



**SPEECH BY UGANDA'S MINISTER  
OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS**

**HON. JESSICA ALUPO**

**AT THE UONGOZI SUMMER SCHOOL  
2014 CLOSING CEREMONY**

**15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2014**

- **The High Commissioner of Rwanda in Uganda, H. E. Frank Mugambage, the Ambassador of Burundi in Uganda, H. E Jean Bosco Barege, the High Commissioner of Kenya in Uganda, H.E Geoffrey Okanga, and the High Commissioner of Tanzania in Uganda, H.E Dr. Ladislaus Komba**
- **The Vice Chancellor Makerere University, Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu**
- **The Vice Chancellors of the University of Dar es Salaam, University of Nairobi, the National University of Rwanda and the University of Burundi**
- **Members of Makerere University Management**
- **The Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Edward K. Kirumira**
- **The Chair, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Makerere University, Dr. Suzie Nansozi Muwanga**
- **Makerere University Staff and Students**
- **The Uongozi Summer School participants from Makerere University and sister Universities**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and gentlemen:**

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I am happy to join you this afternoon for the closing ceremony of the Uongozi Summer School 2014. My heartiest congratulations go out to all the 52 participants of the Uongozi School 2014 for successfully completing the programme. Today, the East African Uongozi Institute has not only imparted academic training but also life skills that will enable you to play an important role in shaping our society.

When you join the rest of us in nation-building, I urge you to demonstrate your newly acquired competence by giving the best of what you have acquired at this esteemed institution.

I also appeal to all who have participated in these training sessions to share this knowledge with others in our various countries who have not had the opportunity to participate in this kind of forum.

To the Management of the East African Uongozi Institute, participating universities, Ford Foundation and family members – these students would not be here today without your support, and as such I would also like to congratulate all of you and thank you for the good work you are doing to instill better leadership qualities among the youth.

The broader mission of the East African Uongozi Institute is to inspire and equip African leaders to realize their personal and collective potential to deliver sustainable solutions for African citizens. The Institute particularly works to instill leadership qualities and competencies among the next generation of East African leaders.

As we work towards regional integration, the East African Uongozi Institute and other institutions involved in such activities are very instrumental in fostering the spirit of brotherhood and sharing knowledge on a number of development issues. I therefore appeal to

Governments in the region to seriously support the activities of the Uongozi Institute and other institutions involved in this kind of work.

I am happy to announce that the Government of Uganda supports these and many others programmes aimed at improving leadership skills and livelihoods of youth in Uganda. One of such programmes is Skilling Uganda. Skilling Uganda is an ambitious reform programme aimed at overhauling the current system of Skills Development in Uganda. It outlines the framework for a modern, state of the art open system for skills development in the country.

With the approval of Cabinet and launching of the new Strategic Plan Skilling Uganda, the plan became a priority strategy for the Government of Uganda. The plan itself is aligned to the main National development policies and has five Key objectives to achieve:

- Increase the quality of skills provision
- Raise the economic relevance of Business Technical Vocational Education and Training (BTVET)BTVET;
- Provide equitable access to skills development
- Achieve greater organizational and management effectiveness in BTVET; and,
- Increase internal efficiency and resources available for BTVET.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda (represented by the Prime Minister) launched the Plan on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 at Jinja Vocational Institute and pledged maximum support to the programme.

The other programme is the Uganda Rural Fund. The Government of Uganda recognizes the fact that youth are a critical force in the development of any society. This programme is therefore aimed at empowering the youth to take charge of their destiny and become the forces of social change. They are introduced to activities that help them gain self-esteem, believe in themselves, gain analytical and decision making skills, and general life skills. This is critical to raising responsible children and to building a strong nation.

Further still, the Government of Uganda, through the wise guidance of our President introduced the Uganda Higher Education Students' Financing Board (HESFB); a fund intended to provide financing to Ugandan students who have qualified for higher education in recognized institutions of higher learning but are unable to support themselves financially. We are indeed appreciative.

I wish to thank Makerere University, particularly the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, for hosting the last session of the Uongozi Summer School 2014 and for helping the Government of Uganda identify platforms through which our youth can acquire skills aimed at fostering democracy and good governance.

Once again, congratulations to the East African Uongozi Institute on this joyous occasion, and to all the participants on your big day. With these few remarks, I wish you God's blessings and success in your future endeavors.