

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR BARNABAS NAWANGWE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 71ST GRADUATION CEREMONY
AT THE FREEDOM SQUARE ON THUIRSDAY 20TH MAY 2021**

- **The Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. Ezra Suruma**
- **Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies**
- **The Chairperson of Makerere University Council, Mrs. Lorna Magara**
- **The Chairperson of MUBS Council, Dr. Isaac Ngobya**
- **The Vice Chairperson of Makerere University Council, Rt. Hon. Dan Fred Kidega**
- **The Chairperson of the Appointments Board, Mr. Kiwanuka Kiryowa**
- **Members of Council of Makerere University**
- **Members of Council, MUBS**
- **The Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Members of the University Management Team**
- **The Deputy Principal, MUBS**
- **Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Principals of sister Universities and Institutions**
- **Members of the University Senate**
- **The Chairperson of Convocation**
- **Members of Staff of Makerere University Business School**
- **Parents and Guardians**
- **Graduands**
- **The Media Fraternity**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to the fourth session of the 71st graduation ceremony of Makerere University. This is a historical occasion being the first graduation to be held in the blended mode due to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic. I wish to assure all our graduands, parents and guardians, who are following us on TV and via the University's social medial platforms, that everything possible has been done to ensure that our graduands get a memorable experience of this special day in their lives. This arrangement has been made in order to ensure the safety of all our graduands and visitors.

Graduation Statistics

Ladies and gentlemen, for this 71st graduation ceremony, a total of 12,550 students will be awarded degrees and diplomas of Makerere University in various disciplines. Of these, a record 108 will receive PhDs. Of these, 38 graduands are female, representing 35% of the total. A total of 1160 graduands will receive Masters Degrees. Of these, 434 are female, representing 37% of the total. Of all the 12,550 graduands, 51% are female and 49% are male. I am happy to see that all our policies to promote access to higher education for the girl child and to end historical imbalances in education are bearing fruit, as Makerere University strives to remain a leader in gender mainstreaming on the African Continent and globally. With effect from the admissions for the current academic year, the University started to implement a 40 percent enrolment quarter for females in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (otherwise called STEM disciplines). This will improve the University's production of female engineers, doctors, mathematicians, to mention but only a few.

Congratulations to Staff

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 Business School 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.

2. CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF EXCELLENT SERVICE

In October we will launch the celebrations to mark 100 years of Makerere's excellent service to humanity. The year-long celebrations will be capped by the climax in October next year. Celebrations will be held in different parts of the Country to pay tribute to all the people of Uganda, who have helped build the University to its current prestigious position as one of the best universities in Africa and the World. I call upon all alumni and friends of Makerere to actively participate in these celebrations.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS 2019/20 ACADEMIC YEAR

Ladies and gentlemen, Makerere University Business school has registered a number of achievements over the last one year.

Under RIF researchers at MUBS are conducting research in the following:

- i. Management of polymers waste in slum areas in Kampala: A randomised control experiment;
- ii. The Governance Forum (GF): A culturally based model for building grass root governance structures;
- iii. The Design and implementation of an innovative Milestone-based program monitoring system for the universities;
- iv. Policy and regulatory compliance with Smart Grid Technologies; and
- v. Post electricity sector reform in Uganda.

I am encouraged by the determination by the MUBS Management to improve the engagement of staff in research. Some of the research undertaken will very well support implementation of the Parish Development Model, the brain child of our Chancellor and I encourage you to get interested in this very important initiative. With the increasing number of PhDs at the School, the research culture will surely be consolidated. Congratulations!

4. Timely Processing of Makerere University Academic Transcripts:

Due to the effects of COVID-19, we were unable to process transcripts for our graduands before the graduation ceremony. However, I am happy to inform all our graduands, that we have now received all the materials required for the production of the transcripts and they should be able to collect them within a couple of weeks. The Academic Registrar will announce the schedule for collection of the transcripts.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wish to assure all our stakeholders, that Makerere University and Makerere University Business School, one of the best schools of business, are united in purpose. MUBS is a very important component of Makerere University and I congratulate the Principal and his team for ably steering the School. Our singular joint goal is to serve the people of Uganda diligently and there is absolutely no reason why we could fail to synergise our efforts for a better service to our beloved Country. I now take this opportunity to invite Prof. Waswa Balunywa, Principal of MUBS to make his remarks.

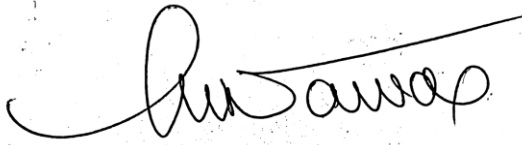
6. A WORD TO THE GRADUANDS

Finally, let me turn to you our dear graduands. I congratulate all of you and your parents, guardians and sponsors upon this noble achievement. The time and resources you have invested have paid off and that is the cause for our celebration today. Allow me to specifically thank our dear parents, guardians and sponsors who have selflessly financed your studies to this level. They have sacrificed a lot to give you a good future and deserve to be appreciated. Please join me in expressing our gratitude for their enormous sacrifices.

You are going out to the world, which expects a lot from you. You will face challenges, including those brought by COVID-19, but be faithful to your cause. We have trained you to be critical thinkers, ready to face the job market, but also resilient entrepreneurs. Go out and create the jobs the Country is yearning for. Love and respect your parents and fear God so that doors will be opened for you. As you go through the gates of Makerere, hold your head high but with humility, and always hold your alma mater in high esteem. And please, do not forget the gates of Makerere. God Bless You All!

AS WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE!

It is now my honour and privilege to invite the Chancellor to address the congregation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Nawangwe', written in a cursive style.

Signed: _____

Date: 20th May 2021

PROF. BARNABAS NAWANGWE, VICE-CHANCELLOR