

**MAKERERE**



**UNIVERSITY**

**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR**

**Professor Ezra Suruma**

**On The Occasion of the 69th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019

- **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**

1. It is a great honor and privilege to welcome you all here today to the 4th and Final Session of the 69<sup>th</sup> Graduation of Makerere University.
2. A lot of planning and hard work has gone into the successful preparations for these graduation ceremonies. I therefore wish to thank the Vice-Chancellor, his Management Team and the Ceremonies Committee for all the arrangements culminating in our presence here today. I also thank the faculty and staff of Makerere University for their great work and industry in training the wide range of professionals in the humanities and social sciences, law, engineering, architecture, medicine, fine art and design etc. I am sure you will all agree with me that it takes a great deal of effort and time to train and graduate over 13,000 graduands including PH.Ds and Masters Degrees.
3. Specifically, let me thank the faculty and staff in **the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology; the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; and the School of Law; for the excellent work they have done to prepare** the students who are graduating today. Thank you very much. I am sure that these graduates will have a transformative impact on the future of Uganda.
4. I am very pleased to extend sincere gratitude to the parents, guardians, teachers, mentors and peers of the graduands for the help and counsel they accorded you, over the years, making it possible for you to achieve today's glorious finish. Please honor them and remember the sacrifices they have made over the years on your behalf. When your turn comes, do the same for them and for others.
5. Today I would like to again make some comments on the moral integrity of the university in particular and the country in general. In the past several days both the Vice-Chancellor and I have tried to draw the attention of the graduands, the academic community and the general public to the importance of discipline and moral integrity both at the national, institutional and personal levels.
6. If the meaning and value of education is to endure then the record of each and every student must be an accurate and true reflection of his or her actual performance. In the past Makerere experienced issues about the integrity of student records as well as the timely availability of student transcripts. This is being rectified and I fully congratulate the administration under Vice-Chancellor for tackling this problem aggressively.

7. It is simply unacceptable to compromise on the moral integrity of the university. When that happens everyone suffers. We begin to doubt the value of every degree coming from Makerere University. Those who have worked hard to earn their marks become victims of those who have cheated. Anyone who participates in any way in falsifying the academic records of the university is an enemy and must be treated as such. I urge everyone, students, parents, faculty, alumni, government, media and the public at large to fight all forms of fraud, falsification and immorality in the university. Please say an irrevocable no to all forms of corruption in the university.
8. My late brother, Dr. Livingstone Byarugaba used to ask me: ***“Do you need a torch to see the sun?”*** Now I beg to ask you my brothers and sisters, do we need to be reminded that every time we push for a false mark or grade for a child or student who is not qualified we are hurting ourselves? Who benefits when we increase or multiply unqualified doctors, pharmacists, teachers, engineers and pilots in the society. The results are predictable: we have to flee to India for medical treatment, we become drug resistant, bridges and buildings collapse under construction and kill people, planes fall from the sky and 50 percent of primary 6 pupils cannot pass a literacy test on reading and writing. And we keep asking: how could this happen? ***“Do you need a torch to see the sun?”***
9. The meaning of corruption goes beyond stealing public funds: it means decay and decomposition of the body – the decay of a carcass. The body is Uganda and we the people of Uganda are the cells. We are the ones administering examinations, selling bad food and expired medicines and cooking books of accounts. Let us be fully aware that what we do to others they will do to us! Charity begins at home. If you want a clean and fair society begin at home. Education without integrity will not protect you and it will not protect Uganda. It will continue to kill and the future will get worse. Once our enemies realize our internal weaknesses it will not take them long to destroy us.
10. I appeal to every Ugandan: wherever you find yourself, take a stand for what is right. Be a candle in the darkness. With a candle here and a candle there we can save our country for ourselves and for our children and our grandchildren. Let me leave you with the words from Chris Rice’s song:

### *Go Light Your World*

1. There is a candle in every soul  
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold  
There is a Spirit who brings a fire  
Ignites a candle and makes His home
2. Carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the helpless, confused and torn  
And hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world  
Take your candle, and go light your world
3. Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to  
Light his own candle some other way  
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to  
Still holds a candle without a flame
4. So carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn  
And hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world  
Take your candle, and go light your world
5. 'Cause we are a family whose hearts are blazing  
So let's raise our candles and light up the sky  
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus  
Make us a beacon in darkest times
6. Carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the hopeless, deceived and poor  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world  
Take your candle, and go light your world
7. Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world  
Take your candle, and go light your world  
Take your candle, and go light your world

(Songwriters: Christopher M. Rice, Go Light Your World lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group)

11. There is a lot of darkness around us. There is a desperate need for the light to see the way to the future, to prosperity and to hope. Please take your kindle and be a light wherever God will send you. I wish you all the best.

**I have said all this For God and my country**