

**Draft Vice Chancellor's Speech for the Launch of I@Mak.com
Supported Publications, 11th December 2009**

The Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, Prof. Apolo Nsibambi

Honourable Minister for Relief and Disaster Preparedness, Prof. Tarsis Kabwegyere

Honourable State Ministers for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry

Hon. Chairperson and members of Makerere University's Council

Distinguished Politicians

Commissioners Present

Makerere University Management Officials

Senate Members, Deans, Directors, Principals and Heads of Departments of
Makerere

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you all for honouring this function at which 19 new books from Makerere University will be launched. We are very pleased as a University to be able to generate research outputs in a usable manner, for the public. You are all perhaps aware that Makerere University has a vibrant research culture, driven by a multidisciplinary Research Agenda. The Research Agenda is modeled against the National Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), with the basic aim of linking new knowledge and information from the University to relevant policy making bodies and the public.

Two of the goals of the University as set in the new strategic plan 2008/09-2018/9 include; i) *To consolidate and enhance the research profile of Makerere University*, and ii) *To enhance transformation, and utilisation of knowledge, research and innovations*. Both these goals are in tandem with the Research Agenda as they emphasise the importance of research, and especially as a conduit for solutions to societal challenges and needs.

It therefore brings us pride to be here today, celebrating a tangible outcome that echoes one of the key functions of the University's strategic plan, which is *Research and Innovations*. Most of the books that will be launched are a result of research work undertaken by University staff that has been applied in a number of ways through trainings and full implementation by Principal Investigators.

We are grateful to the Publications Board of the Innovations at Makerere Committee (I@Mak.com) for supporting realisation of a key goal of the University's strategic plan. We hope that other research projects within the University can also take on the challenge of continuing with this much needed service of publishing research outputs. This would undoubtedly give full thrust to the mission of our university, to provide innovative teaching, learning, research and services responsive to National and Global needs.

A number of you may also be aware that the University has for some time now been engaged in a process to revive its Publishing Press. I@Mak.com has been and continues to be of support in this process. Currently, a number of units are involved in numerous research projects and produce regular field specific publications in the form of Journals especially. I@Mak.com also introduced a multidisciplinary Journal in 2006, the *Makerere University Research Journal (MURJ)*, which has published various scientific research papers by staff from Makerere and other Universities.

It is hoped that the revitalized Makerere University Press will pool together all various research work within all units for better visibility and management. We must recall that besides all else, a University exists to generate new knowledge and innovations, which should not remain within our midst. It must be adequately disseminated through publication. To publish is therefore an ultimate expectation from an Institution of Higher Learning. I therefore encourage us all to make use of all opportunities to avail as much information as possible to the public.

I now take the pleasure to request the Chairperson of Council to give a few remarks before inviting the Chief Guest to officially launch the books. Thank you once again for joining us today.