



**REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. JOHN DDUMBA SSENTAMU AT THE LAUNCH CEREMONY OF THE RE-EQUIPPED COMPUTER LABORATORY AT THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES – MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014**

- Members of Makerere University Management
- The Leadership and Members of Staff of College of Natural Sciences
- All guests, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with pleasure that I officiate at the launch of this computer laboratory. Information and Computer Technology (ICT) has garnered increasing interest as a major tool and platform of learning globally. Universities the world over are repositioning themselves to serve the increasing number of learners and demand for off-campus based study and research.

One may ask why computers and e-learning are important for higher education. These interactive technologies support many different types of capability including: internet access to digital versions of materials unavailable locally; interactive diagnostic or adaptive tutorials; personalised information and guidance for learning support; simulations or models of scientific systems; communications tools for collaboration with other students and teachers; tools for creativity and design; virtual reality environments for development and manipulation; data analysis, modelling or organisation tools and applications and many more.

We must appreciate that with the abounding resource constraints, ICT is a tool to alleviate some of the problems that we face as an institution alongside our mission to remain a leader in the region as a research led university. ICTs are **information rich** offering both staff and learners access to anywhere, anytime “information rich” resources. Computers can augment traditional classroom offerings, thereby freeing up valuable resources and expanding the offering to greater numbers of campus-based students.

As University management, we are working on providing better working conditions and facilities for teaching staff so that they can serve and support the University to produce the next generation and support further innovations. We also recognise that with the increasing population of students, 50 computers do not satisfy the demand but this is only a start and more is required. As we look forward to the implementation of the Government of Uganda AfDB V support to the Higher Education Science and technology project; we remain hopeful that the expected infrastructure developments shall be realised.

I take this opportunity to thank the leadership of the College of Natural Sciences for this initiative. It is my hope that the laboratory will serve its intended purpose of contributing to teaching and learning in the College.

I hereby declare this computer laboratory open. WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.