

Remarks by the Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Defence, at the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U) between the Ministry of Defence and Makerere University in Respect of the Affiliation of the Senior Command and Staff College to Makerere University.

The Vice Chancellor Makerere University and your delegation,

The Chief of Defence Forces - UPDF

The DCDF

The JCOS

The Commandant SCSC - Kimaka

All invited Guests,

Members of the Press

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon.

I welcome you all to this historic occasion when the Ministry of Defence and Makerere University sign a Memorandum of Understanding, in respect of the affiliation of the Senior Command and Staff College Kimaka to Makerere University.

The affiliation of the College to Makerere University is a land mark achievement towards our vision of a professional and modernized Force.

Through this affiliation, we expect to achieve qualitative career development of our senior officers for the effective discharge of their duties and towards the Institution's mandate. It is a milestone that will no doubt elevate the status of the academic programs offered at the College.

More specifically, the qualifications offered by the College through this affiliation, will be equated to a Masters of Arts Degree in Defence and Security Studies.

The accreditation and affiliation will further enhance our troops visibility in the labour market and provide access to opportunities even after retirement from active military service. This will certainly enable seamless re-integration into society.

Looking back, we all recognize that it has taken a lot of effort for us to get to this point. You will recall that the affiliation of the College to Makerere University started with the process of accrediting four military training schools and colleges as public tertiary institutions by the National Council of Higher Education.

The now fully accredited institutions are the Non-Commissioned Officers' Academy – Jinja, Uganda Military Academy – Kabamba, Junior Staff College – Jinja and the Senior Command and Staff College – Kimaka. These are strategic strides in our professionalization and modernization efforts that should be celebrated.

Partnering with Makerere University will provide the Senior Command and Staff College the opportunity to develop into an acclaimed Center of Excellence and will further consolidate our position in an increasingly dynamic regional and global security environment.

Emerging challenges on the global horizon demand new thinking, that is strategic, informed and qualitatively responsive. My belief is that the evolution of our highest institution of training in the Military into a Center of Excellence through such strategic partnerships will meet the challenge.

I, therefore commend Makerere University for the unequivocal support provided to us over the years, and particularly on this achievement. We look forward to

our continued collaboration in the years to come. This Memorandum of Understanding is only symbolic of an already well established relationship but seeks to define the specific areas of cooperation for the affiliation.

Institutions can no longer operate in isolation and we need to fully invest in creating networks that will enable us to learn from one another. This will in turn build our overall capacities.

As I conclude, allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the Honourable MOD, CDF, UPDF leadership, leadership of Makerere University, particularly the Vice Chancellor and your top management for the support extended to us in this new chapter of our collaboration. At the Ministry of Defence, we look forward to further strengthening the ties between our two institutions.

Allow me too, to express my gratitude to the National Council for Higher Education and the Ministries of Public Service and of Education and Sports for their guidance and endorsement of this process.

I now urge our officers under the direction of UPDF Command, to work towards achieving the objective of this great milestone.

We pledge on our part as Ministry of Defence / UPDF, to build on this support to develop the Senior Command and Staff College into the Center of Excellence it is expected to be.

Congratulations SCSC - Kimaka!

Congratulations to you all!

I thank you very much.