

**SPEECH BY THE VICE 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**
- **The Vice Chairperson – Hon. Irene Ovongi Odida and Members, Makerere University Council**
- **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**
- **My Colleagues in University Administration**
- **Colleagues from Other Universities**
- **Makerere University Staff and Students**
- **The Media Fraternity**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:** A very good morning to you all.

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I am privileged to welcome you to Makerere University this morning. I recognize the presence of each one of you in your various distinguished capacities. We thank you for your dedicated support to Makerere University.

Ladies and Gentlemen, today's Forum is a gathering of our key stakeholders, during which we will discuss and appraise the five [5] year Presidential Initiative project at Makerere University that started in 2010.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are aware, Makerere University is a strategic pillar to the Government of Uganda in terms of human resource capacity building.

Makerere University is a major source of various home-grown innovations and technologies that are contributing to the transformation of our society. Many of these ground-breaking innovations/technologies have been hatched through the Presidential Initiative Project, including the Kira EV.

We are here today because the Government of Uganda recognizes our efforts and supports our work, particularly through the Presidential Initiative for Science and Technology. To date, the Initiative has benefited research and innovations in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology, and the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity. The Initiative has specifically contributed to knowledge generation, innovations and knowledge transfer, student training and development of laboratory and research infrastructure.

The Presidential Initiative has indeed been a vital intervention at Makerere University. The various prototypes that are on exhibition in the Freedom Square are a result of our innovative projects and products. Some of these technologies have already been adopted by industry and rural communities while others are still a work in progress to make them industry ready. All these endeavours have significantly contributed to household incomes and improved livelihoods of thousands of people across the country. The skills development initiatives have contributed to creation of employment for youth. Another major outcome has been capacity development through skills acquisition and nurturing of a new breed of scientists that hold the candle for Uganda's development.

Our work through the Presidential Initiative has contributed to the enhancement of Makerere University's visibility and performance, thereby positioning Makerere University at the forefront of the global knowledge economy. I must also note that the Presidential Initiative has partly contributed to our favourable ranking. We are currently ranked in 7<sup>th</sup> position on the African Continent according to the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR).

Despite these successes, we continue to face several challenges, particularly the lack of adequate financing. We hope that the Government will continue funding this important Initiative.

As I conclude, I would like to appreciate the good work undertaken by the different researchers, administrators and stakeholders in implementation of the Presidential Initiative at Makerere University. On behalf of Makerere University, I extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of Uganda, through the line Ministries of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; and the Ministry of Education & Sports for facilitating this noble cause. I wish to thank the Organising Committee for the preparations and tireless efforts that have led to this event. Together, we are on our way to building a nation where home-grown innovations provide the vehicle for transformation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you once again for honouring our invitation to this important event. At this juncture, I would like to welcome Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, Deputy Vice Chancellor [Finance & Administration] to make his presentation on “*The Presidential Initiative on Science and Technology; Stimulus for Research and Innovations*”.

*We Build for the Future.*

Thank you.