



**REMARKS OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
PROF. JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADMISSIONS
CEREMONY FOR NEW STUDENTS
(UNDERGRADUATE & POSTGRADUATE)**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2015

- **Members of University Management**
- **Principals of Various Colleges**
- **Deans and Directors**
- **Registrars**
- **Wardens**
- **All Members of Staff present**
- **The Guild President and Your Executive**
- **Our dear Students:** Good afternoon to you all. I warmly welcome you to this ceremony, which symbolises the official admission of new students into Makerere University. I thank the Academic Registrar and your team for organising the ceremony. I would also like to thank each one of you present for setting aside time to attend this important event.

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On behalf of the entire Makerere University community, I wish to congratulate all our new students who have been admitted to various programmes of Makerere University. This is a big achievement not only for you, but your families as well. As you are aware, Makerere University is a strong institution with a great reputation. It is a leading destination for higher education on the continent. Therefore, you should consider yourself lucky to have joined such an institution whose alumni include Presidents and many distinguished personalities such as the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, H.E. Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, H.E. Mwai Kibaki of Kenya, H.E Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Milton Obote, Sir Edward Muteesa, to mention a few. This is an institution whose legacy is that of excellence.

The mission of Makerere University is *to provide innovative teaching, learning, research and services responsive to national and global needs*. The three core functions of the University serve to fulfill this mission as we strive to reach our vision “*to be the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa*”. The core functions include:

- i. Teaching and Learning
- ii. Research and Innovations
- iii. Partnerships and Networking

As students, you too have responsibilities and obligations, which are stipulated in your admission letters and the Makerere University Students Regulations 2015. These are all binding and you are reminded to take note of the various obligations therein.

It is our joint responsibility; students, staff and university management to ensure that we maintain the reputation of Makerere University as a community of excellence that builds for generations.

Dear students, you might have noticed already, that university education is very different from primary and secondary education. At university, you are your own supervisor. You are on your own with plenty of freedom. There is no policing because you are considered to be mature persons. We therefore don't expect to parent you, although there is a wide range of people to guide you through your education and career choices. These include principals, deans, lecturers, wardens, registrars and indeed all members of staff of the University in their various capacities.

University education is a two way process. Lecturers provide information to guide you and on your part, there is a lot of self-initiative required using the available resources including the University Library, which is considered to be one of the best libraries on the African continent.

You have joined a community that sets the example for the rest of the nation and we urge you to behave accordingly. Your success depends on your attitude and the choices you make now. I strongly urge you to use your time productively while you are here. Try to use your time here at Makerere University as a platform for achieving a better tomorrow. I urge you to make genuine friendships, those that will add value to your life. You need to make wise choices. As we strive to provide you the best services possible, you too need to take responsibility as students. Each one of us has a role to play.

In the words of Gandhi "*Be the change you wish to see in the world*". It begins now; with respect and humility for one another. Dear students, I urge you to always seek dialogue first should cases of discontent or disagreement arise.

I leave you with these words to reflect upon and I hope that we will work together for the good of our institution, work together for the good of our nation and work together for the good of our continent.

Finally, from today onwards, you are now students of Makerere University. You are formally admitted. I congratulate you and wish you a fruitful stay.