

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA SSENTAMU

ON

THE OCCASION OF THE 63RD GRADUATION

CEREMONY

OF

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2013

The Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor George Mondo Kagonyera

Honourable Minister of Education and Sports

Honourable Ministers present

Honourable Members of Parliament present

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Your Lordships, the Judges

Religious Leaders

Your Worship the Mayor Kampala Capital City Authority

Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council

The entire Makerere University Community

My colleagues, Vice Chancellors, Rectors, Principals from Institutions of Higher Learning

Parents and Guardians

Graduands

All invited guests in your various distinguished capacities,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A very good morning to you all and thank you for gracing this occasion with your presence.

Welcome statement:

On behalf of the Makerere University community and on my own behalf, I welcome you to the **63rd** Graduation Ceremony. In a special way, I welcome and congratulate all the Graduands and their parents and guardians gathered here today.

Appointment of Vice Chancellor:

As you celebrate your academic achievements, I am also delighted to be part of the 63rd graduation ceremony, this time, in the capacity of the Vice Chancellor, effective 1st September 2012.

I am honoured to be your Vice Chancellor at the 63rd graduation ceremony of Makerere University. I accepted the appointment as Vice Chancellor, with a great sense of humility and readiness to serve Makerere University. I am greatly indebted to Makerere University, which is responsible for my academic achievements, national and international recognition. Makerere University made me who I am!

Once again, I wish to extend my deepest respect and appreciation to all the stakeholders of this institution. Special thanks go to the Visitor of Makerere University – H.E. The President of the Republic of Uganda; the Chancellor; Chairperson and Members of Council; Senate; Staff; Students; and the entire Makerere University family for the confidence and trust vested in me as the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University. It is indeed my

prayer and hope that the Almighty God continues to grant me wisdom, good health and knowledge to diligently serve this great institution.

Paying tribute to former Vice Chancellors

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I take this opportunity to salute all my predecessors and their Management teams for their selfless service to Makerere University.

On a sad note, however, in May 2012, we lost a distinguished son of Uganda, a two-time Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor William Senteza Kajubi. We shall always remember him as a practical Vice Chancellor, quick at making decisions. A man who was behind major reforms in the education sector in this country. With your permission, Mr. Chancellor Sir, may I request you to stand up and observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Professor Senteza Kajubi. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, I pay tribute to the former Acting Vice Chancellor - Professor Venansius Baryamureeba and his team for their contributions to this institution. They will be remembered for a number of achievements but most especially for having spearheaded the implementation of the Collegiate System and for designing and developing manuals for the university reforms. We shall ensure that these reforms are implemented.

Appointment of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs)

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as per the recommendation of the University Senate and Council, I thank you for appointing Professor Lillian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza as the First Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) of Makerere University effective 1st January 2013.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, with the support of the management team, we shall be able to fulfill the expectations of the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University.

Under my leadership for the period 2012-2017, all my efforts will be focused on positioning Makerere University to attain competitive academic and research standards that are internationally benchmarked. Together with my management team, we shall ensure an efficient and effective organizational and management environment.

The management of Makerere University will closely work with the Government on all matters affecting our University. I pledge to work closely with you, Mr. Chancellor and the University Council, to address the challenges within our institution. In particular, we need to work together to convince Government to take over the entire wage bill of Makerere University.

Search for College Principals and Deputy Principals

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, the search process aimed at substantively appointing the College Principals and Deputy Principals is ongoing and is expected to be completed by the end of next month. The Search Committees for the Colleges have provided the required guidance to the members of staff and different organs of the University to ensure that the election and appointment processes deliver the best candidates.

Collegiate System

I am appealing to the University community to support the collegiate system. I am aware that Colleges are facing a number of challenges, which I believe, can be overcome if we work together as a team. We need to work together to ensure that the collegiate system is a success.

***** Staff appointed at the rank of Professor**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, a University is worth its name if it has professors. The University Management is happy to note that members of staff have continued to rise up to the rank of professor. During the 61st graduation ceremony held in January 2011, we noted that 13 members of staff had attained this rank of professor. In the 62nd graduation ceremony held in January 2012, 12 members of staff attained this rank. At this graduation ceremony, I am happy to inform you that ten (10) members of staff have

been promoted to the rank of Professor since the last graduation. We congratulate these Professors.

Makerere University has an academic staff of only 1403, of whom 54% have PhDs. Of these, only 5.2% are Professors and 10.6% are Associate Professors. On a sad note, it is important to note that the total number of academic staff has remained static at 1400 for the past six years, despite the increasing number of students. The staff student ratio is unacceptable by all standards. I am therefore appealing to the Government to lift the ban on recruitment of staff in Makerere University.

***** Staff who have won awards**

I also take this opportunity to congratulate all our staff and students who have won various awards at both National and International levels. You are the true ambassadors of Makerere University. You have ensured that our flag keeps flying higher and higher, and for that, we salute you. Keep it up.

