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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (Finance and Administration)

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PRESS RELEASE

PAF OPEN-DAYS AND LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY- 31st/03/2017- 1st/04/2017

The Department of Performing Arts and Film (PAF) and the Norwegian University College of Dance will today, Friday, 31st March, 2017 lay the foundation stone for the Centre for Performing Arts at Makerere University. The event will be presided over by the Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, H.E. Susan Eckey.

The Centre for Performing Arts is a collaborative project between Makerere University Department of Performing Arts and Film and The Norwegian University College of Dance. The two institutions have had a relationship since 2010 with the renewal of the MOU in 2016 to support, among other things, staff capacity development, student and staff exchange and joint performances.

The laying of the foundation stone is part of the two-day "*opening the Department of Performing Arts and Film to the community*" event scheduled to take place from 31st March-1st April, 2017 in the University Freedom Square. The aim of the open-day events is to showcase the activities of the Department of Performing Arts and Film to communities within and outside the University. Activities will include exhibitions, presentations and performances in music, dance, drama and film screening. The events will be crowned with a dance festival in which selected upcoming troupes and companies will compete in difference dance categories including; ethnic dances, jazz, contemporary, and hiphop dance.

WHY THE CENTRE

While the Department of Performing Arts and Film was established in 1971 and has evolved since, and indeed, its fruits are evident; its progress has been hampered by the limited infrastructural resources. Moreover, whereas it is the only Unit, not only in the country, but also in the region that offers training in all fields of performing arts, it has had limited execution of its mandate as the centre of academic and practical excellence in training and offering leadership to the performing arts industry in Uganda.

