

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



**ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR JOHN
DDUMBA-SSENTAMU**

ON

**THE OCCASION OF THE 64TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2014

The Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. George Mondo Kagonyera

Honourable Minister of Education and Sports

Honourable Ministers present

Honourable Members of Parliament present

Your Lordships the Judges

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

The Leadership of Kampala Capital City Authority

Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council

Chairperson and Members of the Appointments Board, Makerere University

Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Representatives of Development Partners present

Former Vice Chancellors

Religious Leaders

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

Members of Management, Senate, Academic Staff

Chairperson and Members of Council Makerere University Business School

The Principal, Makerere University Business School

Chairperson and Members Academic Board of Makerere University Business School

Parents and Guardians

Graduands

The Media

All invited guests in your various distinguished capacities

Ladies and Gentlemen: I warmly welcome you to the final day of the 64th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University, which began on Tuesday. We thank you for your presence.

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 congratulate all our Graduands for successfully completing their studies. Your hard work has paid off and led you to this day when you will be awarded degrees and diplomas of Makerere University. I also congratulate the parents and guardians who have supported you throughout the entire period of your studies. The best gift you can give to your children is education and you have done so. Thank you and may you be abundantly rewarded through the achievements of your children.

During the past three days, *Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Two* [8822] candidates, out of the overall total of *twelve thousand six hundred and sixteen* [12616] were awarded degrees and diplomas. Mr. Chancellor Sir, **Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Four** [3794] candidates are graduating today. **60%** of these are female while **40%** are male.

The number of students graduating from MUBS has increased by 59% since the last graduation. I am also happy to note that the overall best performing candidate in the humanities during this 64th Graduation Ceremony is once again from MUBS as was the case last year. **Mr. Frank Kabuye** obtained a **CGPA of 4.79** in the Bachelor of Business Administration programme. We congratulate you together with your parents and guardians. We also congratulate the Management and Staff of MUBS upon these achievements.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University Business School has had several other achievements since the last Graduation Ceremony. Allow me just to mention a few:

The School held its 8th Graduation Ceremony in May 2013, during which *One Thousand Two Hundred* [1,200] candidates received postgraduate and undergraduate diplomas, as well as certificates at a function presided over by you, Mr. Chancellor. These included inmates from the Luzira Upper Prisons center.

Since the last graduation, five (5) members of staff have obtained PhDs. I would like to inform you that MUBS is producing another PhD graduate today, who is notably female. We congratulate MUBS upon this achievement. The School currently has over thirty (30) staff pursuing their PhD studies at various institutions. Six [6] of these, who are female, are expected to graduate during the course of this year. Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to thank the female staff of MUBS for their efforts towards advancing themselves. Their exceptional performance is remarkable.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, MUBS received a donation of 50,000 electronic books from Prof. Geerit Lovink of the University of Amsterdam to boost research and ICT, following the completion of the School Library.

The School has participated in a number of regional and international conferences, some of which it hosted including the 18th Annual International Management Conference (AIMC), the 4th Annual

Leadership Conference, and the 10th Annual Entrepreneurship Conference.

In March 2013, the School opened its fourth up-country campus in Mbale to extend education to the Eastern and North Eastern regions. This is in line with the School's policy of decongesting the main campus at Nakawa. It is also in line with our goal of increasing access to University education to Ugandans at a relatively low cost. The School is also planning to start community-based degree programmes to promote development and entrepreneurship in the regions where it has campuses including Jinja, Arua, Mbarara and Mbale.

The School plans to construct a number of lecture halls from its internal sources. This initiative will compliment a grant secured through the Ministry of Education and Sports to construct the Faculty of Computing and Management Science building.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, on behalf of Makerere University Business School, I pay special tribute to the Government of Uganda and all our Development Partners, who continue to support the School and indeed Makerere University in the area of staff training and development, as well as research.

In terms of staff training and development, the School secured a grant through the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Building in Higher Education and Research for Development [NORHED] to build staff capacity at PhD and Masters level in collaboration with the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. The School also secured an additional joint grant from the International Youth Fund, USAID and the MasterCard Foundation for training youth in social innovation.

MUBS has expanded its international collaboration network to include Coventry University with which they plan to introduce Oil, Gas and Energy Management Courses. They have also established connection with Copenhagen Business School, Denmark, to organise exchange field studies.

The success of MUBS, which is also indeed our success, is basically attributable to the dedication of the members of staff. I take this opportunity to thank all staff of MUBS for the wonderful contribution you continue to make towards progress of your institution and the country at large. I also take this opportunity to thank the Members of Council and the Academic Board of MUBS for a job well done.

I thank the Principal together with his management team for his cordial working relationship with management of Makerere University. We have a common goal of providing high quality education for the development of our nation. A good working relationship is therefore paramount and I am glad to note that we continue to enjoy it.

I would like to re-echo my remarks during the previous graduation ceremony regarding our collaboration. As I said then, 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 region, it can surely 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. I therefore urge all of us to initiate stronger and visible links.

In conclusion Mr. Chancellor Sir, on behalf of the Council, Management and Staff of Makerere University, I thank you for successfully presiding over the occasion of the 64th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. I also thank the entire Chancellor's procession, which has been with us all through this ceremony since Tuesday. Your support has been great.

I thank the Ceremonies Committee and all members of staff who have been involved in the activities of the four-day ceremony. We thank the Uganda Police Band and our students from the School of Liberal and Performing Arts for brightening up the ceremony with wonderful music.

Our dear Graduands, you have made us proud and we hope Makerere University has made you proud and that you can proclaim with satisfaction and with our fear that you are an Alumni of Makerere University. Remember to support your institution through giving back. I call upon all of you who have been awarded degrees and diplomas over the course of this ceremony, including today's, to gainfully apply the knowledge you have acquired. Remember this knowledge is not yours alone. It is for the benefit of the entire society. Use it to overcome the challenges of our nation. May God bless you all.

It is now my privilege to invite our Chancellor, Prof. George Mondo Kagonyera, to address the congregation.