Makerere University's rise in the Scimago Institutions Ranking World Report 2012:

Despite all the challenges we are facing at Makerere University, Mr. Chancellor, Sir, I have the pleasure to inform you that Makerere University's ranking has risen from the 12th position in Africa in 2011 to the 9th position according to the Scimago Institutions Ranking World Report

2012. Makerere is the only institution in Uganda that featured in the ranking.

I would like to appeal to all Makerere University staff, both Academic and non Academic to continue working harder so that Makerere University can be among the top five Universities in Africa.

***** Cooperation with staff associations**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to take this opportunity to thank all the staff associations within Makerere University for the support they have accorded me since my appointment as Vice Chancellor. In a special way, I commend the outgoing Chairperson of MUASA, Dr. Fred Tanga Odoi and his executive for the support and efforts that have seen improved relations between staff and Management. I congratulate the new Chairperson of MUASA, Dr. Muhammad Kiggundu Musoke and his Executive. Management is ready to work with all staff associations for the betterment of this great institution.

Re-organisation of staff structure within Makerere University

The Task-force on Job Evaluation and Re-organisation of the Staff structure and Financing of Makerere University inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Uganda Rt. Hon. Amama Mbabazi, held a validation workshop on 18th

December 2012, where key findings and recommendations were shared with University staff. The report is expected by 31st January 2013.

Support from the Government of Uganda:

At the launch of the year-long Makerere@90 celebrations held on Saturday 4th August 2012, The President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni impressed by the quality of exhibits and innovations from staff and students pledged a revolving fund to the tune of UGX.10billion to further advance science, technology and entrepreneurial abilities. The University Management is following up this pledge through the Ministries of Education and Sports; and Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

The Government of Uganda is in the process of acquiring a loan facility from the African Development Bank (ADB). This facility will assist Makerere University to rehabilitate and refurbish laboratories and equipment, construct and equip multipurpose laboratory building, construct two buildings for centralized lecture theatres, support distance and electronic learning, support capacity building for petroleum and mining and staff development in the University among others. We sincerely thank the Government for this particular support.

On our part, Makerere University will provide One billion shillings for architectural drawings and other logistics.

Commissioning of 8,000 square metres of additional space in the Library:

On Monday 29th October 2012, The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi commissioned the second-half of the New Library Building Extension. It was constructed using Internally Generated Funds. The New Library Building Extension has provided an additional 8,000 sq. metres of space, state-of-the-art ICT infrastructure and facilities like research commons. The extension has also been constructed to grant Persons With Disabilities easy access to all Library services. I thank the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Norwegian Government and Sida/SAREC for their specified support towards the development of library services at Makerere University.

Norwegian Programme for Capacity-Building in Higher Education and Research for Development

Makerere University has had a long-term development cooperation with the Government of the Royal kingdom of Norway that dates back to the 1940s. This relationship has had great impact on the institutional capacity building in the areas of human resource development, infrastructural development, research in various thematic areas including environment conservation and climate change management, good governance, food nutrition and value addition and culture, among others.

I am pleased to report that the Government of the Royal Kingdom of Norway will continue to support Makerere University through a new programme, The Norwegian Programme for Capacity Building in Higher Education and Research for development (NORHED).

The NORHED programme started with a call for collaborative project concepts to which staff from Makerere University responded with enthusiasm and won 20 out of the 97 worldwide project concepts which qualified for seed funding for development of full project proposals due for submission in March, 2013.

I would also like to salute all our development partners at the national and international levels for supporting institutional development programmes, research and innovations at Makerere University.

The 63rd Graduation Ceremony

Mr. Chancellor Sir, during the 63rd graduation ceremony lasting four (4) days, 22nd to 25th January 2013, a total of 12422 candidates are graduating with degrees and diplomas. Out of this number, 47.1% are female and 52.9% are male. By the end of the 63rd graduation ceremony, a total of 61 candidates will have graduated with doctorate degrees in different disciplines of which 18% are female and 82% are male.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Today, we present to you a total of 3676 graduands from four Colleges namely:

- College of Health Sciences,
- College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity,
- College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the
- College of Natural Sciences,

I sincerely congratulate all Graduands upon successfully fulfilling the requirements for the award of degrees and diplomas of Makerere University. I thank all the academic, administrative and support staff, who have played their respective roles in ensuring that the 63rd Graduation Ceremony is a success. I also thank all parents and guardians for paying tuition and other fees requirements. You have made a lot of sacrifices to make sure that your children access quality education at Makerere University.

Congratulations to members of staff who are graduating today:

Dear members of staff, I congratulate you upon scaling up your academic achievements. We are the greatest beneficiaries because as a University we shall continue to tap into the knowledge and skills acquired.

Congratulations!

***** Staff receiving PHDs**

I also take the same opportunity to congratulate members of staff who have completed their PhD studies at the different national and international universities and higher education institutions. Congratulations!

***** Staff with children graduating**

In the same spirit, I also congratulate the members of staff whose children, spouses and relatives are graduating today. Congratulations!

