



**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**  
**OPENING REMARKS BY PROF. BARNABAS NAWANGWE**  
**THE VICE CHANCELLOR**  
**ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING OF THE MAK&SIDA RESEARCH COOPERATION**  
**Monday 2<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

*Theme “Multidisciplinary Research for Social Transformation”*

- Your Excellency, the Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda
- Members of Swedish Embassy in Kampala
- Members of University Council
- My Colleagues, the Vice-Chancellors of Partnering Public Universities
- Members of Management
- Principals, Deans & Directors
- Principal Investigators and Programme Coordinators
- Ladies and Gentlemen:

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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 undertakings. I wish to thank the Royal Swedish Embassy in Uganda for honouring Makerere University by choosing us to host this joint Review Meeting every year.

We acknowledge and appreciate the significance of this Annual Review Meeting, which symbolises the warm nature 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.

Over the past 16 years of collaboration, the Swedish government has invested to the tune of US\$ 73 million into Uganda's graduate training and scientific environments in the public universities – the main recipient being Makerere University. The Swedish support has played a fundamental role in strengthening our capacity to deliver our core functions, which are Teaching and Learning, Research and Innovations and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and Networking. I wish therefore to extend our sincere gratitude to the Royal Government of Sweden for your continued support.

The previous phases put strong emphasis on capacity building at PhD & Masters levels as well as the research and training environment including library resources, ICT and laboratory infrastructure. During the 15-year period, we have successfully trained 210 PhDs, 95 Masters Graduates and 20 post-doctoral fellows.

During the new cooperation agreement period 2015-2020, we are committed to consolidating the achievements of the previous phases while taking a multi-disciplinary approach. The current research collaboration includes Makerere University, Kyambogo, Busitema, Gulu and Mbarara University of Science and Technology in partnership with the eleven Swedish institutions, towards building a body of experts that will formulate problems and create knowledge to suit our different contexts. The support to the other four regional public universities is channeled through Makerere University.

For the last two years of programme implementation, 16 research Teams comprising researchers and scholars from both Uganda and Sweden, have implemented and shared their vision of strengthening research and training as central pillar towards socio-economic development.

I am pleased to note that as part of the specific agreement with the Government of Sweden, we have recruited 125 PhD students, 147 Masters students, and 65 post-doctoral fellows from all five public universities. I am delighted to report that all the 337 university staff recruited under this agreement are progressing with their research training. These scholarships for graduate training and institutional support bring the Swedish contribution to US\$32 million over the five year cooperation period, 2015 - 2020.

Makerere University is fully committed to ensuring the success of this cooperation phase and we look forward to an exciting period of new ideas and innovations.

I wish to thank the different groups and people that were involved in the process leading to this moment. I extend special thanks to His Excellency the Ambassador and your team at the Swedish Embassy, for your continued support to Makerere University. Through you, we thank the Government and People of Sweden for sharing our desire to transform our nations through higher education.

I further thank all the Principal Investigators, researchers and scholars whose efforts have yielded phenomenal accomplishments during this new cooperation agreement. I wish you continued success as you undertake the various activities as programmed.

I sincerely appreciate the Government of Uganda for creating an enabling environment for all these engagements. Special thanks go to the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training at Makerere University, led by Prof. Buyinza, for your central role in all these efforts. Makerere University is proud of your achievements thus far and we hope for continued success.

In conclusion, I would like to renew the commitment of Makerere University to successful implementation of the current cooperation

agreement 2015-2020, in collaboration with the participating local public universities and Swedish institutions. Your Excellency, I would like to assure you that Makerere University will optimally and appropriately utilise the allocated resources as well as ensure timely implementation of all activities.

I look forward to our continued cordial and mutually beneficial collaboration as together, WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

I thank you.