

**SPEECH BY THE CHANCELLOR MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, AT THE
OCCASION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE STAKEHOLDERS'
FORUM AND EXHIBITION, July 30, 2014**

- **The Representative of the Honorable Minister of Education and Sports**
- **Members of Parliament and Representatives from Government Agencies**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps**
- **Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development**
- **Members, Makerere University Council**
- **The Vice Chancellor, Makerere University**
- **Vice Chancellors from Sister Universities**
- **Representatives from Our Development Partners**
- **Chairperson and Members of the Board of Trustees, Makerere University Endowment Fund**
- **Chairperson and Members of the Board of Directors, Makerere University Holding Company**
- **Members of University Administration**
- **Colleagues from Other Universities**
- **Makerere University Staff and Students**
- **The Media Fraternity**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

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Since 1922, Makerere University has positioned itself at the forefront of human capital development for Uganda, the greater East African Region, and in some instances the world at large. At this time with the recent marking of a half century of independence, and just over 25 years to the 2040 which Uganda's current Vision holds as its milestone, the need for Makerere University to play a deliberate and conscious role in national development is greater than ever.

There is need for the University to focus on its contribution to positioning Uganda to enable its transforming into a developed country within a generation in various spheres - from Education, Agriculture, Industry, Health, Law and Science, among others.

Clearly, Uganda has the potential to address its domestic needs and meet the needs of its citizens in the future: what is needed is ideological clarity, leadership, planning and commitment to move beyond potential to actualization. Our future as a nation depends on this.

The Presidential Initiative for Science and Technology at Makerere University is an intervention intended towards this end that has resulted in several Food Prototypes, and the Kiira EV Project that is reportedly moving into an industry amongst others. The Food Technology and Business Incubation Centre has graduated students who have started enterprises producing a combined 30 different products, being marketed in some of the biggest supermarket chains in Kampala. The demand for some of the products is above the capacity of Incubator processing lines and the University looks to key stakeholders i.e. the Government and private sector to invest in these enterprises. These products have ready market; all they need is a push in the right direction.

Through SPEDA, at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity, Makerere University has embraced the principle of industrial and universal education throughout Uganda. On behalf of Makerere University, I would like to thank the Ministry of Education and Sports and Uganda National Council for Higher Education for endorsing several programmes under SPEDA whose goal is to empower youth to create their own employment; and appreciate the Government, Uganda Investment Authority and Uganda Development Corporation for the generous offer of 100 acres of land in the Jinja Industrial park, to Makerere University's Centre For Research in Transportation Technologies (CRTT).

In the same vein, the key role of the university's development partners in supporting a diverse research agenda at Makerere is appreciated. Uganda now has over 34 Universities where most of the lead academicians have been trained and nurtured by Makerere University.

Makerere University is committed to propelling the Technology Commercialization Process, the key ingredient for realization of Vision 2040. It is important to note that there is need for a holistic approach to supporting innovations from Ideation, R&D, Product Development, Market Development and Growth. Government needs to realize its central role in development and in this regard provide the necessary support to ensure the many ideas demonstrated at the Expo today come to fruition and realize enterprise growth, which will enhance local content at each stage of Technology Commercialization.

I must salute my colleagues who have set the pace of innovation and challenge them to guard these great concepts and see them through to profitable enterprises.

As We Build for the Future.