

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR

PROF. JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2017

FREEDOM SQUARE

- **The Chancellor, Professor Ezra Suruma**
- **Representative of the Honourable Minister of Education and Sports**
- **Honourable Ministers present**
- **Honourable Members of Parliament present**
- **Your Lordships the Judges**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps**
- **Religious Leaders**
- **Development Partners present**
- **The Leadership of Kampala Capital City Authority**
- **Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council**
- **Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Appointments Board**
- **My Colleagues, Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Principals of Institutions of Higher Learning**
- **Former Vice Chancellors present**
- **Members of Management, Senate and the entire Makerere University Community**
- **Chairperson of Makerere University Convocation**
- **Parents and Guardians**
- **Distinguished Graduands**
- **The Media**
- **All Invited Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:** It is my honour and privilege to welcome you to the final day of the 67th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University, which started on Tuesday.

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In a special way, I welcome our graduands today, from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the School of Law. Congratulations upon completing your studies at the different levels of diploma, degree and PhD. In a special way, I would like to congratulate the graduands today for not engaging in examination malpractices.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, you may recall that I informed you of 58 names that had appeared in the 67th graduation booklet in error but were deleted. I take this opportunity to assure the public and all our stakeholders that Makerere University has the duty to protect and secure the integrity of its academic credentials.

Without integrity, research cannot be trusted. Academic credentials cannot be relied upon and all degrees and diplomas become worthless. Makerere University Senate can recall any degree or diploma in cases where they were granted in error.

I welcome all parents and guardians and thank you for your committed efforts to the education of your children. You have made a great investment in supporting their education, whose benefits will enrich not only themselves, but also society at large.

I warmly welcome the representative of the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports. Thank you for gracing this occasion from day one of the ceremony. Through you, we extend appreciation to the entire Ministry for supporting Makerere University. We extend special thanks to the Hon. Minister of Education and Sports for supporting us wholeheartedly. Together, we will continue to work for the progress of higher education in Uganda.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to recognise the presence of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council. On behalf of University Management, I wish to acknowledge the support of Council, led by Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem, towards smooth functioning of the University. We thank you.

To the Members of Staff of Makerere University in your various categories, many thanks for your dedicated service to this great institution. Our joint efforts ensure the place of Makerere University as a leading Centre of Excellence, currently ranked in 3rd place on the African continent, based on research output and publications.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the world over, a University of repute is measured by its Professors, among other indicators. In academia, promotion to the rank of Professor is a testimony of exceptional achievement in one's chosen academic discipline. It gives me pleasure, therefore, to report that since the last Graduation Ceremony, the number of **Professors** at Makerere University has increased by **eight (8)**. We also have an additional **nineteen (19) Associate Professors**. We congratulate all of them upon attaining higher academic ranks.

I also take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to His Excellency The President of the Republic of Uganda, for positively contributing to the advancement of academic staff, through commitment to the salary enhancement of Professors up to the tune of UGX 15 million. We are positive that more academics will be inspired to rise through the ranks. Similarly, we appreciate the President's commitment to the enhancement of salaries of all other categories of staff in Public Universities. Thank you.

Makerere University is home to the leading researchers in the region, a demonstration of our continuing contribution to knowledge generation and the national Vision 2040 towards sustainable development. Our Research Agenda is inline with the National Development Plan with specific focus on *Health and Health Systems; Agricultural Transformation; Food Security and Livelihoods; Natural Resources Governance and Climate Change; Education and Education Systems; Governance, Culture, Social Justice and Sustainable Development* as well as *Science and Technology*. I take this opportunity to congratulate all staff and students whose research and innovations have excelled at local and international levels.

Makerere University has continued to maintain good working relations with our Development Partners, who are supporting *Teaching and Learning, Research and Innovations, as well as Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and Networking*. These are our three core functions, which they continue to facilitate in different ways including capacity building programmes to enhance expertise of our staff in their respective academic disciplines.

We acknowledge support of the Government of Sweden, the Royal Government of Norway, the MasterCard Foundation, the World Bank, UNDP, the African Development Bank, the European Union, African Union, IDRC, World Health Organisation, the Global Fund, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, US-AID and all other Agencies under the United States Government, the Australian Government, the Brien Holden Vision Institute and Light for The World, among others. We also continue to engage in mutually beneficial cooperation with several Institutions of Higher Learning and Universities across the globe.

