

**REMARKS BY PROF. JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU, VICE CHANCELLOR OF
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF SIGNING A SPECIFIC RESEARCH SUPPORT
AGREEMENT BETWEEN MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AND SIDA
NOVEMBER 3, 2015**

- **The Hon. Minister of State for Higher Education, Science and Technology**
- **Your Excellency the Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda**
- **My Colleagues, Vice Chancellors of Partnering Public Universities**
- **Deputy Vice Chancellors of all Partnering Public Universities**
- **The First Secretary for Research Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden in Uganda**
- **The Director of Research and Graduate Training, Makerere University**
- **Members of Management of Partnering Public Universities**
- **Principals, Deans & Directors**
- **Research Team Leaders and Programme Coordinators**
- **Ladies & Gentlemen:**

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I am pleased to join you this afternoon on this occasion of the official signing of the new cooperation agreement between Uganda and Sweden, with particular focus on continued research support to Makerere University for the period 2015-2020. Since 2000 when this collaboration started, Makerere University has gone through three phases of support, and the third one has just ended this October. During the 15-year period, we have successfully trained 210 PhDs, 95 Masters graduates and 20 post-doctoral fellows.

To-date, the Swedish Government has supported learning and research at Makerere University to a tune of US\$ 73 million, which comprises a great proportion of research funding at the University. Sida support has played a fundamental role in strengthening our capacity to deliver our core functions, which are *Teaching and Learning, Research and Innovations* and *Partnerships and Networking*. I wish therefore to extend our sincere gratitude to the Royal Government of Sweden for your continued support.

The previous phases put strong emphasis on capacity building at PhD & Masters levels as well as the research and training environment including library resources, ICT and laboratory infrastructure. The support benefited the Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; Humanities and Social Sciences; Health Sciences; and Engineering, Design, Art and Technology. Support was further extended for strengthening the University Main Library and the Directorate for ICT Support.

The new phase for the period 2015-2020 is expected to strengthen and deepen the achievements of the previous phases while taking a multi-disciplinary approach. This will include 17 teams/projects comprising researchers and scholars from both Uganda and Sweden, whose work will be based on mutual understanding of our shared vision of strengthening research and training as central forces towards socio-economic development.

In this new phase, we will work with the public universities of Gulu, Busitema, Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Kyambogo as well as several Swedish institutions towards building a body of experts that will formulate problems and create knowledge to suit our different contexts. In total, 125 PhDs, 147 Masters students and 65 post-doctoral fellows will be supported.

Makerere University is fully committed to ensuring success of the new phase and we look forward to an exciting period of new ideas and innovations.

I wish to thank the different groups and people that were involved in the process leading to this moment. I extend special thanks to H.E. Urban Andersson and your team at the Swedish Embassy including Dr. Katri Pohjolainen Yap and Dr. Susanne Spets, for your continued support to Makerere University. Through you, we thank the Government and People of Sweden for sharing our vision to transform our nations through higher education.

I further thank all the researchers and scholars whose efforts have yielded the new cooperation agreement and wish you success as you undertake the various activities as programmed. Special thanks go to the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training at Makerere University, led by Prof. Mukadasi Buyinza, for your central role in all these efforts. Makerere University is proud of your achievements thus far and we hope for continued success. I cannot forget to appreciate the Government of Uganda for creating an enabling environment for all these engagements.

In conclusion, I would like to renew the commitment of Makerere University to successful implementation of the new cooperation agreement 2015-2020, in collaboration with the participating local public universities and Swedish institutions. Mr. Ambassador Sir, I would like to assure you that Makerere University will ensure optimal and appropriate utilisation of the resources as well as timely implementation of all activities.

I thank you.