

**REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES AT THE  
OCCASION OF SIGNING A SPECIFIC RESEARCH SUPPORT AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AND SIDA, 18<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2010.**

The Minister of State for Primary Education

Your Excellency, Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda

Ag Vice Chancellor

Deputy Vice Chancellors

Members of Management

Deans & Directors

Coordinators of Programmes,

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am pleased to see that we are here to sign an agreement for continued research support to Makerere which started in 2000. Makerere University has gone through two phases of support; phase two having ended in December 2009.

The previous two phases put strong emphasis on Capacity building (PhD & Master training) and the environment for research (Field site, Library resources & ICT Infrastructure, Cross Cutting biomedical laboratory and geographical Information System laboratory). A total of 300 million SEK (37.5 million dollars) was invested in the two phases to benefit the Faculties of Agriculture, Social Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Technology, Library, DICTS, Arts (Mass communication department) and the rest of the university in certain aspects.

Previous phases of support have:

1. strengthened the position of Makerere as a leading provider of Science education and research;
2. enabled the development of Centers of excellence in health, agriculture, technology and social sciences;

3. Contributed to the modernisation of Makerere through ICT & Library Services;
4. Improved the quality of academic staff and graduates through PhD training, improving capacity to supervise, to conduct research and publish.
5. Contributed to Uganda's Capacity to attain most MDGs
6. Reduced the degree of brain drain.

Preparation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase started with an invitation to Makerere to submit a concept - 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008. The concept was submitted on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and following its assessment, a call for a full proposal was sent to Makerere. Many units were involved and developed proposals which were assessed first internally and later externally. The areas to be supported in Phase three were selected by an international group of assessors, so the selected proposals were very good in as far as the science was concerned and also in line with Swedish development objectives.

The third phase of support (Jan 2010 - June 2010) will strengthen and deepen the achievements already made. In addition new faculties/units have come on board (Arts, Vet Medicine, and Quality assurance); it will involve Capacity building for other public universities of Gulu, Busitema, MUST and Kyambogo. In order to keep recent PhD graduates engaged in research and supervision, a provision has been made for competitive research funds.

By the end of 2014, Makerere has committed itself to the following outcomes:

1. Increased use of research outputs, technologies and innovations to contribute to national development;
2. Increased Capacity to undertake research, generate and use new knowledge;

3. Increased number of PhDs and Master's degree holders trained at Makerere and employed by other public universities & other government agencies/organization;
4. A robust research management system meeting presided standards;
5. Research networks established and functioning;
6. Increased Capacity in research grants management & research funding received by Makerere.
7. An enabling environment for carrying out Quality research.

In order to attain these outcomes, Makerere commits itself to apply key principles of human rights based approach in its operations, namely transparency, accountability, participation and non – discrimination. We look forward to an exciting 4½ years.

I wish to thank different groups & people that were involved in preparing documents and proposals for this phase. A lot of work went into this.

I also wish to thank Dr. Cristina de Cavalho for all the work she has done to come to this stage. I thank the University administration for the support, the government and People of Sweden for this substantial funding the Government of Uganda, NRM Administration, for creating an enabling environment where all this is happening.

*We build for the future & for God and Our Country.*