

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR BARNABAS NAWANGWE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 68TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
AT THE FREEDOM SQUARE ON THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 2018**

- The First Lady and Honourable Minister of Education and Sports
- 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 of other Universities
- Former Chancellors of Makerere University
- The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
- The Chairman and Members of the Appointments Board
- The Principal, MUBS
- The Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Members of the University Management Team
- Former Vice Chancellors of Makerere University
- Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Principals of other Universities and Institutions
- Members of the University Senate
- Chairman and Members of Convocation
- The Chairpersons of MUASA, MASA and NUEI
- 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 third 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.

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 and administrative 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.

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 UGX 15 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.

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.

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.

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.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL (MUBS)

Today, a total of **3,611** graduands from the Makerere University Business School (MUBS) will be conferred upon degrees and receive certificates of Makerere University.

I commend the Principal, Management and Staff of Makerere University Business School upon continuing to improve the curriculum and the way you teach. This year eight (8) MUBS staff completed their PhDs, which brings the total number of staff with PhDs to 48 and of these, Thirteen (13) are female. Congratulations!

These improvements have not only impacted the teaching and examination process at your various campuses but also your Corporate Social Responsibility activities in Luzira Upper Maximum Prison.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am happy to inform you that there are currently 90 inmates enrolled on both certificate and diploma programmes of Makerere University Business School. Additionally, MUBS contributes computers, paints the prison facilities and annually a symbolic graduation ceremony is held in the prison to motivate the inmates and help them think about life after prison. I congratulate the Principal upon undertaking this noble cause, that is in tandem with the Knowledge Transfer Partnership and Networking core function of Makerere University.

Infrastructure

I thank The Government of Uganda for constructing the Faculty of Computing and Management Science block with funding from the African Development Bank. I am happy to add that through the same facility, procurement of equipment and furniture for the computer labs is ongoing. I also commend the leadership at MUBS for using internally generated funds and support from Government to undertake several other projects such as: replacement of all asbestos roofs at the Bugolobi Annex, building a perimeter fence around the library, embarking on the construction of a perimeter wall around the main campus and completion of the Main Library short tower, renovating the Graduate School facilities, among others.

Innovation hub

Using support from AfDB, the School is building an incubation hub that is intended not only to create employment but also to tap into good ideas and innovations that students and

members of public have to offer. A number of entrepreneurship programmes are also currently being run by the School through the Entrepreneurship Centre, all intended to nurture entrepreneurship not only among the students but also the general public.

Gender Mainstreaming

Makerere University Business School through the Leadership Centre has continued to develop leaders and best leadership and governance practices for the country. MUBS has put in place the Young Women Leaders Mentoring Program, which brings together current and prospective leaders to develop their leadership abilities as well as the Women's Forum which celebrates women's achievements. Through these initiatives, MUBS encourages gender equality and creates interaction between the students and the general public in the attempt to improve gender awareness and equity.

Internationalisation

In order to keep up with the rapidly changing global demands, universities need to not only embrace but also actively promote internationalisation. I commend MUBS for continuing to take advantage of its linkages with other universities both in the region and abroad to learn, share and benchmark. The School has an active collaboration with Drake University in the USA and ICT University Cameroon which has supported the School's staff development programme.

MUBS also has a research collaboration with Copenhagen Business School-CBS in Denmark where CBS & MUBS Students conduct research in close collaboration and an intercultural setting. The research focuses on issues related to entrepreneurship and private sector development in Uganda. Regionally, I commend MUBS for undertaking Research and PhD collaboration with the University of Nairobi and University of Dar-es-Salaam under the ARSEA Umbrella.

3. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wish to state that Makerere is a great university by any standards and it 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.

4. 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!

Signed: _____
Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe
Vice Chancellor

18th January 2018