

**REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR AT THE LAUNCH OF THE POSTGRADUATE  
DIPLOMA IN GENDER AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & 7<sup>TH</sup> JARD, IMPERIAL  
ROYALE HOTEL, 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011**

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Distinguished Officials of the JARD,  
Local Government Leaders,  
Development Partners  
Stakeholders in the Diploma Course on Gender and Local Economic Development,  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
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It gives me great pleasure to be a part of the launch of the Postgraduate Diploma in Gender and Local Economic Development. Local Economic Development is aimed at improving household incomes as a means of creating a stronger and taxable revenue and economic base. Therefore, launching this course during the course of the 7<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Review on Decentralization (JARD) is indeed a great honour to Makerere University.

We are grateful to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development as well as Ministry of Local Government, for having selected Makerere University to plan and implement this course. We appreciate the financial support and advisory services on review of content for the Diploma, as provided by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the UN Joint Programme on Gender and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The Post graduate Diploma on Gender and Local Economic Development course was designed to respond to various capacity needs that have been identified by practitioners and policy makers. In so doing, we are therefore addressing policy provisions in most of the countries in Africa, which need to ensure that gender is a key priority in national development. Gender and livelihoods, rights, governance as well as gender and macro-economic management, have become key priority components at policy and programme levels. Planning and implementation of these components promotes Local Economic Development, which requires capacity building for actors to integrate gender in macro-economic aspects, institutional strengthening and regulatory environment.

The needs and benefits of development to women as well as men should be taken into consideration as they participate in trade, formal employment and labour markets. There is also need for gender responsive planning, as well as implementation and monitoring of development policies, programmes and institutions that contribute to gender equality and empowerment of women at national and international levels.

I have noted that this course recognizes the need for development planning at national, district, community and institutional levels, and takes into consideration the implication of such planning on gender needs, roles, power relations and interests of the population. Students of this course will therefore be able to apply gender mainstreaming tools and practices that do not only deal with equal opportunities and recognition of differences, but also emphasizes gender for transformation.

I congratulate the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Department of Women and Gender Studies as well as other units in the University, which have worked on formulation of the course content, and planned for its implementation. Makerere University as well as this forum of JARD, government and private sector, should look forward to effective impacts obtained from this course not only at national and district level but also in the international arena.

Makerere University identified gender mainstreaming as one of the issues of a crosscutting nature that impact directly on its activities. This course is therefore one of the true indicators of Makerere University's commitment to remain relevant to societal needs by strengthening skills and knowledge that enhances social inclusiveness, gender equality and empowerment of women.

I call upon all stakeholders in the Local Government as well as other sectors to promote this course. As witnesses to today's launch, you are true advocates, armed with the knowledge necessary to encourage all those who can apply and study to do so and thereby improve their skill sets.

Through this course, Makerere University contributes to implementation of national policies and strategies, as outlined by the National Gender Policy, the National Development Plan and other policy and strategy provisions at national level. It is our role to support and strengthen decentralization efforts and local governments in ways that can improve basic service delivery, gender policies and action plans through supporting gender responsive Local economic development.

The development and implementation of appropriate policies and strategies as a link between gender and local economic development has become more critical than ever before. I therefore believe that the launch of this course is not only justifiable but also timely.

I hereby declare the Postgraduate Diploma on Gender and Local Economic Development launched.