

**SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, PROF
VENANCIOUS BARYAMUREEBA, AS CHIEF GUEST AT THE LAUNCH OF
THE UGANDA DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION CENTRE (UDIC) AT THE
ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE (EPRC) OFFICES ON 2nd
MARCH, 2010**

Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

The World Bank Country Manager,

The Chairperson, EPRC Board of Management,

The Executive Director, EPRC

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honoured by the invitation from the World Bank Country Manager and the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) Executive Director to preside over the launch of the Uganda Development Information Centre (UDIC).

This launch is a culmination of talks and negotiations between the EPRC and World Bank leadership on how the EPRC Documentation and Library Centre could be updated and augmented, and on behalf of Makerere University, I would like to congratulate the EPRC, on this new partnership.

As Researchers, academicians and development partners often need to come up with a common agenda on how to tackle development problems, the EPRC; a well-known independent and internationally recognized "think tank" through UDIC will provide a favourable atmosphere to make this a reality.

Therefore, the decision to house the UDIC at the EPRC will be extremely beneficial to the host of academicians, researchers, students and seekers of knowledge, who call Makerere University home, as well as anyone else trying to access the World Bank's Public Information Centre. The fountain of knowledge, facts and figures and opinions as well as theories on development are now almost at your door step. I would like to encourage the academicians, students, researchers and the general public to take advantage and make maximum use of the UDIC facilities.

The UDIC at the EPRC will not be exclusively for EPRC or Makerere University. Other researchers from elsewhere will be welcome to use these facilities to the

maximum. When you visit the UDIC, do not hesitate to call at the offices of the EPRC researchers to initiate dialogue in your research work.

No one can dispute the fact that knowledge is power. Knowledge from books, journals, reference books, the mass media and institutions of learning play a big role in empowering our people, enlightening them, liberating them, motivating them and even developing them materially and intellectually.

The University in its ten-year strategic plan has decided to shift from teacher **centered** instruction to **learner centered** pedagogy in order to produce graduates with problem solving skills and reflective ability, to place more premium on research. Therefore, I would like to appeal to all actors and actresses in the education system, including parents, to inculcate a reading culture among the young people. There is no way we can achieve any meaningful and lasting development unless we become committed to reading, whether at a training institution or outside it.

Let me conclude by quoting a famous English philosopher and writer, Francis Bacon. He said. "Reading maketh Man; writing a better man; and conversation the best man". The Holy Bible also states: "Tell me what company you keep, and I will tell you what you are".

What reading materials are you keeping company with?

What computer search engine are you consulting everyday?

Are you hooked on the Face Book or Twitter? This is the way to go.

It gives me great pleasure and honour therefore, to declare the UDIC officially launched, as we go ahead to build for the future.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY