

REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR AT THE NILE BASIN RESEARCH PROGRAMME BOOKS' LAUNCH, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY – 9TH APRIL 2010

Our Chief Guest, the Minister of State for Environment, Honourable Jessica Eriyo representing the Minister of Water and Environment

Your Excellencies, The Ambassadors

Representatives of Government Departments and Authorities

Representatives of UN Missions and Non-governmental Organisation

Vice Chancellors of Other Universities

My colleagues in the University Management, Deans and Directors

Our Development Partners

Members of Civil Society Organisations

Members of the Private Sector

Guests from the Nile Basin Initiative

Researchers and Scholars

Makerere University Community

Distinguished Guests

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It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this centre of excellence to celebrate the fruits of what we, as an institution are proud to be associated with: that is the regional partnership and networking under the Nile Basin Research Programme (NBRP). This programme aims at informing the process of reaching an agreement on how best the resources of the great River Nile can be shared by the ten Nile Basin

countries. It is being achieved by producing a knowledge base bank through research, writing and publishing as it is partners in various countries across the region and help mentor junior researchers. Indeed, it is such a great opportunity to be party to this books' launch.

Through researcher exchanges across higher institutions in different countries, the NBRP mainly supports collaborative writing and publishing. These pertinent issues are in line with Makerere University's mandate to increase research output and adopt knowledge transfer partnerships. Our association with NBRP is therefore very important, as it shows and further confirms Makerere University's continued commitment to networking and building partnerships in the region and internationally. This is good for us as it further increases Makerere's visibility and ranking, at international level.

As a University, we are proud that out of the ten Countries in the Nile basin and 54 senior top researchers, Makerere is favoured with 8 researchers on water – the highest number from any single institution in the region. These include full time members of staff from the faculties of Arts, Social Sciences, Forestry, Agriculture, and Technology, who have benefited from the research programme in the last 4 years. We are extremely grateful to the Norwegian Government for funding this programme and the University of Bergen for the wonderful hospitality.

I'll end by challenging all young researchers in the region and especially at this great institution to double their research, writing and publishing efforts as NBRP enters its second phase. This will lend credence to NBRP as a source of information for the Nile Basin Initiative. Lets not fulfil the old Luganda adage which literally translated reads 'being near the lake is not to eat much fish'. Let us instead, being near the lake eat as much fish by utilising all the opportunities that come with the programme as '*We build for the future*'.

Thank you.