

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR

PROF. JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 65TH GRADUATION
CEREMONY OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

WEDNESDAY, 21ST JANUARY, 2015

FREEDOM SQUARE

- **The Chancellor – Prof George Mondo Kagonyera**
- **Honourable Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Retired Major Jessica Alupo**
- **Honourable Ministers present**
- **Honourable Members of Parliament present**
- **Your Lordships the Judges**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps**
- **Religious Leaders**
- **The Lord Mayor, Kampala City**
- **The Leadership of Kampala Capital City Authority**
- **Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council**
- **Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies**
- **Representatives of Development Partners at the National and International levels**
- **My colleagues, Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Principals of Institutions of Higher Learning**
- **Former Vice Chancellors**
- **Members of Management, Senate and the entire Makerere University Community**
- **Parents and Guardians**
- **Graduands**
- **The Media**
- **All invited guests in your various distinguished capacities**

You are most welcome to the 65th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. I thank you for gracing this occasion with your presence. **In a special way, I welcome the Honourable Minister of Education and Sports. Hon. Rtd. Major Jessica Alupo. We thank you and your Ministry for the support towards Makerere University.**

This ceremony is indeed part of the cherished culture of Makerere University, and is one of the few opportunities that graduands, parents, guardians and members of Staff come together to celebrate a worthwhile journey.

To all our Graduands today, I bring you warm greetings and congratulations from the entire Makerere University community upon successfully fulfilling the requirements for the award of degrees and diplomas of Makerere University. Your success is indeed the joy of Makerere University. This is your achievement but you should always remember the sacrifices others have made to ensure that you stand here today. Therefore to all parents and guardians, we thank you for the support and sacrifices that you have made throughout the period of study of your children to make sure that they succeed. The best gift you can give your children is education, and you have done so. We thank you and may the Almighty God bless you abundantly.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir; I wish to thank you for your sustained guidance and support towards ensuring an efficient and effective organizational and management environment. Over the years, you have diligently served Makerere University in different capacities. Your love for Makerere University stands out and we thank you for your selfless contribution.

Makerere University has a new Council in place for the period Dec 2014-Dec 2018 chaired by Eng. Dr. Charles Wana Etyem whom I congratulate upon his re-appointment as Chairperson of Council. We look forward to your strategic leadership in guiding this institution to greater heights. I also take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Bruce Balaba Kabasa, for his appointment as Chairperson of Makerere University Appointments Board and as we wish him a successful term in office, we also hope for a positive and significant change in the activities of the Appointments Board.

I also take this opportunity to welcome Prof. R.J. Zvobgo, Vice Chancellor of the Great Zimbabwe University who is here to witness the graduation of his dear wife; graduating with a Masters Degree in Gender Studies. May I humbly request him to stand up for recognition.

In a special way, I congratulate all members of staff graduating today upon this academic achievement from which Makerere University will greatly benefit. To the members of staff whose children, spouses and relatives are graduating today, congratulations!

May I also express my sincere appreciation to the entire Staff of Makerere University for their dedicated service to this great institution and the entire nation. Your contribution towards this nation is priceless and Makerere University is forever grateful.

On a sad note, Mr. Chancellor Sir, the Makerere University Community has lost several members of Staff and students since the last graduation; including Prof. Charles Ssekabembe, Assoc. Prof. Kenneth Lapenga, Assoc. Prof. Peter Ongom and Prof. Bernard Kiremire, and today, we are paying our last respects to Assoc. Prof. Mwanahebwa Amisi Sango who will be buried today in Ibanda district. We send our sincere condolences to the families of these and other members of Staff. May the Almighty God rest their souls in eternal peace. In the same vein, the Makerere University Community remembers with respect and dignity the late Prof. Ali Mazrui, whose legacy will continue to inspire many not only in Uganda but also in the entire world.

On a positive note Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University continues to register significant successes for which we are thankful to our several stakeholders. More than twenty international scholarships have been won by members of staff to pursue further studies at Masters, PhD and Post doctorate levels in various disciplines. A number of Staff have received research grants from development partners to undertake research and also build capacity in different disciplines. We are indeed very grateful to all our development partners.

