

## Makerere's next vice chancellor must be visionary

EDITOR: As the search for the new Vice Chancellor reaches the final stages, there is need to define the individual suitable for the high seat. This would help to avoid perpetuation of problems that have dogged the institution.

Makerere needs a luminary and visionary leader to counter negative and retrogressive forces which have afflicted the institution over the years. There is an urgent need to reorient Makerere to prioritise academic excellence and competitiveness. Academicians must play major roles in decisions that fundamentally affect the institution.

Over the years, administration has crowded out the academic in both numbers and influence.

Makerere must rediscover its self as the centre of intellect and

intellectualism. Conditions must be created for this to happen. Time and space are needed to nurture and grow intellectualism. In this era of technology, we do not need so many administrators as this pushes up costs. Globally, technology is rationally being used to save costs and chronically cash-strapped Makerere would take advantage of that.

With people like Donald Trump on the scene and inward-looking Europe, Makerere must stop begging and look for partners to invest. Makerere's woes stem from shortage of funds to pay for staff and other necessities. Makerere needs to make its own money to avoid depending on the tax payer. This requires a VC who is both visionary and luminary. He must be innovative as it is no longer business as usual.

The current aspirants have all,

fortunately been at Makerere where their legacies are easy to assess. We need to see those who have made concrete contribution in infrastructure, curriculum development, organisational management and investment.

We need a leader that can make Makerere great again one who can stand up and compete not one on the knees begging. We need to establish a Silicon Valley of sorts. Yes, we can. All we need to do is to identify, value and mobilise talent and find partners to work with. This requires exemplary leadership. As the search goes on, a rational and proper choice must be made. Success of Makerere will depend on this. As we continue to build for the present and future.

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Alumnus of Makerere**

PICTURE BY WILFRED SANYA

LETTER OF THE DAY

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