

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 66TH GRADUATION
CEREMONY OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

TUESDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2016

FREEDOM SQUARE

- **The Chancellor, Prof. Ezra Suruma**
- **The Hon. Minister of State for Sports, Hon. Charles Bakkabulindi, representing the Hon. Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Sports, Hon. Maj (Rtd) Jessica Alupo**
- **Honourable Ministers present**
- **Honourable Members of Parliament present**
- **Your Lordships the Judges**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps**
- **Religious Leaders**
- **Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council**
- **Chairperson and Members of the Appointments Board**
- **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**
- **Our dear Graduands**
- **The Media**
- **All Invited Guests in your Distinguished Capacities**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

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I do recognize each one of you present and I warmly welcome you to the 66th graduation ceremony of Makerere University. Thank you for honouring us with your personal presence.

Yesterday, Makerere University was blessed with a new Chancellor, Prof. Ezra Suruma. Please join me in welcoming our new Chancellor. On behalf of the entire Makerere University community, I extend our warm and sincere congratulations to you, Prof. Ezra Suruma, upon your appointment as third Non Head of State Chancellor of Makerere University and wish you a successful term in office.

Prof. Ezra Suruma is a distinguished scholar and statesman with a wealth of experience in the fields of economics, finance and banking. He is a Professor of Economics with a doctorate degree attained in 1976. He has taught in various Universities in the USA and at Makerere University. Prior to his current assignments as Head of the Delivery Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister and Senior Presidential Advisor for finance and planning, he was Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Prof. Suruma has held various positions including Director of Economic Affairs for the National Resistance Movement Secretariat, Chairman and Managing Director of Uganda Commercial Bank, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Uganda Airlines Corporation, Deputy Governor and Director of Research of the Bank of Uganda.

I take this opportunity to thank the Appointing Authority, His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the timely appointment. I also thank the University Council for identifying Prof. Suruma as the best candidate for this position.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chancellor, Prof. Mondo Kagonyera, for successfully completing his term in office. Throughout his eight-year tenure, Prof. Kagonyera demonstrated commitment to Makerere University. We sincerely thank him and pray that God continues to bless him. We wish him success in his new assignment as Presidential Advisor for Kigezi Region.

Allow me also to welcome our new University Secretary, Mr. Charles Barugahare and our new University Bursar, Mr. Augustine Tamale. At the same time, I take this opportunity to thank the former University Secretary, Mr. David K. Muhwezi and the former Acting University Bursar, Ms. Deborah Nalule, for their service and contribution to Makerere University.

Since the last graduation ceremony, several members of staff have retired from the University service. I congratulate all of them for diligently serving this great institution and our nation at large. Allow me to mention a few of them. Professor Livingstone Sserwada Luboobi, former Vice Chancellor who has served this institution for 46 years as a distinguished Professor in the Department of Mathematics. Professor Yusto Kaahwa who has served Makerere University for 45 years. Professor Eldad Banda served for 41 years and Professor John Baptist Kaddu who has served for 24 years. We further recognise Assoc. Prof. Gerald Mutumba who served for 28 years and Assoc. Prof. Isabirye Basuuta for serving Makerere University for 39 years. There are many more from the different Colleges to whom we extend our sincere gratitude for their service to Makerere University.

In the course of last year, a number of staff were promoted to various ranks within the University. I wish to recognise those who have been promoted to the rank of Professor from the Colleges presenting graduands today. These include Prof. Joseph Erume of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity and Prof. Dick Sserunkuma of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Congratulations!

I congratulate all members of staff for the various academic and professional achievements and ask you to continue with the good work you are doing for Makerere University.

On a sad note, we lost a number of staff as well as students, relatives and friends during the course of last year. I wish to extend my sincere condolences to our members of staff who have lost loved ones and all bereaved families. May the Almighty God grant them Eternal Peace.

Our dear Graduands, congratulations 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 personal achievement but you should always remember the sacrifice others have made to ensure that you stand here today. Therefore, to all parents and guardians, we thank you for your support and sacrifice throughout the period of study of your children. The best gift you can give your children is education, which is the passport to a better tomorrow. A better tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today. As parents/guardians, therefore, I thank you for preparing your children today for a better tomorrow and may the Almighty God bless you abundantly.

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!

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am happy to report that Makerere University has continued to register significant successes, for which we are thankful to our various stakeholders. We are currently ranked third in Africa according to the January 2016 Times Higher Education report.

