

THE TWO WANT TO STRENGTHEN HEALTHCARE AND MITIGATE THREATS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

By Agnes Nantambi

Makerere University together with the defence ministry yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding to promote collaboration between the two institutions.

The university's college of health sciences and that of veterinary medicine will work to strengthen healthcare and mitigate threats to public health.

Presiding over the signing ceremony at the defence ministry headquarters in Mbuya, Kampala, veteran affairs minister Bright Rwamirama described the collaboration as feeding directly into the common national research agenda that will help Uganda attain the National Development Plan goals and Vision 2040.

Rwamirama lauded the delegation from Makerere University for the willingness they have demonstrated in helping the army in various areas throughout the country.

The collaboration is geared at helping the health workers and bio-security experts in the army improve in knowledge, skills and the capacity to respond to epidemics and natural disasters.

Prof. Charles Ibingira, the principal of Makerere University college of health sciences, said: "Since the College of Health Sciences has the best health experts in the country, we are hopeful that this will build strength on both sides in the areas of health, human resource development

Makerere, defence ministry partner to fight for health



The army team meeting their counterparts from Makerere University in Mbuya yesterday. Photo by Agnes Nantambi

and also support research in the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) in the areas of

medicine and pharmacology within the armed forces."

"Since we are a leading

institution in research, we hope to work with UPDF in coming up with new methods

of controlling diseases basing on scientific evidence to help change health policy and

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THE PURPOSE

improve the practices and planning," he said.

Ibingira noted that in improving research, they intend to concentrate more on chemical medicine, environmental medicine, public health, pharmaceutical development, laboratory services, and surveillance during times of epidemics.

"During this time of collaboration, we shall work together to mobilise resources for research and training," he said.