

**MAKERERE**



**UNIVERSITY**

**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR**

**PROFESSOR EZRA SURUMA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 68<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY  
OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 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 of other Sister Universities  
Former Chancellors of Makerere University  
Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council  
Vice-Chancellor and Members of the University Management Team  
Former Vice Chancellors of Makerere University  
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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### Chancellor's Message to MUBS Graduands on the 68<sup>th</sup> Graduation

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1. It is a great pleasure and honor for me to welcome you all here today to the Third Session of the 68<sup>th</sup> Graduation of Makerere University.
2. I especially thank the Vice-Chancellor for his remarks and for all the arrangements that have been made for this graduation ceremony under his leadership. I also thank the Makerere University Management Team for all the arrangements culminating in our presence here today. In today's session, we shall confer degrees and award diplomas to a total of 3,609 graduands from Makerere University Business School (MUBS).
3. Let me also extend a special word of thanks to the Management and staff of Makerere University Business School and the MUBS community as a whole for the guidance you have offered to these students while steering them through the many complexities of academic life.

4. Additionally, I also wish to recognize the contributions of the various institutions and organizations towards MUBS: the Government of Uganda, the MUBS Council, the Academic Board, the students, the development partners and all stakeholders, especially the parents. Thank you for the vital role you have played in supporting Makerere University Business School to pursue its vision of being the benchmark of business and management education in this region.
5. I thank the parents, relatives, religious leaders and friends for the financial, social, and emotional support they have so generously extended to you the graduands. I have no doubt that you do acknowledge with deep gratitude the love and sacrifice of all the people and institutions that have contributed so much to your achievements.
6. And now a word to the graduands. I congratulate you upon reaching this important milestone in your lives. I commend your achievement and the spirit of endurance, hard work, commitment, discipline and self-control that has enabled you to achieve this academic success. Please maintain this spirit.
7. Our country, and perhaps the entire African continent, is facing severe managerial and financial challenges. We are so far unable to mobilize the capital we need to finance both the public and private sectors. For those seeking to create and run their own enterprises, access to credit generally remains very difficult and very expensive when compared to our competitors in the developed world. The need to mobilize internal savings within Uganda remains an important challenge. Please do confront this challenge. We must not give up the fight to increase our share of ownership of the financial sector.
8. Thousands of Ugandans bear deep scars from lost battles as they attempted to form, own and sustain Ugandan banks. Anyone who thinks that neocolonialism is dead is either ignorant or a liar. The battle for us to control and direct our economic destiny is as urgent and as serious as ever. So stop resting on your laurels and expecting that you are now ready to sit back and relax. No. You are now ready to join the war for the economic and intellectual emancipation of the African people. War is

war. If someone can openly call Africa a shithole, the burden is on you and me to prove that we are not what we are being branded. We are being so branded because our own people are running away from here to find opportunities abroad where they are not welcome. We must clean our house so that our people, and especially you the young people, can find it more bearable and more satisfying to stay and serve at home than to risk perishing on the high seas or in ignominious employment.

9. The degrees we are awarding you today testify to your discipline and commitment and to your capacity to face and overcome the hardships and pains and tears of academic struggle. Your graduation testifies to the world that in the face of adversity, poverty, deprivation, doubt and danger, you have exhibited determination and survival. Today you stand tall among the survivors and heroes of academic wars. Congratulations.
10. Now the time has come for you to go out from the ivory tower to the battle field. Fight the good fight. Run patiently and faithfully the race for which you have been preparing. Use the education skills and experience you received from MUBS to advance your family, your country and your world. Please endeavor to live a life tempered by faith, hope and love in all the battles ahead. I wish you a blessed and successful life.

#### 11. FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

**Professor Ezra Suruma**  
Chancellor, Makerere University  
January 2018