We acknowledge and sincerely thank the Government of Uganda for the support including the Presidential Initiative. This has enabled us to engage in ground breaking research and innovations. Owing to this support from the Government and Development partners, as well as the high dedication of our Staff; I am proud and honoured to inform you Mr. Chancellor Sir that Makerere University is ranked among the top five universities in Africa in terms of research output and publications.

Having said that, Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University faces a number of challenges, the most outstanding being the insufficient funding. We are grateful to His Excellency the President of Uganda, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, for not only accepting to take over the entire wage bill of Public Universities but also having pledged to enhance the pay of the Professor to the tune of 15m shillings. We are also grateful to His Excellency for the symbiotic relationship constructed between the President and the MUASA leadership headed by Dr. Muhammad Kiggundu Musoke; the Student leadership headed by His Excellency Ivan Bwowe and the Makerere University Management. **I kindly request the honourable Minister of Education, Maj. Rtd. Jessica Alupo, to convey our sincere gratitude to his Excellency and also to inform him that Makerere University will continue to support all Government Programmes.**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University has taken steps to becoming financially stable. Key among the various strategies, we have established the Makerere University Endowment Fund to mobilize resources for the development of Makerere University. Makerere University has also established the Makerere University Holdings Company Ltd with a long-term plan of ensuring that Makerere University is financially stable.

To **all our alumni** here present in your capacity as parents, benefactors, relatives and graduands, the Makerere University Endowment Fund Board of Trustees through the Planning and Development Department is in the process of identifying ways of reaching out to you at national, regional and international levels.

We are optimistic that when we come to your organization or company, you will receive us with open arms and contribute generously to the development of our institution.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, during the 65th graduation ceremony lasting three days, a **total of thirteen thousand seven hundred and seventy six (13,776)** students will graduate. Of these **49.5%** are female and **50.5% are male**. We shall also witness a record-high attainment of **67 Doctorates**. Of these **67% are male** and **33% are female**. **Mr. Chancellor Sir, the best student in the Science disciplines and best overall student, Mr. Adriko Rodney attained a CGPA of 4.88 with First Class Honours. Mr. Adriko will graduate with a Bachelor of Information Technology degree on Friday 23rd January 2015. Our best overall student in the Humanities, Mr. Sewante Luke attained a CGPA of 4.81 with First Class Honours. Mr. Sewante will graduate with a Bachelor of Leadership and Governance from the Makerere University Business School tomorrow Thursday 22nd January 2015.**

At this graduation we are privileged to honour Ms. Ruth Morris Keesling with an honorary doctorate of science. Ms. Ruth Morris Keesling, you are most welcome to your second home Makerere University. The time, effort and resources that you have devoted to research and wildlife conservation have helped to revive the once-threatened Mountain Gorilla population and in so doing advanced academia as well as improving the livelihoods of various communities. For this and so much more, Makerere University sincerely says thank you and may the Almighty God bless you abundantly..

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today we present to you candidates from the six Colleges, i.e College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, College of Health Sciences, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio Security, College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology, and College of Natural Sciences, for the award of diplomas, degrees and PhDs. There have been several new developments in these Colleges since the last graduation. Allow me to mention just a few:

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences: has continued to excel in research grant acquisition and innovations. I am pleased to report that the College has embarked on Earthworm breeding project to provide cheaper sources of protein to livestock farmers. The College also developed new soybean varieties Maksoy 4N and Maksoy 5N which are rust disease-resistant. We further commend this College for successfully conducting the agriculture induction course to the UPDF officers.

