

**SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR ON THE OCCASION OF
17TH GRADUATION CEREMONY OF KYAMBOGO UNIVERSITY,
22ND SEPTEMBER 2021**

Our Chief guest, Honourable J.C. Muyingo, Minister of State for
Higher Education

The Chancellor, Kyambogo University, Professor J.P. Ssebuwufu,
Honorable Ministers present,

The Chairperson and members of Kyambogo University Council,
Vice Chancellors of sister Universities,

Members of Top Management,

Members of Senate,

Deans of Faculties and Schools,

Principals of Affiliated Institutions,

Heads of Departments,

Teaching and non- teaching staff of KyU,

Parents and Guardians,

Graduands,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Our chief guest, Hon J. C. Muyingo, the Minister of State for Higher Education, I want to thank you for sparing time to join us at this function when we celebrate the achievements of the University. This confirms your great interest in matters of higher education in this country. I thank you for your periodic guidance on matters of governance and your wise counsel and advice when things appeared not to be going very well. I personally value your counsel from time to time. Lastly, I wish to congratulate you on being reappointed to serve as Minister of State for Higher Education, the area you are very well versed with.

Yesterday, the 21st September 2021, The President of the Republic of Uganda, General Kaguta Museveni was our chief guest and the First Lady and Minister of Education graced the occasion and addressed us virtually. Through you we want to express our gratitude and appreciation for the time they spent with us. Convey our best wishes to the President and the First Lady.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I wish to welcome you to this function. Welcome to the chair of Council and all members of Council, the Deputy Vice Chancellors and other Members of Top Management, the deans of faculties, the parents and guardians, the graduands and all invited guests to this 17th Graduation ceremony which will take place over the next three days. As you will notice this will be virtual and most people are connecting with us through NTV and other media platforms. However, attending physically are:

- Some members of Council,
- Top Management,
- Representatives of the students selected from the best performing students in each faculty,
- Representatives of students with disabilities,

- Graduands for Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters and Doctorates.

This was done to keep observance of the SOPs as provided by the Ministry of Health to minimize the spread of Covid 19.

I thank the Almighty God for His mercies that have kept us all safe amidst the covid-19 pandemic to be able to witness this occasion.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

During the three-day graduation period, we shall present to you a total of **9,521** graduands of whom **5074 are males and 4447 are females** for award of certificates, diplomas, bachelors, masters degrees and PhDs. Of these, **251** students obtained first class degrees in various Bachelors programmes.

The overall best performing student is ***Mr Ruma Daniel Hendry***, BSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics who scored a CGPA of 4.93 out of 5.0.

The best performing Female student is Ms **NABASINGA Joan Mirembe**, Bachelor of Information Technology and Computing who scored a CGPA of 4.86 out of 5.0

The best performing student in the Humanities is **Kutesa Deborah (Ms)**, Bachelor of Interior and Landscape Design 4.83 out of 5.0

I congratulate these students for their dedication to work very hard and for their excellent performance.

Chief guest, among the thousands that are graduating in the next three days, 321 of them were funded under the Government's Students' Loan Scheme which supports bright but financially constrained Ugandan Youth to access higher education. Over 1,500 Loan Scheme Beneficiaries have attained their education at Kyambogo University since 2014 when the President inuagrated

the Higher Education Students' Financing Board. These have all been offering Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Programmes that have been highlighted in the successive National Development Plans as critical for national development. Allow me appreciate the NRM Government's commitment to Increasing Equitable Access to Higher Education.

I wish to thank in a special way, Dr. Goretti Nakabugo, Chairperson Council, Counsel Sara Lubega Vice Chairperson Council and Chairperson of Establishment and Administration committee, Dr Mary Basaasa Muhenda, Chairperson of the Appointments Board, Professor J.Y. T. Mugisha, Chairperson Of Finance Committee, Mr Mustapha Achidri, Chairperson of Resource Mobilisation and other members of Council for continuously guiding Management and working on policies that have created a peaceful atmosphere on campus which has ensured that teaching, learning and research take place without interruption.

I thank my colleagues the DVCs and other members of top management for serving tirelessly, for the team work spirit and for being available to respond to the needs of the staff and students in a timely manner. I wish to urge all of us to continue working well as a team.

