through a wide range of media including online media particularly through online platforms.

Mwambu's Cradle Publishers Objectives

The objectives are the following:

- To publish stories in Lumasaaba and other Ugandan languages for children in line with the Uganda Education Policy for the promotion of early childhood education

- To publish African children’s stories in multiple languages in line with the African Union Agenda 2063 aspiration 5 - of Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics
- To publish Lumasaaba and other African language dictionaries to preserve and promote the languages for strong cultural identity
- To promote Lumasaaba and other African languages as a cross-border languages particularly between Uganda and Kenya with the aim of forging linguistic and cultural unity within East Africa and Africa in general
- To translate and publish stories in Lumasaaba and other Ugandan languages for children into Kiswahili and other AU languages to expand readership through early childhood education in order to nurture an African citizenship and common heritage
- To publish poetry and novels written in English and other African languages.
- To publish digital and audio-books on e-platforms
- To produce animation films from books based on the oral tradition of Africa

The four publications we are launching today.

Lost in Wonder

This autobiography spans the author’s entire life, from infancy to senior citizenship, presented in a truly absorbing style. Poet-novelist Timothy Wangusa weaves this personal tale across a spectrum of novel and ordinary experiences that are representative of his generation of colonial and post-colonial Africa with its inevitable challenges of transition and change.

Niyanga Nelaliila

This is the translation of the autography into Lumasaaba

I Love You, You Beast!

These twenty-four prose reflections were written and re-touched across forty years, 1969-2009 – at the slow average pace of one piece every two years. Thematically grouped for this book, they include addresses, sermons and speeches originally delivered before specific academic, religious

and other audiences, as well as purely literary-spiritual compositions meant to be read, and especially read aloud.

Pathfinder’ Footprints: In Modern African Poetry

In 1975, Timothy Wangusa was the first person to be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) of Makerere University. In his PhD thesis, Wangusa postulated the view that the future of African Poetry lay in its oral recitation and recording. This assertion holds true today, manifested by the increase poetry recitation events in Uganda and Africa as a whole over the past few years.

Ladies and gentlemen, as a symbolic gesture of the launch of Mwambu’s Cradle Publishers, I would like to invite the following people to sign the dummies of the 4 publications.

The first group will sign- Pathfinder’ Footprints: In Modern African Poetry. This group consists of

The Vice Chancellor, Makerere University, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Dr Umar Katumba

The Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Josephine Ahikire

The Deputy Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Eric Awic Ochen

The Dean, School of Languages, Literature and Communication, Dr Saudah Namyalo

The Head of Department of Literature, Dr Edgar Nabutanyi

The Chair, Organizing Committee, Dr Danson Kahyana

The Second group will sign- Niyaanga Nelaliila. This group consists of

The department of Literature

The Third group will sign- I Love You, You Beast! This group consists of

Uganda writers and literary organizations

And finally

The fourth group will sign Lost in Wonder. This group consists of

Prof. Timothy Wangusa’s family

Asanteni sana, kwa kunisiliza