The College of Health Sciences; has created strong strategic partnerships in order to enhance research output and service delivery. This College has continued to expand its internship program; known as the Community Based Education and Services (COBES) thereby broadening our students' experience. The College has engaged in ground breaking research on priority health challenges including development of Ebola diagnostics and vaccines. During the course of this year, the College will start a Research Support Center that will enhance our research opportunities. I also pay special tribute to the School of Public Health for the mobilization of resources, which have helped us refurbish the Makerere University Main Hall.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, according to data provided by the Web of Knowledge, the top publishers for the period 2008-2014 are from the College of Health Sciences. These are; Prof. David Sserwadda with 199 publications, Prof. Nelson Ssewankambo with 141 publications, Prof. Fred Wabwire-Mangheni with 117 publications and Prof. Harriet Mayanja-Kizza with 104 publications. We congratulate and sincerely thank these scholars for making Makerere University more visible on the international scene. We pay special tribute to Prof. Celestino Obua who was until recently the Deputy Principal of the College and is now the Vice Chancellor of Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

The College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio Security; continues to grow and expand as a community-oriented development college. The college has embarked on an extensive and long term plan to skill communities, increase employment and household incomes through an innovative educational, training and community transformation model.

It is through this model that Sheik Technical Veterinary School in Somaliland is affiliated to Makerere University. Under this affiliation, the College in collaboration with IGAD; Inter-governmental Authority on Development has been providing technical support to the horn of Africa. Today, 42 students from Sheik Technical Veterinary School will receive a Diploma in Livestock Health Science and another 34 will receive a Diploma in Livestock Product Development and Entrepreneurship. **Dr. Fred Wesonga, Principal, IGAD School of Veterinary Medicine who is representing the Secretary General, IGAD, and his team are in our midst to witness this important occasion. I request you to please stand up for recognition.**

The College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology; is working with communities outside the university to ensure that the research carried out benefits the community. The SCUSA Grey project which is aimed at reducing the pollution load coming from grey water generated in urban slums has built 20 household grey water treatment units, treating wastewater from more than 100 households in the slum areas in the proximity of Kasubi. The College is monitoring these treatment systems to quantify the pollution reduction achieved as a result of these grey water treatment filters.

The College of Natural Sciences; In partnership with the University of Bergen (**Bar-gen**) launched the P.H. Greenwood Consortium to bring together researchers in fish ecology and systematics, biomathematics, aquaculture and fish health in the region. This consortium will help to provide the much-needed research on how to address the dwindling fish populations. We commend the college for the partnership with the International Human Resources Development Corporation (IHRDC), UK and AH Consulting, through which Uganda received an International Petroleum Industry Multimedia System (IPIMS) worth approximately UGX 1 billion to boost teaching and learning in the Masters Programme of Petroleum Geosciences.

At this moment allow me to congratulate the former Dean of the School of Biosciences in this College, **Prof. Maud Kamatenesi-Mugisha, who is now the Vice Chancellor of Bishop Stuart University.** We wish her a successful term in office.

We congratulate **The College of Humanities and Social Sciences;** upon signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Defence to formalise its collaboration with the Senior Command and Staff College (KIMAKA), aimed at professionalizing and modernizing the UPDF. The College officially launched the Confucius Institute in Makerere to help teach the Chinese language and culture to our staff, students and the general public. This will go a long way in expanding the business relations between China and Uganda as our people gain greater knowledge of the culture.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, we congratulate Dr. Tanga Odoi, who has been a Lecturer for 25 years in the Department of History at Makerere University, upon his appointment as Chairperson of the NRM Electoral Commission. We wish him the very best in his new assignment and we thank the President for making the right choice.

Mr. Chancellor Sir as I conclude, I once again thank all of you for being with us today. I extend special thanks to the Ceremonies Committee for ensuring that the 65th graduation ceremony takes place.

To our graduands, as you leave the gates of Makerere today, please be honest in all that you do, for it is such honesty that will enable you to improve and fit in any society hereafter. Use the knowledge you have acquired not only to improve yourself but also for the positive transformation of your society.

I call upon you to always remember and support this great institution which has nurtured you. Thank you and God bless you. It is now my honour and privilege to invite our dear Chancellor, Prof. Mondo Kagonyera to address the congregation.
We build for the future.