

VICE-CHANCELLOR`S GRADUATION SPEECH AT IBANDA UNIVERSITY ON 26TH OCTOBER 2019

The Guest of Honour

His Excellence President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni,

The Chancellor

Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba,

The Chairman Board of Directors

Mr. Jeeb Rwomushana,

Honourable Ministers

Honourable Members of Parliament

The Vice-Chancellors from Sister Universities

Members of the Board of Directors

Members of the University Governing Council

The Resident District Commissioner, Ibanda

The Chairman LCV Ibanda

The Mayor Ibanda Municipality

The District Education Officer

The District Inspector of Schools

Religious Leaders, the Muslims, Pentecostals, Christians, Budhists and others

The Deans, Ibanda University

Heads of Department

The Teaching Staff

The Administrative and Non-Teaching Staff

The Dean of Student Affairs

The Guild President

Ministers in the Guild Government

The Graduands

Parents, Spouses and Family Members

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Your Excellency,

Leo ninayo furaha kubwa to welcome you to Ibanda University Graduation Ceremony.

This is our 3rd Graduation Ceremony since you inaugurated Ibanda University in 2014. Among the congregation, Guests to honour our ceremony are here with us:

- Assoc. Prof. Atuhairi, visiting Professor from Makerere University.
- Rt. Rev. Bishop Emeritus, William Magambo and his Wife Joy from West Ankole Diocese. It is Bishop Magambo who groomed me into becoming a man of God welcoming all human beings who believe in integrity.
- Rev. Fr. Dr. Patrick Mbyemire the Deputy Vice-Chancellor St. Joseph University Nyamitanga.
- Mr. Robert Muhanguzi the Academic Registrar Ankole University.

- Dr. Angela Agella, a Lecturer from Busitema University. She is going to graduate with a Ph.D. degree in Physics from the University of South Africa, on 7th November 2019. I think she will be an inspiration to all women in Uganda, that women can excel in Mathematics and physics.
- Mr. James Magezi was working with Kampala International University for nine years as the Estates manager. The general cleanliness at KIU-WC, was the brain child of Magezi. I worked for KIU-WC, as the founding Deputy Vice-Chancellor for nine years, where I trained medical students from Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Pakistan, India and Uganda. I pay tribute to Hassan Basajjabalaba, the Managing Director.

Your Excellency, when you opened Ibanda University in 2014, we had only one building, but now after a period of only five years we have built a library block, a computer lab, a valley block containing lecture rooms, main hall and a studio for mass communication. We have set up an upcoming five storeyed block that will be the home of agriculture laboratory, physics and chemistry laboratories. It will also house a second computer laboratory. Slowly but surely we shall develop into a prestigious University.

I would like to pay special tribute to my predecessors, Prof. Samson Opolot who was the first Vice-Chancellor, starting a University from nowhere. I am now building on his work. Dr. Abel Mucunguzi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor who introduced University systems; I am building on his work, as well. May the good Lord bless them.

Our Guest of Honour, one may ask the kind of education that we are giving our students. This is what we are doing. We are skilling University graduates. Giving them skills that will live with them long after they have left the University.

We are skilling them in agriculture, our mother science; teaching them how to plant emitumba, omwaani, ebitakuri, muhogo, ebihimba, ebicori and getting high yields at the harvest time.

- Skilling our student teachers taking Bachelor of Education, Science
- Skilling our Secretaries in Secretarial Studies
- Mass Communication in running the numerous radio stations in Uganda and editing numerous news papers in the country
- Information Technology where every student has to be computer literate
- And the BBA, Public Administration and other programmes with internship courses.

Ibanda University is going to introduce new courses known as Foundation Studies. We window shopped these studies from Uganda Christian University and Uganda Martyrs University. Come next academic year we shall have compulsory courses, just like general paper of advanced level is.

- **Ethics and integrity**
- **Entrepreneurship**

This means we shall give our students complete education for a complete man. The Ugandan with integrity, no to teaching for passing exams.

Universities are supposed to compliment each other. This is why we have visiting professors and external examiners. In this regard, I am glad to report that Ibanda University has good relationship with;

- Mountains of the Moon University
- Bishop Stuart University
- Mbarara University of science and Technology and
- Uganda Christian University – Bishop Barham University College.

Mr. Guest of Honour I do congratulate our lecturers, who worked very hard and sacrificed a lot in this competitive environment and proliferation of Universities in Uganda. Let me point out that though young we are doing well with our staff.

