

SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AT THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL HEAD TEACHERS' AND MANAGERS' CONFERENCE AND TRAINING WORKSHOP, 1- 2 JUNE 2015.

- **The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports**
- **Representatives from Government departments and authorities**
- **School Head Teachers and Managers**
- **Members of the Makerere University Community**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am privileged to welcome you all to Makerere University this morning. I recognise the presence of each one of you in your various distinguished capacities and thank you for your dedicated service in improving Uganda's Education system. Allow me to welcome in a special way, Dr Rose Nassali Lukwago, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports. We are most honoured by your presence at this event and thank you for being part of this initiative.

Makerere University has a longstanding commitment to engaging with and serving our communities for national development. Through our Knowledge transfer partnerships and networking mandate, we aim to create an enabling environment for public and private interface in the promotion of education and knowledge transfer. We reach out to the communities and seek their involvement in coming up with programmes that best address their needs. This means working together and sharing ideas, knowledge and expertise on a number of critical issues.

The College of Education and External Studies as the premier teacher training institution in Uganda, has identified the need to regularly engage Head Teachers and School Managers through capacity building, sensitization and school management update forums.

Prospective and practicing school managers have a responsibility to maintain their knowledge of current practices in their field. The expanding knowledge base and the increasing complexity of the school leader's role make professional development a necessity, not a luxury.

As a leader in education today, it is important to take time out to reflect, reconnect and re-energize. This conference gives you, as school managers, an opportunity to interact and bring your understanding of current issues in national education up to speed. Within every school there are examples of best practice, invaluable expertise and great leadership, however, each school has areas that need improvement. Through such forums, schools together with Makerere University are able to work collaboratively in order to improve the quality of our education system.

The exchanges that will take place here are important, not just to the participants, but to the entire nation. Education reforms such as the proposed lower secondary curriculum will be discussed. We are indeed proud as Makerere University to be a forefront stakeholder in the mission to reform Uganda's education system geared towards achieving the Uganda Vision 2040.

The College of Education and External Studies has provided expert advice in the areas of content, approach and assessment of the

curriculum to make it more relevant in producing graduates who are able to participate in the technology-driven global economy.

The College is also working to ensure that the teacher retooling programme for all in-service teachers and the new teacher education curriculum for pre-service teachers are designed adequately to ensure that appropriate pedagogy for skills and competence development are included.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have much confidence that this conference will generate a wealth of information and approaches to transforming schools into effective teaching and learning environments.

Once again you are most welcome to Makerere University.

We Build for the Future.