



MAKERERE

UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR EZRA SURUMA

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

FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2017

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 welcome you all to the 67th Graduation of Makerere University. I thank the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ddumba Ssentamu, for his remarks and for all the arrangements made by the administration to organize this graduation ceremony. Thank you very much.
2. Once again I recognize the enormous contributions of the Makerere University Council, the Senate, the students, the development partners and all stakeholders of Makerere University. I thank the academic staff, the administration and the support staff for their efforts in helping the graduands to come this far.

They have done their part to guide you through the complexities of academic life. I hope that in future you will look back to your years at Makerere with some gratitude and affection for their contribution to your struggle.

3. Today is the Fourth and last Session of the Makerere University's 67th Graduation Ceremony and we are conferring degrees on graduands from **the College of Humanities and Social Sciences AND The School of Law**.
4. I congratulate you, the graduands on finishing what you came to do here. You have brought glory to yourselves and to your loved ones by completing the work you came to do here. Our prayers go out to those who came here but failed to do what you have done. They are now watching you on TV with great envy and regret. And their parents are not here. But you are here and may be your parents or relatives and friends are here. This is wonderful.
5. I thank the parents, guardians, relatives, friends, religious leaders and donors who supported you socially, emotionally and financially. Please join me in thanking all those men and women whose love and sacrifice has contributed to your achievements today. I pray that this completion of your degree is the beginning of a life of many finished works and of an ever deepening love between you and your parents, friends and relatives.
6. I told the graduands from MUBS yesterday that the degree we are awarding you today is in fact a letter to the world. The letter is addressed "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN". It says that the bearer of this letter, this certificate, was "processed" at Makerere University. For a period of three or more years, he/she was subjected to relentless hardships including mental torture, financial deprivation, social alienation and continuous intellectual harassment otherwise known as testing and examination. Having survived all those hardships, Makerere University has awarded him/her a survivor's certificate. It testifies that he/she is tested and proved for tough duties anywhere in the world.
7. The Vice Chancellor in his addresses to the last three graduation sessions, highlighted a long list of the Makerere University's achievements. They range from domestic to regional, continental and global. There is no doubt that Makerere University is a significant player on the continental and global academic and research stage. We are proud of this achievement and we must do everything in our power to increase the reputation of Makerere University as a centre of excellence in research and teaching. Thank you for your support.

Message to Graduands

8. To the graduands of Humanities and Social Sciences, you are now better prepared for the diverse job market. Employers value graduates who are flexible and adaptable to the constant change inherent in the 21st century workplace. They value graduates who understand ethical behavior and can employ creativity and critical thinking to solve problems. They value graduates who are excellent communicators. This is exactly what the disciplines of Humanities and Social Sciences have affirmed in you. The competition is tough and so are you.
9. The law profession in Uganda today is extremely dynamic. The call for lawyers that are determined and competent to meet the needs of the people, including the underprivileged, is greater than ever before. I am happy to learn that the School of Law is integrating this aspect in the students' training programs and internships as well as public interest law clinics.
10. Please guard against excessive greed and the temptation to make a killing quickly. Please take professional ethics seriously, well knowing that failure to adhere to set standards may ultimately lead to a disastrous career. Choose instead to rely on networks established during your stay at Makerere as well as your umbrella body, the Uganda Law Society. These two beacons of light will steer your career and professional growth away from danger.
11. My dear friends, the path ahead is lined with very many challenges. We should, as far as possible, endeavor to stand firm on our principles even in the face of adversity. I know there is a price to pay for standing for what you believe in. Last week we were remembering Archbishop Janani Luwum who spoke out against injustice and paid with his life. Uganda is the land of many martyrs. And there will always be the challenges of poverty and injustice in our world. Times sometimes come when we must take a stand against dishonesty and injustice. That is what we did here in 1980. Although we paid a price, I am infinitely glad that we dared to organize in the face of danger. Winston Churchill is quoted to have said about courage that:

“Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it has been said, it is the quality which guarantees all others.”

12. Ask God for wisdom to help you to do what is right even when it may be costly. Today you have the gift of time, of being alive where many have passed, the gift of a sound mind, the gift of eyes and hands and a strong heart. Do not take these gifts for granted. And don't waste them. They were given to you for a purpose. What is that purpose for which you are living for? Or dying for?

13. Many years ago when I was in exile from the regime of Idi Amin I used to attend a church in Florida in the USA and I used to hear a song that stuck in my head. It said that

***“If I can help somebody as I pass along
Then my living will not be in vain.”***

If you can help somebody as you pass along, then your life, your gifts, will not be in vain. God bless you.