

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR

Professor Ezra Suruma

On The Occasion of the 70th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University

Wednesday 15th January 2020

Cabinet Ministers Present
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 pleasure and honor for me to welcome you all here today to the 2nd Session of the 70th Graduation of Makerere University. We thank God for the New Year 2020 and for all of you who are with us in these ceremonies.
2. As the Vice Chancellor indicated, we shall this week confer a total of 13,509 degrees and diplomas of Makerere University. A lot of planning and hard work has gone into the preparations for these graduation ceremonies. I therefore wish to thank the Vice-Chancellor, his Management Team and the Ceremonies Committee for all the arrangements they have made to make it possible for us to be here today.
3. It also gives me joy to recognize the distinguished faculty and staff of the College of Business and Management Sciences, the Principal and faculty of the College of Computing and Information Sciences and the Principal and faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity of Makerere University for their immense efforts in teaching, training and research. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to these graduands in particular and to our region and the whole world.

4. I thank the President, the Minister of Education, and the people of Uganda for the enormous investment they continue to make in education and research at Makerere University. For example, the recent decision by government to allocate Shs. 30 billion to Research and Innovations is an important contribution to the future of Uganda's economic and technological development. I commend the Vice Chancellor for appointing a Grants Management Committee (GMC) to ensure that these funds are appropriately allocated, utilized and accounted for.
5. Please permit me to extend sincere congratulations and appreciation to the parents, guardians and relatives of the graduands. Thank you very much for your sacrifices. It has been a long and hard struggle but thank God for the successes that we are witnessing today.
6. Finally, I congratulate all the graduands here today upon the successful conclusion of your educational programs. Well done. For each and every one of you, there is a race to be run and there are victories to be won. I wish you many more victories in the years and months ahead!
7. The global economy is continuing to experience fundamental transformations that affect our present and future very deeply. The drastic conflicts between capitalism and communism that existed at the time of independence in the 1960s have

metamorphosed into new arrangements that suggest convergence of the various economic systems. Some of the fundamental assumptions underlying our economic reforms in the past 30 years appear not to hold any longer.

8. You are the new generation of economists, planners, information and data managers to design a new framework that can create full employment of our human and natural resources. We need far reaching innovations in finance, planning and information technology. Yesterday's economic arrangements which were inherited from colonial and neocolonial arrangements are not capable of solving today's employment and capital dilemmas.
9. I am not saying this to blame anyone. Business cycles are a fact of life and they are caused by both endogenous and exogenous factors. Given the emergence of new global economies and the challenges they pose, our survival demands new regional and global alliances as well as redesigning of our economic systems.
10. As graduates in economics, finance, and information sciences, you have enormous responsibility to redesign the national and regional economic framework to deliver prosperity for all. It is not a small challenge but it must be done. Your responsibility is not merely to blame the old generation. The struggle for economic freedom is not new. It has been going on for centuries. We all need to wake up and to face it and to unite

so that we can survive.

11. As you enter the world of work and of competition and enterprise, I pray that the grace of God will be upon you so that that you may find the right vision and direction and purpose for your life. I pray that you will not become hopeless and lost in the complexity and intensity of the world. May you find the grace and the power to focus and to stay focused on righteous objectives, the courage to go on to reach the mountain top and to celebrate the greatest blessings of life. And may the good Lord bless you and go with you as you embark on the next phase and journey of your life so that when the time of your destiny comes you will be able to say:

I DID THE BEST FOR GOD AND I DID THE BEST FOR MY COUNTRY.