

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU

ON

THE OCCASION OF THE 63RD GRADUATION CEREMONY

OF

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 2013

The Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor George Mondo Kagonyera

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

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

Members of Senate, Management and the entire Makerere University Community

Chairperson and Members of Council Makerere University Business School

Chairperson and Members Academic Board of Makerere University Business School

Parents and Guardians

Graduands

All invited guests in your various distinguished capacities

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome Statement

I welcome you to the final day of Makerere University's **63rd** Graduation Ceremony, which began on Tuesday, lasting four days. I extend a special welcome and congratulations to all the Graduands, their parents and guardians gathered here today.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today's graduation session is dedicated to graduands from the Makerere University Business School (MUBS). Allow me therefore to extend a warm welcome to Members of Council, Members of the Academic Board, Management and Staff from Makerere University Business School (MUBS).

I am honored to be the Vice Chancellor at this graduation ceremony of Makerere University. I am greatly indebted to all the stakeholders of this institution who have accepted me as their new Vice Chancellor. Together with the management team, my overall objective will be to position Makerere University to attain competitive academic and research standards, which are internationally benchmarked.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to salute the former Acting Vice Chancellor - Professor Venansius Baryamureeba and his team, for their contributions to Makerere University. You will be especially remembered for having spearheaded the implementation of the Collegiate system and putting in place organizational and research manuals, whose main aim is to guide all officers of the University in ensuring quality service to all our stakeholders, particularly the students. Allow me also congratulate you upon your recent appointment as Chairperson of Council of Makerere University Business School.

We also extend our appreciation to Dr. Colin Sentongo, who has been Chairperson of Council at MUBS. We thank him for his contribution and guidance to Makerere University Business School.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, since the last graduation ceremony, a number of activities have taken place at MUBS.

On February 8th, 2012, the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, commissioned the new MUBS Main Library. The library has a sitting capacity of approximately 1500. However, the challenge that remains is to equip the Library with the necessary resources including furniture, internet, and additional reading materials. We are grateful to the Government, which has accepted to equip the library. I am happy to note that the Government has committed itself to include this item in the 2013/2014 financial year.

However, we still need more financial support. Mr. Chancellor Sir, as you are aware, Makerere University and MUBS, like many other public Universities, have a number of challenges that require Government assistance. These include, among others: Low staff morale and high staff turn-over due to the poor pay, inadequate infrastructure, and shortage of staff.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am happy to report that the School has secured land and buildings in Jinja district to expand its activities. The demand assessment in Jinja calls for commencement of new programmes in business education and distance learning. A visitation has been made by Makerere University and we expect that in July 2013 some of these programmes will commence.

I am also happy to report that the School has been actively engaged in staff development. Since the last Graduation, the School has graduated eleven (11) PhDs including two (2) from Makerere University. We expect to see more staff graduate in the coming years. The School has over forty (40) staff in different institutions pursuing PhD programmes.

At this moment, I would like to pay special tribute to our development partners, who have supported us in this area of staff development and training.

The School has continued to participate in research and conferences. The School successfully held three (3) annual conferences namely:

- Annual International Management Conference (AIMC).
- Annual Leadership Conference.
- Annual Entrepreneurship Conference.

The School has also participated in a number of regional conferences where members of staff have had opportunity to present papers and network with scholars in the region and beyond. The School has also had strong collaborative linkages with various institutions worldwide. This has enabled staff exchange between MUBS and other institutions.

However, I must say, there has been limited collaboration between Makerere University Business School and the School of Business in the College of Business and Management Sciences at Makerere University I believe our two institutions can benefit greatly from mutual collaboration in teaching, research and supervision. MUBS being the leading business school in the country, it can assist the School of Business at Makerere University in a number of ways. Similarly, the School of Business at Makerere University has certain expertise that can be useful to MUBS. Indeed, our two institutions can reinforce each another.

The 63rd Graduation Ceremony

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as I have mentioned over the course of this graduation ceremony, a total of 12422 candidates are graduating with degrees and diplomas. Out of this number, 47.1% are female and 52.9% are male. 61 of these graduands have been awarded doctorate degrees in different disciplines of which 18% are female and 82% are male. Today, we will witness the awarding of degrees to the remaining total of 2389 candidates, who are graduating from the Makerere University Business School (MUBS). Two (2) of these will obtain PhDs, 200 will be obtaining masters degrees and 2187 will be awarded undergraduate degrees.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am delighted to inform you that the total number of candidates graduating with First Class degrees during the 63rd Graduation Ceremony is 284. The best student in the Sciences and also the best overall is Mr. Joel Tuliwangula, who graduated yesterday with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He scored a CGPA of 4.89 out of the maximum 5.0 points. I am happy to report that the best student in the Humanities is Bernard Engotoit, who is graduating today with a Bachelor of Office and Information Management. He is from the Makerere University Business School. He obtained a CGPA of 4.80. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Engotoit for this achievement. We congratulate the School for this outstanding performance.

On behalf of management, I take this opportunity to congratulate all Graduands upon successfully completing all the requirements for the award of degrees of Makerere University.

I also thank the entire academic, administrative and support staff at Makerere University and MUBS, who have played their respective roles in ensuring that the 63rd Graduation Ceremony is a success. I thank all parents and guardians for all the sacrifices they have made to make sure that their children receive education.

Statement on Transcripts

I would like to inform all our graduands that the academic transcripts are ready for collection for those students who had cleared as per the University guidelines by 9th November 2012. The transcripts can be collected from the Academic Registrar's department, Senate Building, level 5, starting today. 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.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I would like to conclude by thanking you for successfully presiding over the 63rd Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. Ladies and Gentlemen, join me in congratulating our Chancellor. I would

like to extend big thanks to the organizing committee chaired by Assoc.Prof. Steven Nyanzi for your time and all efforts that you have put in to ensure a smooth graduation ceremony.

I would also like to thank the Academic Registrar's department headed by Mr. Alfred Masikye Namoah, for making it possible for graduands to receive their transcripts immediately after the ceremony. We thank the Uganda Police Band and our students from the School of Performing Arts for brightening up the ceremony with wonderful music.

To our graduands, we congratulate you upon this achievement. However, remember that graduation is not the end, but the beginning of a new journey. I am aware that all of us would like to succeed in whatever we do. But I would like to remind you that success is a continuous process. It cannot be achieved within a day. Therefore, I urge you to exercise patience as you strive for success.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you and God be with you. Let me now invite the Principal of Makerere University Business School, Prof. Waswa Balunywa, to greet the students and parents.

It is now my privileged duty to invite our Chancellor to address the congregation.

Professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University