

**REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**PROFESSOR BARNABAS NAWANGWE,**

**DURING THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS FUND AND COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES OPEN DAY**

**VENUE: ARTS QUADRANGLE-CHUSS**

**DATE: THURSDAY APRIL 29, 2021, TIME: 8:30AM-1:00PM**

* **The Government of the Republic of Uganda our donor plus all other Makerere University donors,**
* **Associate Prof. Josephine Ahikire, the Principal Makerere University College of Humanities and Social Sciences,**
* **Prof. William Bazeyo, Chairperson Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF),**
* **Makerere University Directors here present,**
* **School Deans here present,**
* **Heads of Departments here present,**
* **Non-Governmental Organizations, Private Sector representatives and Development Partnershere present,**
* **All the Makerere University Staff (teaching and none teaching staff) here present,**
* **Makerere University Grants Management Committee (GMC) Members,**
* **The Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (RIF) Team,**
* **Students here present,**
* **Participants who have joined this engagement online,**
* **The Media**
* **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the Makerere University fraternity, I warmly welcome you all to Makerere University, and specifically to the **Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund and College of Humanities and Social Sciences Open Day**. We are privileged and happy to host all participants today specificallyfor this engagement as we all strive to contribute to Uganda’s development efforts.

Thank you all for your contribution towards supporting Makerere Universityto continue providing innovative teaching & learning, research and services responsive to national and global needs. Makerere University is proud of its long-standing history in leveraging and nurturing national and international collaborations and partnerships. Some of these partnerships are evident in the research and innovation projects we are engaging with today. Indeed like Prof. Bazeyo said, it is such initiatives which have kept our University blossoming in research, teaching and community service. My hope is that we can coin additional collaborations and partnerships by the end of our engagement today.

**Allow me to take this opportunity to briefly share with you what Makerere University’s Research Agenda highlights. I am happy that we are all working towardsrealizing this Agenda.** At Makerere University, we recognize research and innovations as core functions aimed at**;**

1. Providing a robust supportive environment for a **research-driven university**
2. Increasing capacity for **knowledge transformation and innovation**
3. Strengthening **research and innovation management and coordination**
4. Mainstreaming gender in all research and innovation activities
5. **Mobilizing more researchfunds**
6. **Promoting commercialization of innovations**
7. Exploiting intellectual property and enhancing networks with teaching, research and culturalinstitutions

I attest to the fact that the Makerere University fraternity believes that we need a robust, dynamic and all-inclusive research agenda and data driven innovations that when further developed, scaled and disseminated, will contribute to Uganda’s development agenda. It is, therefore,our concerted effortsthat will contribute to strengthening the research and innovation capacity for not only Makerere University staff and students but also researchers outside Makerere University.

Through the Government of Uganda’s initiative Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF) and other donors, Makerere University researchers and innovators have enormously engaged with key stakeholders outside the University to carry out research and also innovate. It is my plea that our deliberations today can also strengthen our bonds to closely work together to strengthen Uganda’s research capacity and output, and increase the country’scontribution to the world of knowledge and innovation. I, therefore, take this opportunity to thank all of you our partners for the continued support and collaboration which have not only greatly enhanced our growth but also aided our efforts towards community development. Surely, we would have not been in position to achieve alone.

Makerere University Management is happy that researchers at Makerere University including those here at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences have continued to work to contribute to adding to the following priority research and innovation thrust:

* 1. Research in health and indigenous knowledge
  2. Environment, Tourism and Natural ResourcesManagement
  3. Agricultural production and productivity (crop and livestock)
  4. Nutrition, Food security and value addition
  5. Technology and basicsciences and
  6. Governance, human rights and economicmanagement

Today’s deliberations have enabled us to further learn from each other, engage, connect and build on the existing knowledge, expertise and experience.

Thank you. As **“We Build for the Future”**

**END**