

**MAKERERE**



**UNIVERSITY**

**REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR**

**PROF. JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 67<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION  
CEREMONY OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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**
- **Chairperson and Members of Council Makerere University Business School (MUBS)**
- **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**
- **The Principal and Staff, Makerere University Business School (MUBS)**
- **Chairperson, Makerere University Convocation**
- **Parents and Guardians**
- **Our Dear Graduands**
- **The Media**
- **All Invited Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:** I am pleased to welcome you to the third session of the 67<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University, which is dedicated to graduands from Makerere University Business School (MUBS).

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 I extend very warm greetings to you and recognise the presence of each one of you in your respective capacities. Thank you for honouring our invitation.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I warmly welcome the representative of the First lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports.

Makerere University appreciates the support we have from the entire Ministry, and most importantly from the Hon. Minister. We pledge our continued commitment to advancing higher education in Uganda.

I also welcome the Chairperson and Members of Council of Makerere University Business School, as well as the Principal and entire staff of the School. You are most welcome. I further recognise the presence of Members of Makerere University Council led by the Chairperson, Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem.

Dear Graduands, you have made it! Congratulations upon successfully completing all requirements for the award of degrees of Makerere University. Welcome to this day when many have gathered to witness the moment of your achievement. We should, sincerely thank your parents and indeed the entire social network of family and friends that has supported you through the years to this moment of success.

To the Principal and the entire staff of Makerere University Business School (MUBS), thank you for nurturing a brilliant crop of graduands. Yet again your efforts have produced thousands of intelligent women and men, who will contribute to the shape of Uganda's economy through application of their different skills. Makerere University Business School has indeed performed well.

The School is presenting a total of **Four Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty Nine (4,159) graduands** today, for award of degrees in various fields of business and management, including **eleven (11) PhDs. Ninety Seven (97) candidates will graduate with First Class degrees**, the highest number this year. MUBS has also produced the **overall best performing student this year, Ms. Namboozo Sarah, who scored a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 4.92 in the Bachelor of Science in Marketing programme**. We congratulate her for being at the top of the entire 2017 Makerere University graduation cohort. We congratulate the School for this exceptional performance.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am pleased to inform you that the School was ranked the 32<sup>nd</sup> most popular business school in the world according to the 2015/2016 Ed-universal Masters Awards Ranking, whereas its Masters programme in International Business was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in Africa.

Since last year's graduation ceremony, the School has been able to complete construction of a building housing the Faculty of Computing and Management Science.

This was possible with support of Government, which secured funds from the African Development Bank (ADB). We thank the Government of Uganda for this important support to infrastructural development, which has enhanced the teaching and learning environment at the School.

In the same vein, we look forward to additional support from the Government, for the construction of a Business Incubation Centre and lecture halls at the School. Mr. Chancellor Sir, these buildings will improve the landscape and skyline of the School. However, the School still needs more modern facilities to be at par with other similar institutions across the world.

I am happy to report that Makerere University Business School continues to train more staff at PhD level. Twenty One (21) staff have completed their PhD studies, Nine (9) of whom are female. Eleven (11) of these will be presented at today's function. This has been possible because of Government's support under the *ADB/Higher Education, Science and Technology (HEST)* project and through support from the Norwegian Government for Research and Capacity Building. These efforts are further complimented by the School Council, which is supporting over thirty (30) staff in different PhD programmes.

We acknowledge the efforts of Professor **John Munene**, **Professor Augustine Ahiauzu** and **Professor Peter Rosa** for the tremendous work they have done in sustaining the PhD programme. We also thank Deans of Faculties and other members of Management who have kept the programme active.

The School has expanded knowledge transfer partnerships and networking over the last year. In collaboration with the Universities of Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam, it is coordinating the **Operations Research Society of East Africa** (ARSEA). One of the upcoming outcomes of this initiative is a PhD programme, which will be hosted by the University of Dar-es-Salaam to take care of staff development in Operations Research for the three participating universities.

The School also celebrated 10 years of active collaboration with Drake University, through which construction of Kikandwa Health Centre II in Kayunga District and a water supply system at Sure Prospects School has been undertaken.

The School's Department of Leisure and Hospitality Management continues to work with the French Embassy, the Association of Great Lakes/East African Community and COMESA French Speaking Countries, to facilitate teaching of the French language and culture in the region.

I am further pleased to inform you that in collaboration with Orient Bank, the School launched a joint business academy for micro & small enterprises as well as a joint partnership with DfCU bank to train women in business.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the School continues to offer Certificate and Diploma training programmes in entrepreneurship at Luzira Prison for the inmates. When they return to their communities, they are not only rehabilitated but also in possession of important skills for improving society.

Makerere University Business School continues to grow and is actively undertaking research using internally generated funds. Staff are actively involved in research and have authored competitive publications. Indeed ten (10) staff at the School have received international research awards.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I would like to point out that all public universities in Uganda require additional funding to scale up research activities, graduate training and improvement of the teaching and learning environments.

As I conclude, Mr. Chancellor Sir, let me once again congratulate our graduands. Our dear graduands, today marks the end of one chapter of your life. However, there are more chapters for you to begin. You are lucky that you have acquired business and management skills, which are essential in today's society.

I urge you to use these skills to create employment, enrich yourselves, your families and society at large. We pray that you will not lose sight of the progress you have made. May you continue to excel in life, with God's grace.

Always remember to give back to your alma mater. Indeed you can start by supporting the **Makerere University Endowment Fund RUN scheduled to take place on April 2, 2017**. The activity is aimed at complimenting resource mobilisation efforts of the University and creating awareness among alumni, friends and well-wishers. I take this opportunity to call upon all members of our congregation today and well-wishers to purchase Tickets and T-shirts for the Run, which are currently on sale.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my honor and privilege to invite the Chancellor, Prof. Ezra Suruma, to address the congregation.

*We Build for the Future.*