***** Ministers and Members of Parliament graduating**

I would like to congratulate Ministers and Members of Parliament who are graduating today. I am sure that you have not only seen but also you have experienced the challenges of Makerere University. Please assist us to overcome them, especially that of inadequate funding and poor infrastructure. I thank you in advance Honourable ministers and members of parliament.

Statement on Transcripts

I wish to inform students who had cleared as per the University guidelines by 9th November 2012 that their academic transcripts are ready for collection at level 5, Senate Building, Department of the Academic Registrar.

Those students, who cleared with the relevant offices after the deadline of 9th November 2012, will get their academic transcripts starting in the third week of February 2013.

Developments in Colleges

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I now turn to the individual colleges presenting candidates for graduation today:

a) College of Health Sciences

The College of Health Sciences is presenting a total number of 395 graduands for award of degrees and diplomas. Of these, 3 will be obtaining PhDs. 118 will be obtaining masters, 261 will receive undergraduate degrees and 13 will be awarded diplomas. We congratulate the College. There are various achievements that have been attained in the College of Health Sciences. Of special mention is the winning of a grant of **USD 25 million** by the School of Public Health.

The College has provided leadership in transforming health education and training in Uganda, through the Medical Education for Equitable Services to All Ugandans (MESAU), a medical education partnership initiative funded by the National Institutes of Health USA.

Working with local partners, our students at the College of Health Sciences have also stepped up their involvement in provision of free medical and other health services through regular camps addressing critical areas like dental/oral health, Non-Communicable Diseases (like cancer awareness and screening), reproductive health, among others. A number of research studies have been undertaken.

b) College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security

The College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security is presenting a total number of 163 graduands for award of degrees and diplomas. Of these, 3 will be obtaining PhDs. 16 will be obtaining masters, 140 will receive undergraduate degrees and 4 will be awarded diplomas. We congratulate the College.

In the spirit of regional cooperation, the College is implementing a partnership with Somali-land through the affiliation of Sheik Technical Veterinary School (STVS). The partnership is supported by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). IGAD is supporting 10 Somali students who were last year admitted to Makerere University under the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine programme. Secondly, 120 students who are currently studying at Sheik Technical Veterinary School will receive awards from Makerere University on completion of their diplomas. In addition, a number of research studies have been undertaken in the College.

c) College of Natural Sciences

The College of Natural Sciences is presenting a total number of 350 graduands for award of degrees and diplomas. Of these, 7 will be obtaining PhDs. 42 will be obtaining masters and 301 will receive undergraduate degrees. We congratulate the College.

I am happy to report that the College has now twinned with the University of Bergen in Norway with support from NORAD to teach a Masters programme of Petroleum Geosciences beginning this academic year (2012/2013). This is in addition to the Bachelor's programme that has been taught since 2009.

Infrastructure renovations have been undertaken for improvement of laboratories for research and teaching. The Millennium Science Initiative (MSI) through World Bank support to the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology has funded the refurbishment of botany laboratories to support the new biotechnology programme. In addition, a number of research studies have also been undertaken.

d) College of Humanities and Social Sciences

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is presenting a total number of 2768 graduands for award of degrees and diplomas. Of these, 7 will be obtaining PhDs. 337 will be obtaining masters, 2367 will receive undergraduate degrees and 57 will be awarded diplomas. We congratulate the College.

In 2012, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences played a crucial role in linking research to policy and programme development, feeding into the new National Development Plan and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Such research included areas of HIV/AIDS, Gender and climate change, local governance, peace and conflict resolution, reproductive health, rural development, child welfare and development, human rights and mental health.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences through the Department of Social Work and Social Administration in partnership with Child Fund International, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, TPO and Columbia University has established an AfriChild Centre of Excellence aimed at pursuing a research agenda on children in adversity.

Campus FM

In order to strengthen training of our broadcast students, Makerere University Management at one of its meetings held in December last year agreed to fund Campus FM like any other laboratories in the University starting next financial year. Currently, the department is doing all the groundwork to ensure that everything is set to switch on station as soon as we secure funding. The station will also be used to improve communication within and outside Campus.

Concluding remarks

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, for Makerere University to achieve her vision of being the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa, we need to work together as a team – Government; Council; Management; Senate; staff; students, alumni, the media and other stakeholders. I am very positive that if we work together as a team, Makerere University will be among the top five Universities in Africa, if not number one.

Dear graduands, I pray that the Almighty God will continue to bless you and answer all your prayers.

Finally, the 63rd Graduation is very unique. It is taking place at the time when Makerere University is celebrating 90 years of her existence. The celebrations marking 90 years will be concluded in August 2013. I am therefore inviting each one of you to be part of the celebrations. On that day, we shall launch construction of a Student Centre, for which I invite you to donate generously.

It is now my privileged honour to invite the Honourable Minister of Education and Sports to give her remarks. I thank you.

Professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University