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OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

Makerere University to Host Annual Forum for Graduate Research and Policy Dialogue (25th -26th April 2024)

Highlights: *Over 70 research papers; Digitization of research processes through the Launch of the Research Information Management System (RIMS); Research and publication opportunities; Mental Health and Wellness for Students and Staff.*

Makerere University has organised the two-day annual forum for graduate research and policy dialogue with the aim of bridging the gap between academia and industry.

The two-day event scheduled to take place on April 25th and 26th, 2024 at Makerere University Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facility (CFT2) Auditorium, will attract seasoned researchers, early career researchers (especially doctoral students at Makerere) and stakeholders in the policy terrain to a dialogue on research and policy.

The event, which has been merged with the annual doctoral convention, will be opened by the State Minister for Higher Education Hon. Dr. John C. Muyingo and graced by Mr. Odrek Rwabwogo, the Special Advisor to President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni as a Keynote Speaker.

According to the Chairperson of the organizing committee, Professor Julius Kikooma, this year's forum is themed "REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT" to serve as a pivotal platform for fostering dynamic discourse among academia, policymakers, and stakeholders, aiming to bridge the gap between research and policy implementation in Uganda and the region.

"This year's forum will assemble leading scholars, policymakers, and experts for insightful discussions and presentations addressing national and regional policy challenges and advocating for sustainable development," he said.

Prof. Kikooma adds that against the backdrop of the imperative for evidence-based policy making, the forum will further explore innovative solutions and strategies to enhance regional integration and catalyze growth.

Commencing on Thursday 25th April 2024, and concluding on Friday 26th April 2024, the event has the following highlights:

- Over 70 research papers;
- A network of PhD students/fellows;
- Digitization of research processes through the Launch of the Research Information Management System (RIMS);
- Makerere University Press presenting research and publication opportunities;
- Mental Health and Wellness for Students and Staff;

In addition, the event will feature a diverse array of activities, including keynote speeches, panel discussions, and parallel presentations covering key sub-themes such as Health Systems, Energy Systems and Climate Change, Governance, Economic & Social Change, Innovation, Science, and Technological Advancement, Natural Resources Management, Food Security, and Competence-Based Learning.

“This event is organized as a forum not a conference. That is more of a conversational space for scholars, decision-makers, and other stakeholders to reflect on the importance of evidence-based policy making and use the platform to highlight emerging issues relating to research as a public good,” Prof. Kikooma emphasized.

With its esteemed reputation for fostering academic excellence and driving positive change, Makerere University will be taking pride in hosting this significant gathering dedicated to advancing impactful research, and promoting informed policy dialogue, and fostering regional development.

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For media inquiries and further information, please contact Ms. Ritah Namisango at the Makerere University Public Relations Office on 0702944224.