

**HoD, DLEC WELCOME REMARKS AT THE SIGNING OF MOU
BETWEEN MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AND YUNUS EMRE
INSTITUTE, TURKEY.**

The (Rep of) Turkish Ambassador to Uganda,
The Vice Chancellor, Prof Barnabas Nawangwe
The Vice President of Yunus Emre Institute
The Principal, CHUSS
Director, Directorate of Legal Affairs
My Dean,
HoDs present here
Dear Colleagues
Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to start by welcoming you to this event; thank you for responding to our invitation and finding time to be with us. I would also like to welcome the Turkish Delegation to Uganda, Makerere University and to the Department of Linguistics, English Language Studies and Communication Skills (DLEC) in particular.

The event we are witnessing today began a few years back around May-June 2019 when a delegation from Turkey visited our department to initiate a research and training collaboration. This collaboration was earlier on triggered by Dr. Hawa Kasule during her doctoral training in Turkey.

Thereafter, a back and forth engagement on the MoU started. In December 2019, my predecessor, Dr. Kabugo travelled to Ankara to further concretise the partnership.

As soon as we had almost finalised the MoU, Covid-19 set in and greatly hampered the process. We are glad that finally, we have been able to have the MoU in place, which is ready for signing today.

This collaboration, which will be coordinated by the Department of Linguistics, English Language Studies and Communication Skills, will among other things:

1. Exchanging academic members, researchers and students;

2. Supporting ongoing academic Programmes of MAK;
3. Enhancing existing fellowship Programmes;
4. Providing MAK students with assistance on the application process of scholarships given by the Turkish government and Turkish universities;
5. Developing joint courses, trainings and summer schools;
6. Providing Turkish language courses at MAK (in this regard, we hope to be the official Government of Uganda pre-travel training centre for Ugandans going to Turkey for labour); and
7. Developing joint industrial approaches and entrepreneurship Programmes

The department is grateful to the Vice Chancellor's office for the arrangements to realise this function. Mr Vice Chancellor, Sir, we thank you for availing your time to grace this occasion.

We would like to thank the Directorate of Legal Affairs that provided their professional knowledge on the drafts of the MoU and facilitating the signing of the MoU. Ms. Natukunda Phiona, thank you for bearing my numerous emails and calls.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Turkish Ambassador to Uganda, His Excellence Kerem Alp for his keen interest in this project. He has been at the forefront of this collaboration.

Mr. Emre Baykatar, I don't know how many times we have communicated on email! I know you are the anchor of this collaboration on the Turkish side. You have asked many questions and at times I would take a while to revert because I did not have readily available answers.

We are grateful to the Principal's office that equally facilitated the process. We thank Assoc. Prof. Kikooma who was in office when the first meeting with the Turkish Delegate took place. Thank you for encouraging us to forge ahead.

My Dean, you know how many times we have talked about this

collaboration and the efforts to have it see the light of the day. Thank you for your insightful ideas.

I would like to thank the faculty in my department who accepted to engage in this collaboration and providing ideas for the collaboration. Thank you, Dr. Bayiga and Dr. Hawa for setting aside time to organize this event. I am grateful to Dr. Kabugo Merit who dug the first trench.

Finally, we thank Dr. Hawa for being foresighted and giving birth to this idea when you were pursuing your studies in Turkey. You did not only bring back home a doctorate, but the whole of this academic, scientific and cultural cooperation and friendship that is beginning to walk today.

We have already had a consultation meeting on how the implementation of the MoU will unfold. There are still several issues that we need to resolve as get along, including accommodation for the tutor of Turkish lessons. We are still engaging the authorities on this.

As we build for the future.