MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU

AT THE VISIT OF THE KING OF TOORO TO MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015, 2:00 PM,

MAIN HALL

- Your Majesty, the Omukama of Tooro, Rukirabasaija Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV
- The Queen Mother, Her Majesty Best Kemigisha
- Princess Elizabeth Bagaya
- The Rt. Hon. Bernard Tungakwo Ateenyi, Omuhikirwa of Tooro Kingdom
- Distinguished Officials from Tooro kingdom
- Makerere University Community
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome you all to Makerere University and to this occasion, which is both unique and historic. In a special way, I welcome our Chief Guest, the Omukama of Tooro Kingdom, Rukirabasaija Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, on his first official visit to Makerere University. It has been long overdue. Thank you for honoring this occasion with your presence, following invitation by the Tooro students' community at Makerere University. Your Majesty, you have been and continue to be an inspiration to the youth because of your focused leadership.

As an academic institution, Makerere University has a critical role in shaping this nation by training professionals and opening their minds to the bigger world ahead. We have managed to do this excellently since 1922 and have maintained a desired position as a leading institution in the country and the region.

As a research-led university, our continuous interaction with the Community is important because it leads us closer to unlimited inventions and innovations, to directly impact society. Makerere University continues to pride in the fact that our research, education and innovations are more relevant to our communities more so in transforming their livelihoods. We strive to ensure that our research and teaching/learning are mutually reinforcing towards our mission "*to provide innovative teaching, learning, research and services responsive to national and global needs*". In order to achieve this goal, we recognise that knowledge transfer partnerships and networking are critical.

Your Majesty, we therefore welcome the initiative of Tooro Kingdom to work with Makerere University in skilling Ugandans and are pleased to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with your Kingdom. The main objective of the MoU is to partner with your Kingdom to enhance each other's areas of interest and development in order to stimulate growth of each party and contribute to societal transformation and national development.

Makerere University shall execute this partnership through the School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bio-Engineering to start with. Your Majesty, I have been informed that you would like to come back at a later date and visit more Colleges within Makerere University in order to establish further areas of collaboration. Your Majesty, you are most welcome.

We have no doubt that this partnership will be outstanding and successful in several ways partly because of the involvement of students and the wide range of opportunities that both our institutions can explore. You have put aside everything today to oversee the start of our collaboration. We thank you.

May I take this opportunity to thank the School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bio-Engineering for ensuring that Makerere University kick-starts this collaboration with Tooro Kingdom. I also thank the Makerere University Tooro Students Association (MUTOSA) and all the other teams involved in organising this visit. Your efforts have not been in vain.

I further thank Tooro kingdom for choosing Makerere University to be its partner. Your Majesty, I can assure you that Makerere University will endeavor to make our collaboration a fruitful one.

Once again, I welcome Your Majesty, Rukirabasaija Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV to Makerere University. I thank you.

Omukama Ahangirize!