I am equally happy to report that Makerere University has been selected, through a competitive process, to host two African Centers of Excellence funded by the World Bank. The main objective of the Centers of Excellence is to establish and strengthen specialization and collaboration among a network of higher education institutions in Eastern and Southern Africa, in order to deliver relevant and quality education as well as applied research to address key development challenges facing the region. Out of 23 Centers to be established in East and Southern Africa, Uganda managed to attract four (4) Centers, of which two (2) will be at Makerere University.

For all these achievements, 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. Thank you for a job well done.

I thank the University Council, led by Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem for the continued support and guidance to Management. I further take this opportunity to appreciate the support of our development partners. Similarly, I thank the Government of Uganda for all the support including infrastructural development at Makerere University. I am happy to report; Mr. Chancellor Sir, that construction of joint teaching facilities has kicked off at two locations within the university, which achievements have been because of Government support through the African Development Bank.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am pleased to inform you that during this 66th graduation ceremony lasting four days, a total of **Fourteen Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighteen (14,318) students will graduate**. By the end of this graduation ceremony, a total of **64 students will be awarded Doctorate degrees and a total of One Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty Nine (1,159) Students will receive masters degrees in various disciplines**. I am further happy to report a total of **286 first class degrees**, which will be awarded during this ceremony.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today we present to you candidates from five Colleges including i) the *College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology*, ii) *College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences*, iii) *College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio Security*, iv) *College of Natural Sciences* and v) the *School of Law*. There have been several new developments in these Colleges since the last graduation. Allow me to mention a few:

i) **I would like to congratulate the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology** upon the successful launch of the Kiira Motors Corporation, a brainchild of staff and students of the college.

I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Uganda for financing this project through the Presidential Initiative for Science and Technology. With Government support, Kiira Motors is expected to start commercial production of vehicles in 2018.

The College has further been selected by the World Bank to host the *African Centre of Excellence for Materials, Product Development and Nano-technology*. I take this opportunity to congratulate the research team including Dr. J.B. Kirabira, Dr. Michael Lubwama, Mr. Brian Muyuni and Mr. Godwin Sabiiti upon this achievement that has made Makerere University proud.

The staff and students of the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology have continued to stand out in advancing technological innovations for national development. The latest innovation of this college is a Pneumonia Kit code-named MAMA OPE. This is a biomedical device designed to screen cases of Pneumonia amongst children.

The College has also undertaken research on solar irrigation pumps, which have proved to be cost effective for farmers. The College has plans of starting a factory to manufacture more pumps, which will create employment for our youth and also enhance research in this field. Further more, students from the Department of Architecture led by Mr. Ben Wokorach have designed architectural plans for the proposed Students Center, with technical support from the Uganda Society of Architects. These students are graduating today. Please join me in congratulating them and the entire design team for a tremendous job done.

The College is today presenting Six Hundred and Twenty Eight (628) graduands, of whom 30% are female and 70% are male. The College is further graduating Two (2) doctorates and sixty three (63) Masters students.

ii) **The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES)** has continued to excel in grant acquisition, research, and innovations. The college received a **US-AID Grant of USD three (3) million** to strengthen training, research and outreach activities for the Department of Agribusiness and Natural Resource Economics. The college has also come up with an innovation of an affordable Multipurpose tractor known as **'MV Mulimi'**. The project, which was funded by the Presidential Initiative for Science and Technology, was developed by a team comprising of Prof. Noble Banadda as Principal Investigator, Dr. Nicholas Kiggundu, Dr. Ahamada Zziwa, Mr. Ernest Tibaku-Zira, Mr. Samuel Mutesasira and Mr. Denis Nsubuga. On behalf of the entire University community, I thank the research team for this exceptional achievement with high hopes of transforming agricultural productivity in Uganda and the region.

The College is one of the two beneficiaries that have been selected by the World Bank to host the *East African Centre for Crop Improvement*. I congratulate the winning team comprising of Prof. Bernard Bashaasha, Dr. Richard Edema, Dr. Paul Thomas Gibson, Mr. Patrick Obia Ongom and Mr. Jimmy Obala. Your efforts are raising Makerere University's flag higher.

Through the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the university has received various awards regionally and internationally. In 2015, Makerere University received the **"Best Performance Award"** in the Regional Collaborative Masters Programme for Agricultural and Applied Economics. Our student, Ms. Asha Nalunga was the overall best student in her cohort. She travelled to the University of Pretoria, South Africa, to receive the "Best Student Award". Out of the 16 participating Universities, Makerere University emerged the Best performing University based on the performance of our students.

