



The Visitor of Makerere University
Hon. Minister of Education and Sports
The Chancellor of Makerere University and Patron of Makerere University Convocation
The Chairman, Makerere University Council and Members of Council
The Vice Chancellor, Makerere University
The Deputy Vice Chancellors
Members of the University Management
Principals of Colleges
Deans of Schools
Members of Teaching and Non – Teaching Staff
All Alumni and Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me take this honor on behalf of Makerere University Convocation and on my own behalf to welcome you all to the 67th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. I also take this special honor to congratulate all the magnanimous men and women, the graduands, here present and all those that will be awarded in absentia upon your well-deserved achievement. Makerere University degree is not a cheap one and I want to attest to you that it is more than gratifying to be a Makererian. Today, Makerere University will be your true Alma Mater and you will partake of its legacy together with great nationalists and renowned leaders like Mwarimu Julius Nyerere.

Makerere University Convocation is today proud to be a home to nearly 400,000 old boys and girls since it opened its great gates in 1922. Now that you have graduated, I take the honor to welcome you to Makerere University Convocation. It is an association that brings together all staff, old boys and girls of Makerere University. Its major aim is to mobilize all its members and well-wishers to support the welfare and progress of Makerere University. My leadership has a lot of projects in the pipeline but only two will be outstanding. These include; supporting the building of the Perimeter Wall and the creation of the Alumni Research and Innovation Fund at Makerere University. We are set to accomplish these projects through various fundraising activities among our alumni and friends.

To begin with, today, we are launching the fundraising drive for the Perimeter Wall Project and we request you to support this project with any contribution that you can make. You can make your contribution today or on any of our upcoming fundraising functions. Many have asked us; why the wall now; and the answer is; **THE SECURITY OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF FIRST**. Makerere University today is very porous with very many entry and exit points all around it. Many bad people often access its grounds for wrong reasons rendering it unsafe for our children and staff. We know very well that Makerere University campus is traditionally a place of freedom and enlightenment for all who admire it. We expect every member of our society to respect it but the reality is that it's not the case. It is increasingly becoming unsafe for those who pride in it as a sanctuary of knowledge due to increasing bad elements among us that have become an axis of evil. The Perimeter Wall Project will therefore reduce incidents such as those we witnessed during the



Garissa University College attack in Kenya where innocent lives were taken away by evil people. We should not wait to see such ever happening here on our campus. Once built, the wall will therefore boost security on campus and act as a control measure in ensuring that all the students and staff are safe through well-established points of entry and exit.

Today, we are also happy to announce the launch of the promotion of the Best Student awards given to various students by professional associations, private and public entities that have interest in improving the quality of the graduates that we supply to the labor market. We believe that these awards will serve to motivate students to excel in their various professions to the expectations of the awarding entities. To begin with this year, we are thankful to the following organizations; (i) The Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU) who have provided awards for the best male and female students in Teacher Education, (ii) The Uganda Law Society (ULS) who have provided an award for overall best student in Bachelor of Laws and (iii) FIDA-Uganda which is an Association of Women Lawyers who provided an award for the overall best female student in Bachelor of Laws. The Convocation is very thankful to these professional associations for establishing the awards at Makerere University. We look forward for more engagements aimed at promoting distinction and professionalism among students and the entire Uganda Society.

All the above cannot be possible without you the staff and alumni and we hope to build greater ties with you of likeminded in support of our alma mater. The legacy of Makerere University will endure only when we continue to support its progress in all ways.

I wish you success in the careers that you have chosen and in the service of this great nation.

Congratulations to you all and Promise Never to Say Goodbye.


Dr. Odoi-Tanga (PhD)
CHAIRMAN