I pay special tribute to the Deans, Heads of Departments, and members of the teaching and non-teaching staff who made sure that students are taught and given skills that are required for them to compete in the job market. I also extend a word of thanks and appreciation to all our partners; the private sector, Private Sector Foundation, owners and operators of factories and industries, schools and district councils and other departments that take in our students for internship. We appreciate this partnership and pledge to make it stronger to enable the students gain insights into the world of work before they leave the university.

Thank you, parents, for entrusting the future of your children to us: Here they receive knowledge and skills to set them up in the world of work and I am glad to say that Kyambogo University graduates continue to be the preferred candidates for employment in many sectors of our economy. Our students are found to be disciplined, able to keep time, have hands on skill sets and capacity to get their hands dirty to get the work done. We shall continue to do our best and I want to call upon every staff involved to work tirelessly not to betray the confidence, you parents and guardians have shown in us. We do not take this for granted, it comes with expectations and responsibilities on all parties involved. We shall also continue developing new highly demanded, marketable programmes that give skills to the young people to create jobs for themselves or join the private sector for employment.

Over the last two years, the University has registered major achievements in various areas of operations shown below.

1. Teaching and Learning

The University has continued to deliver on its mandate amidst the numerous challenges caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic. The first lockdown spurred institution's adaptation to use of online technologies to ensure continuity of service delivery to our clients. We have invested and continue to, in the installation of the required ICT infrastructure and demonstration centers to train our staff in the use of online applications to continue working remotely. Over 80% of the academic staff have been trained to use ICTs to teach and assess students.

In December 2020, the National Council for Higher Education permitted Kyambogo University to use the Open Distance Education e-Learning (ODeL) model to teach its programmes. This system has registered success although there a few hiccups which ought to be addressed collectively. As I earlier mentioned, the University has invested in the installation of the necessary technologies to facilitate the implementation of ODeL. The

investment includes setting up of more computer laboratories as well as increasing internet hotspots around the campus. I therefore call upon all parents and guardians to provide data for internet and gadgets like smart phones, basic laptops and ipads to enable them access online materials. The use of online approach to teaching and learning is set to be the new normal with or without Covid going forward.

I thank the academic staff who have beaten all odds to continue teaching and assessing our students and for developing new highly demanded programmes;

1. PhD in Public Policy and Governance
2. PhD in Special Needs Education
3. Master of Arts in Public Administration and Resource Governance
4. Master of Arts in Security and Diplomatic Studies
5. Master of Arts in Economics
6. Master of Arts in Development Studies
7. Master of Social Work
8. Master of Disability Studies and Inclusive Development
9. Master of Arts in History
10. Postgraduate Diploma in Security and Diplomatic Studies
11. Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy and Governance
12. Bachelor of Arts in Security and Diplomatic Studies
13. Bachelor of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management
14. Bachelor of Cultural Heritage Studies and
15. Bachelor of Fashion and Cosmetology, which have been accredited by the National Council for Higher Education.

2. Research and innovation

The University is set to become a research active institution. Deliberate strides are being made as reflected by the number of academic staff who have been promoted to ranks of Professor, Associate Professor, and Senior lecturer on the basis of their

publications and other academic work. Currently, the number of teaching staff has grown to 195 out of a total of 404. This is very commendable and set the stage for active research and innovations in the university.

The University also has a Graduate Fellow scheme where the best students who score first class and the best second-class upper degrees are retained to teach. These form the low cadre of academic staff who are trained, mentored and enabled to advance in their academics. This is the first step in the drive of the university to grow its own Professors. The first cohort of **43 Graduate Fellows** who were recruited in 2018 and have completed their Masters Degrees are now employed as Assistant Lecturers in the various departments.

In order to stimulate research, the University Council introduced a competitive research fund in 2018/19. This fund has grown over the years to over 1 billion per year and increasing number of teaching staff are being supported to conduct research and disseminate their findings.

Our Chief Guest, universities worldwide contribute to generation of knowledge through research and innovations and the knowledge spurs economic development through commercialization of innovations. Problem-oriented research creates findings that inform policy development to address social development. In order for this to happen, researchers must be provided with skills to identify problems, design studies, critically analyze their findings and share them with relevant stakeholders. The government of Uganda may wish to consider providing scholarships for training at Ph.D levels if we are to benefit from the funds set aside to support research because there is a clear correlation between the number of Ph.D holders in an institution and research output including commercialisable innovations that end up in small and medium business enterprises.

