

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. BENSON BANA, THE ACADEMIC  
CORDINATOR, UONGOZI SCHOOL AT THE OPENING OF THE EAST  
AFRICAN 2014 UONGOZI SCHOOL SESSIONS AT MAKERERE  
UNIVERSITY, SENATE BUILDING UPPER HALL ON 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUS, 2014**

The Distinguished Guest of Honour- Honourable Major (rtd.) Jessica Rose Epel Alupo (MP), Minister for Education and Sports, Republic of Uganda,

Honourable Mr. Alfred Masikye Namoah, Academic Registrar, representing Professor John Ddumba Ssentamu, The Vice Chancellor, Makerere University;

Mr. Maurice Odhiambo Makoloo, Representative of the Ford Foundation for East Africa

Dr. Suzie Nansozi Muwanga, Head, Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Dr. Deogratias Rugaimukamu Uongozi School Programme Administrator;  
Uongozi School Participants 2014;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Good morning.**

Please allow me to first and foremost welcome you all to this important formal opening of the Uongozi Summer School 2014. Let me thank most profoundly our distinguished Guest of Honour, ***Honourable,***

***Jessica Alupo, Minister for Education and Sports,*** for agreeing to join us at this important event. We are quite aware of your busy schedule and demand on your time, however, your decision to join us here to grace the opening ceremony of the 2014 Kampala sessions attests to the commitment and importance that you attach to Uongozi School. We are very grateful for your usual practice of honouring commitments no matter the circumstances.

Needless to say, a second special welcome is in order for our 52 Uongozi School participants in 2014. Five from the University of Burundi, five from the University of Rwanda, ten from Makerere University, 10 from the University of Nairobi, and 22 from the University of Dar es Salaam. I, once again, congratulate them for emerging victorious through a very gruelling competitive selection process. They are truly the best and brightest from the five leading Universities in our five countries of East Africa.

**Honourable Distinguished Guest of Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The idea of forming the East African Uongozi Institute (EAFUI) first emerged in 1996, at a Dinner which Prof. Rwekaza Mukandala, the current Vice Chancellor, UDSM had with the then Programme Officer of

Ford Foundation, Mr. Jonathan Moyo, in Dar es Salaam. As they toyed around with a lukewarm soup, they were mused as to how many scholars of politics in history had died through food poisoning. Of course Socrates, Aristotle and Plato came in their mind. Gradually though, their conversation turned to the challenges both of the theory and practice of leadership in East Africa.

Following long deliberations, the EAFUI was established as one of five institutions to foster democracy and good governance in the region. Today only two out of the five survive, Kituo cha Katiba in Uganda being the other one. The institute was established in 1998 with the purpose of inculcating leadership qualities and competencies among the young generations of East Africans as well as fostering a greater understanding of international development issues relating to Africa and beyond.

Since its inception in 1998, the EAFUI has had four main components. First, it has organized Uongozi Schools annually, which initially consisted of participants from the Makerere University, University of Nairobi and the University of Dar es Salaam. A total of 599 participants have been trained and have graduated from the school. The curriculum of the School entails both theory and practice and a mix of local, regional and

global perspectives. Resource persons are drawn from a pool of academicians and practitioners including prominent politicians, journalists, government officials (in post and retirees) as well as academicians from the region. In its early days, the School was able to attract a diverse group of participants from different countries including Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya, but also from the United States (38 students), Canada (3 students), Denmark (2), South Africa (1), Zimbabwe (1) and Zambia (1). Some of the graduates from the programme have gone up the ranks to become Members of Parliament (MPs), academics, leaders of political parties, civil society activists, journalists, government officials and successful entrepreneurs in the private sector.

Secondly, the EAFUI organizes an Internship Programme which places alumni of the School for practical training in a wide spectrum of high profile institutions in the region and beyond. Some of these institutions include legislatures, high courts, election commissions, refugee camps, chambers of commerce, NGOs and even the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Nearly 200 participants have gone through the internship programme.

Thirdly, community service has been a characteristic feature of the Uongozi School since 2000. During community service, participants are involved in different activities in order to merge theory and practice and to appreciate the reality of leadership at the community level, and the fact that leadership goes beyond power and include offering service to the needy.

Fourth, every School session, visits to historical sites of national and international importance are carried out in order to widen the participants' understanding and appreciation not only of our history but also of existing resources and potentials that can be harnessed for development in the region.

The Uongozi School has enjoyed high level of political support in the region. The opening and closing ceremonies of each School sessions have been officiated by high-powered dignitaries, including the Presidents; of Tanzania (2005) and Uganda (2004), the Prime Minister of Tanzania (2006), the Prime Minister of Kenya (2009) Senior Government Ministers like today, etc.

**Honourable Distinguished Guest of Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This programme remains as relevant today as it was when it was established in 1998. The East African Uongozi Institute draws its relevance from its deep desire to address one of the most formidable challenges facing Africa, which is, the leadership deficit in order to bring about sustainable development, democracy and stability in the continent. After five decades of independence, most of the African countries still experience famine, misery, poverty and vulnerability among its majority of the population. Economic growth has not yet translated into transforming people's living standard for the better such as by providing employment and more earning opportunities to the majority of citizens. There has been a problem of absence of clear vision, imagination, dynamism and good governance. Democratic leadership has been uneven across the continent with a few countries demonstrating positive trends towards democratic governance, avoiding corruption and instability. It is on this basis that there have been a myriad of efforts in trying to nurture responsible and transformative leadership in Africa.

The rejuvenated and expanded East Africa Community (EAC) also calls for visionary and transformational leadership that is capable of harnessing the existing opportunities and potentials for economic growth and democratic governance. Since it came into force in 1999,

the EAC has made significant steps toward regional integration. It is in this context that the Uongozi Institute has expanded its operations to include Rwanda and Burundi. This has made the 2014 Uongozi School unique because for the first time we have participants from the University of Burundi and the University of Rwanda. As an East African Institution, the Uongozi Institute stands to compliment the ongoing measures and at the same time benefit from already existing regional structures in achieving its goals.

**Honourable Distinguished Guest of Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The main thrust of the Institute is to foster knowledge, innovativeness and patriotism among potential leaders of the region. The EAFUI therefore represents a major advance in leadership training and development. EAFUI sets to go beyond traditional training offered by universities and prepare its young graduates for leadership positions in the public, private and non-profit sectors and for the ethical challenges they will encounter throughout their careers.

EAFUI rests on three premises: First, the long term success of an organization, community or society depends on visionary and transformative leadership, and not just on technical proficiency and

management. It is critical to have a cosmopolitan elite, whose cognitive competence also encompass world views and experiences that are critical to successful statecraft as it has been recently argued by a number of respected scholars. Second, good leadership must be grounded in ethical values; third, although leadership is a complex form of human behaviour, yet it can be learned and therefore developed through training as Plato observed centuries ago.

Various themes are covered each year including the following; Governance, democracy and development (1998); Conflict management and regional cooperation (1999); African leadership and globalization (2001); Leadership development and African Union (2003); African leadership and challenges of multi-partism and poverty reduction (2004); Leadership and participation (2007), to mention only a few.

As already mentioned the 2014 Uongozi School draws 52 participants from the five East African community member states. Its theme focuses on "***African States, Competing Identities and Democratization***". The competing identities in East African countries and Africa in general, if they are not well managed and depoliticised they might degenerate into violent conflicts and unhealthy power struggles.



**Honourable Distinguished Guest of Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The 2014 Uongozi School has included all the critical components that are important in the Uongozi School tradition:

- These participants were rigorously screened and selected on the basis of merit through competitive mechanisms and are demonstrable truly the best and brightest in the region.
- They have so far interacted in learning and discussion sessions with a number of high level and prominent resource persons ranging from Presidents to Ministers, Distinguished Academicians, Journalists, Public Servants, Captains of Industry, Diplomats and Traditional Leaders.
- A methodology of delivery that has included moments of noise i.e. Lectures and Seminars; moments of silence in personal individual study and reflection in the Library, etc.
- Community service and field work practicals; and
- Travels to places of historical, economic, social and political significance in Tanzania.

The 2014 Uongozi School has so far offered a menu that is tantalizing and which the participants have so far found not only irresistible but also fulfilling in every way possible, their learning objectives and

expectations. The Kampala sessions are, indeed a continuation of the first four weeks of learning interactions and experiences.

**Honourable Distinguished Guest of Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me end by thanking most sincerely the Ford Foundation for extending to Uongozi a generous grant that has made all this possible. I also want to thank the leadership of Makerere University specifically the Department of Political Science and Public Administration for readiness to host the Kampala sessions of the 2014 Uongozi School for two weeks. I am also thankful to one collaborating University for sponsoring their top student leaders to participate in this programme.

And now, Honourable Guest of honour, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my singular pleasure and honour to welcome to the podium the Head of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Makerere University, Dr. Suzie Nansozi Muwanga to deliver the welcoming remarks.

Thank you for your attention.