

# Makerere to make medical equipment

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**KAMPALA.** The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovations, Dr Elioda Tumwesigye, yesterday said Makerere University will start manufacturing some diagnostic tools and devices that are currently being imported.

He said with the help of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in the United States of America (USA), Makerere students will be trained in making these devices.

"This CWRU is helping Makerere University to enable Uganda make its own diagnostic tools and devices under what we call bio-medical engineering.

"In the past, we have been getting people from Belgium, Europe to service our lab equipment but with this collaboration, this will be reversed," Dr Tumwesigye said at a symposium to celebrate the 30-year partnership between Case Western Reserve University and Uganda.

Uganda will start manufacturing tools such as microscopes, CT machines and CD4 machines, among others.

## Research centre

He also said the government is going to construct a research centre using the Shs500b research fund which was promised by President Museveni.

"We are going to establish the research centres which will include research laboratories and common work spaces so that these young researchers who come up with ideas have where to work from," he said.

Dr Tumwesigye urged Parliament to expedite the research and innovation framework which has already been approved by Cabinet.

He commended the CWRU for tremendous contributions to Uganda's health sector.

Makerere University Vice Chancellor, Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, said he is optimistic the second batch of bio-medical engineers they are training will be able to design the diagnostic tools which the private partners can start manufacturing within the country.

The president of CWRU, Prof Barbara Snyder, said since their partnership with Makerere University in 1988, they have trained more than 400 Ugandan students in heart disease, non-communicable disease, HIV/Aids prevention and non-nutritional diseases.

She said the collaboration will continue and will be extended to emerging problems in developing countries.

In 1988, Uganda invited CWRU to collaborate with Makerere University in fighting the HIV/Aids pandemic in the country.