

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR BARNABAS NAWANGWE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 69TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
AT THE FREEDOM SQUARE ON FRIDAY 18TH JANUARY 2019**

- **The Chancellor Makerere University, Prof. Ezra Suruma**
- **Honorable Ministers**
- **The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports**
- **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**
- **The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council**
- **The Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Members of the University Management Team**
- **Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Principals of other Universities and Institutions**
- **Principals, Deans and Heads of Department**
- **Members of the University Senate**
- **Members of Staff of Makerere University**
- **The Chairperson and Members of Convocation**
- **The President, Vice President and Speaker of the Students Guild**
- **Parents and Guardians**
- **Graduands**
- **The Media Fraternity**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to the 4th and last session of the 69th graduation ceremony of Makerere University, which commenced on 15th January 2019.

Ladies and gentlemen, for this 69th graduation ceremony, a total of **13,350** students will be awarded degrees and diplomas of Makerere University in various disciplines. Of these, **56** will receive PhDs, **1,254** Masters Degrees and **101** Postgraduate Diplomas, while **11,939** will receive undergraduate diplomas and Bachelor's Degrees. 49.7% of the graduands are male and 50.3% are female. In a very special way, we congratulate the **364** of students who are graduating with First Class Honours Division. Congratulations! At today's ceremony we are graduating students from the College of Engineering Design Art and Technology, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the School of Law. 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 congratulate the 14 out of the 15 pioneer students of the Master of Arts in Defence and Security Studies who are graduating today. I also congratulate Justice Stephen Kavuma, who is graduating with a Master of Arts in International Relations. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Alex Kakooza, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education and Sports, whose daughter Fiona Nalugo is graduating with a second class upper in BSc. (Civil Engineering).

I congratulate Prof. Kirumira, former Principal of CHUSS upon being appointed the Director of the prestigious Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies and Prof. Murindwa Rutanga of CHUSS upon being appointed by H.E. The President to the East Africa Constitution Task Force.

I would like to thank all our stakeholders, particularly the Government of Uganda and our development partners who have supported us through the years. In particular, I thank the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni for the unwavering support to Makerere University to consolidate her position as a modern twenty first century university.

In the same spirit, I thank our development partners for supporting our mutually beneficial institutional development programmes. Our visibility as an institution continues to improve with your support, and we are constantly exploring ways to incorporate the sustainability component in all our activities. Makerere has continued to rank among the top five universities in Africa and among the top 400 globally. Makerere is also considered the best black university on earth. We welcome more development partners to support us in further strengthening teaching and learning as well as research and innovation.

WELCOMING THE 12TH MAKERERE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

It is my honour and pleasure to introduce the new Chairperson of Council- Mrs. Lorna Magara. Mrs. Magara is an alumunus of Makerere University who has accomplishments in the education sector in this Country. She is the first female in the history of this great institution to become the Chairperson of Council.

In the same vein, allow me to introduce the new Vice Chairperson of Council, Rt. Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega, who is the former Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly. Hon. Kidega is also an alumnus of this great institution. Management looks forward to working with them to fully unlock Makerere's potential.

MAK'S DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR'S FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

It is also my distinct honour and pleasure to introduce to you our newly appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs, Dr. Umar Kakumba and the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Finance and Administration, Prof. William Bazeyo in absentia.

I sincerely thank the outgoing Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs, Dr. Okello Ogwang for his diligent service to Makerere University and the significant achievements realized under his leadership.

Ladies and gentlemen, permit me to also introduce other members of Management who were appointed in 2018, including the; University Librarian Dr. Hellen Byamugisha, Director Estates and Works Eng. Christina Kakeeto, Director Internal Audit Mr. Walter Yorac Nono, Director Human Resources Mr. Andrew Abunyang, University Bursar Mr. Evarist Bainomugisha, Director Legal Affairs Mr. Henry Mwebe, Director ICT Support Mr. Samuel Paul Mugabi and Deputy University Secretary Mr. Yusuf Kiranda.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS IN 2018

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University has registered a number of achievements over the last one year. I sincerely congratulate all staff and students who have won various accolades and prizes that have kept our flag flying high on the international scene.

In her out-going strategic plan, Makerere University embarked on the path to be a research-led University. With more than 60% of academic staff holding PhDs and more than 90% holding PhDs or Masters degrees, Makerere has the best quality academia on the continent. Indeed, Makerere University is ranked No. 2 in Africa in research output. We are global leaders in many areas of research, including HIV/Aids, Malaria, non-communicable diseases, Crop Improvement, climate change and food security, trans-boundary zoonotic diseases, urbanization, renewable energy, culture and indigenous languages, Gender and Sexuality, Conflict and Conflict Resolution and many others. Many students and faculty have come up with innovations that will help solve some of the problems facing our Country and Region and a lot more can be done if funding is improved.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Government for considering the allocation of competitive research funds dedicated to Makerere University in the next Financial Year. With this support, Makerere University is set to increase her research output and impact on our socio-economic development.

The College of Engineering Design Art and Technology is host to two centres of excellence, the World Bank Centre of Excellence in Materials and Nanotechnology and the East African Centre of Excellence in Renewable Energy. These centres and projects under the Presidential Initiative on Research and Innovation are conducting cutting edge research to solve many problems facing our country and region. The best School of Industrial and Fine Arts in Africa is doing tremendous work in helping manufacturers improve product design and marketability of their products.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is steadily regaining her role as a leading research unit. The revival of Mawazo Journal is a welcome step in the right direction. The College is currently winning a large number of research grants and I applaud them for this revitalized energy.

The School of Law has got into the habit of winning all moot court competitions locally, regionally and globally. This is a good habit as the School celebrates 50 years of legal education. The School boasts of having produced all the judges in Uganda and even exported some globally. We congratulate the School on this achievement. Through its Human Rights and Peace Centre and the Public Law Clinic, the School remains a great example of University-community engagement.

Infrastructure Development: Makerere University is committed to establishing infrastructure that not only enhances our teaching and learning environment but also ensures that we produce an all-round graduate.

Allow me thank the Government for the new teaching facilities obtained through an AfDB loan. The buildings were completed and procurement of furniture is on-going. These facilities have increased teaching space by 15%. Under the same loan, laboratories and workshops in selected departments were renovated.

Teaching and Learning:

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University has continued to implement strategies geared at improving the quality of teaching and learning. We have continuously made improvements to our library, the largest in Africa and subscribed to thousands of online journals. The IT infrastructure and bandwidth, again the best in sub-Saharan Africa have also improved tremendously. I thank the Government and Development partners who have made this possible.

I thank the organizations and individuals, who have provided scholarships to enable many academically bright, but economically disadvantaged young people to access higher education at Makerere University. These include The Mastercard Foundation, The Female Scholarship Scheme, The Embassy of China in Uganda, The Madhvani Foundation and Makerere University Council, which established a scholarship scheme to support students from Northern Uganda. The same gratitude goes to the organizations which have supported graduate training, including the Governments of Sweden and Norway, DAAD, The Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Mellon Foundation and others.

In partnership with the China University of Petroleum, Makerere University has embarked on the establishment on an Institute for Petroleum and Gas Studies at Makerere. The Institute will train the top caliber cadres for our oil

and gas industry and minimize dependence on expatriate personnel. We have also signed an MOU with Tsinghua University for the establishment of a Public Safety Research Institute at Makerere University. This institute will spur research in issues of public health (Cholera, Ebola, etc), terrorism, public control, disaster management and others. This initiative is very important because of the fast rate of urbanization in Uganda. These two will be cross-cutting, multi-disciplinary institutes involving practically every academic unit at Makerere University.

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN (2019/2020-2029/2030)

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, the purpose of a University like Makerere in the socio-economic context of a developing country like Uganda, is to train highly skilled human resource for transformation of society, but more importantly to look for solutions to problems affecting our development. To this end, Makerere University has contributed quite much over the last century of her existence.

Makerere University, as one of the leading universities globally, now looks forward to her next century, with a vision to be a leader in knowledge creation. We aspire to increase our participation in national development programmes and to be a true partner to Government in her efforts to fight poverty and move our beloved Country to middle income status in the shortest time possible.

