

# **MAKERERE**

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# **UNIVERSITY**

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**ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR BARNABAS NAWANGWE  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY  
AT THE FREEDOM SQUARE ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**

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- **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 and former Chancellors**
- **The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council**
- **The Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Members of the University Management Team**
- **Former Vice Chancellors**
- **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**
- **The Chairperson and Members of Convocation**
- **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 second session of the 70<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony of Makerere University, scheduled to run until Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020. I extend warm congratulations to you all upon the various academic efforts that have culminated in your recognition as graduands of the 70<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. We thank God for His divine enablement that has brought you this far.

Yesterday during the first session, we were privileged to host our Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda who represented the President and Visitor of Makerere University, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, together with the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports Hon. Janet Museveni. Their presence here and indeed the presence of all you our invited guests is continued demonstration of the importance that our Government and you the stakeholders attach to production of quality graduates by Makerere University.

Ladies and gentlemen, for this 70<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony, a total of **13,510** students will be conferred upon degrees and awarded diplomas of Makerere University in various disciplines. Of these, **62** will receive PhDs, **1,173** Masters Degrees and **119** Postgraduate Diplomas, while **12,156** will receive undergraduate diplomas and Bachelors Degrees. 50.5% of the graduands are women and 49.5% are men. In a very special way, we congratulate the **422** of students who are graduating with First Class Honours Division. Congratulations!

Mr. Chancellor Sir, during this 70<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University, I am delighted to report that the overall best student in the Humanities (at the undergraduate level) is Ms. Rita Namukose who scored a First Class Degree-Honours Division with a **CGPA of 4.92 out of 5** in the **Bachelor of International Business of Makerere University**. Ms Rita Namusoke from Makerere University Business School will graduate on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The best student in the Sciences (at the undergraduate level) is Ms. Sarah Namayengo who scored a First Class Degree-Honours Division with a with a **CGPA of 4.83 out of 5** in the **Bachelor of Conservation Forestry and Products Technology of Makerere University**. Ms. Sarah Namayengo from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is graduated yesterday during the first session.

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 equally thank all members of the Academic, Administrative and Support staff for their selfless contribution to your achievement today. Through classwork and other avenues, they have shared with you knowledge and tips on how to succeed in the professional world. They have also introduced you to their networks and some of you have made the most of these opportunities. I implore you to always treasure their contribution to your success and always introduce them to your new networks so that together, we broaden the impact and reach of your alma mater.

I 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 university.

During the Financial Year 2019/2020, Makerere University received special funding worth UGX 30 billion from the Government of Uganda to support high impact Research and Innovations. This support will greatly boost our strategic outlook for next ten years as we seek to: position Makerere as a research intensive University; enhance engagement with players in industry and business; implement a problem/community based learning approach; and sustain an inclusive and gender mainstreamed 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. Because of your support Makerere University 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.

I urge all graduands of the 70<sup>th</sup> congregation as well as all the other alumni of this great institution out there to take keen interest in the strategic direction of your alma mater. Your alma mater is home to the brightest staff and students in the region and you should therefore look no further for a collaborating partner in corporate, philanthropic, knowledge translation and transfer endeavours. I also urge you to return and further your academic careers.

The University has this past year lost many students, members of staff, their spouses, children, parents and relatives. I wish to extend my condolences to all those that lost their loved ones. May the good Lord rest their souls in peace. We also pray that the good Lord continues to grant the soul of our Former Chancellor, Rt. Hon. Prof. Apolo Nsibambi who passed on last year with eternal rest.

## **2. World Health Summit 2020 Regional Meeting**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University in partnership with the Government of Uganda will on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 host the regional meeting of the World Health Summit. This is the first ever meeting of its kind to be held on the African continent and is a great milestone for us. I urge all alumni, members of the convocation as well as staff and students to take advantage of the networking opportunities before, during and after this event so as to forge partnerships that can improve the lives of your communities and Country.

## **3. Digitalization of Health Services**

Ladies and gentlemen, the Makerere University Leadership is committed to continuous improvement of our Health Services through adoption of the enabling technologies. It is my honour and pleasure to inform you that on 21st November, 2019 we launched RxSolution; an

integrated pharmaceutical management software, to improve the three pillars of service delivery, training and research under the Makerere University Health Services.

Our Health Services will now benefit from; enhanced service delivery through the solution's ability to incorporate clinical guidelines, multiple reports that can inform decision making, streamlined patient management which empowers administrators to make prioritized deployments of staff as well as support to planning and budgeting for drug stocks. We thank the USAID Uganda Health Supply Chain (UHSC) Program through the Ministry of Health (MoH) for supporting the implementation of this system.

#### **4. Award of Honorary Doctorate to Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am delighted to report that the Makerere University Senate and Council approved the recommendation to award an Honorary Doctorate of Laws to the first female Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Her Excellency Angela Merkel, in recognition of her outstanding leadership and contribution to humanity, global health and health security. The decision to award Chancellor Merkel an Honorary Doctorate successfully went through all the vetting procedures following her successful nomination by Makerere University School of Public Health. I warmly congratulate Chancellor Angela Merkel upon this achievement and welcome her to Makerere University Convocation. The award ceremony will take place in April 2020.

#### **5. The First Rotary Peace Centre in sub-Saharan Africa**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to inform you that thanks to efforts led by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University is now home to the only Rotary Peace Centre in sub-Saharan Africa. The Makerere University Rotary Peace Centre will offer a professional development certificate fellowship; a newly developed Rotary International program, through which experienced leaders will gain tools for promoting peace and development.