I am also pleased to inform you that as part of our collaboration with Bangor University of UK, we are implementing a sustainability programme. The programme includes active participation of students from both Makerere and Bangor Universities, who are jointly organising the **Go Green Week**, scheduled to take place from **Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March 2017**.

The **Go Green week** is an annual week of climate action. It is part of the **National Green Week**, an annual campaign initiated by the **Green Education Foundation (GEF)** and held every year between February and April. Mr. Chancellor Sir, the Go Green week encourages students to run activities throughout the week to raise awareness and demand stronger actions to tackle climate crisis.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University faces a number of challenges. You are aware that our major challenge is inadequate funding. We remain confident that these challenges can be overcome by the combined effort of all stakeholders including the Government, Chancellor, Council, Senate, Management, Staff (*including Staff Associations*), Students, Parents as well as Alumni. We need positive dialogue, negotiation and teamwork.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to commend the University Council for establishing the Makerere University Endowment Fund and the Makerere University Holdings Company Limited, as channels of resource mobilisation.

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Trustees of the Makerere University Endowment Fund, chaired by Dr. Martin Alier, is organising an **Endowment Fund RUN on April 2, 2017**. This is aimed at complimenting resource mobilisation efforts and creating awareness among alumni, friends and well wishers.

I take this opportunity to call upon our congregation today to purchase Tickets and T-shirts for the Run, which are currently on sale. Please register and support Makerere University.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, since Tuesday when we started the 67th Graduation Ceremony, I have reported some of the **developments and achievements** that have taken place at Makerere University over the past year.

A key achievement is Senate and Council's re-structuring of academic programmes of Makerere University, in line with the National Development Agenda. The academic programmes have been reduced from **450** to **253**.

We have made substantial progress towards improving the teaching and learning environment. I am pleased to report that we have acquired an additional **Twelve Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty Seven (12,467)** square meters of space to support teaching and research processes. This is in line with our strategic direction to establish centralised teaching facilities as a mechanism for management of large student numbers.

The commissioning of the centralised teaching facilities is expected to take place in July this year. We extend special thanks to the Government of Uganda and the Ministry of Education and Sports, for enabling this achievement under the African Development Bank/Higher Education, Science and Technology project.

We have also made substantial progress towards improving the University road infrastructure including drainages, pavements, streetlights, and sidewalks. We are currently undertaking major road works to a tune of UGX 6 billion, in a bid to enhance the beauty of our Main Campus as well as improve the safety of the entire University community.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today we will conclude the 67th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University, during which a **total of Fourteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety Seven (14,897) students** will have been awarded degrees and diplomas of Makerere University. Of these, **45.9% are female** and **54.1%** are male graduands.

I wish to note that the 67th Graduation Ceremony has recorded the highest number of PhD graduands to date, at a total of **Seventy Five (75)**.

We are very proud of this achievement and take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands and the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training, led by Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today we present to you graduands from two (2) Colleges.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is presenting to you, a total of **Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fourty Two (2,842)** students, for award of degrees and diplomas, including **four (4) PhDs**. Congratulations to the College for this achievement.

I am pleased to inform you Sir, that the College has attracted a number of international donors who have committed to supporting graduate training in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

In October last year, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which is one of the biggest funders of the Humanities and Social Sciences in America, committed in principle, to fund the College to a tune of **United States Dollars Four Million (US\$ 4 million)** for the next five years. The grant will facilitate the promotion of a number of academic components including PhD training, M.A completion fellowships, as well as staff exchange and networking amongst Eastern, Western and Southern African Universities. We extend our appreciation to the Foundation for this support.

The College also received a grant from the Gerda Henkel Foundation worth **Eight Hundred Thousand Euros (800,000 Euros)** to provide full three-year scholarships for the first cohort of ten (10) PhDs.

Similarly, the College received a grant from Erasmus Mundus to support Two (2) PhD students and Two (2) Maters students. In this collaboration, two faculty from Makerere University will be facilitated to spend a year at the University of Torino, Italy.

Additionally, a number of academic staff from the College are set to benefit from a new training and skills development programme under the Partnership for Africa's Next Generation of Academics (PANGeA), which is a network consisting of eight leading African universities.

