

**WELCOME REMARKS**

**BY**

**PROFESSOR VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY ON THE OCCASION OF SAMSS REPORT  
LAUNCH**

**MAIN HALL, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

**1400HRS**

- **The Honourable Minister for Education and Sports, Geraldine Namirembe Bitamazire**
- **The Chancellor, Makerere University, Prof. Mondo Kagonyera**
- **Members of management, Deans and Directors present**
- **Representatives of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**
- **Representative of the Sub-Saharan African Medical School Study Advisory Committee**
- **The Secretariats of the participating institutions**
- **Distinguished Colleagues from our various Universities**
- **Students, Ladies and Gentlemen**

.....

On behalf of Makerere University, I warmly welcome you all to the launch of the *Sub-Saharan African Medical Schools Study Research report*, that tackles an issue that is not only faced with enormous challenges here in Africa, but is also significant for the development of the African continent – Health.

The Makerere University Community is indeed honoured that each and every distinguished personality present here has taken time off their extremely busy schedules to attend this launch. I anticipate that today's discussion on how we can improve on health education will develop the health sector and eventually do away with the high internal and external brain drain that our countries continue to face.

As an institution of higher learning, we believe that we have the power to find solutions to emerging development challenges. The Makerere University Management is committed to establishing centres of academic excellence in particular disciplines. It is our strategic focus to see to it that the Makerere University College of Health Sciences continues to be a centre of academic excellence in health and medical education. I am therefore happy to note that the Makerere University School of Medicine is one of the schools that

participated in the Sub-Saharan African Medical Schools study (SAMSS). And with the overall participation of the College of Health Sciences, we believe that the knowledge in this report will better our curriculum and teaching practices, further inform the problem based learning approach, and enhance the Community Based Education and Service (COBES) programme.

It is our hope therefore, that this meeting will serve as a rallying call for national governments to pay more attention to the crisis in medical education, and invest more resources in training the next generation of health professionals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank The African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation and the George Washington University for commissioning this report – this report is a major step in the right direction.

I wish all the participants a lively exchange of ideas during this public lecture.

**Sincerely: Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, Acting Vice Chancellor**