



**SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF MAKERERE
UNIVERSITY**

PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU

AT THE UONGOZI SCHOOL 2014

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2014

- **Our Chief Guest, The Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Maj. (rtd) Jessica Alupo**
- **The High Commissioner of Rwanda in Uganda, His Excellency Frank Mugambage and the Ambassador of Burundi in Uganda His Excellency Jean Bosco Barege**
- **The Vice Chancellors of the University of Dar es Salaam, University of Nairobi, the National University of Rwanda and the University of Burundi**
- **The Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University**
- **The Chair, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Makerere University**
- **All participants from Makerere University and sister Universities**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I warmly welcome you all to Makerere University, the oldest University in Eastern and Central Africa. I do recognize all our participants coming from abroad. Thank you for being part of this conference.

In a special way, allow me to welcome our Chief Guest, The Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Maj. (rtd) Jessica Alupo. Honourable Minister, we are greatly honored with your presence and we appreciate your continued dedication to the improvement of the education sector in Uganda. I sincerely acknowledge the presence of the High Commissioner of Rwanda in Uganda, His Excellency Frank Mugambage and the Ambassador of Burundi in Uganda, His Excellency Jean Bosco Barege. Thank you for honoring our invitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Makerere University is delighted to be part of this important forum, “**The Uongozi School 2014**”, which is convened to deliberate on matters of national importance; specifically leadership, national identity and democratization. It is exciting to note that Makerere University is hosting the activities of **Uongozi School 2014** at a time when we are emphasizing partnerships.

Partnerships and networking is one of our core functions. Our goal is to create an enabling environment for public and private interface in the promotion of education in a competitive setting. We would like to provide a partnership framework for assessment and utilization of university products in the value chain. Makerere University encourages cross-border partnerships and we are proud to be associated with the East African Uongozi Institute. I would like to thank the organizers for choosing a timely theme for this year’s Uongozi Institute. The theme of this year’s Uongozi School; “**African States, Competing Identities and Democratization,**” is important and very relevant at this time when many states on the African Continent are entangled in political, social and economic turmoil reinforced by a number of factors

including competing identities. Recent developments on the global stage prove that competing identities still remain a significant source of conflict.

Apart from competing identities, Africa faces other challenges, such as poverty, corruption, rapid urbanization, youth unemployment, gender inequality, food insecurity. Universities have a role to play in finding solutions to these problems and giving guidance on matters of national importance. Intellectuals must come on board to address these challenges. I am happy to note that a number of our staff are members of different advisory boards within and outside Uganda and have played a crucial role in influencing policies for our countries on the African Continent.

Our Guest of Honour, Makerere University appreciates conferences of this nature because they promote civic and intellectual qualities among the next generation of East African Leaders. These conferences foster a greater understanding of international development issues relating to Africa. I encourage the East African Uongozi Institute to continue organizing such conferences. I appeal you to engage as many youth as possible by extending this programme beyond the leading Universities in this region. The Youth are the leaders of tomorrow.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank all the organizers of this important event. I thank our development partners and in particular Ford Foundation, for sponsoring this conference.

Once again, you are most welcome to Makerere University, as We Build for the Future.