

**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR**

**PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU**

**ON**

**THE OCCASION OF THE 63<sup>RD</sup> GRADUATION**

**CEREMONY**

**OF**

**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**WEDNESDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> 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**

**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**

On behalf of the Makerere University community and on my own behalf, I welcome you to the **63<sup>rd</sup>** 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**

I am honoured to be your Vice Chancellor at the 63<sup>rd</sup> 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 has nurtured me into what I am today.

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 community for bestowing upon me the honour to serve you in the office of the Vice Chancellor.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, together with the management team, we shall endeavor to restore this great institution's past glory.

The management of Makerere University will work closely 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.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, I thank you for appointing Professor Lillian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza as the First Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs.

## **Paying tribute to former Vice Chancellors**

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, allow me, at this juncture, to salute all my predecessors and their Management teams for their contributions to Makerere University.

On a sad note, in May 2012, we lost a two-time Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor William Senteza Kajubi. We shall always remember him for his practical approach to solving problems and for his contributions in the education sector. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, I wish to pay tribute to the former Acting Vice Chancellor - Professor Venansius Baryamureeba and his team for their contributions to this institution, and most especially for having spearheaded the implementation of the Collegiate System and for designing and developing manuals for university reforms. We will endeavor to implement these reforms at the earliest opportunity.

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, I believe these challenges can be overcome if we work together as a team. I am therefore appealing to the University community to support the collegiate system. We need to work together to ensure that the collegiate system is a success.

### **Search for College Principals and Deputy Principals**

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

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

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, a University is worth its name if it has Professors. 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 only 5.2% are Professors and 10.6% are Associate Professors. Regrettably, 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, once again, to lift the ban on recruitment of staff in Makerere University.

### **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 am happy to report that Makerere University's ranking has improved from the 12<sup>th</sup> position in Africa in 2011 to the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 thank each one of you for your contribution towards this achievement.

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.

I would like to appeal to all Makerere University staff, both Academic and non Academic to double our efforts 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 incoming 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.

I would like to salute the Government of Uganda for all financial support given to Makerere University.

Since the last graduation ceremony, Makerere University has received substantial financial support from the Government of Uganda. At the launch of the year-long Makerere@90 celebrations held on 4<sup>th</sup> 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.10 billion 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 through the Ministry of Education and Sports has already signed an agreement with the African Development Bank (ADB) for a loan facility to assist the Public Universities in Uganda. This facility will enable Makerere University to

rehabilitate and refurbish laboratories and equipment, construct and equip a 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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, which was constructed using the 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.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, I would also like to inform you that the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Norwegian Government and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), have contributed substantially to the development of library services at Makerere University. We thank them.

### **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). I am therefore urging all the academic staff to take advantage of this facility.

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.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, I am happy to report that the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), has agreed to continue supporting Makerere University especially in the areas of research and innovations.

### **The 63<sup>rd</sup> Graduation Ceremony**

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, during the 63<sup>rd</sup> graduation ceremony lasting four (4) days, 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 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 63<sup>rd</sup> 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 3487 graduands from two Colleges namely:

- College of Business and Management Sciences
- College of Computing and Information 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 63<sup>rd</sup> 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 pass on my warm congratulations to members of staff who are 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**

I wish to inform students who had cleared as per the University guidelines by 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Business and Management Sciences**

The College of Business and Management Sciences is presenting a total number of 2430 graduands for award of degrees and diplomas. Of these, 11 will be obtaining PhDs. 365 will be obtaining masters, 2051 will receive undergraduate degrees and 3 will be awarded diplomas. We congratulate the College.

The College has had several achievements over the past year:

On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012, the College received additional funding of USD 2.65 million from the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), to run the fourth phase of a regional master's programme in Economic Policy Management, aimed at improving performance of the public sector in Eastern Africa. We thank the African Capacity Building Foundation.

Makerere University signed an MOU with the *Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU)*, to develop and promote the accountancy profession in Uganda and beyond. The College is the host of *The Makerere University Certified Public Accountants (CPA) Training Centre*, which has been rated amongst the best CPA (U) training centres.

The *Center of Population and Applied Statistics (CPAS)* continues to conduct research and to contribute to capacity building in the fields of population science, statistics, actuarial science, quantitative economics and business statistics. The Centre has been very active for the past two years in promoting research and training.



## **b) College of Computing and Information Sciences**

The College of Computing and Information Sciences is presenting a total number of 1057 graduands for award of degrees and diplomas. Of these, 4 will be obtaining PhDs. 50 will be obtaining masters, 971 will receive undergraduate degrees and 32 will be awarded diplomas. We congratulate the College.

The College continues to spearhead ICT-based research in the region. The research undertaken by the College has mainly centred on the use of new technologies to solve local problems. Resulting from this research, a number of students and staff have received local and international awards. Three students from the School of Computing and Information Sciences who developed a mobile phone application that performs ultrasounds on expectant mothers and detects problems such as ectopic pregnancies won the Microsoft Imagine Cup Grant of USD 50,000, to enable them transform their idea into a social enterprise.

In conclusion, 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 certain that if we work together as a team, we shall be able to restore Makerere's past glory.

Dear graduands, we wish you all the success in whatever you do. However, remember 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.

Finally, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Graduation 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 the construction of a Student Centre, for which I invite you to donate generously.

I thank you and God be with you. I now invite our Chancellor to address the congregation.

**Professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University**