

OPENING REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR
ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING OF THE MAKERERE & SWEDISH
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (SIDA) RESEARCH COOPERATION
18TH NOVEMBER 2013

- Your Excellency, Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda
- Members of Swedish Embassy in Kampala
- My Colleagues in the University Administration
- The Director and Staff of the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training
- Principals, Deans and Directors
- Researchers and Mentors and Research Managers
- Ladies and Gentlemen: Good morning and you are most welcome to Makerere University.

I welcome you all to this year's Annual Review Meeting, an event organised to share and take stock of our performance as per the agreed research undertaking. As you might be aware, Makerere University is the oldest premier Institution, producing high-performing graduates, who are innovative, and responsive to the development challenges at national and regional levels.

I wish to thank the Royal Swedish Embassy in Uganda for honouring Makerere University by holding this joint Review Meeting every year. We acknowledge and appreciate the significance of this Annual Review Meeting, which also symbolises the nature and character of the relationship between Makerere University and the Royal Government and People of Sweden.

Makerere University and Uganda in general have enjoyed and continue to benefit from the generosity of the Royal Government of Sweden in the areas of human resources capacity building, research, library services/information technology and infrastructural development.

This support has been monumental and critical to the realisation of our core functions of teaching and learning, research and innovations, and partnerships and networking. A number of our staff have received PhD training through Sida funding. I am happy to report that since 2000 when our cooperation began, over 150 people have completed PhDs and over 30 have completed masters degrees.

The support has greatly improved the research culture of the University. I must say that many proposals are now being funded both in the basic and social sciences. Publications have greatly increased. This achievement is partly due to the support from Sida.

Sida support has also contributed to the enhancement of centres of excellence in waste management, health systems research, and renewable energy research, among others.

With support from Sida and other development partners, we have been able to improve library services. The library provides up to date information, not only to Makerere University but also to the entire country. Internet services have greatly improved throughout the whole university. I invite you to visit our Library as well as other facilities.

Through Sida support, Makerere University has been able to establish strong collaborations with leading universities including those from Sweden. We have learnt best practices from these universities and we have also benefitted from joint supervision, which has ensured high quality of our graduates.

Despite these achievements, the University still faces a number of challenges. These include among others, inadequate infrastructure, inadequate research funding, about half of our academic staff lack PhD training, poor staff welfare, a high student-staff ratio, lack of a university press and lack of adequate facilities for students including a students centre.

I am aware that the Sida phase III will come to an end in 2014 and Makerere University has already submitted a Concept Note for the consideration for possible continued support beyond 2014.

I look forward to continued support to Makerere University for the mutual benefit of our people, AS WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

Once again, I welcome you to Makerere University and wish you fruitful deliberations in the days ahead.