We thank the government of Uganda for creating a research fund under the former ministry of Science and Technology. We await development of clear guidelines of how researchers can access this money. This will provide an opportunity for government to direct funds to research relevant for Uganda's socioeconomic development. Our chief guest, no developed country will give us money for research that does not benefit that country. If we are to develop as a country, we must fund our priority projects as you have often emphasized. The discovery of COVIDEX and other herbal preparations in the fight against Covid 19 is a clear example.

However, I wish to call upon government to support universities to develop strong and clear Intellectual Property Policies to protect the innovations developed in universities. If this is not done, innovations will be stolen from the institutions by others claiming to have been part of the innovation process. This is likely to happen largely in medical, pharmaceutical and ICT research and it will demoralize the researchers in universities.

1. Institutional development

In November 2020, the Ministry of Public Service approved the new structure and establishment for Kyambogo University. The new structure led to the split of the old Faculties, Schools and Departments and a creation of new Faculties, Schools and Departments to take care of the expansion the university has achieved since its establishment. The new structure saw an expansion of the university from 6 Faculties/Schools to 12 Faculties/Schools and from 38 departments to 49 Departments in addition to creation of the Institute of Distance Learning, e-learning and Learning Centres.

Some new administrative units were recommended namely:

1. Creation of the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Research and Engagement
2. International Relations Unit
3. University Advancement and Alumni relations Unit
4. Graduate School transformed into a Directorate of Research and Graduate Training with two deputies in charge of Graduate Training and another in charge of research and grants.
5. Risk Management Unit
6. Gender Mainstreaming unit
7. Business Incubation and Innovation Centre
8. Disability Support Centre

This expansion will require an increase in teaching staff from the current establishment of 1,281 to 1,772 (an increase of 491 staff) and a corresponding decrease in non-teaching staff from 851 to 792 (a decrease of 59) and will cost 62.7 bn over 5 years to implement.

It is our conviction that this new structure will create many opportunities for growth and efficiency and effectiveness in the business processes of the university.

We appeal to the Government to support the university in the implementation of the new harmonized structure

The University has developed a number of new policies and guidelines to foster good governance at the university. These include the following:

1. Scheme of Service for Technicians in Teaching Faculties and Departments.
2. Financial Management Manual.
3. Strategic Plan
4. Guidelines for validation of teaching staff
5. Guidelines and Procedures for election of Academic Leaders.

The University has continued to develop the capacity of its human resources through the staff development programme where staff have been supported to undertake studies. I wish to congratulate all those individuals from different departments who attained Ph.Ds since the last graduation ceremony in December 2019.

4. Physical Infrastructure and ICT development

The University has continued to invest and expand its physical and ICT infrastructure using government support and internally generated funds. I thank the government of Uganda for its support which resulted in the construction of new buildings and rehabilitation of old ones under the Higher Education Science and Technology project which was housed in the Ministry of Education and Sports.

These include;

- Central Teaching Facility
- Technical Teacher Education Complex
- Virtual Library
- Multipurpose Science Complex
- Engineering complex
- Architecture Complex

In addition, all engineering laboratories and workshops were rehabilitated. These buildings have been fitted with modern furniture and state of the art science equipment.

The University is in the final stages of constructing a four-storeyed Central Lecture Block which will accommodate about 4000 students at a single sitting. Construction of this facility which is expected to cost 15.8 billion shillings to completion has been funded entirely by internally generated funds.

The University has further improved its road infrastructure by constructing 1.10 km road (Fischer Road) and rehabilitation of 0.51 km of Harlow road. These roads have been fitted with solar lights which has improved the security and image of the university.

In addition, the sports ground on which we are now is another major infrastructural development. The University embarked on revamping this sports facility in March 2020 and will continue with works to make it world class.

ICT Development

The university continues to lead in development of IT solutions for management of higher education in Uganda. Through funding by Government and University council, the university has:

1. Increased the university wide infrastructure and connectivity
2. Enhanced the use of ICT into university processes, service delivery and image improvements . This has enhanced administration and management of academic processes as well as financial management
3. Promoted ICT research and innovations. Systems have been developed from the original e-kampus and now to ACMIS which is used by all public universities
4. Enhanced institutional development by enabling visibility through the website and facilitating e-library system and institutional repository
5. Strengthened ICT policy, legal and regulatory frameworks

5. Strategic Marketing

The university has grown in stature and size and attained international recognition. We continue to receive numerous requests for either bilateral collaboration or joining consortia to write grant proposals to attract funding from international organisations. There are many organisations seeking to work with us. That is what distinguishes a prestigious university from other weak and struggling institutions.

