

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR

PROF. JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU

AT THE

KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE EVENT

11TH SEPT 2015

MAIN HALL

- The Prime Minister of Uganda, Right Honourable Ruhakana Rugunda
- The Inspector General of Police, Gen. Kale Kayihura
- The Patron Knowledge for Life, Gen. Elly Tumwine
- Members of Staff of Makerere University
- The Students' Guild
- Invited guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon to you all.

I take this opportunity to welcome you our Chief Guest the Right Honourable Prime Minister and leader of Government business upon this, your first official visit to Makerere University your alma mater. May I also take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate you upon your appointment as Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda. Makerere University is proud of your outstanding achievements and indeed contribution to this country and we wish you a fruitful term in office.

I equally welcome all the other guests here present to Makerere University and in particular to this Main hall. As you might be aware, this hall has a rich history of vibrant intellectual debate ranging from the 1960s, an era referred to as the golden period, right through to the 1970s, 80s and indeed to date. Throughout all these years, this debate and indeed Makerere has been at the centre of shaping and influencing national policy. I am therefore delighted that we are increasingly reclaiming our space of shaping key issues of policy through constructive debate.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, allow me to slightly divert off the gist of today's talk and extend my sincere appreciation and indeed that of the Management of

Makerere University for your timely intervention that helped to amicably resolve the August 2015 industrial action by non-teaching staff. Your diplomatic approach and your ongoing efforts to see that the key issues agreed upon in bringing to an end the concern of salary increment are much appreciated. For this and so much more, we thank you.

Today we are gathered here for the cause of knowledge enhancement for the young generation. The core functions of Makerere University are: Teaching and Learning, Research and Innovations; Knowledge transfer partnerships and networking. We have managed to keep our coveted number one position in the country and the region because we have remained open to innovative ways of conducting our aforementioned core functions.

I have been briefed that the knowledge for life dialogues, which are intended as annual events, have an embedded component to enhance teaching and learning of students. I am happy to learn that these dialogues will present a platform for students to share knowledge on a wide variety of issues including entrepreneurship, security, environmental, ICT, creativity and morals. We commend this initiative and sincerely hope that students will make the best use of these dialogues to broaden their knowledge and skills as is targeted.

Makerere University is open to new frontiers of knowledge as a way of keeping us forever burgeoning with fresh ideas that help us break new ground in research and innovations. I therefore take this opportunity to extend my gratitude and that of Makerere University to all those who have made this dialogue possible.

I wish you a fruitful event as *We build for the future.*