



**REMARKS BY
PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU, VICE CHANCELLOR-
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, AT THE CERTIFICATE AWARDS CEREMONY**

ON

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 2015

RUKONI SUB-COUNTY, NTUNGAMO DISTRICT

I warmly welcome you all to this ceremony where we celebrate the diffusion of knowledge, power of partnership as well as the involvement of communities for the common good. I welcome H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni-President of the Republic of Uganda and Visitor of Makerere University to this important celebration. In the same spirit, I equally welcome the First Lady, Hon. Janet Kataha Museveni who is also the Patron of the Ntungamo Transformation Initiative.

I thank the Government for its continuous funding and support to Makerere University. We are happy that the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity has continued to grow with support from the Presidential Initiative on Science and Technology. Your Excellency, thank you for being an advocate for the advancement of the veterinary professionals and services!

I heartily congratulate the 143 awardees for demonstrating a high level of commitment during the training. This is indeed special not only for the people of Ntungamo district, but for the country as a whole.

Makerere University has maintained her position as a research-led University with more ground breaking research within the country, across the region and competitively on the global scale. I am happy to note that all our research initiatives aim at finding solutions to the problems pressing society and they are in line with our strategic focus. Makerere University is undoubtedly on the right path to establishing herself as the regional research and innovations hub.

We are no longer resting in the proximities of an ivory tower but instead steadily shifting towards taking the university to the people. I am proud that today, we are witnessing this special ceremony at Rukoni Sub-county in Ntungamo district. This is a clear demonstration of our commitment as a University to teaching and learning, research and innovations as well as community engagement and outreach.

When Makerere University transformed into a collegiate university, the colleges were encouraged to harness the benefits that accrue from synergies and strategic partnerships. This would lead to centres of excellence in the different colleges. I am happy to report that the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal resources and Biosecurity has lived to this expectation through the SPEDA educational, using the AFRISA partnership platform. This innovative model has presented a platform through which Makerere University has been able to drive transformative skills, knowledge and innovations directly into the communities.

We are strongly convinced that Makerere University can only succeed if we partner with communities, the public and private sectors. We therefore value the partnership with Ntungamo Transformative partnership. I am happy to note that both political and religious leaders are involved in this programme given the crucial role they play in community mobilization and empowerment.

I commend the staff of AFRISA-Makerere University for diligently doing their part which has resulted into profitable enterprises. I also thank all those who have supported the awardees in whatever way to ensure that they successfully completed their studies.

And to the awardees, it is my hope and prayer that you will strive to gain more knowledge by enrolling at a higher level. I also urge you to make use of the networks that you have formed during the training and nurturing period to further advance your enterprises into more profitable ventures.

We Build for Future

Professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University