

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR

PROF. JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU

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

FRIDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 2015

FREEDOM SQUARE

- **The Chancellor – Prof. 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**
- **Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies**
- **Representatives of Development Partners**
- **The Leadership of Kampala Capital City Authority**
- **Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council**
- **My colleagues, Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Principals of Institutions of Higher Learning, including Prof. Olubayi Olubayi, Vice Chancellor of the International University of East Africa**
- **Former Vice Chancellors**
- **Members of Management, Senate and the entire Makerere University Community**
- **Parents and Guardians**
- **Graduands**
- **The Media**
- **All invited guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

You are most welcome to the final day of the 65th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. I thank you for honouring us 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.**

A Graduation Ceremony is one of the few opportunities that graduands, parents, guardians and members of Staff come together to celebrate the combined efforts of their work. I therefore congratulate all of you in this congregation.

To all Graduands today, I bring you warm greetings and congratulations from Makerere University upon your success. Your success is indeed the joy of Makerere University. This is your achievement but you should always remember the sacrifices that others have made for you. Therefore to all parents and guardians, we thank you for the support to your children in this regard.

In a special way, I congratulate all members of staff graduating today upon their academic achievement. In the same spirit, congratulations to members of staff whose children, spouses and relatives are graduating today.

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 leadership in guiding this institution to greater heights. I also take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Bruce Balaba Kabasa, upon his appointment as Chairperson of Makerere University Appointments Board. We have great expectations of you as Chairperson of Appointments Board

On a sad note, Mr. Chancellor Sir, the Makerere University Community has lost several members of Staff and students since the last graduation. We send our sincere condolences to the bereaved families and 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. Since the last graduation, 9 Members of Staff have been promoted to the rank of Professor.

These include; Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Finance and Administration, Prof. Sarah Kiguli, Prof. Mugisha Anthony, Prof. Alice Kagoda, Prof. Robert Tweyongyere, Prof. Fred Nuwaha, Prof. Silvester Nyakaana, Prof. Magid Kagimu and Prof. Deborah Baranga. 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 grateful to all our development partners for all the institutional and project-specific support to Makerere University.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the entire Staff of Makerere University for their dedicated service to this great institution and the entire nation. Your dedicated service has enabled Makerere University to fulfill her core functions which are teaching and learning; research and innovations and partnership and networking.

You have been able to engage in ground breaking research and innovations which has greatly enhanced the visibility of Makerere University. Owing to the high dedication of our Staff; Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University is ranked among the top five universities in Africa in terms of research output and publications.

In this regard Mr. Chancellor Sir, I would like to pay special tribute to members of staff with exceptional numbers of publications in the University. According to data provided by the Web of Knowledge, the top publishers for the period 2008-2014 are; Prof. David Serwadda 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 acknowledge and sincerely thank the Government of Uganda for the support including the Presidential Initiative.

I would like to assure His Excellency the President and the Government of Uganda that Makerere University has always and will continue to support government programmes.

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.

I am very grateful to the team that met with the President to discuss the welfare of Makerere staff. These include; The Chancellor Prof. Mondo Kagonyera who led the team, Members of Council, the MUASA leadership headed by Dr. Muhammad Kiggundu Musoke; the Student leadership headed by His Excellency Ivan Bwowe and the Makerere University Management. In a special way, I would like to pay tribute to Gen. Kale Kayihura who organized this meeting. Makerere University has direct access to the President through Gen. Kale Kayihura and we thank him for this noble service.

I am positive and very confident that the challenges of Makerere University can easily be overcome by the combined effort of the Chancellor, Council, Management, Staff Associations and Students. We should all work together towards improving the welfare of our Staff, Students and environment.

