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OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1. Makerere University's journey to being a research led university

Makerere University is undergoing reforms in the core and support functions – Research, Teaching & Learning, as well as Administrative, and Financial processes aimed at making the university more efficient and effective. The University Administration has decided to elevate the research function providing a policy direction for research, aimed at transforming Makerere into a research led university, as stipulated in our 10-year strategic plan.

The strategic positioning of Makerere University as a research driven university will enable Makerere to focus more on knowledge production to support evidence based decision making and power the growth of Uganda's economy. One of the key achievements from the reform process is the transformation of the School of Graduate Studies into the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training.

The transformation is expected to improve competence to source for research funds and promote commercialisation of innovations.

The reforms include the establishment and operationalisation of the Grants Management Unit in the Directorate and at the Colleges. This will facilitate grant application, negotiation, as well as grants and contract management.

The Intellectual Property unit is operational and assisting innovators to protect their inventions and expressed ideas. The Directorate will harmonise and operationalise existing policies that promote the university as a hub for research and innovations in the region. In order to meet the responsibilities and new mandates, the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training operates under two divisions, namely the Division of Research, Innovations and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and the Graduate Training Coordination Division. Each division is headed by a Deputy Director. The new structure and redesigned processes have led to downsizing the staff number by 34% i.e. from the current 26 to 17.

The Directorate is increasingly attracting research funds to support the research and innovations function at Makerere University and other public universities. Recent awards

include **Sida (Sweden) bilateral research support worth USD \$25 million for four years (2010 - 2014)** signed in January 2010. The support is towards PhD scholarships (for Makerere and other public universities), and research support to the following 12 units:

College of Health Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Technology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Arts, Directorate of Communications Technology Support, University Library, Directorate of Quality Assurance, Directorate of Gender Mainstreaming and the Directorate of Research & Graduate Training.

Another competitive grant won by the Directorate in October 2010 is from the **Carnegie Corporation of New York** to the tune of **USD 1.9 million**. This facility is supporting the building, nurturing and retention of the next generation of academics at Makerere University and other public universities. The support is in the form of PhD training and postdoctoral research fellowships. The first cohort of PhD and post-doctorate beneficiaries have been identified and awarded.

These continued successes are evidence that Makerere University has indeed transformed herself into a hub for research and innovations in the country and the region.

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