

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU

ON

THE OCCASION OF THE 63RD GRADUATION

CEREMONY

OF

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY, 24TH 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

Senate and 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

Welcome Statement

I greet you all and welcome you to the **63rd** Graduation Ceremony. Thank you for gracing this occasion with your presence. I extend my warm congratulations to all the Graduands and their parents and guardians gathered here today.

This graduation ceremony is unique. It is taking place at a time when Makerere University is celebrating 90 years of her existence. The celebrations, which began on 4th August 2012 and launched by H.E. The President of Uganda, will be concluded in August 2013. On that day, we shall launch the construction of a Student Centre. I am inviting each one of you to be part of these celebrations.

Appointment of Vice Chancellor

The 63rd graduation ceremony of Makerere University is being held at a time when I have just been appointed Vice Chancellor.

I am honoured to be Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, to which I am greatly indebted. Makerere University has nurtured me into what I am today.

I wish to extend my deepest respect and appreciation to all the stakeholders of this institution who have accepted me as their new Vice Chancellor. I will endeavor not to disappoint you. Under my leadership during the period 2012-2017, all my efforts, together with the management team, will be geared towards making Makerere University to be:

- i) A University that is well governed;
- ii) A University that promotes innovative teaching and learning;
- iii) A University that is research driven;
- iv) A University with a conducive teaching and learning environment;
- v) A University with adequate and motivated staff;
- vi) A University that is financially sustainable; and of course;
- vii) A University, which is internationally recognized.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am aware, this is a big challenge. However, if we work as a team – Government, Council, Senate, Management, Staff, Students and you Mr. Chancellor – we can succeed.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, at this juncture, allow me to salute the former Acting Vice Chancellor - Professor Venansius Baryamureeba and his team for their contributions to Makerere University, and most especially for having spearheaded the implementation of the Collegiate System.

It is now two years since the Collegiate system was put in place. I am aware of the challenges being experienced in the implementation of this new structure. However, as already noted, I believe these challenges can be overcome if we work together as a team. I pledge to work closely with the Principals to make sure that the collegiate system becomes a success.

Staff appointed at the rank of Professor

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as you are aware, any admirable University ought to have Professors. I am glad to inform you that ten (10) members of staff have been promoted to the rank of Professor since the last graduation. Please join me in congratulating these Professors.

Despite these promotions, Professors still constitute only 5.2% of the total academic staff. This number is unacceptable and we need to improve upon it. We need to increase it. I am therefore appealing to all academic staff to undertake more research and publish in reputable academic journals. This will certainly improve Makerere University's ranking, which is currently at the 9th position according to the Scimago Institutions Ranking World Report 2012.

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. I have had several meetings with the executives of these associations and I am happy to report that they have agreed to work with management for the betterment of this great institution.

I would like to salute the Government of Uganda for all financial support given to Makerere University since the last graduation. Needless to say, Makerere University still needs more financial support. We have a number of challenges that require Government assistance. These include, among others: i) Low staff morale and high staff turn-over due to the poor pay, ii) non-functional laboratories, iii) overcrowded lecture rooms, iv) poor physical environment not conducive to teaching and learning, v) pension arrears amounting to over 12 billion Uganda shillings.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, in the same spirit, I would like to salute all our development partners at the national and international levels for supporting institutional development programmes, research and innovations at Makerere University. We thank them.

The 63rd Graduation Ceremony

Mr. Chancellor Sir, during the 63rd graduation ceremony lasting four (4) days, 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, during the 63rd Graduation Ceremony, I am delighted to inform you that 284 students will graduate with First Class degrees. The best student in the Sciences and also the best overall is Mr. Joel Tuliwangula, who is graduating today with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He scored a CGPA of 4.89 out of the maximum 5.0 points. The best student in the Humanities is Bernard Engotoit, who will graduate tomorrow with a Bachelor of Office and Information Management. He obtained a CGPA of 4.80.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Today, we present to you a total of 2870 graduands from three Colleges and one School namely:

- College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES)
- College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT)

- College of Education and External Studies (CEES)
- School of Law

On behalf of management, I take this opportunity to congratulate all Graduands upon successfully completing all the requirements for the award of degrees and diplomas of Makerere University. I cannot forget to thank the entire 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.

I would like to extend my warm regards and congratulations to the members of staff graduating today: I congratulate you upon scaling up your academic achievements. In a special way, I would like to congratulate those members of staff who have obtained doctorates.

