



REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR,

PROFESSOR GEORGE MONDO KAGONYERA,

**DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE FIRST RESILIENCE INNOVATION
CHALLENGE 4 ADVERSE CLIMATE EFFECTS GRANTS CALL AND
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE RESILIENTAFRICA NETWORK
(RAN) INNOVATION LAB**

**VENUE: MAKERERE UNIVERSITY-RESILIENTAFRICA NETWORK
(RAN) INNOVATION LAB OFFICE PREMISES, PLOT 30, UPPER
KOLOLO TERRACE**

DATE: 13TH AUGUST 2014

TIME: 2:30PM-6:00PM

- **Hon. Minister of Health, Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda**
- **Vice Chancellor Makerere University, Prof. George Mondo Kagonyera**
- **The Division Chief-Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN), U.S. Global Development Lab/USAID, Dr. Ticora. V. Jones**
- **The Ag. Deputy U.S. Mission Director, Ms. Jo Lesser Oltheten**
- **Dean School of Public Health and Chief of Party ResilientAfrica Network, Prof. William Bazeyo**
- **Members of Staff Makerere University, Kampala Uganda**
- **The Gallant Exhibitors**
- **Faculty here present**
- **Students**
- **The Media**
- **Distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentlemen**

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I am greatly honoured to welcome you to the launch of the Resilience Innovation Challenge 4 Adverse Climate Effects (RC4ACE) Grants call and official opening of the ResilientAfrica Network Innovation Lab.

It is encouraging to see all of you in such big numbers at this occasion bringing together government, researchers, business experts, policy makers, faculty, students, innovators and the entire community. Such occasions are very significant to Uganda as a developing country. Makerere University is privileged to lead such a big network (RAN) targeting 20 African Universities in 16 countries and as the only African development lab among 7 U.S. based development labs under the Higher Education solutions Network (HESN).

We would not have been here without the brilliant minds of innovators and the community at large behind research and developing innovations

to respond to the African challenges. Makerere University through projects like ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) is building on the existing research and indigenous knowledge.

We acknowledge the efforts of other development partners including the Government of Uganda. We have gone ahead to conduct further research in an effort to bridge the existing gap between the academia and the communities. **“Let us not wait for other people/bodies to develop solutions to our own challenges. We know and live with these challenges and so are the best developers for solutions to address the same”**. Each one of us here is an innovator; let us opt to do things differently for the benefit of the African communities faced with shocks and stresses. We cannot underestimate the role of universities as change agents in the economic development of developing countries, Uganda being the benchmark.

As we launch the Grants Call today, Makerere University through ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) is sourcing to develop and scale innovative technologies and approaches that will strengthen resilience to shocks and stresses that arise from climate variability and climate change. RAN is looking to catalyze and incentivize the development of solutions that will impact agricultural production and markets, as well as livelihood diversification and financial inclusion.

Innovation working space:

RAN has proudly opened a well-equipped Resilience Innovation Lab for incubation, testing, developing and scaling of innovative solutions to respond to the African community challenges. I implore you all to make use of this state of the art facility. **“A good working environment enhances output”**

I also add my voice to the previous speakers to appreciate Government’s support to the Education sector specifically Makerere University. Education is the best tool to fight poverty and enhance development. We acknowledge the support from various bodies like Ministry of ICT, Uganda Communications Commission, National Planning Authority, UNDP, NITA-U, the Telecom sector to mention but a few for creating an enabling environment to nurture research and innovation. **“Given the**

complex community challenges at hand, such synergies are the way to go”

To the donors who have continuously supported the work of our hands, with us today, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), our commitment is to work above self and utilize all the funds availed for the benefit of the communities. As you can already see the good work in the pipeline, additional support is what we need to help us realize the set objectives and much more.

Once again, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for showing interest in this initiative of research and innovation at ResilientAfrica Network. As we launch this call I hope many of you will submit applications to respond to the pressing community challenges.

As we ***“Build for the Future”, “For God and my Country”***

I now take the pleasure to invite the Hon. Minister of Health, Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda to speak to us.

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