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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.

PURPOSE OF THE CENTRE

Therefore, the overarching goal of the Centre is to improve and strengthen the Performing Arts and Film industry in Uganda so as to realize its socio-cultural, political and economic potential through facilitated training, research, and service delivery that measures to international standards.

ABOUT THE CENTRE

The Centre for Performing Arts will occupy a space of 8,000sq Meters at a site located on Plot 36 Flame Tree, near the Makerere University Guest House. It will house the Department of Performing Arts and Film and will have facilities including, but not limited to: 350-seater theatre, 12 acoustically treated classrooms, 2 music studios, 200-seater auditorium, 3 dance studios/rehearsal rooms, 10 music practice rooms, library, audio-visual archive, office space, and a cafeteria. These facilities will not only be used for offering training, but also for providing income generating services and outreaches that will help sustain the Centre and the University in general.

In addition to housing the existing academic programmes, the Centre will offer specialized practical skills training in music, dance, drama, film, arts management, public speaking, among others, as well as certificate and non-certificate programmes. The Centre will also facilitate research and enhance the Makerere University Klaus Wachsmann Audio-visual Archive for documentation and archiving the performing arts and the University activities.

Other quality income generating services at the Centre will include: theatrical productions, film productions, audio-visual recording studio, Makerere University Live Band, Makerere University Dance Company; Makerere University Choir and Troupe; Makerere University Theatricals, rehearsal and conference space, among others.

FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRE

Construction of the Centre will cost \$20 million. "We expect to generate the money from fundraising drives in Norway and Uganda. We call upon all the alumni and well-wishers of the Department and the Performing Arts industry in general to support this venture. I wish to thank the Norwegian University College of Dance for all the support extended towards this project thus far. I also pass on our sincere appreciation to Makerere University Management for the support and guidance rendered to the Department in its endeavor to set up the centre. The University has already allocated land for the Centre and through the College, we will provide budgeting for this activity," said Assoc. Prof. Sylvia A. Nannyonga – Tamusuza, Head Department of Performing Arts and Film.

The University has already constituted the Makerere University Performing Arts and Film Center (MAPAFIC) Committee to lead the fundraising drive for this project and the membership of this committee includes:

1. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration, Chairperson: Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe
2. Head, Department of Performing Arts and Film, Secretary: Dr. Sylvia A. Nannyonga-Tamusuza
3. Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences: Prof. Edward Kirumira
4. Director, Directorate of Planning: Dr. Florence Nakayiwa
5. Dean, School of Liberal and Performing Arts: Dr. Patrick Mangeni
6. Deputy Principal, College of Engineering, Design Art and Technology: Dr. Venny Nakazibwe
7. Representative from the Department of Performing Arts and Film (Drama): Ms. Lillian Mbazizi
8. Representative from the Department of Performing Arts and Film (Music): Mr. Steven Kasamba,
9. Representative from Makerere University Performing Arts and Film Alumni Association: Mr. Robert

The Team from the Norwegian University College of Dance include:

1. Prof. Ann Kristin Norum, the Rector
2. Prof. Ole Egberg, Deputy Rector
3. Mr. Arne Norum
4. Ms. Camilla Storvollen

TIMEFRAME

Commencement date will be April 3, 2017 with work on the architectural plans, management structures, fundraising and contracts.

"We plan that within 2 years some of the facilities will be ready for use and within 3 years the entire building project will be completed," said Assoc. Prof. Sylvia A. Nannyonga - Tamusuza.

For more information please contact:

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