

A MAKERERE SYMPOSIUM ON NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN RESPONDING TO AFRICA'S
PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS



A SYMPOSIUM ON THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN SHAPING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, 27th March 2023 8:00AM - 12:00PM

TOPIC: "Discussing the Role of Universities in Responding to Africa's Problems and Development Needs."

Makerere University's Strategic Plan for 2020/21-2024/25, under the theme, "Optimizing her potential as a knowledge hub," has since recalibrated our strategic focus to become a research-led and knowledge-based University championing the drive to offer practical solutions to the ever-changing needs of the dynamic society in which we live today.

In this regard, Makerere University has organized a symposium on the role of universities in shaping national development to be held on **30th March 2023** at the **Conference Hall Department of Food Science & Technology Makerere University**. The symposium will be held under the **Theme, "Discussing the role of Universities in responding to Africa's problems and development needs."**

We are thrilled to be hosting such a symposium that will bring forth intellectual discourse on the pivotal role of not only Makerere University but all universities at a time like this where Uganda doesn't have any established research University that provides the necessary link between a nation's scientific and academic system and the ever-changing developmental needs of its people.

Therefore, Makerere University has strategically taken the opportunity to be a thought leader of a knowledge generation for societal transformation and development by enabling thought-provoking dialogues that will translate into a sustainable and shared path towards Africa's problems and development needs.

The Symposium on the role of universities in shaping National Development will be the first of its kind organized by Makerere University bringing together all institutions of higher learning, renowned academicians and researchers, Development partners, Government institutions, Private sector firms, Industrialists, Research organizations to mention but a few.

The main objective of the Symposium is to "explore meaningful ways Universities and Institutions of higher learning can contribute to national development."

The Symposium will achieve four objectives:

1. Connect high-level decision-makers with universities, academicians and researchers, to shape practical and teachable solutions for Africa's problems and Development Needs that can be integrated into university study syllabuses
2. Create a platform for accountability for institutions of higher learning, high-level decision makers, industry practitioners, development partners, and youth leaders to check on the implementation of policy outcomes from the symposium.
3. Facilitate dialogue towards championing research-led agenda among universities and securing buy-in from Government institutions, development partners and donors.

4. Avail a networking platform that will create sustainable linkages and partnerships between high-level decision-makers, donors, researchers, industrialists and universities.

We are optimistic that the delegates at this symposium will begin a conversation that will shape Africa's policy formulation and implementation agenda in the bid to respond to societal needs and problems.

Main Program Highlights

The Symposium on the role of universities in shaping national development theme, "Discussing the role of Universities in responding to Africa's Problems and Development Needs," aims to bring together delegates from across the education arena to forge a sustainable agenda for a developed Africa.

The formation of mutually beneficial partnerships between universities and high-level decision-makers will facilitate transformative teaching, learning, research and innovations responsive to dynamic national and global needs.

The symposium will be an 4hrs event, held on 30th March 2023 at the Makerere University, Freedom Square, Kampala Uganda, starting at **0800hrs and ending at 1200hrs.**

The Guest of honour for the symposium will be **H.E Yoweri Tibuhabura Museveni** who will deliver the main conference address.

The keynote speaker, **Professor Vincent Anigbogu**, is an accomplished academic, passionate about national transformation. He will have one hour to unpack the thematic topic.

The discussion will be followed by a panel session under the theme, "How Universities are Contributing to Uganda's Development Agenda", moderated by **Prof. Sam Obwoya**, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Planning Authority. The panel discussions will be joined by six cross-cutting representatives from public Universities, private universities, private sector and think tanks namely; a deputy Vice-Chancellor from Makerere University, the Vice Chancellor of Uganda Christian University, the Vice Chancellor of Kabale University, a representative from Economic policy research centre, a representative from the Centre for Advanced Strategic Leadership, and a representative from Kampala Capital City Authority.

The public/audience will then be accorded a 30-minute question-and-answer session to make contributions, observations and any other matters arising.

The symposium will be hosted live on zoom and all Makerere University social media platforms to provide an opportunity for the broader higher education fraternity and all stakeholders to follow the proceedings online.

Symposium outcomes

From a strategic standpoint, the symposium on the role of universities in shaping national development will achieve:

1. Informative policy briefs for Africa's transformation agenda through institutions of higher learning.
2. A framework for continuous engagement with Government and private sector, industrialists, academicians, researchers and universities.
3. Create an accountability mechanism for the implementation of a research-led agenda that addresses society's needs.
4. Facilitate the formation of strategic partnerships for academic champions for development.