

SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR
Professor Barnabas Nawangwe

On the Celebration of a Legacy of Leadership at Makerere University

Friday, 17th March 2023

- **Mrs. Lorna Magara, Chairperson of Makerere University Council**
- **Members of Makerere University Council**
- **Former Chancellors and Former Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of Council**
- **Former Vice Chancellors and Former Deputy Vice Chancellors**
- **Members of the University Management Team**
- **Members of Staff of Makerere University**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I welcome you all to this historical and important breakfast event. I feel greatly honoured to address this august gathering of eminent Ugandans, who have dedicated their lives to the service of our beloved Country Uganda and particularly to the Great Makerere.

Great institutions are built by great minds, and the greatness of Makerere university cannot be taken for granted. Throughout the 100 years history of Makerere University, enormous sacrifices have been made by many people, including the sacrifice of life as in the case of Katikiro Martin Luther Nsibirwa who was assassinated in 1945, Vice Chancellor Frank Kalimuzo who was murdered in 1972 and Warden of Africa Hall Theresa Nanziri Bukenya who was also murdered in 1976. These sacrifices illustrate the hard times through which Makerere University has had to go through the years. But despite the challenges that faced the university, there are many people who soldiered on and made Makerere the great university she is.

This morning we are gathered here to celebrate the great work done by great sons and daughters of our beloved motherland, in ensuring that Makerere university not only survived, but actually thrived through the storms. Makerere has been a part of Uganda's rough history, in fact, she has been the face of that history in many ways. If we are proud of Makerere as one of the best

universities not only in Africa but in the entire world, if Makerere is considered the top black university on earth, there are people who have played a role in making this history. Today we are honouring the men and women who have led this great institution to greatness. We are honouring the chancellors, chairpersons of Council, vice-chairpersons of Council, vice-chancellors and their deputies, who have led Makerere since she became an independent national university in 1970, some of them post-humously. We bow our heads in respect of the great sacrifices you have made for our Country and for our University. May I request all of us to give these great sons and daughters of Uganda a standing ovation.

I am especially delighted to congratulate all of you who will be recognized for your service to Makerere University in various capacities. To see all of you assembled here this morning, it is clear that Makerere has in the past been and continues to be blessed with committed leaders. Had that not been the case, this institution would not have celebrated all the milestones we continue to celebrate.

We have each been called to serve as stewards in our respective capacities, so that together, we can benefit from the combined resilience that is the total sum of our efforts. As the saying goes, **we are stronger together than we are alone**. We can never attain our vision as a University or Nation until we each strive to fulfill our God-given role.

I am therefore grateful to all of you, who paved way for us, providing the exemplary leadership that Makerere University as a leading institution ought to exhibit. If we walk with our heads high up, it is because you prepared the way for us. If we boast of a university that is ranked as one of the top research institutions, it is because you gave all your energies to Makerere that she may prosper. Thank you very much indeed for your sacrifices.

I thank the University Council led by Mrs. Lorna Magara for making this possible. Mrs. Magara has been keen in making sure that we honour the people who have dedicated their lives to Making Makerere the great institution she is. I also thank the members of Management, particularly the university Secretary and the Head of Advancement, Awel Uwihanganye for their hard work that has made this event a reality. I wish you all an enjoyable breakfast event.