

**Friends of Makerere in Canada, Inc.
(FOMAC)**

ANNUAL REPORT

2005 / 2006

INTRODUCTION

THE END OF AN ERA

This Annual Report is significant in one sense. It marks the end of an era. The President of FOMAC is stepping down at this year's Annual General Meeting. Dr. Charles L M Olweny, who co-founded and led the organization for nearly a decade and a half, is leaving Canada to take up a new and challenging assignment in Uganda as Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of the Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) in Nkozi.

It would be a gross understatement to say that FOMAC will miss Dr. Olweny and is very sad to see him go. Dr. Olweny has been not only the leader but also the heart and inspiration of the organization. He and his wife Phoebe Olweny co-founded FOMAC together with a small band of people in Winnipeg, Canada. Phoebe served on the Executive Committee for some years while Dr. Olweny has been President from inception. Thanks to their combined brain power, time and energy, FOMAC has grown from a small and scrappy outfit to a respected and flourishing body that has expanded to the Provinces of Ontario, and, for a while, British Columbia, Canada. Under his leadership, chapters of Friends of Makerere have been established in the UK and in Kampala, Uganda. As well, FOMAC has been recognized as a charity in Canada.

The sadness of FOMAC is ameliorated only by the realization that Dr. Olweny's departure to the Uganda Martyrs University is an indirect fulfillment of one of the Aims and Objectives of FOMAC, that reads:

"To promote the advancement of education at other (i.e. other than Makerere) schools of higher learning in Uganda, Africa and elsewhere"

It may therefore be construed that FOMAC is lending its leading brain to UMU.

If FOMAC has been successful in initiating projects that are worthwhile,

especially to Makerere, it has been largely due to the leadership and the tireless efforts of Dr. Olweny and his small team of Executive members. Projects such as the scholarship award scheme, the Friendship House, the University Publishing House proposal or the Annual Julius Nyerere Memorial Lecture Series would not have been possible without his dedication and commitment. These and other initiatives prove Dr. Olweny's idea that by pulling together and acting with conviction there is no limit to what a small group can achieve.

Perhaps the most important legacy of Dr. Olweny is his acute sense of responsibility, transparency and accountability. Through a philosophy known in FOMAC circles as TARA (transparency, accountability, responsibility and activity) FOMAC instituted accountability and transparency in all its undertakings. In so doing integrity and effectiveness have been injected into the work of the organization. As well, FOMAC has avoided disasters that have bred conflicts and polarized many similar social organizations.

Makerere has been around for almost 84 years. It has within it cultural, historic and traditional threads that stretch back many years and that bind its present and former students and teachers together. It has been supported by a countless number of people and organizations from all over the world. We would have wished that Dr. Olweny were returning there.

Uganda Martyrs, on the other hand, is one of Africa's newest universities. We have no doubt that it will benefit enormously from Dr. Olweny's proven leadership skills and extensive national and international contacts. We believe that in due course the relatively young university will build and nurture support and traditions of its own.

Finally, as we say farewell to Charles and Phoebe, we wish to assure them that their legacy is safe with FOMAC. The idea and the dream of linking and mobilizing Makerereans and their friends will continue.

FOMAC PROJECTS

FOMAC's most recent Quarterly Report and Newsletter (Vol. 14 Number 1, 2006) dwelt at length with the most significant activities that occupied the time and efforts of all members of FOMAC during this report period. These included the preparations for and the execution of the 4th Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Memorial Lecture, the visit to Canada in May 2006 of H. E. Mr. Benjamin William Mkapa, former President of Tanzania, as well as maintaining communications with FOMAC chapters and various institutions of higher learning in Uganda and elsewhere.

The fourth Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Memorial Lecture

FOMAC was honoured to receive in Winnipeg former President of Tanzania, Mr. Benjamin William Mkapa. He had accepted our invitation to deliver the 4th Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Memorial Lecture. The Lecture and the benefit dinner, which were well attended, took place on 13th May 2006 at Fort Garry Hotel.

In his introductory remarks Mr. Mkapa paid a tribute to the late President of Tanzania, for whom he has great admiration. He commented that it was well and proper for Africa to honour its giants. In Tanzania, however, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere was not just a giant but a hero. He was revered not just because he led the country to independence or that he was the first elected President, but because of what he stood for and symbolized, nationally, regionally and globally. For example, Nyerere succeeded in creating and uniting a nation where none existed before. He believed in the total independence of Africa and worked tirelessly to help bring it about. As well, Nyerere believed in the equality of all peoples and deplored the balkanization of Africa.

