

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

OPENING REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU, AT THE ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING OF THE MAKERERE/SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (SIDA) RESEARCH COOPERATION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2016, MAIN HALL

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- **Our Chief Guest, The Hon. Minister of Science and Technology**
- **Your Excellency The Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda**
- **Officials from the Swedish Embassy in Kampala**
- **My Colleagues, Vice Chancellors of Partnering Public Universities**
- **Deputy Vice Chancellors of all Partnering Public Universities**
- **Members of Management, Makerere University**
- **The Director of Research and Graduate Training, Makerere University**
- **Principals, Deans & Directors**
- **Research Team Leaders and Programme Coordinators**
- **Distinguished Guests in your Respective Capacities**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:** Good morning and welcome to Makerere University for this year's Annual Review Meeting of the Makerere/Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) Research Cooperation. Thank you all for honouring our invitation.

I would like to welcome our Guest of Honour, the Hon. Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye. Thank you for honouring our invitation.

In a special way, I take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire Makerere University community, to warmly welcome the new Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda.

This is your first official visit and function at Makerere University. You are most welcome and we look forward to fruitful and cordial relations.

This Annual Review Meeting symbolises the nature and character of the relationship between Makerere University and the Royal Government and People of Sweden. It is an opportunity to take stock of our performance within our agreement for joint research cooperation.

Makerere University and Uganda in general have enjoyed and continue to benefit from the generosity of the Royal Government of Sweden in the areas of capacity building, research, library services, information technology and infrastructural development.

The Swedish support has played a fundamental role in strengthening our capacity to deliver our core functions, which are *Teaching and Learning, Research and Innovations and Knowledge transfer Partnerships and Networking*. This support has indeed greatly contributed to our visibility and status. I wish therefore, on behalf of Makerere University, to extend our sincere gratitude to the Royal Government of Sweden for this continued support.

During the current agreement period (2015-2020), we are committed to strengthening and deepening the achievements of the previous phases while taking a multi-disciplinary approach. We are happy that the current agreement has facilitated collaboration with other public universities including Kyambogo, Busitema, Gulu and Mbarara University of Science and Technology. We are equally happy to partner with several Swedish institutions and together, we are working towards building a body of experts that will formulate problems and create knowledge to suit our different contexts.

The support to the four public universities is channeled through Makerere University. 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. Your Excellency, 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 wish to thank the different groups and people involved in this research cooperation for your efforts and commitment to knowledge generation for development. We wish you success as you undertake the various activities as programmed.

I extend special thanks to H.E. The Ambassador and your team at the Swedish Embassy, 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 would like to appreciate the Government of Uganda for creating an enabling environment for all these engagements and for having agreed to this continued research cooperation.

Special thanks go to the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training at Makerere University, led by Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi, for your central role in all these efforts. Makerere University is proud of your achievements thus far and we hope for continued success.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you are once again most welcome to this Annual Review Meeting of the Makerere/Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) Research Cooperation. I would like to renew the commitment of Makerere University to successful implementation of the current cooperation agreement 2015-2020, in collaboration with the participating local public universities and Swedish institutions.

We Build for the Future.

I thank you.