



**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR**

**Professor Ezra Suruma**

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

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020

- **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 70<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, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe and his Management Team and the Ceremonies Committee for all the arrangements culminating in our presence here today. Thank you very much.
3. 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.
4. Professor Barnabas Nawangwe in his remarks highlighted a number of achievements of Makerere University during the past year. I am very pleased to hear that our staff is still at the forefront of conducting cutting edge research, which has led to distinguished awards and maintained Makerere University's global reputation as a leading research institution. We applaud the staff who excelled in research and we urge you to continue conducting research that has relevance and a positive impact on the wellbeing of the people of Uganda.
5. 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 have no doubt that these graduates will have a transformative impact on the future of Uganda.
6. 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. Don't forget them in their old age.

7. As you all graduands exit the doors of Makerere University, many challenges undoubtedly lie ahead of you. The knowledge and skills you have received at Makerere will certainly help you to overcome some of the future challenges.
8. I have just a few brief pieces of advice for you to ponder as you leave Makerere. The first is that the future is today. The goal, the degree or diploma you set your heart on all these years has now come to pass. The future is here. Embrace it and live it with all your mind and with all your strength. And do not forget to be mindful and grateful to God who has enabled you to reach this future.
9. Secondly, the challenges you will face will require character, courage and sacrifice. Character and courage are costly. I hope you will find something to believe in, to stand for and to sacrifice for. It does not have to be a global or even national ambition. It can be as little as helping an orphan child to go to school. My favorite quotation is from Mother Theresa. She said and I quote:  
  
***“We don’t do great things. We do small things with great love.”***  
  
That Love that Mother Theresa is talking about is sacrifice. An outward looking attitude. Eyes that see not only our suffering but also the suffering around us. Mother Theresa had those eyes and she worked selflessly to assist the helpless.
10. If you want a clean and fair society please begin at home. Education without compassion and integrity is not enough. Education without morality cannot bring happiness and prosperity to Uganda. Without integrity our future will certainly get worse. And when our enemies realize our internal weaknesses, that we are corrupting and rotting from inside, it will not take them long to destroy us. Each one of us is a pillar in the building called Uganda. Before you start to blame others, please make sure that you are doing your part in supporting the strength and integrity of this home that we call Uganda.
11. 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.

12. I appeal to you and to every Ugandan: wherever you find yourself to 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 these 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)

2. 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.**