Mr. Chancellor, Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to inform you that Makerere University has made great progress in drafting the institutional Strategic Planning Framework for the next ten years (2019/2020-2029/2030) following the theme, **Unlocking the Potential of Makerere University as a Regional Knowledge Hub.**

Our thrust for the next 10 years will focus on consolidating Makerere University's position as a research intensive University; enhancing engagement with Industry and business; implementation of a problem/community based learning approach; as well as an inclusive and gender mainstreamed University. The planning process is expected to conclude in March 2019 and the new strategic plan will be launched in August 2019 at a Stakeholders Conference.

Through a consultative process, we have developed a new Makerere University Vision ***“To be a thought leader of knowledge generation for societal transformation and development”***.

DISCIPLINE

Mr. Chancellor Sir, The biggest obstacle to Africa’s development is indiscipline of our elite. I wish to thank H.E. The President, the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports and the members of the public for their support for the measures taken by Council and Management to improve discipline among students and members of staff at Makerere University. We have the best academic staff on this continent and the brightest students. Every day I read about the innovations students have made and the prizes they have won in global competitions. Indeed majority of the students and staff are seriously working to help transform our Country and Continent. But there are small pockets of indiscipline among students and staff. No University can fully utilize her potential in an environment where indiscipline, abuse and impunity prevail. The measures taken to restore discipline are for the good of all stakeholders, especially our students and their future. After measures taken by Management, Makerere University students are currently the most disciplined students and we are proud of them and I urge our students to shun any attempts by indisciplined elements to spoil their newly earned respect. Parents pay their hard earned money and they expect us to give the best to their children and to protect them. I thank our hard-working members of staff who have said they are fed up with indiscipline. The act of one indisciplined lecturer damages the reputation of all of us and can lead to the loss of a grant of USD 50 million. Disruptions to University activities caused by indisciplined staff retard our efforts to emancipate our Country and Continent from poverty and marginalization. But it will not be business as usual. We will not waver in our determination to restore total sanity and respect for our premier University. We will have failed in our duty if we do not provide a conducive environment for our best brains to create knowledge and pass it on to the young generations for our total liberation. Having said that, let me take this opportunity to inform our students, parents and all stakeholders that Makerere University will open as planned tomorrow, Saturday 19th January 2019. All students and staff are

expected to report to duty as per timetables. Any acts of intimidation and indiscipline will be firmly dealt with.

A WORD TO THE GRADUANDS

Finally, a word to our beloved graduands. For the first time in a very long time your transcripts have been printed even before graduation. You can now look for jobs with your heads high up. You entered the gates of Makerere University with a purpose. That purpose was to be a contribution to your nation through making yourselves, your families and communities better. We have done our best to impart to you the best skills in the world. You have endured and succeeded. But as you leave the gates of Makerere, remember that you are now on your own. You will succeed in life if you put a few ideals ahead of you. These are self discipline, respect for self and others, love for your Country and love for God. The opportunities out there are immense, but only the disciplined will find them. The Country is yearning for jobs for our young people and everybody will be looking at you to prove the worth of your education. With a Makerere degree, you have no right not to succeed. The World is yours for the taking and it is only you to deny yourself of the opportunities out there. Take note of the President's pledge to support organized groups of graduates with seed funding to start businesses. I am going to establish the Makerere University Student Employment Liaison Desk in the Office of the Vice Chancellor. This Office will help coordinate employment opportunities for students within the University and beyond. Fare thee well, but do not forget the gates of Makerere, your Alma Mater.

VOTE OF THANKS

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me express my gratitude to the different persons and teams that have made this ceremony a resounding success. These include the Ceremonies Committee led by Assoc. Prof. Patrick Mangeni, All the members of staff, the ushers, the service providers, the security agencies, the media fraternity, the graduands and parents, and in a special way, I thank the Department of Performing Arts and film, who always spice up our ceremonies. Finally, a big thank you to the Chancellor for so ably and graciously presiding over all the different sessions of this ceremony.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, as I conclude, I wish to affirm that Makerere is a great University by any standards and it is the responsibility of all of us Ugandans to ensure that this precious jewel remains a vibrant and respectable institution. Once again thank you all for honouring our invitation to attend this ceremony. It is now my pleasure and privilege to invite the Chancellor to address the congregation. Thank you for your kind attention.

Signed: _____

PROF. BARNABAS NAWANGWE, VICE CHANCELLOR