

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR EZRA SURUMA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 68TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2018

- **The Hon. Minister of Education and Sports**
- **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 of Makerere University Council**
- **Members of Makerere University Council**
- **Vice-Chancellor Makerere University**
- **Former Vice Chancellors**
- **Members of the University Management Team**
- **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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1. It is a great pleasure and honor for me to welcome you all here today to the First Session of the 68th Graduation of Makerere University.
2. I wish to thank the Vice-Chancellor for his gracious remarks

and for all the arrangements that have been made for this graduation ceremony under his leadership. Over the next four days, we shall confer degrees and award diplomas of Makerere University to a total of 14,085 graduands. I thank the Makerere University Management Team for all the arrangements culminating in our presence here today. Thank you very much indeed and please keep up the good work.

3. This is Professor Nawangwe's first graduation ceremony as Vice-Chancellor. Let me take this opportunity to welcome Professor Nawangwe on his assumption of the high office of Vice Chancellor of Makerere University. We were privileged to have the President of the Republic of Uganda, at the colorful ceremony marking his installation as the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University. We warmly welcome you to that high office and we look forward to working with you to advance the lofty cause and objectives of Makerere University.

4. In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted the achievements of Makerere University during the past year. I am pleased to hear that the volume of research conducted at this institution has continued to grow. We applaud the staff for conducting cutting edge research and we urge you to conduct research that has relevance and a beneficial impact on the people of Uganda. Please focus on research that helps our people to improve their incomes, their health, their food security and their resilience in these times of environmental uncertainty. This knowledge is desperately

needed today.

5. Let me say thank you to our families, our friends and communities who have supported the graduands through the many years of toil and sorrow and finally enabled them to reach this victorious moment. Thank you very much indeed. It is my humble prayer to you graduands that as you move to the next stage of your life, you will reciprocate what your parents and guardians have done. Please be generous givers and compassionate neighbors who seek to improve your communities, nations and the entire world.
6. At this juncture, allow me to recognize and applaud the support of the Government of Uganda, the development partners and all stakeholders of Makerere University for the financial contributions they have made towards this institution. It is this support that has enabled Makerere to maintain its role as a leading regional and global university in teaching, learning, research and innovation. The role of funding for research and innovation institutional development should not be underestimated.
7. In today's session, we are conferring degrees on and awarding diplomas to graduands from three colleges:
 - a. **the College of Natural Sciences**
 - b. **the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences**
 - c. **and the College of Education and External Studies.**
8. We applaud our graduates in the natural sciences. You are our hope and our guide to a better understanding of the

natural world and harnessing it to create the innovations that will propel the development of our nation.

9. We applaud the graduates of the agricultural and environmental sciences. We look to you for improved production and productivity and the sustainable use and protection of the environment. Agriculture remains the major employer of our population. We desperately need good extension services to improve the incomes of our vast rural population.
10. Finally, we applaud those who have qualified to join the education sector. Teachers are the most important channels for communicating knowledge and in forming character. Knowledge and morality are the heart and foundation of our society and indeed of every humane and civilized society. A country without education and without morality is doomed to extinction.
11. I congratulate you all for completing your work here. You have brought glory to your parents and relatives and friends and your country by completing the work that brought you here. Please keep going. Do not stop. We live in a competitive and often ruthless world. There is very little room for complacency. The battle for survival is just beginning.
12. Ask God for a vision to which you can be committed so that you may live a life that is focused and committed to a

noble cause. May you be blessed with the courage to try new things, the grace to endure hardships of life and the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

13. Let me end by reminding all of us here to be ever more sensitive about the African condition. The dignity of the African nations and the African people in particular, is now being openly and blatantly attacked and abused. Africans who cannot find employment at home have been facing inhuman conditions and death in their attempts to immigrate to other continents. We must create enough employment at home so that our people do not have to face humiliation and death on the high seas and in foreign countries.
14. The time for complacency in Africa is over. Every African has the duty to fight slavery, colonialism and neocolonialism. No one should think that these are just words. They are real forces that threaten the present and future of the African people. Everyone, without exception, has the duty to protect the dignity and life of our country and our continent.
15. God bless you all.