



LEVERAGING 100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
IN BUILDING A TRANSFORMED SOCIETY

REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

PROF. BARNABAS NAWANGWE,

DURING THE SWEDEN – MAKERERE DAYS OF EXCELLENCE

VENUE: YUSUF LULE TEACHING FACILITY 2 - AUDITORIUM

DATE: THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2022, TIME: 9:00AM EAT

- **Members of Parliament here present,**
- **Other Government of the Republic of Uganda Officials,**
- **The Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden in Uganda H.E Ms. Maria Hakansson and your team,**
- **The Director General African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation, Mr. Bemanya Twebaze (Our Keynote Speaker),**
- **The Registrar General Uganda Registration Services Bureau, Ms. Marcy Kainobwiso and your team,**
- **Makerere University Management in attendance,**
- **All College Principals,**
- **School Deans,**
- **Heads of Departments here present,**
- **All the Makerere University Faculty and Students,**
- **Makerere University Grants Administration and Management Unit (GAMSU)**
- **Makerere University Grants Management Committee (GMC) Members,**
- **The Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (RIF) Secretariat,**
- **The Media**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning!

I welcome you all to Makerere University especially now as we continue to celebrate Makerere University @100. Specifically, thank you all for securing time to join us for the **Sweden-Makerere Days of Excellence**. It is a pleasure to continue bringing together several pertinent partners and stakeholders to Makerere University through such engagements. You are the reason why we have together continued to successfully build and serve a transformed society.

Speaking to today's theme, ***"20 years of cooperation: robust foundation for continued progress"***, Makerere University and Sweden have been in research cooperation for more than twenty years. Today, allow me to invite all of you to join in the celebration (in whatever way) of the distinct bond between Makerere and Sweden. Cheers to a long-continued fruit yielding cooperation between Makerere University and Sweden mainly because there are evident outputs from this cooperation, and many are yet to follow.

The Makerere University community is grateful for the Swedish research cooperation with Uganda which was initiated in 2000 mainly to support institutional research capacity strengthening. To date, there have been four consecutive research agreement periods with total support of about **Swedish Krona 824M (USD 118M)** spent right from the year 2000 to date. The main objective of the bilateral research cooperation has been to enhance the capacity of public higher education institutions to conduct and sustain strategic and high-quality research that will contribute to the development efforts of Uganda and beyond. This is largely through building a critical mass of independent, robust, and dynamic researchers. The programme was built around international research collaboration, principally with Swedish Universities.

Specifically, this programme aimed at supporting Makerere University towards its goal of becoming a vibrant, internationally competitive research university.

The Swedish support focussed on human resources capacity building, research, library services/ICT; scientific and field laboratories, academic quality assurance, gender mainstreaming, and institutional reform processes. Tremendous achievements have been recorded including creation of a conducive environment to enable scientists conduct high-quality and relevant research through investment in human resource development, ICT, library resources, laboratories, and field site infrastructure.

A highlight of Spin-offs from the recent research funding by the Sida Program from Sweden

- ◇ Graduates and researchers from the programme have built strong research teams working on diverse research projects. This model has been picked by the Government of the Republic of Uganda which is now funding research and innovations at Makerere University (with several partner engagements) through the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF). Several of these research teams are competing for grants from other agencies such as: the Carnegie Corporation of New York who have continued to fund Makerere University, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the NIH among others.
- ◇ The Makerere University (Department of Computer Science) through the BRIGHT project and MTN Uganda signed an MoU for a practical skills development course on MTN mobile money API use for research and innovations. A joint course was developed for this <https://muele.mak.ac.ug/course/view.php?id=1865>
- ◇ The College of ICT established connections with University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, University of Rwanda, University of Montreal, Canada; University of Cairo, Egypt; in Software Engineering and made a joint publication with Uganda's Ministry of ICT.
- ◇ The Department of Computer Science with Kampala City Council Authority and National Environmental Management Authority have worked together to develop & deploy low-cost air quality monitors (conducted a joint air quality awareness with US Embassy Kampala in 2018).
- ◇ The Makerere University Centre for Population Research (MUCHAP) project has had collaborations with partners both local and international. Notably, is the infrastructural support from Pfizer International that has funded the building of a field-based laboratory as well as Funding from several initiatives including the Swedish Research Council.

Ladies and gentlemen, the list is long, more is yet to come through and this is evidence enough that there is power in collaboration. Makerere University is grateful for the continued collaboration with Sweden and all the other stakeholders. We remain open

to such collaborations which are supporting our efforts towards becoming a research led institution.

I now take this opportunity to invite Her Excellency the Ambassador of Sweden in Uganda to speak to us.

Thank you.

'We Build for the Future' 'For God and My Country'

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