



**REMARKS BY
PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA SSENTAMU, VICE CHANCELLOR-
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, AT THE 4th INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND HEALTH IN AFRICA**

ON

THURSDAY 18TH JUNE 2015

KAMPALA

- The Director USAID-Mission, Kampala;
- The Director of Animal Resources, MAAIF (Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries);
- The American and African Partnership Directors, CIMTRADZ (Capacity building in Integrated Management of trans boundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses);
- Distinguished Professors, Researchers and Focal Persons from all the partnering universities;
- Representatives from the various organisations present;
- Makerere University members of staff;
- Students;
- Ladies and Gentlemen

With great pleasure, I am honoured to address you today at the opening of this scientific meeting hosted by one of our constituent colleges; the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity. I recognize all the various institutions that are represented here and I warmly welcome all the delegates from those universities and other stakeholder organisations to this 4th International Scientific Meeting on Sustainable Livelihoods and health in Africa.

The African continent continues to grapple with issues of disease, war and famine, all of which have contributed to poor livelihoods and health among our people.

In Africa and the world over, animals are vital in the promotion of sustainable livelihoods in low-income countries due to their potential to reduce poverty and ensure food security for individuals, families and communities at large.

Makerere University therefore recognizes the importance of this scientific meeting that has brought together researchers from America and the African region to look into ways of achieving health and livelihoods that are sustainable among our populations.

Having been spearheaded by the Veterinary College, who are considered the custodians of the animal kingdom, it is without a doubt that the importance of animals shall not be ignored as we forge a way forward. I am also pleased to note that the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries is also represented in this meeting, an indicator that pertinent issues concerning animal health shall be tackled effectively.

The role that Universities play in promoting sustainable livelihoods and health cannot be ignored. This is because these higher institutions of learning are a pool of vast amounts of knowledge and innovations relevant to bringing about positive change in our communities. Not only is academic excellence a mandate for universities, but this should go hand in hand with innovations in order to realize impact. The knowledge we generate, must translate into practical solutions to existing challenges. Our curricula must be revised regularly to meet current developmental challenges, if universities are to remain relevant to the communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, at Makerere University, we seek to provide innovative teaching, learning, research and services responsive to national and global needs. But the question is, "how can we respond to these needs if we don't know what they are?" That is why it is very important for Universities to fill the gap between themselves and the communities. Communities have the challenges that we at the Universities are seeking to solve and at the same time, the solutions lie within the same communities. Through these interactions, our people shall be empowered with knowledge that will enable them make informed decisions on very critical issues concerning their lives

Our strategic plan of 2008-2018 stresses the importance of knowledge transfer and through such meetings, we are able to learn from each other and network to promote common goals. I am confident that the various findings that shall be disseminated during the course of this meeting, will go

a long way in enriching your already existing knowledge and provide guidance for future endeavors.

Partnerships provide us with unique resources and benefits and it is through working together that we can deliver better results. That is why Makerere University prides itself in partnerships because over time, we have realized their potential especially in regards to providing the capacity to achieve what we may not otherwise have achieved.

Through partnerships, Makerere University has realized several benefits among which are;

- applied research opportunities
- additional funding schemes
- establishment of facilities
- professional knowledge input into our academic programs
- industrial placements for our students and
- graduate employment opportunities, to mention but a few.

I am therefore grateful to all our partners here, both in the government and private sector and the educational institutions. Let us continue to work together to drive transformative skills, knowledge and enterprises into society.

Our appreciation also goes to Higher Education for Development and USAID for their generous support to Makerere University over the years.

I urge my colleagues at Makerere to continue seeking and nurturing partnerships, conduct research and come up with innovations, which are relevant to the needs of our society so that we can continue to build for the future.

I thank you all for your attention.

