

Friends of Makerere in Canada, Inc.
(FOMAC)

ANNUAL REPORT
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INTRODUCTION

Friends of Makerere in Canada, Inc (FOMAC) is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2006/2007. The report is intended to provide to our members - new and old - as well as other interested parties, with a brief overview of FOMAC's activities and concerns during the report period.

This period has been one of both challenge and achievement. The Executive Committee, which has the primary responsibility for directing the affairs of FOMAC, has met regularly, it has fulfilled its obligations under the constitution and it has ensured that the interests of the members and of Makerere University are central to its activities and are at the heart of its advocacy work.

FOMAC has maintained positive contacts the sister organizations of Friends of Makerere in Ontario, the United Kingdom and Uganda. Through these contacts the work of FOMAC has been communicated and explained and an exchange of information has taken place. Experiences have been shared on current issues affecting Makerere University and other institutions of higher learning in Africa. As well, a commitment has been received to work jointly towards the implementation of common projects, such as the alumni project at Makerere known as the Friendship House.

A significant development on the communication front has been the decision by the Makerere University administration to establish a Secretariat for Alumni Affairs and to give FOMAC recognition and legal standing. FOMAC has been urging the university to do this for years. A Memorandum of Understanding is now under preparation by the university's legal office. It will spell out and define the relationship parameters between the university and FOMAC as well as any other alumni organizations.

The finances of FOMAC have been handled efficiently and responsibly, as the attached Auditor's Report shows. Obligations under the Canadian law governing charities have been met and the requisite report has been submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency. In all its activities FOMAC has followed the TARA principle (transparency, accountability, responsibility and activity).

Amendments to the Constitution of FOMAC that were approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in December 2006 have been incorporated and the Revised Constitution issued.

FOMAC has reached out to other community organizations and has participated fully in various events. These include the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Ghana, organized by the Ghanaian Union of Manitoba, social events organized by Sous le Baobab (the Cameroonian organization), the Nigerian Association, and several other African-Canadian community groups. FOMAC has participated in these activities because it believes that community dialogue is an effective way of gathering information and building interest towards a common goal.

At the request of the Kenya Association of Manitoba, FOMAC has once again acted to disburse funds to various needy students in Kenya who are the selected recipients of the Scholarships for Kenya Bomb Victims.

Following the last AGM, the Executive Committee acted to expand its membership. We were happy to welcome three new members: Mr. Andre' Doumbe, Dr. Martin Nyachoti and Dr. Francis Amara. This expansion has been positive. It has brought to the Committee new ideas and opportunities. The commitment, time and expertise of these members has been a valuable resource. Indeed the Chair is grateful to the whole Executive Committee. They have been dedicated, energetic, enthusiastic and ready for challenges. As we come to the end of the two year term at this AGM, I hope that all of them will accept to continue to serve FOMAC. Their knowledge, skills and commitment are needed to help address the current and future challenges and to enhance the success of this organization so that it can serve Makerere and Africa better.

W. Okwenje

Interim President

FOMAC AND THE CHALLENGE OF FUND RAISING

FOMAC's viability is directly linked to the generosity of its members and well wishers. Personal donations, Membership Fees and Annual Fees have been important sources of funds. The members are our most valuable assets. We take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support and also to remind them of their financial commitments. Their donations are critical to short- as well as the long-term sustainability of this organization.

In this regard we wish to report and acknowledge a generous donation by Mr. Norman Coghlan and his family. Mr. Coghlan is a long-time supporter and former member of the Executive. He has given a donation of US \$5000, targeted to the Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) through FOMAC. The same amount has been promised for 2008. The money goes towards funding projects at the UMU, which is now headed by our past President Dr. Charles Olweny. This year the money will be spent on bursaries for needy students at UMU. A procedure has been developed to determine the manner by which students can access these funds.

We appreciate greatly Mr. Coghlan's selfless donation. We also wish to encourage others who want to give donations to FOMAC but prefer to have them targeted to specific projects to do so.

FOMAC's most important fundraising activity is usually a benefit dinner, often held in conjunction with a public education lecture - The Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Memorial Lecture. Four such lectures have been delivered so far, all by distinguished men: Professor Ali Mazrui, Dr. John Loxley, Dr. Lloyd Axworthy and the most recent in May 2006 by the former President of Tanzania, H.E. Mr. Benjamin William Mkapa.