The network's goal is to strengthen and advance doctoral training and scholarship in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

The Royal Government of Norway continues to support research and graduate training projects in various departments of the College including the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, the Department of Journalism and Communication and the Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR). At College level, support is being extended to the Water and Society (WaSo) project.

This project is aimed at building institutional capacity in water management and climate change adaptation in selected countries of Asia and Africa. We extend our appreciation to the Royal Government of Norway for this support.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, in a move to expand the Department of Performing Arts and Film, the College is partnering with the Norwegian College of Dance to fundraise for a 300-seater Amphi theatre. We commend the leadership of the Department of Performing Arts and Film led by Assoc. Prof. Sylvia Nannyonga-Tamusuza, for this achievement.

The School of Social Sciences is also collaborating with the International Organisation for Migration, to undertake a training programme in Migration Health.

This is the first multidisciplinary, university-based programme in the region devoted to systematic study of health consequences of local and international population movements. We sincerely appreciate the Swedish Government for supporting this and many other programmes at the School.

The College also continues to support the Senior Command and Staff College of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (KIMAKA) and the Senior Command and Staff College of the Uganda Police Force in Bwebajja.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I wish to inform you that the Principal of the College, Prof. Edward K. Kirumira, was appointed to the panel of experts of the Volkswagen Foundation, for their African Livelihood Management Post Doctoral Grant programme. We congratulate Prof. Kirumira upon this achievement.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, **the School of Law** is presenting **Two Hundred and Sixty Six (266)** students for award of degrees, including **one (1) PhD**. We congratulate the School for this achievement.

The School of Law once more exhibited a high level of excellence in the International and National Moot Competitions. Makerere University won the final round of the 25th African Human Rights Moot Court Competition held at the Constitutional Court of South Africa in October 2016. The team comprised Mr. Simon Ssenyonga and Ms. Maryanne Aboto, both year four students.

Similarly, the school won the 15th All Africa International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition held in Arusha, Tanzania last November. The team comprised Mr. Simon Ssenyonga, Ms. Anne Tendo and Ms. Rachel Kobusinge, all year four students. Another team of students comprising Mr. Edwin Mugumya (year four), Mr. Daniel Nasasira (year four) and Ms. Gloria Mutesi (year three), were second runners up in the 2016 International Humanitarian Law Moot Court organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross at Silver Springs. We congratulate all these students on achieving such international honour for themselves, the School of Law and Makerere University at large.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, the School also exhibited professional involvement in issues of national interest when nine Academic staff successfully engaged the Supreme Court in an amicus curiae ("friend of court") application. As you are aware, the law allows courts to listen to persons who may not be parties to the case but who have expertise to advise the court on how best to resolve cases.

The Court underlined the fact that justice, according to the Constitution, is administered in the name of the people and people should be allowed to participate in judicial proceedings. The Court also acknowledged the team's internationally renowned expertise on matters of democracy, human rights and elections. This also became a practical learning experience for the law students. We sincerely congratulate the School upon this landmark achievement.

For the third time, the School of Law hosted the 3rd Annual National Conference on **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** last September, under the theme “*Business and Human Rights in Uganda: Accountability Versus Social Responsibility for Corporate Abuses*”. This event is an opportunity for the School to engage in knowledge transfer partnerships and networking, towards shaping discourse on issues of national importance.

Through the Public Interest Law Clinic, (PILAC), more research was conducted with a purpose of influencing the National Policy Agenda. Arising out of the research in the area of *Land Evictions and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, two policy briefs were developed, and discussed among key stakeholders that included Ministers from concerned Ministries, Members of Parliament, the Civil Society, and representatives of the affected communities. This work is expected to inform policy review and changes.

In the area of professional growth, we congratulate Professor Sylvia Tamale upon delivering her inaugural professorial lecture on *Nudity, Protest and the Law in Uganda*. She became the first woman Professor at Makerere University to present an inaugural professorial lecture.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, we have come to the last day of the 67th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. The success of this ceremony is owed to several parties, who I would like to appreciate.

I extend special thanks and congratulations to all graduands of the 67th Graduation Ceremony for successfully completing their studies. We hope your time with us has been as beneficial to you as to us and we wish you success going forward. Makerere University is your home. You are always welcome and we look forward to working together in fulfillment of our vision and motto.

