

Danish Ambassador Nathalia Feinberg's speech at the commissioning of the new School of Pharmacy, Makerere University, Tuesday 23rd November 2010.

Hon. Minister of Health

The Chairperson and members of Makerere University Council

Vice Chancellor and Members of Makerere University Management

The Principal, College of Health Sciences

Staff of the College of Health Sciences

Students and all invited Guests

Thank you for inviting me to attend the commissioning of this new School of Pharmacy building. Last month I was privileged to participate in the commissioning of three nurse training schools in different parts of the country and today, I am privileged to be here at Makerere University.

Uganda has made important progress towards fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals in terms of reducing the proportion of people living below the poverty line, improving access to safe and clean water, increasing access to treatment for people living with HIV/AIDs, primary school enrolment, etc. However, challenges persist in the areas of

primary school completion rates, maternal and infant mortality and other related indicators.

Human resource development has been one of the core components of Denmark's support to the health sector over the past two decades and our major interest in this area has been premised on our strong belief that having skilled staff, particularly in rural under-served areas of the country, will go a long way in helping Uganda achieve the Millennium Development Goals and many of the Health Sector output and outcome targets.

Whatever improvements are made in medicines' financing and procurement; as long as there is a lack of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, the health sector goal of ensuring the availability of adequate quantities of essential medicines and health supplies required for delivery of the National Minimum Health Care Package cannot be met.

In this respect, while we have been working hard to ensure that there is good quality and affordable medicines in the health sector through setting up the medicines credit line and strengthening the National Medical Stores' capacity to procure, store and distribute medicines; we have also been building this school to ensure that the appropriate man-

power to support the set-up of ensuring medicines availability is provided in adequate numbers.

So in order to account for all this investment, I hope that we are going to see more pharmacists and pharmacy technicians being trained. It is my sincere hope that you use these facilities well and profitably for the benefit of the people of Uganda.

With these few remarks, let me reiterate my pleasure again at the good work done at the School of Pharmacy and Makerere University. I am very pleased that we are contributing to addressing the enormous human resource for health constraints being faced by Uganda.

Thank you for listening to me!