This year the Executive Committee took a deliberate decision to seek out and invite a distinguished lady to be the Guest of Honour and to deliver the Julius Nyerere Memorial Lecture. Approaches were made at various times during the year to several ladies at the very top of the national leadership in Canada. Regrettably none of them was able to accept FOMAC's invitation, largely due to conflicts in scheduling. Nevertheless FOMAC plans to make a fresh start in the new year and is confident a distinguished keynote speaker will be identified.

In addition, FOMAC is exploring other ways and means of broadening and diversifying fundraising activities. Among those identified are joint fundraising

ventures with community organizations and possible contacts with and approaches to international donor agencies, foundations and corporations.

Also, FOMAC believes that graduates of Makerere, who are in their tens of thousands and scattered around the globe, are a legitimate target for a fundraising campaign. There is a lot of potential from this group which includes middle- to high-income families. Therefore a programme needs to be developed to reach them with appropriate information, and to enlist their support and seek their donations

The need for more resources has now assumed greater urgency. This is partly because FOMAC and its associated organizations have decided to proceed in the new year with the construction of the Friendship House at Makerere, on a plot of land donated to FOMAC several years ago by the Makerere University Council. The project was conceived as part of the strategy to alleviate acute shortage of housing at the university, by providing temporary accommodation for visiting academics who are on FOMAC-supported programmes. The original estimated cost of the proposed structure was US \$150,000 - \$200,000. So far just under 25% has been raised. In addition to this project, FOMAC proposes to implement its Career Development Award project that has been dormant for several years.

Therefore, we call on everyone to rise up to the challenge by donating. It is an important investment.

FUNDING WOES AT MAKERERE

Makerere held its 57th graduation ceremony in September 2007. Over the decades, tens of thousands of students have graduated at this 85-year old institution. Many of its graduates have changed lives and impacted communities and nations throughout East and Central Africa and elsewhere in Africa and the world. Makerere has served as an agent of training, research & development and intellectual inquiry. Now, however, this important role is threatened by the inadequacy of funding. Despite its long and cherished history as an intellectual powerhouse Makerere has suffered acute funding shortfalls in the recent past. Support from the private sector and external donors has been helpful but only marginal. According to reports Makerere currently faces a budgetary deficit of nearly 50 Billion Uganda shillings. This is huge by Ugandan standards.

The resources Makerere has needed to create, maintain and expand its physical infrastructure and carry out academic activities have come predominantly from the state but they have been insufficient. As a public institution, Makerere has had to compete for funds directly with other sectors of government, such as defence and health. When the government feels short of funds it cuts back, and generally higher education is the most impacted. As a result there have been squabbles between the state and the university about costs, including professors' pay and tuition fees.

The fact is that state funding has failed to grow in line with enrolments. Besides government has placed strict restrictions on tuition fees. Therefore the university has depended increasingly on extra large student enrolments in order to fill the financial gap. As well, it has resorted to taking unpopular measures, such as increasing student user fees, banning the use of computers, fridges and TV sets in halls of residence so as to cut on energy bill, and delaying the payment of teaching allowances to the lecturers. It is even contemplating getting rid of student halls of residence by privatizing them.

In the past the university has relied on resilience, adaptability and stability and has insisted on providing quality education in the midst of turmoil. Those qualities appear to have been spent.

FOMAC's view is, there should be better funding. Indifference may lead to the slow destruction of the university. If the state desires to create a well educated and skilled workforce that can ensure a strong national economy and compete in the global marketplace, then it must avail adequate investments to Makerere and other institutions of higher learning.

SEARCH FOR A UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR CONTINUES

The top position of Chancellor of Makerere University is still vacant. According to Uganda's Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, the Chancellor of the university is "the titular head of the university and as such shall preside over all ceremonial assemblies of the university, act in the name of the university, and confer degrees and other academic titles and distinctions of the university ..."

Professor Apollo Nsibambi, the then Chancellor, announced his imminent retirement about a year ago. A Search Committee was established to work and find a new Chancellor. Several prominent names were nominated, interviews conducted and a

short list prepared. Finally two names were submitted to President Yoweri Museveni, in his capacity as Visitor of Makerere University, to appoint a Chancellor. The names were Professor Gilbert Bukenya who is also Vice President of Uganda and Professor Mondo Kagonyera, a former Minister and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Mr. Museveni rejected both names saying "the process had not been transparent". Instead he chose the present Vice Chancellor Livingstone Luboobi to act as Chancellor until a suitable name is found. Hence back to the drawing board.

During the early phase of the exercise some interesting names were mentioned as having been nominated for Chancellor. They include the former President of Tanzania, Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, the American-based Ugandan scholar Professor Mahmood Mamdani, Dr. John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, UK and Archbishop Henry Orombi of the Church of Uganda.

MAKERERE LAUNCHES A TECHNOLOGY VILLAGE

The Makerere Agricultural Institute Kabanyolo, an outreach arm of the university, has established a technology village in a rural farming community of Buganda. According to the Vice Chancellor, the purpose of the village is to promote productive agriculture and to facilitate research in a remote rural environment. The village will showcase modern and advanced agricultural machinery and technologies. It will help create greater awareness of productive farming for students and the local communities. It will offer researchers and teachers opportunities for testing multidisciplinary projects, as well as making research and training more accessible and meaningful. The idea of a "technology village" is new in this part of Uganda and the university expects that by demonstrating the use and purpose of modern machineries and technologies it will motivate and inspire young people to take up a career in agriculture.

JAPAN DONATES PRINTING MACHINERY

Makerere has received a donation of printing and binding equipment from the government of Japan. The machinery, valued at Shs. 743 million is said to be modern and on the cutting edge of printing. The machinery will serve to improve the quality and quantity of academic publication at Makerere.

MAKERERE DROPS IN WEB RANKING

According to the most recent survey by Webometrics Ranking of World Universities, Makerere University has dropped from the 19th to the 54th position of the top 100 universities in Africa. It has dropped below some universities in East African that it used to be ahead of, for example, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania at #13, Egerton University in Kenya at #21 and University of Nairobi at #24.

The Webometrics Ranking organization claims that the ranking is based on "the webometric indicators that are provided to show the commitment of institutions to web publication" As well, "if the web performance of an institution is below the expected position according to their academic excellence, university authorities are advised to reconsider their web policy and promote substantial increase in the volume and quality of their electronic publications"

According to this ranking South African universities take the top eight positions of the best universities in Africa, with the University of Cape Town ranked at number one.

The Vice Chancellor of Makerere has commented that it is unfair to rank universities solely on the basis of what is published on the web. Makerere does publish extensively but not on the web. Nevertheless he admits that there is need for more investments in ICT at Makerere.

MORE UNIVERSITIES APPROVED

Uganda's National Council for Higher Education, a government watch dog for higher education, has approved the establishment of four new universities in Uganda, bringing the number of public and private institutions of higher learning to 26. The new universities are: Busitema, a public university, and Lugazi, St. Lawrence & Mutesa 1 Royal University, all privately owned.

Uganda had only three universities in 1980. In just over two decades since, the number has risen almost eight-fold. This development is not without its critics. Some view this mushrooming of universities as a mere commercialization of higher education, while others feel unhappy with the poor quality of education offered at some of these institutions.

FOMAC WEBSITE

FOMAC has developed a new customized website that fits its needs. It carries all the features of the former site as well as new ones, such as Annual and Quarterly Reports, photo galleries, integrated secure donations, questions, feedback, etc.

It is expected that the new website will make it easy for the Makerere Alumni office to communicate through it: current university news, career opportunities, conference announcements, and much more. As well, it is anticipated that FOMAC members and other Makerere alumni can use it to stay in touch.

From time to time FOMAC receives inquiries for information about Makerere as well as various universities in Africa. The site will have direct links to some of these institutions.

Visit the website at: www.friendsofmakerere.ca

EDGAR KATEGO MUTUNGI - DECEASED

It is with deep sorrow that FOMAC announces the untimely death of our dear friend Edgar Katego Mutungi. He passed away in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on July 20th 2007. He was 49. FOMAC and the Friends of Makerere everywhere are mourning the passing of a friend, father, husband, as well as a committed, industrious and hardworking member of our community.

Edgar and his wife Allyce Mutungi, graduated from Makerere University before immigrating to Canada in the late 1980s. They lived in Winnipeg, Manitoba before moving on to Toronto, Ontario in the mid-1990s. While in Winnipeg, they were part of a small group that founded FOMAC. After they moved to Toronto, Edgar and Allyce were instrumental in starting the new chapter there that grew to become the Friends of Makerere in Ontario (FOMOC). For several years Edgar was the President. At the time of death he was serving as General Secretary. Allyce continues to serve FOMOC in various capacities. The chapter has become a dynamic social and educational organization, thanks to their efforts.

Edgar's friendship and leadership as well as his enthusiasm and hard work for the causes of Makerere will be missed dearly.

May His Soul Rest In Peace

FOMAC FINANCIAL REPORTS ARE ATTACHED