



**REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR,**

**PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU,**

**AT THE AWARD OF DEGREE AND DIPLOMA CERTIFICATES TO  
STUDENTS WHO ENROLLED FOR THE AMITY-MAKERERE  
UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMES, AT THE COLLEGE OF COMPUTING  
AND INFORMATION SCIENCES,**

**27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2015**

- The Minister of Information and Communication Technology
- Your Excellency the Acting Indian High Commissioner
- The Permanent Secretaries
- Members of the Pan-African e-Network Project
- Members of Staff of the College of Computing and Information Sciences
- Graduands
- Parents and Guardians
- The Media
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

.....

It is my profound pleasure to welcome you all to this award giving ceremony at the College of Computing and Information Sciences, Makerere University. I particularly welcome our Chief Guest, the Honorable Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Eng. John Nasasira, to Makerere University. I thank him for always supporting Makerere in all our initiatives. Your presence shows the zeal you have for advancing higher education in Africa. Thank you all for coming.

I congratulate all the students, especially the members of staff who are graduating for making it to this day when we acknowledge and celebrate your achievements. This is a golden possession which better positions you to favorably compete for employment or become job creators. The fruits of this achievement would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of your parents, spouses, children, family and friends who have accompanied you here. You have studied and graduated during an era of incredible technology and opportunity. A lot of opportunity awaits you

out there, as you leave Makerere University today, go out and be the champions of change in your respective disciplines.

The tele-education programs offered at the College of Computing and Information Sciences are a direct response to national, regional and international demands to comprehensively expand and strengthen avenues for providing higher education in Uganda and the region.

It has been noted that enrollment levels for higher education in Uganda have lagged behind those of some countries on the continent over the years. This has somehow been attributed to the orthodox thinking which confines education to being in the physical presence of a lecturer. Our dear graduands, your presence in this room today is a testimony that technology is indeed changing this thinking style and we congratulate the graduands who scored four medals last year, we are proud of you.

As Makerere University, we are proud to have successfully and conclusively carried out online lectures in real time. This is the third year we hold such a ceremony and each year, the number of graduates keeps growing, highlighting the high demand for higher education and for an opportunity to gain more skills necessary for today's job market.

Ladies and gentlemen, we continue to improve our teaching, learning and research facilities so as to create the very best environment for our students and staff. The university is thankful for the two year extension that begun September 2014, and we have acquired state of the art skills and techniques of running tele-education programs. Makerere University is

capable of standing on its own and incorporating what began as a project into our daily activities.

I would like to thank the government for creating an enabling environment for higher education, our development partners for assisting us in various projects, the staff for their diligence and hard work and the University management for consistently supporting me in building this Institution. I would also like to thank the students for observing the rules and regulations governing their conduct and also for maintaining the very high level discipline that has ensured smooth running of the University. This is definitely a remarkable strength. We are very proud of you.

We are grateful to the African Union and the Government of India that subsidized the fees for the students. Incidentally, India is a great ICT hub and they appreciate the talent our students have. Through recruitment firms like AIESEC, many of our students have participated in paid internships in Indian firms and they have come back with great skills.

I thank the College of Computing and Information Sciences and Amity University for a job well done. This collaboration between Makerere University and the Amity University of India has been a great enabler for affordable education in the region.

To those of you graduating today, I hope that the experiences you have gained through tele-education have been enjoyable and productive. You have worked hard and made sacrifices to earn the awards you receive today and you now embark on another phase of your lives as graduates of Amity University.

Kindly accept my warm congratulations and best wishes to you for your success and happiness in your personal and professional lives.

To the families, friends, staff who have supported you this far and enabled you achieve this great success, we are indebted to you.

I thank you.