



Makerere University

**SPEECH BY PROFESSOR BUYINZA MUKADASI
ACADEMIC REGISTRAR, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
DURING THE AMITY-MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, e-VBABPROJECT DEGREE AWARD
CEREMONY AT BLOCK B BIG LAB 2, COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION
SCIENCES, FRIDAY 14TH APRIL 2023 AT 10.00 AM**

- Our Guest of honor, the Indian High Commissioner to Uganda, H.E A Shri Ajay Kumar,
- The Principal College of Computing and Information Sciences
- Deans and Heads of Departments,
- Makerere University Staff present,
- The Amity and e-VBAB project coordinators
- Graduating students
- The Media Fraternity,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

On behalf of Makerere University, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you all to Makerere University and to the College of Computing and Information Sciences in particular. Thank you for sacrificing your valuable time to witness this Degree Awarding Ceremony.

Today we mark more than one milestone. First, is the capacity and adaption to the new digital migration at Makerere University; Second, is the academic excellence of our students and third is to celebrate the long-standing collaboration between Makerere University and India's reputable universities in different fields.

At Makerere University, we are proud to be part of the Amity and e-VBAB project at the College of Computing and Information Sciences. I wish to acknowledge the College leadership led by Professor Tonny Oyana and the coordinating teams both

here in Uganda and India for embracing new technologies and sustainably managing the e- Learning centres. This intervention is timely, as Makerere University seeks to consolidate its position as a research-led University and as the global knowledge hub at the heart of Africa.

The Award ceremony today attests to the fact that Makerere University is on the right path to realizing one of its key mandates of expanding access to quality Higher Education to all Ugandans as students have been able to access holistic education supported by ICT and reliable internet connectivity at affordable rates.

Our Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all aware that we are currently living in a constantly evolving digital world and ICT has an impact on almost every aspect of our lives, from working to socializing and even playing. ICTs enable the use of innovative educational resources and the renewal of learning methods, establishing a more active collaboration of students and the simultaneous acquisition of technological knowledge and they are of great help in developing discernment.

As a university, we have taken a deliberate move and are looking towards online learning as a permanent teaching method and traditional classroom teaching. Therefore, I thank the Government of India for its continued support of Uganda's Education Sector over the years.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The current running MoU between Amity University, and Makerere University College of Computing and Information Sciences was negotiated in the year 2018 and, is renewable after five years while the e-VBAB project MoU was signed in 2019 for five years, and is still running until the end of 2024. The primary goal of this partnership was to espouse online teaching and learning as well as offer degree and postgraduate degree programmes at affordable tuition fees rates devoid of functional fees. Under these MoUs we are excited to churn out 339 graduates of these, 185 are under the Makerere –Amity University agreement and 154 under the e-VBAB project. However, 138 were able to clear for this Award ceremony.

Our Guest of Honor Sir,

We have been receiving scholarships from the Government of India over the years. under the Third India –Africa Summit, the Government of India committed and announced 15,000 scholarships for students and professionals in Africa to pursue courses offered by premiere Indian institutions in emerging areas. The initiative announced as the Evidyabharati network project will span out the next five years and offer certification, Diplomas, and undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses.

I am reliably informed that a total of 2,100 students have been enrolled under both Amity- Makerere MoU and the e-VBAB programmes. Of these, 1346 students were enrolled on 100% scholarship under the e-VBAB project since 2020 to date, spread across 28 Indian universities. Under the Makerere -Amity University MoU, a total of 754 students were admitted under the partial scholarships of up to 70% since 2018 across ten intakes.

We are grateful for this generous support and look forward to receiving even more of these in the future. As Makerere, we pledge to harness India’s experiences with the digital revolution to support Africa’s development and extend education. We also recognize the Government of Uganda for its support and for creating an enabling environment in which these collaborations thrive.

To our Graduands

I congratulate you upon reaching this milestone and emerging victorious against all odds. You have been equipped with the knowledge and skills and so, take your degree, take your faith and Carry your candle into the darkness and go light your world. Go and work for God and for your country.

With those remarks, permit me to thank the Organizing committee, the sponsors and all people who have joined hands to make this ceremony a success.

I thank you,