



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS**

SPEECH

BY

**THE HON. MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY AT MUNI UNIVERSITY**

13TH DECEMBER 2011

**SPEECH BY THE HON. MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE
GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY AT MUNI UNIVERSITY**

- HON. MINISTERS HERE PRESENT

- HON. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

- THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS

- LOCAL COUNCIL V CHAIRPERSONS

- RELIGIOUS LEADERS

- INVITED GUESTS

- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

It is with appreciation and honour that you accepted our invitation to this important occasion of ground-breaking ceremony at Muni University. Permit me to welcome you to this occasion that will kick-off the construction of this new institution.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I once more thank you for coming from near and far to witness this memorable occasion.

Universities globally, act as fountains of knowledge creation and diffusion; they are centres of innovation and front-runners in training and imparting skill to the youth and general public, this is why the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government since its assumption of power in 1986, worked tirelessly to change the landscape of higher education in Uganda.

As you are all aware, Uganda has made a big stride in higher education provision, since the NRM attained political leadership in the country.

Before then, higher education was largely inaccessible with lots of challenges in its quality and the curricular; governance had many challenges as well, and the Private Sector participation in the provision of higher education was minimal.

Distinguished guests, you will realize that Government of Uganda recognizes the importance and functions of a University as an engine for growth, development of its people, the economy and socio-cultural and general wellness.

The Government White Paper of 1992 emphasizes the above strategies and calls for appropriate reforms in higher education as population continues to grow. Last month, the World made the 7 billion human population mark. As a country, Uganda contributes over 32 million.

It is worth to note, that two thirds of this population in Uganda is young, growing, energetic youth who need higher education. These issues underscore the vision for setting **Muni as the sixth Public University of Uganda, to which UGX 4.1 billion has been committed to-date and the university is expected to open its gate for first admissions in August 2012.**

Uganda today pride of 5 (five) established public universities from 1 (one) in 1986; and 29 (twenty nine) private recognized universities from none in 1986.

The enrolment is now over 125,000 students from less than 5,000 in 1986; while the total enrolment at higher institutions i.e universities and tertiary institutions is at over 178,000. These huge achievements were due to the visionary leadership of the NRM Government.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased that, the Taskforce of Muni University has coined the vision and mission of the University, which is in tandem with the

National Development Plan 2010-2015. The vision ***“to be an innovative and specialized university for transformation and development*** and the Mission, ***to provide quality education, generate knowledge, promote innovation and community empowerment for transformation”***.

I am also happy with the University Taskforce of choice of programmes such as Bachelor of Science in Computer and Information Technology; Bachelor of Nursing Sciences; Bachelor of Science in Technical and Vocational Education, Bachelor of Information Systems, Bachelor of Science with Education and the crossing cutting themes or co-requisite courses which include: Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management, Peace and Ethics, Communication and Study Skills and Computer Literacy.

I advise you not to deviate from this focus.

This point is stressed, because unemployment is an ugly thing; it injures people, not only financially, but also socially and emotionally. As we all know, even when people are not really pleased with the work they are doing, employment gives meaning to their life. This is why I applaud the vision, mission and start-up programmes of Muni University, which are skills-oriented for social transformation.

Permit me now, to recognize the high cooperation shown by the political leadership and the people they lead, at all levels in the region, that has made the nascent University to have the largest amount of land i.e.130.054 arces in Muni; 6150arces at Madi-Okollo; 3.5 square kilometres at Bidibidi and 150 acres in Pakwach, than any other university has ever got in Uganda. We thank you sincerely, for this support.

My gratitude is extended to the Taskforce Management Team, which has achieved so much within a short-time.

I would like to urge the constructors; Ms. Ambitious Construction Ltd., which shall undertake this project, to observe high level of commitment, diligence and quality performance.

Allow me to recognized and commend the able leadership of the NRM government under the stewardship of H.E. the President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, that has made all these to come to fruition.

I am honoured and privileged to have laid the foundation stone for the new Muni University today.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY