

**REMARKS FOR THE VICE CHANCELLOR AT THE SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AND KENYA UTALII COLLEGE, KENYA, 16TH JUNE 2010,
COUNCIL ROOM, MAIN BUILDING.**

- Members of University Management present
- The Principal, Kenya Utalii College and your team
- The Dean, Faculty of Arts
- Members of Staff in the Department of Geography
- The Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome you all to yet another historic occasion when Makerere University is signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Kenya Utalii College, a certified tourism and hospitality training college affiliated to the University of Nairobi.

Tourism is the fastest growing economic sector in the world and it has become a source of growth and diversification, which in the right circumstances, can contribute effectively to economic development. However, various tourism statistical reports show that Africa still remains a very minor tourism region with the global market totally dominated by Europe. It is also true that the sector in Africa still operates below international competitive standards.

Uganda's tourism sector is growing very fast and it is now a priority sector as per the National Development Plan. However, Uganda's tourism sector competitiveness regionally and globally is still low compared to Kenya.

To this effect, Makerere University's academic leadership role has always been central to economic development and providing quality education and creating awareness geared towards proving the desired human capital is imperative. Makerere University believes that the real source of growth and competitive advantage rests in a well trained and enabled population at all levels. Many of our graduates are assisting our country and your businesses to achieve the desired growth and competitiveness and we continue to enable them to do so in various ways such as continuous curriculum revision, Guest Lectures, Industrial training and entering partnership and will enlarge their opportunities and their competitiveness in the labour markets world wide.

The decision to partner with Kenya Utalii College is part of the above quality improvement agenda. A Partnership which focuses on Kenya Utalii College's regional leadership role in training and Makerere University's research leadership is indeed important and timely. We have also been informed that you will work with us on the United Nations World Tourism Organization regional programme for Africa where Makerere University Bachelor of Tourism Management programme has been earmarked for TEQUAL Certification and support.

It is my hope that what we have planned to do together will benefit our two institutions with our students and industry at the centre. I believe we will be able to strengthen the competitiveness of tourism and hospitality enterprises and education in our two countries and the East African Region as we build for the future.

Sincerely: Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, Ag. Vice Chancellor, Makerere University