

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR BARNABAS NAWANGWE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 68TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
AT THE FREEDOM SQUARE ON TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2018**

- **The Chancellor Makerere University**
- **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**
- **The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council**
- **The Deputy Vice-Chancellors 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**
- **The President, Vice President and Speaker of the Students Guild**
- **Parents and Guardians**
- **Graduands**
- **The Media Fraternity**
- **Distinguished Visitors**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to the 68th graduation ceremony of Makerere University. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all as the 11th Vice Chancellor of Makerere University on this first session of the 68th Graduation ceremony. Mr. Chancellor Sir, this is a historical occasion being the first graduation under my new leadership.

I would like to thank God for His Grace and Benevolence, His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, the Chancellor, Chairman and Members of the University Council, members of the Senate, the Search Committee for the Vice Chancellor and the entire University Community for the opportunity given to me to serve as the 11th Vice Chancellor of this Great Institution. With God on our side, we will, as the University Community, work with all stakeholders to further uplift the image of this great Institution that is currently ranked among the top Universities in the world.

I take this opportunity to thank the former Vice Chancellor, Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu, for his dedicated service to the University over the last five years and wish him well in his future career endeavours.

The University has this past year lost many students, members of staff, their spouses, children, parents and relatives. I wish to extend my condolences to all those that lost their loved ones. May the Good Lord rest their souls in peace. I also wish to extend our condolences to the Church of Uganda for the loss of Archbishop Livingstone Mpalanyi Nkoyoyo. We celebrate his life and service to the Lord. To Uganda Christian University Mukono, we commiserate with you for the loss of your first Chancellor. Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

Ladies and gentlemen, for this 68th graduation ceremony, a total of **14,085** students will be awarded degrees and diplomas of Makerere University in various disciplines. Of these, **71** will receive PhDs, **996** Masters Degrees, **96** Postgraduate Diplomas, **144** undergraduate diplomas and **12,778** Bachelors Degrees. Of these, **7,118** (50.5%) are female and **6,967** (49.5%) are male. I am happy to see that all our policies to promote access to higher education for the girl child are bearing fruit and that we remain the leaders in gender mainstreaming on the African Continent.

Honorary Degree to Mrs. Winnie Madikizela Mandela

During this congregation on Friday 19th January 2018, Mrs. Winnie Madikizela Mandela will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Laws of Makerere University in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the liberation struggle of South Africa and Africa at large. The decision to award Mrs. Mandela an Honorary Doctorate successfully went through all the vetting procedures following her successful nomination. I warmly congratulate Mrs. Winnie Madikizela Mandela upon this achievement and welcome her to Makerere University Convocation.

I applaud all members of staff who will be awarded PhDs and Masters degrees in various disciplines. Your dedication to improving yourselves academically as well as our students is commendable. I am certain this will boost the Makerere University academic profile. I also take

this opportunity to congratulate all members of staff who have been promoted to various academic levels in the last one year.

I would like to thank the Government of Uganda and our development partners who have supported us through the years. Our distinguished guests, I have the pleasure to inform you that last year we signed six memoranda of Understanding with international partners with the view to internationalise the University and tap into the expertise of various institutions and organizations across the globe. We welcome more development partners to support us in further strengthening teaching and learning as well as research and innovation.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS 2016/17 ACADEMIC YEAR

Ladies and gentlemen, Makerere University has registered a number of achievements over the last one year.

In Research and Innovation, many new innovations were recorded arising out of research in various colleges and Makerere University remained highly ranked in research productivity.

It is against this background that Makerere University won two World Bank Grants worth \$12 million for two Centres of Excellence, one to be hosted in the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) and another at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES). CEDAT will host the Africa Center of Excellence in Materials Product Development and Nanotechnology (MAPRONANO). CAES will host the Centre for Crop Improvement. The University had also applied to host three additional centres of excellence in the areas of Oil & Gas, ICT & Engineering and Biomedical Sciences. The bids were approved, but not funded. I call upon the Government of Uganda to support the University in this endeavour.

Infrastructure Development remains a major area of concern for our University. We have benefitted from the AfDB-HEST funded project through a loan to the Government of Uganda. Two central teaching facilities, with a total area of 12,000 square metres have been built and a number of laboratories in five colleges have been renovated and up-graded under this funding. Under the MOU between Makerere University and KCCA for compensation for land taken up for the expansion of Makerere Hill Road, re-construction of all our major roads has been completed. These infrastructure developments have greatly transformed the University's landscape. Street Lighting has also been installed on all major roads in the University and this has led to an improvement in security.

University Management has embarked on renovation of the sports facilities in the University and improvement of sanitation facilities in the Halls of Residence and colleges.

During last year's graduation ceremony, Makerere University Convocation launched a fundraising drive for the construction of a perimeter wall. I am now happy to report that construction of the perimeter wall has commenced. The entire project is estimated to cost UGX7.5billion. So far, UGX 250 million has been raised through generous contributions of staff, alumni, parents, students, corporate organisation and friends of Makerere University. This generous contribution has been used to construct 600 metres of the 6 kilometer fence, which would have ordinarily cost at least UGX 750 million through contracting. I call upon all well-

wishers to contribute to the project. We are hopeful that once completed, security at Campus will greatly improve. I thank the leadership of Convocation for spearheading this project.

Our distinguished guests, on 5th December 2017, Makerere University held her first ever property investment conference, with the aim of attracting investments on her prime land using the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. The interest from investors was enormous and we are now working on solicitation of proposals for specific projects. Among the projects lined up under this arrangement are a three star hotel and convention centre on main campus, student hostels on main campus, five star hotel, upper market apartments and office park at Kololo, upper and middle income apartments in Kololo, teaching hospital in Katalamwa, and others. When completed, these projects will greatly contribute to the University's revenue.

Makerere University Run (MakRun 2018)

As one of the strategies to raise funds for the University, the Makerere University Endowment Fund (MakeEF) –was established in 2014. MakeEF under its mandate to achieve long term financial sustainability for the University started the MakRun. I thank all those who participated in last year's Run where we collected Ushs247,845,000 (two hundred forty seven million eight hundred forty five thousand Uganda Shillings).

The MakRun is an annual event, mainly aimed at supporting the Fund's inaugural project, the “**Students Centre**”. The estimated cost for the construction of the centre is UGX15 billion. I call upon everyone present here today to support this noble cause. Ladies and gentlemen, please warm up and get ready to participate in the MakRun 2018 scheduled on Sunday 25th March 2018.

Timely processing of Makerere University academic Transcripts:

To ease service delivery, the University Central Management has decentralized the issuance of Makerere University academic transcripts. I am happy to report that all students that have fulfilled all the requirements for graduation can now pick their transcripts from their respective College Registrars.

Cordial Student-Management relations:

The University Management continues to work closely with student leaders to improve relations between the two bodies in an effort to reduce strikes, hooliganism and also open channels of communication. Hooliganism has no place in Africa's premier university and we all must fight it.

Makerere University Students Disciplinary Committee:

The University recently constituted the student Disciplinary Committee, which will hear cases of indiscipline. I urge all our students to read and internalize the rules and regulations of the University and avoid the possibility of appearing before the Disciplinary Committee.

Improving Student Welfare:

In an effort to improve student welfare, the University Management has established a forum which brings together owners of private student hostels. This is intended to improve security and living conditions of our students. We have embarked on an ambitious plan to improve conditions in halls of residence and build new modern hostels on campus.

Appeal to support the 3rd FISU World University Netball Championship 2018:

Ladies and gentlemen, in spite of all these achievements, we still have a lot to do to further improve our University. Every effort is being made to re-develop the dilapidated sports facilities at the University. Ultimately, the goal is to re-develop the Main Sports Grounds into a multi-purpose stadium, starting with an indoor stadium to accommodate the 3rd FISU World University Netball Championship, which Makerere University will host on behalf of Uganda in September 2018. We are currently fund-raising for this very important facility and I call upon all our stakeholders to extend their support to the project.

The Mak Visitation Committee Report:

The University Officials recently witnessed the handover of the Visitation Committee report to H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. We have instituted a committee to study the recommendations and provide feedback. This feedback will feed into the Government White paper. The University Management will in the meantime implement some of the immediate recommendations.

Introduction of centralized marking approach:

To curb the vice of late submission of student results, the University has adopted a policy of centralized marking. Each College will have a room where scripts are kept and lecturers will be required to mark in that room and leave all scripts there. This will help reduce delays in submission of results and also minimize loss of student scripts.

MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program First Cohort Graduating:

I take this opportunity to congratulate the first cohort Scholars of Mastercard Foundation who are graduating today. Mr. Chancellor Sir, you recall that in 2013, Makerere University entered into a partnership with Mastercard Foundation to educate 1000 academically bright but economically disadvantaged youth of Africa, to study at Makerere University for the next 10 years. I am therefore delighted to inform you that **28 first cohort Scholars** are graduating during the 68th graduation ceremony. One of whom, Claire Muga Akinyi is graduating with First class Honours degree in Community Psychology. It is gratifying because the program gives hope to students from all socio-economic backgrounds to attain university education. We thank the Mastercard Foundation for the support to the future leaders of Africa. As Makerere University continues to benefit from the generosity of partnerships such as Mastercard Foundation, it is important to support and create a conducive environment for such initiatives and partnerships to thrive.

Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation (FSF) presenting Graduands:

This year, under the stewardship of the Gender Mainstreaming Directorate, 144 female scholars of the Female Scholarship Foundation are graduating, including 04 first class and 63 second class upper degrees. These are part of the 1,020 bright but socio-economically disadvantaged females that have been supported to study in various Colleges at the University since 2001. Of the 1,020 females, 74 have been directly financed by Makerere University through a tuition waiver scheme.