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** present here today 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. We are also witnessing a record-high attainment of **67 Doctorates**. **Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am happy to acknowledge the best student in the Science disciplines and best overall student Mr. Adriko Rodney, who obtained a First Class Degree in the Bachelor of Information Technology with a CGPA of 4.88. We congratulate you together with your parents and guardians, and also congratulate the College of Computing and Information Sciences upon this achievement.**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today we present to you candidates from three Colleges, i.e College of Business and Management Sciences and College of Computing and Information Sciences as well as the School of Law. There have been several new developments in these Colleges since the last graduation. Allow me to mention just a few starting with the School of Law:

Mr. Chancellor Sir, effective 1st July 2014, the **School of Law** became a College in accordance with the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Statute 2012. Although now officially a College, it has retained the name **“School of Law”**.

The decision of Makerere University Council to elevate the School of Law to College Status was informed by among other reasons the legal requirement that Makerere University should be run on a collegiate system, the increased student enrolment, enhanced research and scholarship and expansion of disciplines of law being taught. In addition to the existing programmes, the School is in the process of introducing specialized Master of Laws Degree Programmes. The School also runs a Doctor of Laws programme which currently has about 6 candidates.

Once again, I congratulate the School of Law upon attaining a College Status. The School of Law continues to build more partnerships thereby becoming more and more relevant to the needs of society.

I also congratulate the acting Principal, School of Law, Dr. Damalie Naggita-Musoke upon being appointed the incoming Chairperson of Council of the Consortium of **thirteen** Universities undertaking the Master of Laws (LL.M) Human Rights and democratization in Africa programme.

The College of Business and Management Sciences; is graduating the first cohort of candidates on the Master of Public Infrastructure Management (MPIM) Programme. This programme is a pan African programme supported by the Development Bank of Southern Africa which offers 25 scholarships every year to both local and international students. The School of Business has also signed an MoU with ACCA to establish an ACCA training center at the School among other activities. ACCA will also be sponsoring the best Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) student for all the ACCA qualification.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, agriculture is a very vital component of our economy but unfortunately there is no comprehensive source for agricultural statistics. I am therefore pleased to inform you that School of Statistics and Planning and the Centre for Population and Applied Statistics, in collaboration with Iowa State University, has embarked on an 18- month research project on improving the methodology for using administrative data in an integrated cost-effective Agricultural Statistics system. The project is funded by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

The College of Computing and Information Sciences has undertaken a number of collaborations and mentored several staff and students in developing applicable solutions relevant to national and international development. These innovations cut across e-Health, e-Agriculture, e-Government, e-Education and Cyber Crime.

In this regard, we congratulate Team AfriGal Tech which was one of only four teams chosen from Africa that made it to the finals of the MicroSoft Imagine Cup

competition in Seattle Washington, USA. Their mobile phone application **mDex** which uses an attached external lens is used to rapidly diagnose sickle cell.

We also commend the college for developing **tech4farmers**, a mobile phone-based digital agricultural commodity exchange to help farmers sell produce directly to consumers or traders without the need for middlemen.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to commend the Uganda Police Force led by the Inspector General of Police Gen. Kale Kayihura for partnering with this college to support 12 student innovation groups. These groups will receive training, mentorship and financing to transform their ideas into market-ready industrial products. This training is taking place at the National Youth ICT Centre. We sincerely thank the Uganda Police Force for this kind gesture.

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 65th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. I also thank the Chancellor's procession, which has been with us since Wednesday. Your support has been great.

I thank the Ceremonies Committee and all members of staff who have been involved in the activities of the three-day ceremony. In a special way, I thank the Uganda Police Force and the Chief Security Officer for ensuring that we have had a peaceful ceremony.

In particular I would like to thank the Inspector General of Police Gen. Kale Kayihura for the role he has played in making sure that there is peace in Makerere University.

We thank the Uganda Police Band and our students from the School of Liberal and Performing Arts for adding colour to the graduation ceremony with your wonderful music and performances.

To our graduands, once again, congratulations. Today is your day to remember, to celebrate and to cherish. You have earned it and we wish you a wonderful and joyful celebration.

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 without fear that you are an Alumni of Makerere University. Remember to support your institution through giving back. This is not the end of the journey but the beginning. I encourage you to strive for greater success in your professional and social life through dedication and hard work. Remember that good things come to those who are patient and honest. I am aware 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. 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.***