



**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE TRAINING**

**OPENING REMARKS
BY
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MAKERERE CONTACT PERSON FOR ALLIANCE FOR AFRICAN PARTNERSHIPS
(AAP)**

TOWN HALL MEETING, TUESDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2020

- The AAP Advisory Board Chair, Hon. Thelma Awori
- The AAP Director for Africa, Prof Richard Mkandawire
- The AAP Regional Coordinator, Prof Isaac Minde
- MSU Representatives, Dr. John Bonnell and Dr. Kate of BHEARD Project
- The AAP Grantees working in Ugandan institutions
- Partners from collaborating regional Universities
- My Colleagues in the University Administration
- Faculty and Students at Makerere University
- Ladies and Gentlemen

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Distinguished guests, a warm welcome to the Makerere University Alliance for African Partnerships (AAP) Town Hall meeting 2019.

I extend to you all our warmest welcome especially to those who travelled long distance to our lovely city, Kampala. It is our privilege and honor to welcome our guest from Michigan State University (MSU) and Representative of AAP and all delegates. I also recognize the presence of each and every one of you in your various distinguished capacities.

Let me begin by talking about football, which I'm sure is a topic that you weren't thinking would come up today, but one that I'm sure many of you enjoy talking about. On Saturday 16th November 2019, Uganda trounced Malawi, a fellow partner in AAP!!

Since the game is over I can now discuss our strategy – We used the Barcelona’s “**Tika-Taka**” strategy which comprised of strategic passes and formations that the opponent team couldn’t predict. Players communicated with each other and emphasized “we” rather than “I,” paving the way for Collective Intelligence in football. Three key values are extracted here— shared vision, flexible role, and active communication.

Dear Friends, the world is changing. Africa is changing. So we must evolve and improve the way we work with partners. Through the AAP, we seek to co-create a new model of mutually beneficial collaboration that will not only help us take on today's problems, but better prepare us for tomorrow's challenges as well.

In this regard, I am overjoyed that MSU is here to continue the co-creation process in a participatory surrounding the AAP’s priority areas of Agri-food systems, Water, Energy and Environment, Culture, Youth Empowerment, Education, Health and Nutrition. These are indeed the key focus of our National Development Plan III.

We should not forget that over the years, MSU has been successful in developing many meaningful and productive partnerships with Makerere University, and we have tremendous opportunity to expand on that foundation.

Secondly and most importantly, MSU’s land-grant values provide us with a solid framework as we adapt to the changes that are happening in the region. Building on decades of engagement in Africa, MSU through AAP will develop a collaborative and cross-disciplinary platform to join our efforts to addressing challenges on the continent.

The AAP Consortium is currently composed of ten member institutions: Michigan State University and ten African universities (Egerton University – Kenya; Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) – Malawi; Makerere University – Uganda; University of Dar es Salaam – Tanzania; Unviersite Cheikh Anta Diop – Senegal; Universite des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Bamako – Mali; University of Botswana – Botswana; Unversity of Nigeria, Nsukka – Nigeria; and University of Pretoria - South Africa).

The AAP is aimed at developing a collaborative and cross-disciplinary platform for addressing today’s global challenges. The Alliance promotes innovative modes of collaborative research and partnership with African institutions to address emerging challenges in today's world. The Alliance will innovate new models of engagement for shared research, while enhancing the resources and capacities of African universities, institutions and scholars.

I am well aware that the intent of the AAP is not only to deepen existing partnerships, but also to develop new partnerships, bring in new teams, encourage new researchers, and seek new funding sources. This Alliance calls for integration across disciplines as well as regions.

We plan to use today's Town Hall meeting to: Update our Community on AAP information; allow you to ask us questions and we shall give you feedback; collectively share and understand the goals and values of AAP.

Without being shy, I should expressly declare my personal interest in this meeting. I wish to learn more about how U.S. universities—and MSU in particular—can develop and sustain relationships that are policy relevant, based on mutual trust and respect, and go beyond individual projects or faculty!!,

At Makerere, we know that MSU has a rich history of engagement in Africa that traces back more than a half-century. Today, MSU has more than 60 active research and development projects with African partners, including work in food, agriculture, health, and education. MSU has the leading and largest faculty engaged in Africa-related research, offers more Africa-related courses, and conducts more development work in Africa than any other university in the United States.

However, Africa and its place in the world—and by extension the nature of the relationships between us and MSU —is rapidly shifting. Today, sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 15% of the world's population and is projected to quadruple to 4 billion people by 2100. African affairs will increasingly affect other areas of the world—economically, politically, demographically, and culturally. Much of Africa is experiencing urbanization, impressive agricultural dynamism, rapidly changing food systems and diets, and shifts in the labor force into growing non-farm economies. We need the skill to anticipate and respond proactively to these trends.

Generally, the meeting provides an opportunity to celebrate the successes; discuss the key metrics here including the Key Performance Indicators since inception of AAP. We plan to hold regular all-hands meetings as a great way to reinforce the organization's culture and values. In a more broad sense, these town hall meetings shall be our educational vehicle where we shall reinforce the things that every staff at Makerere University should know.

In conclusion, let me emphasise that the pursuit and promotion of AAP will accelerate human development in Africa, and is central to achieving the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 on the African continent.

Let me assure you of Makerere University's commitment to work with MSU to ensure that emergence and the benefits it brings become a reality across the continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen, at this juncture, I would like to welcome the Vice-Chancellor,

Professor Barnabas Nawangwe to make his remarks and Open this Meeting as **'WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE'**.

Thank you.