

## **ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR**

**Hon. Dr. Crispus Kiyonga**

### **On The Occasion of the 76<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

#### **1. Address**

- 1.1 Hon Ministers and Ministers of State
- 1.2 Honourable Members of Parliament
- 1.3 Your Lordships the Judges of the Courts of Justice.
- 1.4 Your Excellencies the High Commissioners, Ambassadors and officials of the UN system
- 1.5 Cultural and Religious Leaders
- 1.6 The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
- 1.7 The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, and Deputy Vice Chancellors of Makerere University
- 1.8 The Commencement Speaker – Professor Nicholas Ozor, the  
1.1 Executive Director of the African Technology Policy Studies Network, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 1.2 Former Chancellors of the University
- 1.3 The University Secretary and the Members of the University  
1.4 Management Team
- 1.5 Members of the University Senate
- 1.6 Principals of the Colleges and Dean School of Law.
- 1.7 Members of the Students Guild
- 1.8 The graduating students
- 1.9 All students
- 1.10 Distinguished Guests
- 1.11 Ladies and Gentlemen:

## **2. Introduction**

- 2.1 I welcome you all to Makerere University's 76<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony.
- 2.2 I congratulate all of you who have successfully fulfilled the requirements for graduation today. We stand with you as you celebrate the achievements made at various levels of the academic ladder.
- 2.3 To you the parents, guardians and sponsors who have supported the graduands, thank you for a task well accomplished. Thank you very much.
- 2.4 At the heart of the graduands accomplishments are the Professors, lecturers and the administrators of the University. These are very well supported by the University Council. Accordingly, it is only fitting to acknowledge all of them for a job well done.
- 2.5 Makerere University is a public institution managed by the Government of Uganda. On behalf of the University community, I extend our deep gratitude to H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the NRM Government for the invaluable financial and other support that the University receives.
- 2.6 On this note, I wish to also congratulate H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni upon his successful re-election as President of the Republic of Uganda. Your re-election demonstrates the continued trust of the people of Uganda in your able leadership.
- 2.7 Additionally, I congratulate all gallant Makerereans upon their election to Parliament and other eminent positions of leadership in society. Thank you for demonstrating Makerere's continued contribution to the country's leadership, public service, and national

development.

2.8 Besides the Government, there are friends, alumni, other stakeholders and development partners that support the university and its activities. To them, we say thank you very much.

### **3. The Research function of the University**

3.1 Research plays a very vital role in the development of any community. Makerere as the oldest University in the country is doing a significant amount of research.

3.2 In this regard, I thank the Government of Uganda for committing UGX30billion through the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (MakRIF).

3.3 I also thank the Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat-Office of the President for supporting initiatives at Makerere University that are aimed at promoting homegrown solutions to our various challenges.

3.4 I equally wish to commend NRM Government's continued excellent relations with the Korean Government that has led to securing a loan worth USD162million from the Korea Exim Bank. I am happy that this loan will be used to boost our teaching, learning and research infrastructure and send staff to Korea for re-tooling.

3.5 Be that as it may, I think more work is required to mobilize for increment of funds to further support research work.

### **4. Current graduation**

4.1 To the graduands, this is a milestone in your lives. At whatever level of attainment be it a Diploma, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Postgraduate diploma or PhD.

- 4.2 You have invested and worked towards attaining these qualifications. It is only fitting that you get value from this work.
- 4.2.1 Some of you will get jobs at the University, in Government or abroad.
- 4.2.2 Read and understand the work culture and core values of that particular workplace. Be ready to listen, and be open to new ideas. Always be hardworking and disciplined.
- 4.2.3 It is true that the job market is not enough to absorb all of you.
- 4.2.4 However, the knowledge you have acquired at the University is quite empowering and should enable you to think creatively. You can, for instance, create work for yourself on your own, singularly or in groups.
- 4.2.5 Use the knowledge and skills that you have acquired for the benefit of your family and society in general.
- 4.2.6 What is critical is believing that you can indeed apply your knowledge to create work in areas with demand within the population.
- 4.2.7 Partner with some of your friends to form teams, come up with an idea, and you could turn that idea into an innovation, business enterprise or product. Every problem or development challenge faced by Ugandans presents a job opportunity. Make use of the technological resources at your disposal such as the Internet and social media to learn and innovate.

## **5. Making the most of technology**

- 5.1 Beyond academia and leadership, Makerere University has demonstrated that it remains committed to nurturing efficiency and professionalism in the workplace.

5.2 Since the 75<sup>th</sup> Graduation last year, your alma mater has continued to embrace digitalization through the Directorate for ICT Support. The digitalization of almost all administrative functions has enabled Makerere to become a more professionally managed institution.

5.3 As a result, transcripts for most of the graduands have been printed and some of you have been able to pick your transcripts prior to graduation. I congratulate the University Council upon the strategic decision to encourage in-house development of Management Information Systems and the University Management for successfully executing such wonderful plans.

## **Conclusion**

To conclude my speech, I would like to outline some of the areas I think we should further highlight in our work at the University;

- (i) Strengthening funding for research work at the University
- (ii) Building stronger partnerships with the private sector to Commercialise innovations at the University
- (iii) Continuing to establish and strengthen structured relationships with the communities
- (iv) Taking advantage of the abundant technological resources you have at your disposal.

**As We Build for the  
Future**

**FOR GOD AND MY  
COUNTRY!**