I pay special tribute to the organizations that have supported the Gender Mainstreaming Directorate in this regard. These include Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Swedish

Government (SIDA), Norwegian Government, African Development Bank, Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Uganda), MS JD Global Education Fund, DFCU Bank, Joshua Mugenyi Foundation, among others. I call upon well-wishers to support the noble cause of assisting those disadvantaged socially and economically to access University Education.

First Graduates of Chinese Language

During this congregation on Friday 19th January 2018, we will graduate the first cohort of students who have studied the Chinese Language. This is landmark achievement in the building of good relations between the people of Uganda and the people of China. I urge more Ugandans to take interest in Chinese, the language spoken by the largest number of people in the World.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS AT COLLEGES

Mr. Chancellor Sir, in today's session, we present to you a total of **2,425** graduands from three colleges; the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, College of Natural Sciences and the College of Education and External Studies.

i) The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES)

- The College under the “INSFEED” project undertook research to prove that insects (blue flies and worms) can be used as an alternative source of protein to replace the silver fish for the production of poultry and fish feeds.
- The College released a new variety of soybean (Maksoy 6N) to the public that is resistant to soybean rust disease and harsh conditions. The variety is high yielding, early maturing with high protein and oil content. It is the sixth soybean variety released by Makerere University since 2004.
- An Agricultural Appropriate Technology Research Center and a Solar powered drying Machine worth \$ 100,000 USD was launched at Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute, Kabanyolo with support from the Korea Intellectual Property Office and Korea Invention Promotion Association. The solar dryer will be utilized to dry animal feeds mainly cereals like maize and soybean.

ii) The College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS)

- The College is a beneficiary of a Memorandum of Understanding that Makerere University signed with China University of Petroleum (UPC) at Qingdao that seeks to leverage expertise at UPC to establish an Institute/School of Petroleum Geosciences/Engineering at Makerere University. This fits with the appointment of Makerere University as the Centre of Excellence for petroleum and minerals by the Northern Corridor States.
- The European Union is funding an initiative worth EUROS-1,399,875 where the College of Natural Sciences is working with regional and international universities to support

graduate training in Fisheries. The initiative aims at achieving sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture resources that will lead to increased fish production and nutritional security for improved livelihood and household revenue.

- The College of Natural Sciences won a research grant of \$ 250,000 from BioInnovate Africa Programme to support the project titled, '*Establishment of a Regional Enterprise to Commercialise the Integrated Technologies for Agro/Biowaste conversion in Eastern Africa*'. This will be implemented in a consortium with other partners in the Eastern Africa region to support the use of waste for improved livelihoods of our populations.

iii) **The College of Education and External Studies**

- The University approved an operational plan from the College of Education and External Studies to mainstream Open, Distance and eLearning programmes in a phased manner in all colleges. The plan is to start with the Master of Instructional Design and Technology followed by Bachelor of Youth Development Work Programme in February 2018.
- The College of Education and External Studies is also promoting Early Childhood Education (ECD) in Uganda by offering capacity building workshops to proprietors and trainers of ECD institutions all over the country. This is intended to enhance pedagogy for both the tutors and student teachers in ECD centres and teacher training institutions.
- Through its Institute of Open, Distance and eLearning and Directorate of Research and Graduate Training, Makerere University is participating in a Worldwide Partnership aimed at rationalising the use of scarce academics across universities in East Africa using Enhanced and Blended Learning approach in the area of business, health and education.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wish to state that Makerere is a great university by any standards. But Makerere can and will become even greater and more relevant to our Country. In order to achieve that, we must uphold our professional integrity as staff and the students must exercise maximum discipline. Uganda has made enormous sacrifices and invested in us, we must give back to our dear motherland in double measure. I wish to once again make this solemn promise: That I will endeavor to execute the authority entrusted to me with maximum transparency and absolute humility, in order to provide much needed leadership to my large team of more than 5000 employees, so that TOGETHER, we can lift Makerere to the epitome of academic excellence and make Uganda proud, God being my guide.

5. A WORD TO THE GRADUANDS

Finally I turn to you our dear graduands. I congratulate all of you and your parents, guardians and sponsors upon this noble achievement. The time and resources you have invested have paid off and that is the cause for our celebration today. Allow me to specifically thank our dear parents, guardians and sponsors who have selflessly financed your studies to this level. They have sacrificed a lot to give you a good future and deserve to be appreciated. Please join me in expressing our gratitude by giving them a thunderous round of applause.

You are going out to the world, which expects a lot from you. We have trained you to be critical thinkers and not mere job seekers. Go out and create the jobs the Country is yearning for. With a degree from one of the best universities in the world, there is no reason for not succeeding. As you struggle to find your place in society, you might stumble and fall, but always have the courage to stand up and try again with dignity. Your success is our pride. Avoid vain ambitions and keep away from corruption. Love and respect your parents and God will open doors for you. As you go through the gates of Makerere, hold your head high and always hold your alma mater in high esteem. And please, do not forget the gates of Makerere. God Bless You All!

AS WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE!