



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**Speech by Hon. Janet. K. Museveni,
First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports**

At the 75th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University

**Monday 13th January 2025
Freedom Square, Makerere University**

The Chancellor of Makerere University
The Honorable Ministers present
Your Lordship and members of Judges
Members of diplomatic corps
Hon. Members of Parliament
Religious leaders
The Chairperson and members of University Council,
The Vice Chancellor, Makerere University
Commencement Speaker
The Vice Chancellors of Sister Universities,
Teaching and Non-teaching staff,
Parents, Guardians and Sponsors,
Graduands & the Students body,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a yet another day for us to give glory to God for the journey this far. Many have not made it to this day and had pass on, let's observe a moment of silence for their souls to rest in eternal peace. but we are gathered here today and so, we give thanks to the Almighty God for the gift of lives and for seeing graduands complete their studies.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Sports, I am grateful to the University Council, Senate, Management and all staff for their unwavering commitment towards preparing our students who have duly completed the requirements leading to the award of the academic qualifications they are receiving today.

We are here to witness this wonderful milestone in the lives of our graduands during the 75th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University where a total of 13,658 (53% female & 47% male) graduands are graduating with degrees and diplomas. This is a true testimony to the rapid growth and development of our prestigious university.

I therefore congratulate the University Council, Management and the entire staff and graduands upon all the hard work that has led to this day. I equally congratulate the parents, guardians and sponsors upon ensuring that the Graduands received the necessary support to enable them successfully complete their degree programmes.

I was here at Makerere University on 18th December 2024 to commission the School of Law New Building and the renovated Lumumba Hall with funding from Government of Uganda. On the same occasion, I performed ground breaking for the School of Graduate Studies and Research Building donated by Tororo Cement.

The structures were commissioned and the ground breaking for the new structure was possible because a seed was sown on the ground. As the bible says in the book of Galatians 6:7 –***“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”***

As a result, whatever we celebrate has to be preceded by sowing. And the sowing takes the form of commitment, investment of funds, diligent supervision, hard work, accountability and transparency. My deepest appreciation to the Vice Chancellor and the entire University management for a Job well done

Higher Education is a very critical aspect of our education system, that involve transformation of knowledge, skills, values and a positive attitude to provide goods and services that are essential for the welfare of humanity.

I congratulate the Chair University Council, the Vice Chancellor and the management for the evidence based research and innovation which is taking place in Makerere University.

I call upon the Council and Management of Makerere University to ensure provision of quality education and research so that our graduates contribute to the socio-economic development and transformation of the country and the world at large.

Ensure to build a strong quality control system and quality assurance to avoid examinations leakage and examination malpractice. Therefore, uphold the integrity and the standard of Makerere University

I wish to congratulate you the Vice Chancellor and your team for building a system where transcript for all students graduating are ready for collection from their respective colleges. Keep up the spirit

The staff

Thank you all for the dedication and commitment to your various roles towards achieving the vision and the mission of Makerere University. A lot of positive accomplishment have been registered because of the continuous commitment and dedication to your work. I encourage you to remain focused on making your contribution towards the University goal.

A special appreciation to the academic staff for ensuring that students are taught and supervised well despite the challenges you might have faced in the process of preparing these students. There are many testimonies of our student with an outstanding performance in academics race nationally and internationally.

This can only be attributed to the great mentorship you have provided to these students. I therefore salute and commend all of you for the great work you are doing.

The Parents

I am so grateful to you our dear parents and guardian for playing your roles very well in supporting the education of your children.

Thank you again for all the sacrifices you might have endured to see these children through their educational journeys to this current level. It's my sincere prayer that they will bear fruitful outcome from their education and that their sacrifice would not be in vain

The Graduants

Today is not only just a breakthrough but it's a testimony to your resilience, dedication and a stepping stone into the world that awaits you. Your time at Makerere University has been an opportunity to lay firm foundation to the profession so that you can continue to shine and be more productive in the years to come.

You have not only acquired knowledge but have also developed the critical thinking, creativity and compassion that our world so desperately needs. I am so proud that the University has made you to be the light to the world.

It's my sincere hope and prayers that you go into the world and continue to shine and become brighter.

As you embrace the world of work, carry with you the spirit of hard work and the desire to make the world a better place.

I have no doubt that you will face the future with courage, creativity and conviction. There are plenty of opportunities out there, take advantage of the many opportunities to create jobs. Do not despise jobs, start humble and the Lord will lift you later to a high level.

Remember Education is a lifelong journey. The world is constantly evolving and your ability to adopt, innovate and learn will be your greatest asset.

Continuing students

I would like to thank the students Guild for their cordial working relationship with the University Management in handling issues that relate to students affairs in the University in amicably manner.

I encouraged the entire student's community to maintain and uphold the high level of discipline, commitment and hard work that you have demonstrated.

A day like today should be an inspiration to you knowing that one day it will be your turn to be awarded a degree. Therefore, work hard, be focus to your studies and strive to achieve excellence

As I conclude, I thank the Vice Chancellor and his team for the excellent organization and arrangement made for the success of this 75th Graduation ceremony. I thank everybody for your presence. Special thanks to the Government of Uganda under NRM Government and the Leadership of H.E Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the peace and stability that has provided a conducive environment for learning and teaching to take place

Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education and Sports is committed towards improving the infrastructure in Makerere University as you heard from the statement of the Vice Chancellor. Government is equally committed to continuously improve quality of education and research.

Once again, Congratulations to you all our graduants.
I wish you all a happy and joyous celebration

May God bless you all.

For God and my Country.

**Maama Janet Kataha Museveni
First Lady & Minister of Education & Sport**