

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. BARNABAS
NAWANGWE AT THE SYMPOSIUM ON NATIONAL
TRANSFORMATION
ON 30TH MARCH 2023**

- **HE Jessica Alupo, the Vice President, Republic of Uganda**
- **(Representative of the Minister yet to be shared)**
- **The Chairperson of Makerere University Council, Mrs. Lorna Magara,**
- **Members of Council and Management;**
- **Members of Senate;**
- **All our guests including Vice Chancellors, and chairpersons of sister Universities, Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen!**

I warmly welcome you all to this very important symposium, touching on a subject that is very fundamental to our future as a Nation and as a University. In a special way, I welcome you, Our Chief Guest, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports back to your Alma Mater. Thank you for honouring our invitation to officiate at this symposium.

Your Excellency, Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, today's symposium comes three years into the implementation of our ten-year strategic plan and about half-way into the implementation of the Third National Development Plan (NDPIII). This is indeed a good time to pause and reflect on the progress we have made in as far as meeting our targets is concerned, and carry out the necessary adjustments to ensure that we stay

on track.

With eyes on the 2030 mark of our ten-year strategic plan, Makerere is more committed than ever before to supporting Government efforts to develop Uganda's knowledge economy. We take cognizance that it is graduate students under the mentorship of our staff that conduct research that contributes to the body of knowledge. We are intentional about conducting research that is responsive to challenges facing our society with the view that this will help unlock the potential of Makerere to more substantively contribute to national development.

I therefore thank the Government for honouring its obligation to pay our academic staff competitive salaries and generously supporting our creative ecosystem through the UGX 30 billion annual allocation to the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF). I equally applaud our development partners whose generous support has trained the majority of our PhDs over the last 20 years, as well as a number of Masters and Post-docs.

We have taken a strategic decision to use some of the funding for Mak-RIF to support our PhD students to conduct fieldwork and write their theses. As impactful as this is going to be, our ultimate wish is to see a scholarship or loan scheme dedicated to graduate students.

I believe that this is a matter of priority for our Country especially in the wake of our exploding population and the urgent need for us to come up with solutions to not only feed but also provide meaningful employment for our youth. I once again thank your Excellency, and Honorable Minister and all our guests for honouring our invitations and wish you all fruitful deliberations.