I sincerely thank all our different stakeholders who support us always. These include our Development Partners, the media fraternity, members of civil society, as well as our distinguished Alumni, service providers, friends and well wishers. We thank you and value your partnership. Our joint efforts will continue to build Makerere University as a leading centre of excellence and innovation in Africa.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, on behalf of University Management, I extend very special thanks to the Ceremonies Committee chaired by Dr. Patrick Mangeni, for organising a brilliant ceremony. Similarly, I thank the Masters of Ceremonies including Dr. Allan Birabi and Ms. Ritah Namisango for a job well done.

I further appreciate the tireless efforts of the entire Department of the Academic Registrar, led by Mr. Alfred Masikye Namoah, towards a smooth graduation ceremony. In a special way, I acknowledge the important role of the ICT division led by Mr. Mike Barongo, as well as the Certificates and Ceremonies department led by Mrs. Margaret Etuusa for a job well done. We thank you all for ensuring the quality and integrity of the Makerere University graduation process.

We thank the Makerere University Printery led by Mr. Joseph Edmund Kirabo for all the work you put into producing the paperwork and materials for the graduation ceremony. We sincerely appreciate your support.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I acknowledge the support of the Makerere University Convocation chaired by Dr. Tanga Odoi, for its exceptional support to this graduation ceremony, including the linkages established with professional bodies to reward best performing students. This is a great initiative towards inspiring achievement amongst our students. We are equally appreciative of the fundraising drive launched by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, towards construction of a perimeter wall to secure the people and property within the University main campus. I am confident that our joint efforts will achieve this much desired need.

I extend special thanks to the Chancellor's procession including the Chairperson of University Council, Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem, the Chairperson of the Appointments Board, Mr. Bruce Balaba Kabaasa, distinguished Members of Management and the College Leadership for being with us throughout the 67th graduation ceremony.

Special appreciation is extended to the Uganda Police Band and our students from the Department of Performing Arts and Film led by Assoc. Prof. Sylvia Nannynonga-Tamusuza, for the classic performances that have beautified the graduation ceremony.

In a special way, I acknowledge the support of the Inspector General of Police, Gen. Kale Kayihura; the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Mwesigye Frank of Kampala Metropolitan Police; the DPC Wandegaya Police Post; Makerere University's Chief Security Officer, Mr. Jackson Mucunguzi and the OC Makerere University, Mr. Kasibante; for maintaining peace and order throughout the ceremony.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, on behalf of Makerere University, I extend our sincere thanks to Government of Uganda for its important support to Makerere University. We appreciate the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Uganda, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, for gracing the opening ceremony of the 67th Graduation Ceremony. Similarly, we sincerely appreciate the Ministry of Education and Sports, and in particular the First Lady and Hon. Minister, for their great support.

Ladies and Gentlemen, join me in congratulating our dear Chancellor, Prof. Ezra Suruma, upon successfully presiding over the 67th graduation ceremony of Makerere University. Prof. Suruma, accept sincere appreciation from all of us including the University Council, the Management team, staff and the entire Makerere University community.

On a personal note, Mr. Chancellor, Sir; as you are aware, the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001, under section 31, subsection 4, stipulates that "*The Vice Chancellor shall be appointed on terms and conditions determined by the University Council for five years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one more term*". Since I assumed office on September 1, 2012, my current term will expire on August 31, 2017. I would like to thank you, Mr. Chancellor Sir, for having given me this opportunity to serve Makerere University.

Allow me, therefore, to conclude by thanking all the people who have tirelessly supported me throughout this period including Council, Members of Management, Staff, Students and all Staff Associations. I have had a colourful and fruitful tenure, working with different categories of people at local and international levels. It has also been a time of learning, especially regarding issues of conflict resolution as well as managing staff and student affairs. God bless you all.

I sincerely thank His Excellency The President of Uganda and Visitor of Makerere University, for appointing a Visitation Committee to look into the affairs of Makerere University. We are very hopeful that the recommendations of this Committee will bring about lasting solutions to our challenges.

At this juncture, I take the honour and privilege to invite you, Mr. Chancellor Sir, to speak to the congregation.

May God Bless You All.

Thank you.