



**MESSAGE OF OWEK. AMB. AL-HAJJ. PROF. BADRU
DUNGU KATEREGGA
(FOUNDING VICE CHANCELLOR KAMPALA UNIVERSITY)
TO KAMPALA UNIVERSITY GRADUANDS
AT THE 20TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
HELD ON 4TH MAY, 2023
AT GGABA MAIN CAMPUS**

BISMILLAH AR-RAHMAN AR-RAHIM

SALUTATIONS

1. The Chief Guest **Hon. Beti Namisango Kamyā Turwomwe** the Inspector General of Government.
2. Chairman and Members of Board of Trustees;
3. Chairman and Members of the University Council;
4. Vice Chancellors of Sister Universities;
5. Deputy Vice-Chancellor
6. Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other Members of Diplomatic Corps.
7. Members of Parliament
8. Public Service officers and Local Government Leaders.
9. Religious Leaders and all representatives of cultural institutions.
10. All representatives of different sports fraternities.
11. Corporate representatives.
12. Dean of Schools, Heads of Department, Directors of Campuses and Principals of Schools.
13. Faculty and Staff;
14. Alumni and Continuing students of Kampala University;
15. Parents, Guardians, Sponsors and Spouses
16. The Media;
17. Graduands;
18. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning!

Assalaam Alaikoum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh, God is good, all the time.

A. WELCOME REMARKS

It is with immense pleasure and remarkable gratitude that I welcome you all to this auspicious occasion marking the 20th Graduation Congregation of the 24-year-old Kampala University. It is indeed a joyous moment for us to host you here as we witness the crowning of such a huge number of graduands as we are officially flagging them off to the labour market.

B. SPECIAL GRATITUDE

Again Mr. Chancellor Sir, permit me to welcome, in a special way, our Chief Guest *Hon. Beti Kanya Turwomwe* , the ombudsman /woman of Uganda better known here as the Inspector General of Government (IGG). The Chief Guest is no stranger to Kampala University as she graced a similar Occasion for our Nursing School at Mutundwe Campus in 2016, when she was still Minister for Kampala and Metropolitan affairs. Thank you Honorable for remaining a true friend of Kampala University. Our chief Guest as the IGG, extraordinarily coincides with the theme of our graduation which is “**Service with integrity**”.

In the same breadth, allow me Mr. Chancellor, to welcome you to your Institution and to thank you for accepting as usual to preside over this colorful Ceremony.

C. GRADUATION STATISTICS

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the Chief Guest, and all distinguished guests. I am pleased to report to you that during this function, a total of **2,394** graduands will be awarded

Certificates, Postgraduate and undergraduate Diplomas, and conferred with Bachelors and Master's Degrees in various programmes of their academic pursuit.

Out of the graduating class **1,422, (59.4%)** are male, **972 (40.6%)** are female. Thirty-nine (39) graduands obtained first class degrees of whom eighteen (18) 46.15% are Male and 21 (twenty one) 53.85% are female.

The best overall student is Nyende Menya Grace (from Jinja Campus) who has been pursuing a Degree course in Journalism and Mass Communication and obtained a CGPA of 4.8. The best female student is Kyalimpa Emilly who pursued a Bachelor of Computer Science and IT, and obtained a CGPA of 4.73 .We highly congratulate the above two students for the excellent performance at that level. In the same spirit, we also wish to applaud the remaining 37 first class graduands for their outstanding performance in a world, where mediocrity is almost a sin!

Among the Post Graduating class, 128 (one hundred twenty-eight) will be conferred with Masters' Degrees in various disciplines. Out of these, 103-(80.47%) are male and 25 (19.953 %) are female. The best performing postgraduate student is Nakate Milly who pursued a Masters of Education in Early Childhood Education and obtained an average score of 81%. Allow me Mr. Chancellor Sir, to congratulate her as well.

I have the most distinctive honor to report that, the candidates who are graduating today hail from nine (9) African countries, namely, Uganda 1705(71.2%), Tanzania 124(5.18%) Kenya 70(2.92%), South Sudan 175 (7.31%), Somalia 241(10.07%), Nigeria 27(1.23%) Congo 21(0.58%), Rwanda 18 (0.75%), and Burundi 13 (0.54%) therefore, to us African unity is more practiced than preached as an institution.

D. NEW DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

Mr. Chancellor Sir, it is my peculiar honor to notify the convocation that management deemed it fit to recruit a new Deputy Vice-Chancellor in-charge of Academics, Research, Innovation and Internationalization, she is none other than, **Dr. Wardah M. Rajab-Gyagenda and her appointment rightly fulfils our gender main stream policy.** She joined us in November 2022, and comes loaded with vast experience of so many years of service at different institutions of Higher Learning both locally and internationally, please join me to wish her unlimited success at Kampala University, and throughout the BDK Universities Network International.

Our most heartfelt gratitude also goes to the former DVC Prof.ABT .Byaruhanga Akiiki (aka son of woman) for the long service he rendered to the Institution since its inception to date.

E. UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

In our endeavors to strengthen research and inter- university collaborations, Kampala University has signed a number of memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with different Institutions of the world to cater for student /staff exchange programs, joint research, publications, conferences and capacity development.viz;

- i) Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) which signed with us early this week.
- ii) Al-Mustapha International University of Qum Iran [iii)The prestigious Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); iv) University of Sargodha, Sargodha, Pakistan, v) Preston University, Islamabad, Pakistan; v)Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Pakistan; vi) L.N Gumilyov

Eurasian National University (ENU), Kazakhstan; vii) Kazguu University, Kazakhstan; viii) Ugandan Initiative in Support of the Largest Refugee Hosting Countries (SLARHC-U).

F. SCOUTING IN KAMPALA UNIVERSITY.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am also pleased to notify this congregation that recently, the leadership of Uganda Scouts Association (USA) elected me to the position of **Chief Scout of Uganda** for the next 8 years replacing *Prof. Maggie Kigozi*. Therefore, in the Scouts hierarchy of Uganda, after H.E. the President Gen. Yoweri K. Museveni who is the patron, I come next. Therefore, we encourage you all to love, promote and embrace Scouting at all levels if we are to have leaders who serve selflessly and who live for the sake of others. I thus applaud the KU Rover Scouts who have put up a colorful display for the audience.

G. Staff Development

I am extremely glad to inform you that we have had several staff members who have upgraded and academically moved from one level to another. I wish to inform you that our own Dr. Aisha Naggayi recently graduated with a PhD in Mass Communication from Algezira University Sudan and Dr. Ssekiwa Peter graduated with a PhD in History from Nelson Mendella Metropolitan University South Africa. Additionally, our Systems Assistant Ms. Nalwadda Faridah from Mutundwe Campus is currently graduating with a Masters of Information Technology, and one of our Security officers Mr. Ejotu Alfred aka. (Kazikidogo) is also graduating with a Bachelor of Procurement and Logistics Management. Interestingly, our staff graduands are beneficiaries of our staff development program hence our congratulations to you all.

H. Accreditation of Campuses

In 2008, NCHE came up with a policy calling for separate accreditation of satellite campuses for those universities that have them. We have since declared our campuses for inspection. On 22nd November 2022, an inspection team from NCHE visited Luweero Campus for purposes of accreditation. We await a report from National Council for higher Education. In light of our campus accreditation agenda and roadmap, we are planning to present our Jinja Campus after the clearance of Luweero Campus is completed and this ought to be soon.

I. SPORTS

In the recently concluded East African University games held at Ndejje University, we have ably lived to our expectations, where Kampala University scoped 5 trophies (in all the five games we registered for), two Gold in Netball for Women and Beach Hand ball (Men), two silver in Hand ball and football both for women, and a bronze in Handball (Men). Additionally, for the third time in row, we won Gold in the East African Netball Club Championships that was held in Kampala - Uganda. Incidentally, the same team will be travelling to Nairobi from 13th to 20th May 2023 to participate and defend its title at Nyao Stadium.

I also wish to bring to your notice that 60% of the players making up the National Netball team (SHE CRANES) and 80% of the National Male Netball team (the ROCK) are all recruited from Kampala University. On the same note, allow me inform you further that I am the Patron of the Uganda National Male Netball team (the ROCK). Thus, we pledge to perpetually remain a fortress as far as sports and purposeful education is concerned. And fortunately, the Vice President

(Administration) and now acting President of Uganda netball federation (UNF) Brig Gen. Flavia Byekwaso has ably graced the occasion despite her busy schedule. We welcome you to the oasis of Netball.

Scaling Heights in Volleyball

I am happy to report that, Kampala University ladies Volleyball team recently gained promotion by qualifying to SERIE A NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE. We wish them the best of luck.

Kampala University football team Luwero campus joins the top league

I have the privilege and honor to report a similar success story to the effect that, our football team from Luwero campus has astoundingly cemented its top position in the first division.

Accomplishment in basketball

Thanks to our exceptional Basketball coaching staff who have seen our team climb to the TOP TIER LEAGUE (NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE, (NBL). We are therefore exceedingly humbled to welcome the President of the Federation of Uganda Basketball (FUBA) Council **NASSER SSERUNJOGI** and in company of his Vice President **Mr. SSEGAMWENGE HUDSON**.

J. Curriculum Review

As you are well aware, there is a general curricula review exercise in the country for the entire curricula used in our basic primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school levels. I am glad to report that, our very own lecturers including the DVCARII Dr. Wardah Rajab Gyagenda, Dr. Rebecca Kirunda, Mr.Ssenkusu Pius, Madam Zenna Kibwanga, Mr. Mukasa Fred and many others have been specially engaged by the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) to

participate in the Curriculum review process. This has automatically turned our staff into trainers of trainers (TOT) for the National Curriculum Development review program.

