



**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR**

**PROFESSOR EZRA SURUMA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**

**OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2016**

**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**

**The Vice Chancellor and your Management team**

**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:**

## **1.1 Message to Graduands**

I join the Vice Chancellor in congratulating the graduands for the Second Session of the Makerere University 66<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony, from the College of

Education and External Studies and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dear Graduands, this is a very special day in your academic and career path. I am here to celebrate with you and pass on a message that I believe will make your future a success:

I congratulate you upon acquiring knowledge in your respective disciplines, which knowledge will commend you to the world. Your parents, guardians and sponsors have sacrificed a lot to bring you this far, and with the grounding that you have received from Makerere University, we are gathered here, to celebrate the successes together.

### **1.2 To graduands from the College of Education and External Studies:**

There is no nation that has developed and transformed without the contribution of teachers, who lay the foundation, upon which all the respective professions/jobs/vocations build. May you emulate distinguished teachers who have gone before you like the late Professor William Senteza Kajubi and live true to your calling! Strive to be exemplary and to always focus on being good role models.

Your degree in Education is by no means an end in itself. I have seen graduates of Education and External Studies use the knowledge acquired to become successful Bankers; Business Managers; Chief Executive Officers; Customer Care Experts; Pastors and Religious Leaders; successful Sales and Marketing Personnel among others. With the Education and External Studies, you can also work towards building a career in Advocacy on pertinent issues such as maternal health, human rights, interpreters and translators to mention but a few. When all is said and done, it is the choices that we make in life that will determine who we become.

### **1.3 To graduands from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

I would like to assure you that the sky is the limit. You have acquired analytical and critical thinking abilities that can ground you into any area of research. I encourage you to break the school of thought that seeks to ascribe research as a mainly science reserve. We need more researchers in the field of humanities and social sciences. Do not feel too proud to start humbly: take on the responsibility of a Research Assistant to support Senior Researchers when they are doing their work for example. Through their guidance and mentorship, you will soon gain sufficient footing to stand on your own as a prolific researcher.

### **1.4 Simplifying research and science so that society appreciates it**

We have listened to concerns where researchers come up with outputs, but society does not take them up simply because of their complex terminologies. With the knowledge acquired in Education, External Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences, you are the most suitable candidates to simplify the complex research and science by packaging the information in an attractive way. This may be through the integration of performing arts and film; producing attractive reports; producing video clips; catchy power point presentations, public speaking, branding and marketing, to mention but a few.

My message to you as Chancellor is therefore one of optimism. During the course of the 66<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony, we shall confer degrees and award diplomas to **14,318 graduands**. The task before you is to therefore become a competitive brand that stands out, that people yearn for, that people would like to be associated with.

### **How do you become a competitive brand/Competitive graduate?**

In addition to the knowledge you have acquired, I encourage to be:

- Disciplined
- Trustworthy. Someone the Head of an Organisation can entrust with finances
- Develop the ability to multi-task. The times have changed, employers require people who can give a hand in the execution of different tasks.
- Be a good Time Manager. Always keep time.
- Embrace Multilingualism: I believe that most of you have looked at adverts with a wording, knowing an international language, Swahili etc is an added advantage.

### **1.5 The field of communication**

It is my experience that the field of communication is a dominant force globally. It will provide you with so many job opportunities.

### **1.6 Climate Change:**

Right now society is faced with the issue of climate change. This should not be left to scientists, other disciplines have a role to play. In December 2015, over 190 countries convened in Paris, France to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate. This kind of setting calls for a multidisciplinary approach and you are best positioned as fresh graduates to help take on this challenge. I encourage you to recognize that climate change challenges us to adopt sustainable

solutions and technology. These can be harnessed in line with international targets like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to create business opportunities.

### **1.7 Volunteerism**

I encourage you to always embrace the spirit of volunteerism. As a volunteer, you may not eventually be considered for employment in that particular organisation. But even so, the most important thing that you should value is the knowledge, skills and experience that you have acquired. Use any opportunity as a volunteer to build that much needed experience that all jobs require.

Quote from Mother Teresa, “*We do not do great things; we do small things with great love.*”

Dear graduands, it is not certain that all of us may be renowned scholars or renowned researchers, but wherever we may be, we can do small things with great love to satisfy the needs of humanity or society.

### **1.8 Inspiration**

Let your focus in life be on standing out as an achiever. There are many who have gone through the gates of Makerere and made it in life and as a fresh graduate, YOU TOO MUST choose to make it in life.

Once again, Congratulations.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY!