

**SPEECH BY PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA, VICE-CHANCELLOR,
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AT THE DR MATTHEW LUKWIYA AWARD AND
CERTIFICATE GIVING CEREMONY FOR THE MUSPH-CDC HIV/AIDS
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AT HOTEL AFRICANA, MARCH 26TH, 2010**

The Director, CDC

The Principal, Makerere University College of Health Sciences,

The Dean, Makerere University School of Public Health

Host Institutions

Mentors

Fellows

Ladies and Gentlemen

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It is a pleasure and honor for me to join you at this final Dissemination Workshop for the Makerere University School of Public Health-CDC HIV/AIDS Fellowship Program. This is an inspiring moment for all stakeholders involved in the struggle to improve the welfare and development of our people, particularly through the promotion of health care.

Uganda has been hailed as a rare success story in the fight against HIV and AIDS, with H.E. Yoweri Museveni, the President of Republic of Uganda, playing a leading role in this fight. Both governmental and non-governmental organizations joined the struggle, and by 2005, HIV prevalence had fallen to 6%, down from 18% a decade earlier. There are fears, however, that the HIV infection rate in Uganda is on the rise, calling for an increased focus on prevention of new infections, particularly among married couples.

Building the capacity of the health workforce in program leadership and management enhances their ability to manage HIV/AIDS programs effectively and efficiently. Makerere University is elated that one of its very own - Makerere University School of Public Health championed this capacity building endeavor in Africa and we do recognize and applaud this initiative.

The Fellowship Program embraces the multi-sectoral approach to fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic by taking on individuals from varied professional backgrounds and attaching them to organizations involved in crosscutting HIV/AIDS activities. This Program, one of a kind in the African region, emphasizes hands-on training through partnering with other institutions, thereby enabling a practical approach to program leadership and management training in Uganda.

I am grateful to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) for their contribution towards the success of the Program. I am also grateful to the Host institutions for the opportunity to host Fellows, for guiding and mentoring them. Support provided by the academic mentors is also duly acknowledged and appreciated. I call upon CDC and other donors to help us sustain this very useful program for many more years to come and wish to assure you of our continued support for the MUSPH-CDC HIV/AIDS Fellowship Program, as we build for the future.

Thank you for your attention.