The consortium for Enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development (CURAD) was voted as **Number one incubator in Africa** in terms of implementation and impact among the six competing incubators from Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Mali and Ghana. The consortium is supporting 64 entrepreneurs and has created over 1400 jobs.

Prof. Noble Banadda also won the Next Einstein Fellowship (NEF) Award 2015 in recognition of his scientific achievements and potential for leadership. He will receive the award at the African Higher Education Summit in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2016.

The College will be presenting six hundred and eighty eight (688) candidates for graduation of whom 42% are female and 58% are male. Twelve (12) will receive doctorates and One Hundred Fourty Eight (148) will be awarded masters degrees.

iii) **The College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity** 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.

As a result of the partnership between the College and Government through the Presidential Initiative for Science, Technology and Innovations, fifteen (15) students of the first cohort of the value chain model are graduating today. They will be awarded various value chain diplomas in Skills, Production, Enterprise Development and Academics (SPEDA). In June 2015, under this same model, a total of One Hundred Fourty One (141) student farmers from Ntungamo district were awarded artisan certificates in various value chains to enable them increase productivity, quality and marketability of their products.

In addition, the 2nd cohort of 35 diploma holders from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Technical Veterinary School at Sheik- Somaliland, are among our graduates this year. Five others are graduating with a Bachelors Degree in veterinary medicine. In line with the National Vision 2040, the College is training people in every sub-county with the aim of forming economic clusters that will help eradicate poverty. This is a worthy activity, which requires additional Government support.

Mr Chancellor Sir; Ladies and Gentlemen, join me in congratulating the Principal, Prof. John David Kabasa upon his appointment as a member of the International Council for Veterinary Education, based in the USA.

As the delegate for Africa, we consider his appointment an important milestone in lifting Makerere University's image. Prof. Kabasa, congratulations. The College will be presenting Two Hundred and Sixty Eight (268) graduands of whom 32% are female and 68% are male. Fourteen (14) will receive doctorates and Thirty Two (32) will be awarded Masters degrees.

iv) Under **the College of Natural Sciences**, I am happy to inform you, Mr. Chancellor Sir, that the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD) has renewed the **Energy and Petrol Fund (EnPe) Project** for another five (5) years. The project is a collaboration between Makerere University, University of Juba in South Sudan and University of Bergen in Norway.

Its main objective is to achieve long-term sustainable education in Petroleum Geosciences at Makerere University and the region.

The college has also established a **Mushroom Training Facility** under the Department of Plant Sciences, Microbiology and Biotechnology. The facility will offer specialist skills training and research in mushroom growing and is aimed at formalizing mushroom cultivation training opportunities in Uganda. The facility was donated by the Agricultural Technology Transfer Project with funding from the Department of International Development (DFID), UK.

The College will be presenting Three Hundred and Fourty Nine (349) candidates for graduation of whom 29% are female and 61% are male. Six (6) will receive doctorates and Fourty Seven (47) will be awarded masters degrees.

v) I am happy to report that **the School of Law**, which is now a fully-fledged College, has achieved several milestones since the last graduation. Once again, the School won the 15th All Africa International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition, held in Arusha, Tanzania. The winning team comprised fourth year students namely Simon Ssenyonga, Anne Tendo and Rachel Kobusinge, who are graduating today. Similarly, Makerere University won the Disability Rights Moot Court Competition, which was held at the University of Pretoria. This particular competition has for the past few years been restricted to Universities from Southern Africa and it is only this year that Makerere University and the University of Nairobi were invited to participate for the first time.

The winning team comprised students Susan Aboto and Joseph Byomuhangi and faculty members Mr. Dan Ngabirano and Ms. Patricia Atim. In line with our mission of being more responsive to the needs of the community, the School established a Network of Public Interest Lawyers (NETPIL) with the aim of promoting public interest litigation and the spirit of pro-bono service in Uganda. The School will be presenting Three Hundred and Eight (308) graduands of whom 57% are female and 33% are male. Twenty Six (26) will be awarded masters degrees.

Mr. Chancellor Sir; as I conclude, I extend special thanks to the Ceremonies Committee chaired by Prof. Anthony Mugisha for ensuring that the 66th graduation ceremony takes place. To our graduands, as you leave the gates of Makerere University today, please be honest - it is such honesty that will enable you to improve and fit in any society thereafter. Use the knowledge you have acquired to improve yourselves, your families and society at large. Always remember your parents and guardians, who have substantially contributed to your success. Once again, congratulations.

It is now my singular honour and privilege to invite our dear Chancellor, Prof. Ezra Suruma, to address the congregation. ***We Build for the Future.***