

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
NEEDS ASSESSMENT DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP, WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2010,
IMPERIAL ROYALE HOTEL

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Makerere University Management

The Principal, Makerere University College of Health Sciences

Deans of Schools in the College of Health Sciences

Our development partners particularly Johns Hopkins University and Bill and Melinda Gates

Distinguished Stakeholders

Ladies and Gentlemen
.....

It gives me great pleasure to see us gathered here today to participate in the Makerere University College of Health Sciences Needs Assessment Dissemination Workshop.

This workshop is focused on informing and guiding a 10 year strategic initiative to build Makerere University's sustainable capacity to improve health outcomes in Uganda and the region. However, we can only meaningfully achieve this strategic goal by thoroughly examining '*Where we are*' and '*Where we want to be.*' According to Robert H. Rouda & Mitchell E. Kusy, '*A Needs Assessment is a systematic exploration of the way things are and the way they should be.*' Needs Assessment informs and guides strategic planning and prioritization of institutional needs. I therefore pay tribute to Makerere University-Johns Hopkins University (MUJHU) team for undertaking a two year project to conduct a Needs Assessment for the Makerere University College of Health Sciences.

This Needs Assessment is critical, appropriate and timely. The College of Health Sciences is our **first Constituent College**; and the University Management looks forward to significant key outcomes in research; innovations; improved service delivery; knowledge transfer partnerships and networking; internationalization; gender mainstreaming practices; and effective utilization of resources. I therefore commend the College of Health Sciences for

embracing this best practice. I also thank our partners from the Johns Hopkins University and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for supporting Makerere University in this endeavor.

I am equally touched that the project is focused on strengthening strategic partnership with Government. To this effect, the project is undertaking a multi disciplinary, comprehensive needs assessment that will target the strategic priority areas already defined by the Uganda Government's Health Sector Strategic Plan as well as inform and lead to the development of the 10 year strategic plan for the Makerere University College of Health Sciences.

It is gratifying to note that the participants have been drawn from the relevant stakeholders in the health sector. This is the most appropriate forum to share the findings of the Needs Assessment for it presents opportunities for informed and experience based feedback.

I therefore take this opportunity to request you all to participate actively during this workshop. I am confident that your participation will feed into the vision of the College, *"to be a transformational institution that influences individuals, organizations and society to improve health outcomes in Uganda and the region by strengthening its relevance, innovation and quality of teaching, research and service."*

It is now my pleasant duty to **declare** the Makerere University College of Health Sciences Needs Assessment Dissemination Workshop **officially open** as we build for the future.

Sincerely: Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, Acting Vice Chancellor, MAK