



Nkumba University

CHARTERED SINCE 2006 BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

The mission of the University is to provide an environment that enables the cultivation of Competence, Confidence, Creativity and Character in the Academic, Professional and Social Interactions.

VICE CHANCELLOR'S GRADUATION SPEECH - 2022

- **Our Chief Guest**
- **Chancellor**
- **Chairperson and Members of the Foundation Body**
- **Chairperson and Members of Board of Trustees**
- **Chairperson and Members of University Council**
- **Members of University Management and Staff**
- **Members of University Senate**
- **The Vice-Chancellors of Sister institutions present**
- **The Guild President and his cabinet**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Graduating class of 2021 and Students present**
- **My Dear Wife**
- **All other Protocols Observed**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone those attending physically and virtually this 24th Graduation ceremony of Nkumba University. To our Guest of Honor, parents, all invited guests, well-wishers and media I heartily receive you all on behalf of council, management, senate, faculty, graduands and students of this University.

Graduation is significant to many people because it marks the climax of the investment made by parents, guardians and the faculty onto the graduand. Martin Luther King Junior once said "The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically..." this is what has been done at Nkumba University and we are grateful to the faculty members and all other industrial stakeholders who supported NU in different ways. Turn to your neighbor, bump fists and congratulate him or her. You have made it. Some of you endured hardships, and doubts from even your closest family and friends. Some thought you would drop out, but you didn't – against all odds, you proved them all wrong. Well done

Graduation Statistics

Ladies and gentlemen, for this 24th graduation ceremony, a total of <<>> students will be awarded degrees diplomas and certificates of Nkumba University in various disciplines of study. Of these students, <<>> are females (%) and <<>> are males (%). A total of <<>> graduands will receive PhD Degrees, <<>> graduands will receive Masters Degrees, <<>> graduands will receive Bachelor Degrees, <<>> graduands will receive Diplomas and <<>> graduands will certificates.

The numbers could have been much higher but the Covid-19 pandemic deterred other students from completing their studies on time.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as an extra step to boost our curriculum acceptance in the industry, we are continuously partnering with a number of professional bodies. Currently, we've partnered with ICDL Africa (Country Manager in attendance), – a move aimed at enhancing our students' and staff computer literacy and proficiency. We are currently working on bringing more partners onboard such as CPA, ACCA, CIPS, Microsoft, Comptia and Pearson VUe center and so on. So, as you can see - the future is bright for Nkumba University. All such initiatives will not only nurture graduates fit for the 21st century but will transform NU into one of the best institutions in the region.

Mr. Chancellor sir, I would like to inform you that NU is steadily benefiting from the signed MOU with RUFORUM. RUFORUM which is a network for 128 universities all over Africa. NU is already realizing benefits from the network and recently received a grant to deliver PhD training for Women of approximately \$160,000. Am glad that the RUFORUM team is attending this graduation to further show their support to NU and we are very grateful to them.

During this graduation, the first cohort of the nursing programme will be receiving their certificates. This programme has nurtured students who have been very helpful to the health centres within Entebbe and Wakiso most especially during the Pandemic outbreak. The master in public health was also accredited by NCHE which is a clear sign of the growth of the public health discipline within NU. This is the right time to call upon government to support NU in the establishment of the NU teaching hospital which will go a long way to supporting health provision and training in the community.

As we celebrate those leaving us today, we should also be excited about the future for those still with us. As some of you may know, Nkumba University signed an MOU with Stanbic Business Incubator, Innovation Village and several others coming on board last Thursday. This partnership brought into place, what we call **The Chancellor's Innovation Initiative**. We've always prepared students for the industry, but now, we shall bring the industry to our students.

On behalf of the University BOT, Council, Management, and Students, I would like to thank the Chancellor, Mr. Emmanuel Katongole, and all partners involved in this initiative for making it a reality. I am particularly excited to see what our students shall produce with the right mentorship and support right here at Nkumba University. (Ask partners to stand up)

I would also like to announce a new baby. In the next few months, we shall launch **The School of Computing and Informatics**. As I stated earlier, computing and informatics fields have transformed all sectors of society, businesses, and government. We realize this and so we have carefully reviewed the curricula to ensure that the school offers in-demand and modern computing and IT programmes. This school shall be housed at our Kampala Campus located along Kabaka Anjagala Road in Mengo.

Graduands

As you head into the next chapter of your lives, I would like to share a few lessons with you:

1. Nothing is truly impossible

Roy T. Bennett, in his book, *The Light in the Heart* says, “Turn your obstacles into opportunities and your problems into possibilities.” Often times you shall be hit by seemingly impossible situations. Your time here was merely a practice run for the real world. Some of the obstacles you encountered in here shall be multiplied tenfold out there – but you **WILL** overcome them; you **MUST**. It is such moments that either desolate and destroy you, or transform and define you.

Look around you, think about all the marvels this world has to offer - incredible advances in computing, medicine, architecture, engineering, art and design, you name it. Bill Baker, the structural engineer for the Burj Khalifa, wouldn't have been able to construct the 828-meter structure if he didn't believe in defying the impossible. Some of you are the first graduates in your families – perhaps even clans and villages. You have proven that no stereotype is impossible to overcome if you have the belief and resolve to break it.

2. You must adapt or you will perish

As you must have noticed, society is evolving at incredible speeds today. Many of the changes are driven by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). In layman terms, we are progressively getting dependent on data and intelligent computing to run operations in our businesses, education, governance etc. A two-year study from McKinsey Global Institute suggests that by 2030, intelligent agents and robots could replace as much as 30 percent of the world's current human labor.

These statistics shouldn't shake you – they should prepare you. Be flexible, learn fast, stay ahead of the rest. This advice goes out to the guests present today as well i.e., economists, educationists, religious leaders, politicians, businessmen, and all professionals. How many businesses collapsed in the past two years? How many schools were sold? How many companies declared bankruptcy? How many people changed jobs and lost jobs?

To survive in this economy, you must have an open mind, you must learn new tricks, you must adapt and be flexible. Wherever you go after today, in whatever you do, **adapt** to the emerging trends within your industry. Only then will you survive.

3. Utilize your time efficiently

Time is the most valuable asset that we possess. Unfortunately, it is non-renewable, do not waste it. If you have a task to do today – do not rest until it is accomplished. Be less of a planner and more of a doer.

In the famous words of Napoleon Bonaparte, “Six hours' sleep for a man, seven for a woman, and eight for a fool”. