



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR EZRA SURUMA

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 67TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY, 2017

The Right Honorable Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda
Honorable Ministers
Honorable Members of Parliament
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Your Lordships the Judges of the Judicature
Religious Leaders
The Leadership of Kampala Capital City Authority
Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies
Chancellors and former Chancellors
Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
Vice-Chancellor and Members of the University Management Team
Former Vice Chancellors
Former University Management Staff
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
Distinguished Visitors
Ladies and Gentlemen:

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A Word of Appreciation:

1. It is a great honor and privilege for me to add a warm welcome to you all to this historic occasion of the 67th Graduation of Makerere University. In a very special way I wish to welcome the Right Honorable Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, for sparing his most valuable time to honour this ceremony with his presence. Thank you very much Rt. Hon. Prime Minister.
2. I thank the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ddumba Ssentamu, for his remarks and for all the efforts made by the University faculty, staff and Administration towards the implementation of this occasion.

I wish to recognize the contributions of various institutions and organizations towards the University notably, the Government of Uganda, the Makerere University Council, the Senate, the students, the development partners and all stakeholders, especially the parents, for the vital role you have played in supporting Makerere University to pursue its monumental educational vision of *academic excellence and innovation in Africa and beyond*.

Congratulations to graduands

3. Let me now join the Vice Chancellor in congratulating today's graduands. Today is the First Session of the Makerere University 67th Graduation Ceremony and we are conferring degrees on graduands from four colleges namely:
 - i. **the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology**
 - ii. **the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences**
 - iii. **the College of Natural Sciences**
 - iv. **And the College of Education and External Studies.**
4. I sincerely commend the spirit of hard work, of endurance and of self-control that has brought you, the graduands, this far. The degrees we are awarding you today testify to the hardships, the discipline, the commitment, the pain and the tears you have shed over the years and decades of academic struggle. Your graduation testifies to the world that in the face of all adversity, poverty, deprivation, doubt and danger, you possessed the determination to strive on, to rise after the fall and today you are counted among the survivors, the heroes of intellectual battles.
5. Your achievements are impressive. But of course you have not realized the success alone. Makerere University is an integral part of your successful story. I must therefore also thank the academic staff and the administrative and support staff whose guidance has helped to bring you this far. They have done their part to guide you through the complexities of academic life. I am sure that you will always remember their enduring contribution to your life.
6. Equally significant has been the social, emotional and financial support that you have received continually from your parents, relatives, friends, religious leaders and fellow students. Many among you have been supported by generous donors who provided you stipends and scholarships.

Please join me in thanking all those men and women whose love and sacrifice has contributed to your achievements today.

Turn challenges into opportunities

7. The Vice Chancellor's speech has highlighted the homegrown examples of young people, fellow students, Professors and Ugandans who have come up with innovations; conducted research for the betterment of society as well as development of products and employment opportunities.
8. To the graduands from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, you have acquired knowledge that focused on improving agriculture and sustainable natural resource use. These are part of the special pillars that can deliver a better Africa and a better Uganda. I am therefore confident that you are ready, well-educated, and deeply committed to making the world more food secure, more prosperous and more sustainable.
9. I congratulate the team from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences for establishing the first ever centre of Excellence in Waste Management in Uganda at Makerere University. Thank you for turning waste into opportunity.
10. I also congratulate the students and staff in the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology; and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences who have designed and built Makerere University Solar Irrigation Pumps. To the students from the College of Natural Sciences and the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology who competed with other teams from Europe, Asia, Australia and South America in the Dream Ticket category for a share of 41,000 Euros thank you very much and well done.
11. To the graduands from the College of Education and External Studies, please remember that teachers are indispensable to every nation. Please pass on the knowledge and the discipline which our nation desperately needs.

Message to Ph.D. graduands

12. I congratulate the **75** men and women who are graduating with Doctorate degrees (PhDs) during the 67th Graduation Ceremony. I know the sacrifices that you have made to reach this far.

I encourage you to continue the search for knowledge our country and region desperately needs. We need new knowledge to transform the Ugandan society. Our future is truly in your hands. I salute the Professors and supervisors who worked so hard to bring you to this high degree of achievement.

A Message to Graduands

13. Dear graduands, now the hour has come for you to go out to the field, fight the good fight, to run the race for which you have been preparing. I hope you will remember love in the middle of the tough battles ahead. Please remember love. Consider the possibility of joy in a sad world. Ponder the possibility of godliness and contentment in a broken world. Remember love in a loveless world.
14. I believe with all my heart that every human being has the capacity to love. May be that is what it means to be human. In your love may lie the great opportunity for you to make a difference. You might not make the headlines in the Daily Monitor or the New Vision or the Red Pepper because you helped a child to cross the street or offered your seat on the bus or taxi to an elderly or disabled person or even just offered a smile to a lonely stranger. Whatever the challenges and hardships of tomorrow I hope you will remember to love, to sacrifice here and there. And to experience the joy of making life a little bit better for another Ugandan brother or sister. After all, if it had not been for the love and sacrifices of all these people gathered here and so many others who are not here today, you probably would not be sitting where you are now.
15. The hour has now come for you to love them back and to make a difference in an often indifferent world. This is your moment. Together we can change the world and make it better than we found it. That is why we are here. To make a difference. Go and make the difference. Go and change the world.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.