- Dr. John Busingye graduated with a Ph.D. from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, last year October 2018.
- One of our former students, who did very well for his first degree, is **an innovative scientist**. Mr. Frank Kamugisha, teaching in the faculty of Applied Sciences is recycling plastics into alternatives to wooden timbers. Very recent he received an award by Tonny Elumelu Foundation in Nigeria; and very recent as well, he won an award for climate launch pad National competitions in Kenya. On 15th November 2019, in two weeks time, he will be flying to Amsterdam in the Netherlands to represent Uganda in the Global grand finals. He is putting Ibanda University on the map. Mr. Kamugisha is a candidate for Global MBA (Impact Entrepreneurship) Altis Milan and Uganda Martyrs University.
- Mr. Christopher Banura the Dean Faculty of Business and Management has been registered for a Ph.D. degree at the University of UNICAF, in Cyprus.
- This semester, Ms. Dorah Kahangura, pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Administration from Makerere University, has joined Ibanda University.
- Ms. Assumpta Asiimwe, very recent completed her Masters degree in Human Resource Management; has applied for a scholarship to take up Ph.D. studies in that field. Ms. Asiimwe is our Academic Registrar.

Ibanda University encourages her Academic and Non-Academic Staff to climb higher in their academic endeavors.

Despite these developments, we have a few challenges we are facing. Our students cannot move out for sports and games to other areas and Universities. We wanted to remind your Excellency, politely for the Bus pledged in 2014. The Administration has no vehicle at all to ease the transport venture while going to attend workshops and conferences. The Vice-Chancellor finds himself handicapped going to attend the Vice-

Chancellors` forum in Kampala. When there is need to meet prospective candidates for sensitization, the available means available, is public transport.

As you can see across, the University has put up a five storeyed building. We have completed the ground floor, ***kwonka other floors gatubereire amaino garuguru.***

To the Parents, I offer a word of thanks, because you have sacrificed much for your sons and daughters to graduate today. The parents have given you Education **Oburagwa**. The best oburagwa a parent or guardian can leave with his children. **Obwegyese nibutyaza omuntu** it gives one confidence. The confidence the parents have willed to their children.

To the community in Ibanda Municipality, our relationship with you is very cordial and we normally take services to the community, as cleaning the market or painting zebra crossings. The town will soon be a University town. New buildings in the form of hostels will spring up. The good example is the ladies hostel across. The farmers will produce more food, more milk consumed by the University Community. The boda bodas will be many transporting students from their hostels to campus and Ibanda Municipality will blossom.

To the Graduands: today is a special day coronating your outstanding efforts. I compare you to Joshua Cheptagei who won the gold medal in a 10000 metre race in IAAF Athletics world champions WPS, in Doha.

To the Lady Graduands, I compare you with Halima Nakaayi, who won 800 metres race for women in the same games. It was hard work, it was determination and they won.

Graduands you have won!

The degree / diploma you are getting today is a measure of your past academic accomplishments it is what we are celebrating today. Do not let your degree be a mere honorary title without substance. It should show a change in you, because as you step out of Ibanda University people will be asking ***what is the value of the degree or***

diploma he has got? In short, your qualifications today empower you to prove your learning.

The certificate you have got should not be the end but the beginning of your real life in academics and professions. Aim higher; let every level of achievement lead you to another level. University education is not limited by age. Do not settle for too little when there is much more inside and out there for you. I will use the words of Wole Soyinka a great Nigerian writer, in his book *Trials of Brother Jero*. **And Chume, one of the characters wanted to aim higher and he prayed to God.**

Those who be clerk today, make them chief clerk tomorrow.

Those who are messenger today, make them senior service tomorrow.

Those who dey walk today, give them their own bicycle tomorrow.

Those who dey push bicycle today, give them big car tomorrow, give them big car tomorrow, give them big car.

Perhaps that is Ph.D. Perhaps that is Prof. Nsibambi Perhaps that is a man who is as rich as Centenary Bank.

Aim higher. I would like to leave you with the words of a great American Musician Ben E King:

He sang:

No matter who you are

No matter what you own

No matter how educated you are

You will need someone to stand by you

Omuntu atarikukuhemukaho

And that is:

Mohammed for the Moslems

Jesus Christ for the Christians

And other believers in their own religions

To you Graduands "Go therefore and challenge the rot and mediocrity in our society – do not become part of it, you have been prepared to aim at excellence in everything you do. Go and vindicate your time at Ibanda University. Prove that you have been changed by being at Ibanda University Make us proud."

On a personal note, your Excellency I want to present a Kiswahili book to you because I know you are an ardent supporter of Kiswahili.

The Development of Kiswahili in Uganda

This book was written by me. I wish everyone in Uganda could speak some Kiswahili, and I wish Kiswahili could be examinable at Primary and Ordinary level of Education.

I am also presenting to you the study I have carried out for 30 years on ***cheating examinations***. This is corruption and many Ugandans have fallen in love with corruption. So we have to tackle the vice with an envelope of love.

I have called my findings **The Vaccine for Examination Malpractices**

If my vaccine is accepted, there would be no more cheating of Examinations in Uganda.

NAOMBA MUNGU MWEEMA AWABARIKHE NA KUWARINDA

Prof. Emmanuel Karoro

Vice-Chancellor

Ibanda University