



**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR**

**PROFESSOR GEORGE MONDO KAGONYERA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 65<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY  
OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY, 2015**

**The Honourable Minister of Education and Sports**

**Honourable Ministers present**

**Honourable Members of Parliament**

**Members of the Diplomatic Corps**

**Your Lordships the Judges of the Judicature**

**Religious Leaders**

**Your Worship the Mayor, Kampala Capital City Authority**

**Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies**

**Chancellors and former Chancellors present**

**Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council**

**Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Business School Council**

**The Vice Chancellor and your Management team**

**The Principal Makerere University Business School**

**Former Vice Chancellors and Management Present**

**Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Principals of other Universities and Institutions**

**Members of the University Senate**

**Members of Staff of Makerere University**

**Parents and Guardians**

**Graduands**

**The Media Fraternity**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR 65<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**

### **1.1 Congratulatory Statement to graduands**

Dear graduands, I congratulate you all upon reaching this coveted milestone in your academic journey. You are graduating in various disciplines that you have chosen as the vehicles towards a better future. In the process, your families, your country and even the world, benefit from your knowledge. Let me add my voice to the many in thanking your parents and sponsors for staying committed to educating you up to this level. I warmly congratulate all the students who have excelled by attaining First Class and Upper Second Class degrees, as well as other graduates upon successfully completing their studies.

### **1.2 Quality Assurance at Makerere**

Quality Assurance is one of three crosscutting themes of Makerere University's Strategic Plan. Through her Quality Assurance Policy of May 2007, the University is committed to promoting internal and external confidence in her academic services provision. Therefore, incidences such as alteration of marks cannot be tolerated and the rules and regulations of the university must be put into effect. The University Administration has had to make some tough decisions and I support the Vice Chancellor and Management for the action taken.

### **1.3 Focus on PhDs-Message to PhD Graduands**

This year we are awarding 67 Doctor of Philosophy degrees. As you may recollect, there were times in the past when we hardly had any PhD candidate. When I was the Chairperson of the Appointments Board, we had a lot of problems with candidates not meeting basic academic requirements. Therefore, I am very happy with the tremendous improvement in higher academic performance. You are what a University ought to be.

## **1.4 Discipline**

As you graduate from Makerere University today, I wish to emphasise that soft skills are as equally important the technical skills that you have obtained over the years. Key among these soft skills is the ability to respectfully listen to the person addressing you, especially if they are your seniors. I therefore hope and pray that you will remain respectful of your parents, guardians, teachers and even your own selves by exercising courtesy and restraint during the remaining days of this Graduation Ceremony.

### **1.4 Makerere University continues to Nurture; Produces Vice Chancellors and Deputy Vice Chancellors for public and private universities in Uganda**

We are glad to share that our distinguished alumnus and personalities groomed and mentored here at Makerere University are now Vice Chancellors and Deputy Vice Chancellors in public and private universities in Uganda. Makerere as the oldest University has a key role in providing leadership to younger and upcoming institutions. We are therefore proud of all our staff who have gone on to serve other institutions.

Congratulations!

Indeed, Makerere University is building for the future!

## **1.5 Governance of the University**

In the same spirit, I commend the Makerere University Council, Senate, University Management and the leadership at all levels for remaining focused on the realization of the University vision and mission. In a special way, I congratulate Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem, an alumnus of Makerere University for being re-appointed Chairperson of Council. I wish you, and your team (Mak Council 2014-2018) a successful and fruitful tenure as Makerere continues to build for the future.

## **1.6 Funding the higher education sector**

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, those who have listened to me on several occasions especially the media, I have always emphasized the need for adequate funding as well as better remuneration of staff at Makerere University. I sincerely thank the Government of Uganda for accepting to take over the entire wage bill of Makerere University effective the next financial year 2015/2016. I also thank the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Development for prioritizing Makerere University's development agenda.

## **1.7 Makerere University Resource Mobilisation Strategy and the Private Sector**

I commend the Makerere University Council and Management for coming up with a Resource Mobilisation Strategy. I thank you for bringing on board the private and business sector through the Makerere University Endowment Fund and the Makerere University Holdings Company Ltd.

We have in place the Board of Trustees of the Makerere University Endowment Fund chaired by Dr. Martin Alier and the Board of Directors of the Makerere University Holdings Company Ltd chaired by Mr. Charles Mbire. and the Makerere University Holdings Company Ltd. I thank the Chairmen and Members of the Board for accepting to server Makerere University.

Let this gesture inspire our graduands, the alumni and Ugandans at large to contribute to Makerere University development programmes as well as participating in Makerere University activities and programmes when called upon. Some of these activities include the: the Fundraising efforts for the Makerere University Students' Complex ahead of the Mak@100 Centennial celebrations, H.E. Mwai Kibaki

Presidential Library Project and an endowed Chair in Economics and the commercialization of Makerere University research outputs.

### **1.8 Makerere University advances in research and innovations**

As highlighted in the Vice Chancellor's speech, I congratulate the entire Makerere University community for the advances in research and innovation. I applaud the staff and students for continuing to coming up with cutting edge research and innovations for the transformation of communities. I have equally participated and as such witnessed the milestones in research and innovations in numerous fields/disciplines at Makerere University, and I feel proud to be associated with the research outputs and innovations.

In the same spirit, thank all our development partners for supporting research at this great institution. With the support of our development partners at both national and international levels, Makerere University has continued to improve her teaching and learning processes, produce high quality graduates for the nation and beyond, and come up with cutting edge research and innovations for the betterment of humanity and transformation of societies. We will forever be eternally grateful.

### **1.9 Conclusion: Special Message to the graduands (Focused on Attitude)**

Unemployment among the youth is a major problem. No doubt many of you are going to face a difficult future. I pray that you take this as a challenge for you to overcome. Good education is about creating variability in your approach to life. You must be resilient. Adapt yourselves to any situation. Have the courage to take in any opportunity that presents itself. Do not despise any job but use it as a first step in your long journey through life. Best wishes.