Linkages

The university has established new linkages with other institutions nationally and internationally. I will mention a few here.

- Maastricht School of Management,
- AfriChild centre for Study of African Child,
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences,
- OsloMet University, Norway,
- Huawei Technologies Uganda,
- University of Postdam, Germany,
- Daffodil International University, Bangladesh,
- Mainz University Germany,
- Obuda University Budapest,
- Open University U.K.,
- University of Exeter, U.K.,
- Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute Ethiopia,
- Eldoret University and Mount Kenya University, Kenya

In addition, we have established strong working partnerships with the Uganda Manufacturers Association, the private sector, Private

Sector Foundation, owners and operators of factories and industries, schools and district councils and other departments that take in our students for internship.

The last year has seen major transformations and achievements in various faculties and schools.

FACULTY OF VOCATIONAL STUDIES

The Faculty has continued to pursue the core activities of the university as enshrined in the vision and mission statements as highlighted below.

1. Teaching and learning

i) Recruitment and promotion

The staffing level at the faculty was boosted by the recruitment of 4 new staff at the level of Assistant Lecturer, Lecturer and Professor and promotion of 3 staff to the positions of Senior Lecturer and a Professor respectively. I congratulate these members and in particular Professor Bosco Bua the dean of Vocational Studies for his elevation to the position of Full Professor in Agriculture.

ii) Practical training for the hotel students

Students offering Hotel and Institutional Catering under the Department of Human Nutrition and Home Economics have continued having their practical food preparation and service operations in the **University café**. The Department has been able to emphasize skills development in the areas of Food preparation, service and restaurant operations using the café.

iii) Community engagement

The Department of Human Nutrition signed an MoU with Naguru Referral Hospital to strengthen training of Nutrition cadres through

participation in nutrition and dietetics practices, nutritional assessments and dietary counselling.

2. Programmes

- PhD in Design and Visual culture and first cohort was admitted in 2020
- Bachelor of Fashion and Cosmetology

3. Research, innovation and knowledge generation

In line with the strategic focus two of the Strategic Plan, the Faculty has registered significant milestone in terms of publications and grants writing. 8 staff are currently implementing research supported by the Kyambogo University competitive Research Grant scheme namely:

- a. Dr. Milton Rukundo
- b. Dr. Evelyn Isingoma
- c. Dr. Joweria Nambooze
- d. Dr. Joan Kekimuri
- e. Dr. William Tinzara
- f. Dr. Emmanuel Mutungi
- g. Professor Philip Kwesiga
- h. Professor Bosco Bua

4. Institutional Development

- i) Four Graduate Fellows from the Faculty were sent for further studies through the Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) of the Regional University forum for capacity building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) at Makerere University, Uganda Christian University and Makerere University Business School (MUBS)

- ii) The Department of Art and Industrial Design organized a fashion week where students demonstrated a number of innovations in the fashion industry.
- iii) The Department of Human Nutrition and Home Economics also organised a fashion exhibition where the students displayed different fashions and styles in the garment industry.

5. Collaboration and Networking

The consortium of Dutch and Uganda Partner Institutes including Kyambogo University is partnering on Strengthening agricultural teacher training programmes in Uganda to improve and upgrade the provision of Technical and Vocational Training and Education for agriculture related occupations in collaboration with the Private Sector.

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

1. Collaboration and networking

- i) The French section in the Department of Languages and Communication was awarded a two-year FSPI (*Fond de solidarite pour l'innovation* or Solidarity Fund for innovation) Project fund to promote the teaching and learning of French as a second language in Public Universities.
- ii) The Department of Performing Arts working jointly with four other universities obtained a NORAD higher education grant for capacity building in teacher

education training for six years and will support Kyambogo university in graduate training for PhD, postdoctoral training, masters, non-award research and basic infrastructure development for Music education, English language, Mathematics education and general education.

