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**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR**

**Professor Ezra Suruma**

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

Friday 21stMay 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 my great pleasure and privilege to welcome you all to the fifth and final day of Makerere University’s 71st Graduation Ceremony. Icongratulate the graduands, the parents, guardians as well as all faculty, staff and management of Makerere University for reaching this auspicious occasion. Thank you all very much for a job well done.
2. Today we are conferring degrees and awarding diplomas to students from **the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. I wish to thank the faculty and staff of thesecolleges for the excellent work you have done to prepare** the students who are graduating today. Thank you very much. I am confident that these graduates have acquired great knowledge and life skills that will enable them to thrive in their professional careers and to contribute enormously to the prosperity of our country.
3. As graduands from the humanities and social sciences you have what is potentially the broadest scope of career options. Your respective degrees provide the perfect springboard into the world of great possibilities. I implore you to use the critical skills attained in the course of your studies to create a better world, a better Africa, a better Uganda. Specifically, as Uganda embarks on pursing the Parish Model of Development, you should be at the forefront of tackling societal and cultural factors that impede implementation of projects. Try as much as possible to be creative. It is only the creative minds that will ably survive in these tough times. May the Lord guide you in this new and exciting journey.
4. The prevailing global circumstances dictated largely by the effects of climate change and the need for sustainable development imply that we must increasingly adopt green solutions. It is no longer business as usual for the fields of engineering, architecture, design and the creative industry. We can no longer afford to be lavish with the proportions of materials used for infrastructural development, while at the same time ensuring that the infrastructure itself is resilient enough to withstand the impacts of today’s unpredictable and adverse weather.
5. Although this may seem like a challenge, it is an opportunity to be more creative and innovative in the development of new materials and methods. This does not mean that you should do away with the tried and test fundamentals of the industry. However, you must be ready to take the best ofwhat already exists and see how best to make it nimbler and cheaper to implement.
6. As you go out into the world today, I wish to reassure you that you are not alone. You have parents and guardians that love and care for you, as well as friends to share life experiences with. Above all else, you have the Almighty God, creator of the universe, who since the beginning of time has demonstrated His love for all those that put their trust in Him.
7. The 43rd chapter of the Old Testament Book of Isaiah contains a reassurance to the children of Israel, which is still relevant to us today.

*“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;*

*And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.*

*When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,*

*Nor shall the flame scorch you.”*

1. So stand firm in the faith that although trials will come your way, you have a Maker who will not let you down. Play your part by performing every assigned task to the best of your ability and trust Him to do the rest.
2. Permit me to thank our friends from Performing Arts and Film for being a source of joy and beautiful emotion throughout these graduation ceremonies. On Tuesday they brought tears of joy to my eyes when they sang: “*Carry your candle into the darkness and go light your world.”*A candle may be small in size but when it is taken where there is darkness it brings amazing relief and hope. So do not underestimate the power you have to bring hope and joy wherever you find yourself, wherever God sends you. Together, our candles will grow into a powerful flame that will transform Uganda forever.

MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU ALL.