The Memorial Lecture by Mr. Mkapa was based on the theme: "Africa's Position in the Global Economy". He stressed a number of interesting points. First, that globalization is unfair to Africa but it is a reality of the modern day world. Second, the solution for Africa is not to withdraw but to find better ways to integrate more meaningfully and profitably, by for example, demanding fairer rules and fairer outcomes. Third, there is much Africa can do nationally, regionally and globally to improve gains from globalization, especially in the areas of trade expansion, improved investment climate and in producing, acquiring and utilizing modern science and technology

for development.

Mr. Mkapa had additional suggestions for Africa. He suggested first that Africa must strive harder to industrialize and to venture into the service industry. Second, Africa must strive to change the direction of its trade. Currently, it is too dependent on Europe and North America as destinations of its exports. For example, European Union alone accounts for 52% of Africa's exports. He suggested that Africa must now embark on a new dynamic economic relationship with Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, with a view to promoting larger investment and trading opportunities.

The University of Manitoba also honoured Mr. Mkapa. It selected him to deliver the Distinguished Guest Lecture. He spoke on the subject, "**The Changing Face of African Politics**". In his introductory comments, Mr. Mkapa deplored the negative image of Africa in the media in Western countries, particularly in Britain and North America. He cited a renowned former Africa correspondent for a major print and electronic media in these countries who admitted that editors were not interested in news and features that did not portray "an African Apocalypse" He said that those that were readily published conformed to an Africa with 4 Ds - deaths, diseases, disasters and despair.

Mr. Mkapa was quick to admit that Africa has had its run of civil wars, military takeovers and has had its fair share of so-called Big Men, such as Mobutu, Banda, Abaca, etc. However, much of Africa is successfully undertaking economic and political transformation and development, and has a record of free and fair democratic elections and democratically elected leaders. It has its share of constitutionally elected leaders who have given way peacefully to elected successors, like him.

On the issue of the participation of women in African politics and governance, Mr. Mkapa applauded the recent election of a woman in Liberia as its post-conflict President. As well, he revealed that in various Parliaments in Africa, women had increased their numerical strength. For example, in Rwanda 48.8% of Parliamentarians are women, as were 34.8% in Mozambique, 32.8% in South Africa, 30.5% in Burundi, 30.4% in Tanzania. 26.9% in Namibia and 23.9% in Uganda.

Finally, FOMAC bestowed its highest rank of honours on Mr. Mkapa. He was awarded the rank of HONORARY BUILDER, only the second person to

receive the rank in the history of FOMAC

NEWS FROM MAKERERE

Makerere waives Ph D Rule for Lecturers

Due to the dire staffing needs at Makerere, the university has changed rules governing the appointment and promotion of lecturers. The Doctor of Philosophy Degree requirement for lecturers in clinical disciplines in the Medical School has been dropped. As well, the university will no longer peg academic promotions to the number of years taught, thus opening opportunities for those with the requisite qualifications but without the teaching experience to be recruited into senior academic positions. Hopefully, this change will help attract into academic rank persons who are currently outside the academia but have practical experience

Makerere to host ICT Centre

The university has won a bid to host the East and Central African Centre for Information and Technology. It will be located at the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology

Sponsorship Policy is changed

Starting academic year 2007/2008, students at Makerere and other public universities who are sponsored by the Uganda government will no longer receive financial support for food and boarding. They will have to find alternative sources to pay for food, boarding and related expenses. Currently the government sponsors 4000 students only at all public universities

Carnegie Scholarships

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has awarded scholarships to 176 students admitted at Makerere. Out of this number, 150 are women who qualified for the Female scholarship Initiative Scheme while 26 qualified for the Women Diploma Holders Scheme. According to a news release from the Carnegie Corporation, the scholarship schemes are part of their efforts to increase the number of women in Uganda accessing university education.

Dr. Christine Dranzoa Secures CIDA funding

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has agreed to extend assistance to Dr. Christine Dranzoa, Director and Associate Professor, Wild Life and Animal Resource Management at Makerere University in partnership with Dr. Michael Campbell of the University of Manitoba. The Tier 11 CIDA funding is in respect of their project in Uganda titled, "Enhancing the Rural Livelihoods in Uganda through Sustainable Community Tourism" We congratulate Dr. Dranzoa and her colleague and wish them success.

Recent Publications about Makerere

1. Professor M. Mamdani - "Scholars in the Market Place: The Dilemmas of Neo-Liberal Reform at Makerere University, 1989-2005"
2. Professor Carol Sicherman - "Becoming an African University: Makerere 1922-2000"
Africa World Press, 2005
3. A Paper by Professor Ali Mazrui: "The Role of Academics in Political Change in a Comparative Perspective"

(Delivered at a Public Lecture at Makerere University to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Bank of Uganda, 15 August 2006)

FINANCIAL REPORT

A Statement of Account for the Financial Year 2005/2006 is attached.

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