

**REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, PROF
VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA, AT THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING
FOUNDATION (ACBF) GRANT SIGNING CEREMONY AT THE ECONOMIC
POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE (EPRC) OFFICES, 26TH JULY, 2010**

The Chairperson, EPRC Board of Management,

The Executive Director, EPRC

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am once again humbled by the invitation by the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) Executive Director to give a few remarks at this grant signing ceremony between the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and EPRC.

On March 2nd 2010, I was privileged to preside over the launch of the Uganda Development Information Centre (UDIC), and the fact that we are gathered here again to witness yet another groundbreaking event is testimony to remarkable work being done here at the EPRC.

Grant provision is an important component of the ACBF's capacity building interventions. This financial support to capacity building strengthens the core public sector and its interface with the private sector and civil society. Additionally, it supports regional initiatives in the areas of specialized training, policy analysis, applied policy research, negotiation and policy advocacy.

The EPRC is a well-known independent and internationally recognized "think tank", which was designed to fill fundamental voids in economics research, policy analysis, and capacity building. We would like to thank the ACBF for recognizing this need and providing the seed grant, which enabled the EPRC to commence activities in 1994. Today, the EPRC is an effective in-country contributor to Uganda's policy processes.

Therefore, this grant signing ceremony is not only a reiteration of the ACBF's commitment to strengthen capacity for economic policy analysis and management, but also a vote of confidence in the EPRC's Mission to continue ***"Fostering sustainable growth and development of the Ugandan Economy through the advancement of research-based knowledge and applied policy analysis."***

I would like to conclude by thanking the Government of Uganda and the ACBF for the sustained core institutional grants, which have provided a lifeline for the EPRC's contributions to the delivery of research evidence on economic challenges facing Uganda and the African continent. I would also like to thank the Executive Director and her Management team for the phenomenal work done at EPRC. As the Makerere University community, we are proud of your achievements and wish you all the best, as we go ahead to build for the future.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY