

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS AT THE MOU SIGNING CEREMONY
BETWEEN MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014, 3:00PM, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
MINISTER'S BOARDROOM**

- **THE PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF DEFENSE**
- **THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF DEFENSE FORCES**
- **THE COMMANDANT LAND FORCES**
- **THE COMMANDANT AIRFORCE**
- **THE COMMANDANT SPECIAL FORCES**
- **THE COMMANDANT SENIOR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE, KIMAKA**
- **OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS PRESENT**
- **COLLEAGUES FROM MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

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It is a pleasure for me to witness the formalization of the collaboration between Ministry of Defense and Makerere University. I am pleased to note that we have had a cordial working relationship with the UPDF for a long time and I am hopeful that today's event will further strengthen our collaboration for the benefit of our country.

I would like to sincerely thank the UPDF for assisting Makerere University to achieve her vision as well as our core functions namely *Teaching and Learning; Research and Innovations; Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and Networking.*

Makerere University is grateful to the Government of Uganda and particularly the Uganda Peoples Defense Forces and the Ministry of Defense, for allowing us to shape the Defense Policy of this country and also to participate in the professionalization of the UPDF. I recall in 2002, Makerere University was honored to participate in the Defense Review process. Three of our members of staff namely; *The Late Associate Professor Lakiidi Ochaya, Associate Professor Kasaija Apuuli and Professor Elijah Mushemeza* participated in the process.

Again in 2004, when the Senior Command and Staff College became functional, Makerere University was invited by the Commandant, Lt General Ivan Koreta, to participate in the teaching of some of the courses, particularly National and International Affairs.

Since that time, through the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, we have been able to execute this function with full dedication. Recently, the University was honored to have 300 officers of UPDF participate in a two week Agriculture Induction Training course.

It is important to note that although the focus has been in the area of national and international affairs, we have a lot of skills and knowledge in other fields beneficial to UPDF. These include *Management and Administrative Sciences, Research Methodology, Early Warning Systems and Disaster Management, ICT, Military Geosciences, Engineering and Economics*. We are prepared to share this knowledge with the UPDF.

Whereas today we are witnessing the signing of an MoU, involving the Ministry of Defense and Makerere University, particularly the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, we believe, the UPDF can partner with other Colleges as well. It can partner with the College of Natural Sciences in the area of Military Geosciences; it can partner with the College of Business and Management Sciences in Managerial and Administrative Sciences, it can partner with the College of Computing and Information Sciences in ICT and with the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology on matters relating to Military Engineering.

As I end my remarks, I would like to emphasize that this collaboration is beneficial to the two institutions; Makerere University and the UPDF. There are several Officers in the UPDF who have accumulated a lot of knowledge, expertise and experience, which can be shared with us at the University. Our academic programmes in MA Peace and Security Studies, MA International Relations and Diplomatic Studies can be enriched with support from the UPDF. I would like to encourage my colleagues from Makerere University to seek contribution from the UPDF whenever an opportunity arises.

Once again, I would like to thank the UPDF for partnering with Makerere University. On our part, I would like to assure you that Makerere University will fulfill its obligations as outlined in the MOU. I thank you.

We Build for the Future.

Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu
Vice Chancellor