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## OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Makerere takes a new approach to adult literacy education**

In a bid to improve the livelihoods of the non-literate rural poor, Makerere University has implemented an Action Research Project that is experimenting with a new approach to Adult Literacy Education. The new approach targets adult learners' daily reading and writing needs.

These needs are identified from the way in which the communities in which the literacy learners live use their reading and writing skills as they live their everyday lives. It is hoped that such an approach, which is based on the local communities using reading and writing skills will help learners to immediately apply their learning experiences to their day-to-day activities.

This £90,000 project, funded by DFID through the British Council Uganda Office under the Development Partnership in Higher Education (DePHE), will run for three years (2009-2012).

The second phase of this project will include publishing for "new readers". Under this phase, newspapers will be published in simple words and bigger fonts for new readers to get used to reading and develop a positive reading culture.

This collaboration project is between five (5) universities, Makerere University under the School of Distance and Lifelong learning being the lead University. The other four (4) are University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa and the Kings College London, and the Institute of Education London.

In addition to these five (5) universities there are three civil societies; Adult Education Association in Ethiopia, Uganda Adult Education Network in Uganda and Uppingham Seminars in Development in the UK.

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