The program is a multi-faceted social impact fellowship emphasizing peace, development and leadership. It inspires social action and provides participants with a platform to hone their leadership skills and build robust regional networks for peace. The professional development certificate will be held twice a year and is expected to take up 20 peace fellows per cohort. Each cohort is envisioned to overlap with a future cohort to build networking opportunities and a sense of community as Rotary Peace Fellows.

#### **6. Fulfilling our Pledge to Support the Girl Child**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University has over the years proved her commitment to bettering the lives of bright but economically disadvantaged students, particularly the girl-child. In addition to affirmative action granting 1.5 points to female entrants across the board, Makerere University has through the Female Scholarship Foundation been catering for the tuition of 20 female students each academic year.

I am pleased to announce that effective next academic year 2020/2021, Makerere University Management, Senate and Council will double the number of scholarships from 20 to 40 and cover both tuition and functional fees for successful applicants. We thank our partners such as; the Carnegie Corporation of New York, MasterCard Foundation, the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Uganda, Japanese Embassy as well as other people of goodwill for supporting this noble cause to date.

## **7. Achievements and Recognitions from Colleges presenting Graduands**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, in second session of the 70th graduation ceremony of Makerere University, I present to you graduands from the following colleges:

- a. College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS)
- b. College of Computing and Information Sciences (CoCIS) and
- c. College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB)

Ladies and gentlemen, 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.

### **a. College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS)**

The College of Business and Management Sciences during the fourth **Annual Students' Entrepreneurship Expo** provided mentorship and a platform for students to showcase their business prototypes under the theme *"Decent work Opportunities"*. I congratulate the **Agro Starch Uganda** team who showcased a faster and easier method of extracting starch from cassava upon emerging best overall and receiving a Cheque worth UGX 1.5million.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today, a total of 20 students will graduate with the regional **Masters in Public Infrastructure Management (MPIM) of Makerere University**. This brings to over 100, the number of students who have graduated in this programme since 2012. I congratulate the College upon equipping Managers in Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well as Local Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations with capacities to effectively manage investment in infrastructure projects.

I equally congratulate the College of Business and Management Sciences upon working with the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to ensure that Makerere University was admitted to **Environment for Development (EfD) Initiative Network** in November 2018. Since its inception, the EfD-Mak Centre has steadily delivered on its mandate by conducting short trainings in Environmental Valuation, Evaluation and Accounting for officials from government, private sector and civil society. The center has also conducted a policy tour to Wakiso district to dialogue with the councilors on the governance and management of natural resources. Congratulations!

### **b. College of Computing and Information Sciences (CoCIS)**

I congratulate the College of Computing and Information Sciences upon putting Makerere University on world map in new areas of computer science such as Artificial Intelligence. Last year, the **AirQo Prototype** developed by researchers led by Dr. Engineer Bainomugisha was among the best 20 Artificial Intelligence projects from all over the world that shared \$25 million in grants from Google.org. **AirQo** is an air monitoring project that uses Artificial Intelligence and low-cost technologies to generate and quantify data on air pollution in the designated areas in Uganda.

Ladies and gentlemen, our continued excellence in research and innovations is greatly influenced by the partnerships we forge. I therefore congratulate the College of Computing and Information Sciences upon hosting a delegation from the **Romanian Cluj Cluster**; a representative association of the Romanian IT industry, comprising of seventy-five (75) IT companies and nine (9) Universities. We look forward to a productive outcome of this delegation's visit.

### **c. College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB)**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB) has since establishment prioritized her contribution to addressing global health insecurities in both animals and humans. I congratulate Prof. Margaret Saimo Kahwa upon championing the development of the **Anti-Tick Vaccine** to avert tick-borne diseases in livestock. The vaccine will reduce acaricide use and protect cattle from the risk of acaricide resistant ticks, which will in turn encourage investment in the agricultural sector, increase food security, household income and have a multiplier effect on export of livestock products.

Ladies and gentlemen, the SafeFish project is an innovation championed by the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity to develop natural enemies of bacteria to improve fish health management, ensure safe fish production and increase fish productivity for local consumption and export. This project will greatly reduce the use of chemicals, antibiotics and other drugs in fish farmed for local consumption and safeguard our fish exports from future bans.

## **8. A Word to The Graduands**

Finally, a word to our beloved graduands. Your achievements today would not have been possible without the support and care of your loving parents, guardians, mentors and friends who had faith in your ability to succeed. This faith drove them to forfeit the luxuries of life and invest their time and resources in you. I therefore thank them most sincerely for this benevolent gesture and pray that the good Lord rewards their generosity.

As you leave the gates of Makerere, remember that you are now a responsible adult equipped to live a responsible life. The famous American Evangelist William Franklin Graham, popularly known as Billy Graham is quoted to have said;

***“When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost.”***

My prayer for you all is that even as you prosper and enjoy good health, you will never forget that character brings true meaning to life. Wealth is good, health is better but character is best. Choose to lay hold of and uphold the best and you will enjoy a truly successful life.

## **CONCLUSION**

I congratulate you, your parents and sponsors upon attaining this milestone in your life. It is now my pleasure to invite the Chancellor to address the congregation. Thank you for your kind attention.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROF. BARNABAS NAWANGWE, VICE CHANCELLOR**