

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR EZRA SURUMA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 68TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 2018

- 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
- Chairperson And Members of Appointments Board
- 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 2nd Session of the 68th Graduation of Makerere University.

2. I wish to thank the Vice-Chancellor for his excellent remarks and for all the arrangements that have been made for this graduation ceremony by the Makerere University Management Team under his leadership. Thank you very much indeed and please keep up the good work.

3. I noted yesterday that this is Professor Nawangwe's first graduation ceremony as Vice-Chancellor. I took the opportunity to welcome him on his assumption of the high office of Vice Chancellor of Makerere University. At the colorful ceremony marking his installation as the 11th Vice Chancellor of Makerere University we were privileged to have the President of the Republic of Uganda. Once again we warmly welcome you to that high office and we look forward to working with you to advance Makerere University.

4. I wish to join the Vice-Chancellor in thanking the families, friends and organizations that have supported the graduands. 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 too will reciprocate what your parents and guardians have done. Please be generous givers who seek to improve the lives of others.

5. It is a great honor and privilege for me to confer degrees in today's session which brings together the largest combination of science-based colleges at Makerere University. In today's session, we are conferring degrees and diplomas to graduands from four colleges namely:
 - a. **The College of Business and Management Sciences**
 - b. **The College of Computing and Information Sciences**
 - c. **The College of Health Sciences**

d. The College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity

6. We applaud the graduates of the **College of Business and Management Sciences**. We look to you for the creation of new enterprises and new financial institutions and services. I also commend the entrepreneurship spirit being championed by the staff and students in the **College of Business and Management Sciences**. I am glad to note that the College concluded an agreement with the Centre for African Entrepreneurship and Leadership Centre of University of Wolverhampton, to foster and promote entrepreneurialism amongst its students and staff through cutting-edge research, in-house training, curriculum development, and by working with the Private Sector to encourage entrepreneurship through establishment of a Centre for Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Development.
7. Uganda needs more and better entrepreneurs and financial services. We need more private enterprises, more and better services, more capital and more credit. These are challenges as well as a great opportunities.
8. We applaud those who have qualified in **The College of Computing and Information Sciences**. There is no doubt that digital technology is continuously reshaping our world. I

commend the **College of Computing and Information Sciences** for coming up with research projects in the areas of Epidemiology, Credit Risk Analysis, and GIS Modelling for Prevalence of Infectious Diseases. I commend the college's community outreach initiative in organizing the **Get Connected Training** that imparts ICT skills to P.7, S.4 and S.6 vacationers in the Makerere Community.

9. We applaud those who have qualified in **The College of Health Sciences**. The health challenge remains enormous as does the opportunities. We need more and better health services in both the private sector and the public sector. The continued leadership of **the College of Health Sciences** in the region has helped to keep Makerere University in the highest ranks. The cutting edge research in infectious and non-communicable diseases has helped Uganda and, indeed all humanity in addressing major health issues. I can only encourage the College to continue doing what they do best to keep our citizens and humanity in better health.
10. We need to increase public trust in our capacity to deliver health services. We need more trust which can only be achieved from better service experiences. We shall continue to pray for a revolution in the health sector.
11. Finally, we applaud all those who are graduating in **The College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity**. The efforts by the **College** to advance science and technology are commendable. The college has been trying to transform the existing challenges in the animal resources world into economic and livelihood opportunities. Currently, the Country is faced with the epidemic of ticks.

The development of anti-tick and east coast fever vaccines, the development of a diagnostic Kit for sleeping sickness and brucellosis, and the establishment of ultra-modern fish and animal feed factory are all crucial for our animal industry. I commend the College for conducting research, which directly impacts the livelihoods of our people.

12. There are also important concerns about biosafety and so I am glad that Makerere is graduating specialists in that field as well. The growth in non-communicable diseases such as cancer is a major concern and so we expect our scientists in the health sciences and veterinary medicine to confront these threats and provide solutions.

13. Once again I congratulate you all for completing your work here. You have brought glory to your parents, relatives and friends by completing the work that brought you here. As you face the future I am sure that you will see an opportunity, a divine vision, to which you can be committed. I hope that you will live a life that is focused and committed to something noble.

14. I wish you every blessing in your new life beyond the university. I wish you great success and excellent health as you leave the gates of Makerere. Let us continue together to build for the future. God bless you all.

Professor Ezra Suruma
Chancellor, Makerere University
January 17, 2018