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

Statement on Transcripts

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 now turn to the individual units presenting candidates for graduation today:

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Allow me to start by congratulating Professor Joyce K. Kikafunda, who has been appointed Uganda's new High Commissioner to London. Professor Kikafunda has been instrumental in the transformation of the School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bio-engineering at Makerere University. She spearheaded the establishment of the first ever department of food science and technology, which she headed for 12 years. We wish you success in your new assignment.

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is presenting a total number of 450 graduands for award of degrees and diplomas. Of these, 5 will be obtaining PhDs. 75 will be obtaining masters and 370 will receive undergraduate degrees. We congratulate the College.

The College has utilized science and technology for value addition and job creation, nutritional and environmental security. Several animal and crop production technologies have been developed.

In agro-processing, the Food Technology and Business Incubation Centre continues to provide hands-on training to graduates and prospective entrepreneurs in the areas of fruit, vegetable, dairy and cereal processing. The Centre has nurtured eleven agro processing enterprises, which have a number of products in leading retail outlets in the country. The project has created over 400 jobs in production and marketing of value added foods and raw material supplies.

Various projects aimed at developing technologies that can reduce stress on the environment have been conducted. The College has also demonstrated different agribusiness and agro processing technologies to youth and women groups from different parts of Uganda.

College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology

The College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology is presenting a total number of 557 graduands for award of degrees and diplomas. Of these, 7 will be obtaining PhDs. 42 will be obtaining masters, 473 will receive undergraduate degrees and 35 will be awarded diplomas.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to congratulate in a special way, Mr. Joel Tuliwangula, the best student overall during the 63rd graduation ceremony. As earlier mentioned, he is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. We also congratulate the College for this outstanding performance.

The College is famous for the bomb detection robot and the Kiira Electric Vehicle. I am happy to inform you that following the completion of the Kiira EV, the Government earmarked UGX 154 billion to fund the Centre for Research in Transport Technologies. The Centre is now working on a number of green vehicle concepts among which is the Kayoola electric solar bus for city transit. Allow me at this juncture to recognize Prof. Sandy Stevens Tickodri-Togboa, the Principal Investigator, together with his team. Very soon, Prof. Tickodri-Togboa will be based at the Center for Research in Transport Technologies, to fully take charge of the technological innovations in green transport solutions.

The College is also undertaking the development of the first locally manufactured smart phone, which will be known as the Pearl.

Over the past one year, the College has won additional grants from different development partners amounting to over 1 billion shillings, to boost research and innovation. We congratulate the College.

College of Education and External Studies

The College of Education and External Studies is presenting a total number of 1585 graduands for award of degrees and diplomas. Of these, 12 will be obtaining PhDs. 136 will be obtaining masters, 1085 will receive undergraduate degrees and 352 will be awarded diplomas. We congratulate the College.

The College continues to progress in higher education innovations and research. It has published 17 titles of short stories for New Readers, which are available in four local languages. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development will be incorporating these publications in the promotion of literacy for development in Uganda.

In Open, Distance and E-Learning, the College has designed a collaborative virtual mobile learning platform, aiming at developing applications to increase student support and attain higher retention and pass rates in the External Degree Programmes.

School of Law

Allow me to start by paying special tribute to the first Dean of the Faculty of Law at Makerere University, Prof. Joseph Kakooza, who passed on during the course of last year. We shall always remember Prof. Joseph Kakooza as a principled, religious and hardworking man. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

The School of Law is presenting a total number of 278 graduands for award of degrees. Of these, 21 will be obtaining masters degrees and 257 will be awarded undergraduate degrees. We congratulate the College.

In September 2012, the school of Law launched The Public Interest Law Clinic, the first of its kind at a University in Uganda. The Clinic seeks to meet the twin goals of improving the teaching and learning process through hands-on experimental learning techniques, as well as exposing students to real life cases of individuals who have been confronted by the law. The Community Law Programme and Mobile Clinic has also taken off.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I wish to inform you, that research activities and innovations that have been undertaken since the last graduation are reported in our Magazine, the Mak News - Evolution, The Changing Faces of Makerere. Please obtain your self a copy, free of charge.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I would like to conclude by thanking each one of us, once again, for gracing this occasion.

To the graduands, as you get out of the gates of Makerere University, remember that Graduation is not the end, but it is the beginning of a new journey. Use the knowledge you have acquired here not only to improve yourselves, but also your fellow human beings including your parents and guardians, as well as the environment surrounding you.

I thank you and God be with you. It is now my privileged duty to invite our Chancellor to address the congregation.

Professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University