

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR GEORGE MONDO KAGONYERA

ON

THE OCCASION OF THE 63RD GRADUATION

CEREMONY

OF

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY, 2013

The Honourable Minister of Education and Sports

Honourable Ministers present

Honourable Members of Parliament

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Your Lordships the Judges of the Judicature

Religious Leaders

Your Worship the Mayor Kampala Capital City Authority

Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Chancellors and former Chancellors present

Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council

The Vice-Chancellor and your Management team

Former Vice Chancellors and Management Present

Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Principals of other Universities and institutions

Members of the University Senate

Members of Staff of Makerere University

Parents and Guardians

Graduands

The Media Fraternity

Ladies and Gentlemen

Congratulatory statement:

I am extremely pleased to preside over this 63rd Graduation ceremony of Makerere University. I congratulate the graduands for this academic achievement. It is a major milestone in your lives. Not many have been fortunate to make it this far for various reasons. It is therefore an event for you to cherish. Remember that the degrees you are being awarded are mere foundations on which to build your future. You must realize that success in your future performance does not depend on the class of degree alone.

I am happy to note that every year, Makerere continues to graduate students with higher degrees and I warmly congratulate the 61 students graduating with PhDs. Congratulations! It is through postgraduate training that we build capacity for future academicians as well as other intellectual leaders elsewhere.

I pay special tribute to the members of staff who have prepared our students during their stay here. I also thank the parents, sponsors and guardians for the sacrifices they have made over the years to educate their children.

Governance of the University

I congratulate Professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu upon his appointment as Vice Chancellor. I also congratulate Professor Lillian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza for her substantive appointment as 1st Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs. The quality of leadership is critical for the success of any enterprise. The University Council, Senate and Management should work together to have a well-governed Makerere University. In the past, a lot of time has been wasted on issues that are of no value to our institution. The media in my opinion, should be the last resort, frank and open discussion, consensus building are better alternatives.

Special Appeal to Academic Staff in the Colleges of Business and Management Sciences and College of Computing and Information Sciences

I am happy to note that we have 50 members of staff with PhDs in the College of Business and Management Sciences and 27 members of staff with PhDs in the College of Computing and Information Sciences.

The PhD positions you to undertake the required steps to rise through the academic ranks of Associate Professor to Professor. As Chancellor, I appeal to all the members of staff in these Colleges to aim for the highest academic ranks in your respective fields.

Makerere University and Internationalisation:

The future of Makerere University lies in making strategic partnerships with national and international institutions. In a global world, institutions such as Makerere University must fully embrace internationalization in its finest form, which focuses on the internationalization of academic programmes and research. Makerere University staff and students should enter into partnerships that make them suitable for the market.

As Chancellor, I therefore take this opportunity to congratulate the staff and students on the achievements focused on the internationalization of Makerere University, internationalization of academic programmes and internationalization of our research:

As per the Vice Chancellor's speech, I am happy to note that the Colleges presenting students today, at this second session of the 63rd Graduation Ceremony namely the College of Business and Management Sciences, and the College of Computing and Information Sciences have focused on the internationalization of their academic programmes and research.

College of Business and Management Sciences:

As per the Vice Chancellor's speech, I am happy to note that the College of Business and Management Sciences has focused on partnering with the African Capacity Building Foundation to strengthen the Economic Policy Management Programme.

I therefore congratulate the College of Business and Management Sciences upon securing a grant worth USD 2, 650,000 for running the Fourth Phase of the Economic Policy Management programme by the African Capacity Building Foundation so as to continue providing support in improving the performance of the public sector in Eastern Africa.

College of Computing and Information Sciences:

Focusing on internationalization, I congratulate the staff and students in the College of Computing and Information Science for participating competitions and winning awards at the national and international levels.

I congratulate the three (3) students from the School of Computing and Information Sciences for developing a mobile phone application that performs ultrasounds on pregnant women and detect problems such as ectopic pregnancies or abnormal fetal heart beats won the Microsoft Imagine Cup Grant of \$50,000 to enable them transform their idea into a social enterprise.

As per the Vice Chancellor's speech, I also congratulate the staff and researchers in the College of Computing and Information Sciences for winning a grant to research into - Improving East Africa's Weather Information Management through the application of suitable ICTs.

Special message to graduands:

This country needs entrepreneurs-men and women who can start businesses and employ other people. I appeal to you to use the knowledge you have acquired through your respective disciplines namely Business Administration, Commerce, Computer Sciences, Information Technology, Information Science and Records and Archives Management to start you own businesses/enterprises and employ most of our graduates.

When you start you own businesses, I advise you to prioritise soft skills such as time management, being trustworthy, customer care relations, and above all, seeking mentorship from the relevant personalities with successes in your respective businesses.

On this note, I would like you to emulate the late Professor James Mulwana, who mastered the use of soft skills to rise into one of the leading and respected entrepreneurs and industrialists in this country.

I salute the late Professor James Mulwana for his contribution to Makerere University. His entrepreneurial acumen helped Makerere in her bid to link up with the Private Sector. As one of the founder Trustees of Makerere University Private Sector Forum, Professor Mulwana played a big role in bridging the gap between the academia and the Private Sector as a method of promoting competitiveness and value addition of University products. Makerere will always remember him for exposing the University to the Commonwealth Business Forum (CHOGM 2007). We cannot forget James' support in taking Makerere Professors to Thailand in 2007 where much experience was gained in teaching and setting up Small and Medium Enterprises. To you Graduands, ask yourselves, **during my life time, what are some of those virtues I should take on from James Mulwana?**

Concluding remarks:

Once again I would like to congratulate Makerere University, graduands and parents for a job well done.

Professor George Mondo Kagonyera, Chancellor, Makerere University