



REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR,

PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA SSENTAMU,

**DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND
INFORMATION SCIENCES OPEN DAY AT THE COLLEGE OF
COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SCIENCES ON 26TH MARCH, 2015**

AT 2:00PM

- The Guest of Honour
- Members of the Diplomatic community
- Representatives of Government Departments and Agencies
- Members of Staff of the College of Computing and Information Sciences and Makerere University
- Students
- The Media
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of Makerere University, I thank you all for gracing this occasion and making it very meaningful to our students and us a University. I have the pleasure to warmly welcome our Chief Guest. I also recognise the presence of other dignitaries in our midst. It is wonderful to see that this launch has generated such interest and attracted such wonderful guests. Your presence shows the passion you have for young people in Uganda.

Today, we are gathered here to celebrate the achievements of our students and staff members who have worked tirelessly with the help of their lecturers to display ideas on how they can help solve some of this country's challenges. These innovations being displayed here today in the pertinent sectors of health, education, agriculture, climate change and business highlight the fact that social and technological advances are at the heart of our academic, skills development and research agenda as a University.

Ladies and gentlemen, whether we like it or not, our world is now immersed with new technology every day and we now have to reimagine the future where it is an integral component of our

development agenda. That is why I am excited about the theme of this event and its relevance to this country's future.

As a University, when we say our theme for this event is **CoCIS Connect: From Invention to Innovation**, we are pledging our support and allegiance to the government and the country at large that we shall help you attain the social transformation and development status that befits this country.

We have focused on availing high quality learning and teaching resources, and are trying to improve the quality of the learning environment and services to all our stakeholders. This will go a long way in improving the research status of our nation. Today, we are also using this opportunity to mentor the youth, especially the females still in secondary school so that they too can adopt sciences and participate in this new development discourse.

The spirit of innovation and resilience exhibited by these students here today highlights their entrepreneurial acumen which we as a university are trying to instil in them in order for them to be able to create employment for themselves. Guest of honour, in order for us to produce more of these innovations and tomorrow's leaders, we need support from the government and our development partners. Our infrastructure is still wanting, the staffing levels are also low and funding inadequate. We appreciate the support the government has given to support research like in the College of Design, Fine Art and Technology, but we also pray that other science units like this College of Computing and Information Sciences will too be supported.

Thank you very much for honouring this invitation and I now take the opportunity to invite Guest of honour