Being aware that a new competence-based curriculum (CBC) is being implemented in our school systems, we at KU have also embarked on a massive curriculum review process for our own programmes to ensure that our curricula are well aligned to the Competence based curricula, which are being rolled out at both Primary and Secondary school levels to avoid a disconnect for students who are products of the new curricula when they join the University.

K. LAND WRANGLES

Ladies and gentlemen, the disagreements over land have more often than not led to violent conflicts within and between communities throughout Uganda for many years. It is disturbing that whenever you tune in to any TV station for news, you are welcomed by conflicts about land from different parts of our Country. We therefore need to address the unjust practices that are putting vulnerable groups at a disadvantage, we need to tackle disputes within communities about the shared use of natural resources like land and resolving border disputes between neighbors. One of the Major roles of Universities is to find well researched solutions to societal problems and thus I implore our Universities to find a permanent solution to the land question in Uganda. We at KU are ready to start this noble aspiration.

L. TEAU CHARTER.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I bring to your kind attention that The East African University (TEAU) in Kitengela-Nairobi Kenya was duly granted a Charter by the former

President H.E Uhuru Mwigai Kenyatta on the 2nd day of August 2022 at Kakamega State lodge. The TEAU team was led by their able Chancellor Hon.Prof.George Mondo Kagonyera to receive the Charter and we deeply thank him for representing effectively. We heart fully congratulate the Chancellor of TEAU and his entire team. This milestone has already started yielding fruits for TEAU through the allocation of Government sponsored students. TEAU and East African University Rwanda (EAUR) are Sister Universities to Kampala University, and are all nested under the Badru Dungu Kateregga (BDK) Universities Network International.

M. MESSAGE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND SPONSORS

We thank our indefatigable parents, sponsors, spouses, friends and guardians of our graduands for specifically knowing that, investing in the future of your children isn't an expense but a real investment! Please accept our most sincere gratitude for the continued trust.

N. MESSAGE TO STAFF

We appreciate the contribution of members of staff towards the development of the Institution and for the human resource capital they are training but above all, for learning from the wisdom of a candle, which burns out to produce light for others. We are exceptionally grateful.

O. MESSAGE TO GRADUANDS

I once again wish to congratulate all our graduands of the 20th congregation; I am certain that the skills and competences you have acquired at Kampala University have prepared you sufficiently to confront the challenges of the world of work, your duty is turn them into opportunities. Kampala University has given you the compass,

it is now upon you to set sail and chart your way through the rough waters. **You have been trained to solve problems of society and we don't expect you to become a problem the self and society.**

Going off from university after graduation is a huge life transition and thus as you prepare to take on the world, take the following issues seriously;

1. It is never congested at the top and so, work towards being at the top of your ability, and then the world will look for you other than you hopelessly looking for it!
2. Global thinking is a must for you. As one of the leading employers, I must tell you that, employees with a global mindset can work with people from many backgrounds and cultures.
3. Never stop learning because the world never stops teaching.
4. The real world where you are going isn't a closed environment like the university you have been, and so, you need an open mind where your operating principle must be "NN" meaning Neglect Nothing!
5. You're in competition directly and indirectly with over 8 billion people and so, the new tenet is struggle for the fittest!
6. Be serious about digital literacy. I.e. Digital literacy refers to the ability to use a computer to its highest potential.
7. If You Network Right, Where You Work Won't Matter. And so, your network is your net worth!
8. Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.
9. As we prepare to set you off, remember living your life with absolute integrity.
10. Above all, as members of the KU alumni, you are the university's representatives in the world. Your success will secure our reputation. And wherever you go, your KU family will be there to support you.

P. CONCLUSION

I once again commend the University Council, the Senior Management, the Senate, Staff and the students Guild for the job well done. I extend my renewed thanks and gratitude to the Chief Guest ***Hon. Beti Namisango Kanya Turwomwe (Inspector General of Government)***, the Chancellor, ***Hon. Prof. George Mondo Kagonyera***, prof Kabera Callixte from EAUR, Prof. Ismail Gyagenda Simbwa Rector of the Islamic University In Uganda (IUIU), all my colleagues the Vice Chancellors of sister Universities present, my diplomatic colleagues representing different missions, religious leaders, all distinguished guests and friends, the Board of Trustees, the Council, the senate, all members of the 20th congregation for gracing the occasion and being witnesses as we celebrate our 24-year Journey of historical service delivery, and as we embark on our silver jubilee Cerebrations next year, 2024, Insha Allah.

Last but not least, I take this chance to appreciate in a big way ***Mrs. Jolly Shubaiha Kateregga the BOT Chairperson*** for all efforts and sleepless nights that have made this function a resounding success.

Congratulations once again to you all for successfully completing your tenure.

I wish you a pleasant stay as you enjoy the rest of the program for the day

ASSALAAM ALEIKOUM WARAHMATULLAHI WA BARAKATUH