

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR

Professor Ezra Suruma

On The Occasion of the 71st Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University

Monday 17th May 2021

- **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 with great joy and optimism that I stand here today to congratulate the graduands, parents, guardians and all faculty, staff and management of

Makerere University for reaching this occasion of Makerere University's 71st Graduation.

Commented [P1]:

2. You are truly special graduands because you made it through 2020, a year unlike any other in history. A few months after we had held Makerere University's 70th Graduation in January 2020, virtually the whole world shut down. Schedules were overturned, lives were lost, and livelihoods were harshly disrupted. We therefore should thank God for His divine protection upon us all and for enabling us to be here today to witness this graduation ceremony. A very warm congratulations to all the graduands.
3. In a very special way, permit me to also congratulate the distinguished persons upon whom we are awarding the Honorary Doctorate of Makerere University. These are: Dr. Hannah Akuffo, Dr. Seth Franklin Berkley and Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina. We are delighted to recognize their excellence and distinction in their service to the world. Thank you for serving humanity with such great love and sacrifice.
4. Additionally, I also congratulate Prof. Nelson Sewankambo, Prof. James Tumwine and Prof. Lonzy Ojok upon being appointed to the rank of Professor Emeritus of Makerere University. I thank you for your distinguished research and the enormous contributions you have made to the body of knowledge in your respective disciplines. As Professors Emeritus of Makerere University you will continue to provide your wealth of experience and knowledge to the university and to strengthen its vision as a leading research institution.
5. In his remarks, our distinguished Vice-chancellor, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, has highlighted Makerere University's distinguished awards in the past year that have consolidated the university's global reputation as a leading research institution. We applaud all the staff who excelled in research and we urge you to continue in this important direction.
6. Today's graduation ceremony celebrates graduands in **the College of Health Sciences; the College of Natural Sciences and the School of Law. I wish to recognize the efforts of the staff and faculty in these critically important disciplines. Thank you very much for the excellent work you have done to prepare** the students who are graduating today. I have no doubt that these graduates will have a transformative impact on the future of Uganda, the East African region and the entire world.

7. And now a parting word to our graduands. Life is a journey through various stages in space and time. The fact that you have reached graduation today suggests that you already have a plan and direction for your life. While your success today as a graduand is a great accomplishment that deserves a truly joyful celebration, it is also a continuation of the journey of your life. As you celebrate your achievement do not forget to thank God and to thank all the people who have helped you to get here. You will continue to need their support as you move to your destiny.
8. Nobody knows the future. But we are all in this world together and we need each other's support and encouragement. Please be that support. Be that encouragement. Be the one that offers a helping hand rather than the one who kicks the feeble and the needy. Be the one that takes a stand for what is right.
9. There is a God in heaven. And He sees all that we do. There will come a time for judgment. Those who have done good will be rewarded. And those who have perpetrated evil will be thrown into hell. So please light a candle in the darkness around you so that the blind can see and the lame can walk. Strive to be a beacon of joy and hope in a hard and ruthless world. Do not be discouraged when the world seems unfair and unforgiving. Do your part. God will do the rest.
10. I wish you a bright future and a peaceful and prosperous life.

For God and my country.