

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

**SPEECH BY THE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR GEORGE
MONDO KAGONYERA**

**AT THE MONSIGNOR DR. LAWRENCE KANYIKE
FAREWELL PARTY**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2014, 10:00 AM, MAKERERE
UNIVERSITY ST. AUGUSTINE CHAPEL**

His Eminence Cardinal Emmanuel Wamala

The Archbishop of Kampala Archdiocese, His Grace Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga

The Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu

Monsignor Lawrence Kanyike

Acting Chaplain Rev. Father Josephat Ddungu

The Priests and Clergy

Staff Members of Makerere University

Members of St. Augustine Chapel

Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen in your various capacities

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Good afternoon to you all.

I am delighted to be here today as we bid farewell to Msg. Lawrence Kanyike, after three decades as Chaplain of St. Augustine Chapel. 30 years is indeed a long time and we thank the Almighty God for giving Msg. Kanyike the strength to carry on. It takes a lot of commitment and dedication to serve in one place for such a long period. We are therefore grateful to you Msg. Kanyike for your patience and humility during this period. We consider this as a unique demonstration of the care you had in ensuring that you steadily contribute to building for the future, as is synonymous with our motto. We thank you for all the sacrifices made during your tenure as Chaplain. May the Almighty God abundantly bless you.

Ceremonies like this one serve a higher purpose of giving us an opportunity to reflect upon the deeds of those who have excelled in our midst. In this case as we celebrate and bid farewell to Msg. Kanyike, we need to pick best practices he shared with us over the years. I therefore urge the entire Makerere University community, especially members of St. Augustine Chapel, to uphold the teachings and counsel that Msg. Kanyike shared with you. In the same spirit, I urge you to enhance the works he initiated, including the students' programmes and the development projects. It would be very disheartening to us all, especially to him, if the good works we celebrate alongside his name, came crumbling due to bad decisions. I am however hopeful that this will not be the case, with God as your guide. As Makerere University, we shall give

you all the necessary support within our means, to enable your excellent service to the community.

Like the Vice Chancellor has mentioned, Msg. Kanyike deserves a prestigious award properly structured in Makerere University provisions. It is unfortunate that Makerere University has not yet institutionalized awarding of medals to those who excel in our midst. Let me take this opportunity to urge the University Management to consider awarding such persons. We should not stop at awarding honorary Doctorates and Professorships, but also consider other categorizations of service recognitions.

I thank the centers of worship in Makerere University, for being instrumental in shaping the character of our students and the entire community. I am very passionate about discipline especially amongst students. I am particularly pleased with the modal that Msg. Kanyike initiated, of going out to engage the students in their halls of residence, hostels and in socialization events. This is an excellent modal, for it further narrows the gap between students and their mentors.

I however urge the centers of worship in Makerere University, to inculcate the spirit of dialogue in our students; as the best way of solving differences. Just like you teach them to pray to God and patiently wait upon Him, they also need to appreciate dialoging with the University Administration and patiently wait for feedback. I know it is possible for Makerere University to have peaceful demonstrations if any. The violence witnessed in some of the student strikes, could be a reflection of deeper rooted problems within the students themselves. I am positive that the Church can help such students find comfort.

Secondly, discipline is key for this country. We are still plagued with so many social evils including corruption. It is the continued demand for a high level of discipline at all levels that will eventually make us a better country. As universities, we play a critical role in contributing to what the future leaders, who go through our gates, will become. By proximity therefore, the churches, mosques and other centers of worship located within universities are strategically positioned to shape these leaders.

As I conclude, I once again thank Msg. Kanyike for the productive term as Chaplin. We sincerely wish you a fruitful tenure in your next placement, and are confident that you will leave an excellent record.

I thank you.