

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

**SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR JOHN
DDUMBA-SSENTAMU**

**AT THE VISIT OF THE GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER
TO MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015, 4:30 PM,

MAIN HALL

- The Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Frank Walter Steinmeier
 - The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E Dr. Peter Blomeyer
 - The DAAD President
 - The Entire delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany
 - Members of Staff and the entire Makerere University Community
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
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I recognize each one of you and Good evening to you all. I warmly welcome you to Makerere University. In a special way, I welcome the Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Frank Walter to Makerere University.

May I take this opportunity to sincerely appreciate the support your country has extended to Makerere University, especially through the German Academic Exchange Service in-country scholarships. Through these scholarships, Makerere University has built capacity of both Staff and students. We thank you.

We have also continued to enjoy exchange programmes for both Staff and students, which have been instrumental in cementing our relationship. I further thank the Germany Embassy for sending us a new DAAD representative, who in addition to her official duties has volunteered to teach German here at Makerere University. I must point out that Makerere University is open to more avenues of collaboration with your country.

The core functions of Makerere University are *Teaching and Learning, Research and Innovations, Partnerships and Networking*. These serve to fulfill our vision '*To be the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa.*' We are very grateful for the support from Germany which has been instrumental in achieving our core functions.

Makerere University is pleased to host this dialogue on Population Growth: Chance or Curse for the Economy.' This is indeed a timely discussion in relation to Uganda. Our country has one of high population growth rates, standing at 3%.

We are aware that population growth has both positive and negative consequences. We know that an increasing population growth rate can benefit the development process through increase of labour supply, wider market, increased investment, and increased revenue.

On the other hand, a growing population growth rate can lead to negative consequences including low capital accumulation, unemployment leading to political instability, environmental threats, inflation, balance of payment problems, poverty and dependence, excessive government expenditure on social services and threats to international security including the problem of migrants seeking to move into more stable and prosperous areas.

I am quite positive that this panel discussion is going to deepen our understanding of these issues with a view of informing policy directives for National development. As an academic institution, this panel discussion will certainly open new areas for further research. I therefore wish you fruitful deliberations as '*We build for the future.*'