- iii) The Uganda National Meteorology Authority (UNMA) in collaboration with the Department of Geography installed an automated Weather Station at the Faculty where the data collected is used for both academic purposes and national weather statistics.
- iv) The Dean in collaboration with University of Exeter and funding from the Arts and Humanities council is executing a sub project to document slave and slavery at Fort Patiko as part of the main project of Imagining Futures, archiving the unarchived pasts at University of Exeter.
- v) Dr. Kyazike Elizabeth as the lead investigator from the of Department of History and Political Science in collaboration with Dr. Ojok Patrick from Faculty of Special Needs and Rehabilitation and Dr. Alice Nakiyemba of Busitema University won a 2021/22 National Multiplication project funded by DAAD

New Programs

- Bachelor of Archaeology and Heritage Management
- Master of Social Work
- Master of Arts in Development Studies
- Bachelor of Cultural Heritage

Non-Award Research *and* Innovations

a) The following academic staff obtained funding from Kyambogo University Competitive Research Grant to undertake their research projects:

- i) Assoc. Prof. Muhamud Nabalegwa
- ii) Assoc. Prof. Charles Amone
- iii) Dr. Geoffrey Gabiri
- iv) Dr. Bernard Barasa
- v) Dr. Elizabeth Kyazike
- vi) Dr. Dorothy Atuhura
- vii) Dr. Loy Turyabanawe
- viii) Dr. Kenneth Tindimwebwa
- ix) Dr. Micheal Omeke
- x) Dr. Daniel Nadhomi

b) Dr. Yerindabo Innocent was awarded a publication fund for a Book on the Uganda Secondary School Kiswahili Curriculum by the Kyambogo University Research, Grants and Publications Committee.

The following obtained doctorates since last graduation

1. Dr. Ajanga Max graduated with a PhD in Economics Makerere University in May 2021.
2. Dr. Nyangoma Anicent graduated with a PhD in Gender Studies Makerere University in May 2021
3. Dr. Kaije Doris graduated with a PhD in Religious Studies from Makerere university in May 2021
4. Dr. Nagasha Irene Judith graduated with a PhD in Development studies from Makerere University in May 2021
5. Dr. Kiconco Milliam graduated with a PhD in Social Work from the City University of Hongkong in November 2021.
6. Dr. Tumwine Norman graduated with a PhD in Economics from the University of Dar es salaam in May 2020.
7. Dr. Omeke Micheal graduated with a PhD in Micro Finance from Makerere University in January 2020.
8. Dr. Kintu John graduated with a PhD in Linguistics at Kenyatta University.
9. Dr. Isabirye Joy Mukisa graduated with a PhD in Religious studies from Kenyatta University
10. Dr. Naddumba Annet, successfully graduated with a PhD in Languages at the Nelson Mandela University.

The graduands

I congratulate you upon your achievements today. This is your day, enjoy it but responsibly. I am confident that you have made good networks in addition to acquiring knowledge and skills during your stay at the University. As you join the world of work, have a clear vision for your life, set SMART goals, identify mentors, and continue dreaming big and whatever you purpose to do in this life, give it the best shot.

There are many challenges and temptations in the world and you will often get pressure from your peers. However, remember that your parents/ guardians have invested a lot in bringing you to this level, so please do not cut your life short deliberately through reckless lifestyles.

Struggle as much as you can to advance in your education as a means of adding value to yourself. By this, you will rise above the rest in your career. Be creative and make sure that you contribute to building your country Uganda, wherever you may be. Above all, always remember your alma mater, Kyambogo University and be proud to have gone through this great and growing institution.

Parents and guardians

To the parents and guardians, I thank you for entrusting the future of your children with us the managers and lecturers of Kyambogo University. We are aware of the numerous sacrifices you make to educate your children. It is our commitment to equip all students with the necessary knowledge and skills to make them preferred candidates in the job market or with the capacity to employ themselves and employ others. You can always count on us.

Special thanks

I want to specially thank the Chairperson of the Ceremonies Committee Dr. Eron Lawrence together with the Chairpersons of

various sub-committees, the Convocation, security agencies, the media fraternity, Service providers, staff of the Department of the Academic Registrar and everyone who contributed to make this ceremony successful. A big thank you and May God bless you.

Conclusion:

As I conclude my remarks, I want to thank the Government of Uganda under the wise leadership of His Excellency General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for ensuring the peace and stability we enjoy across the country. I thank the President for his personal vision to transform this country through Science and Technology and hence his personal drive to promote those areas of our economy.

I also thank the President for your timely intervention and wise decision taken to save the lives of many Ugandans which would have been lost to the covid-19 pandemic.

May God bless you richly.

To all our graduands and your parents/sponsors and guardians, wish you joyous celebrations.

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR SERVICE,
FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.**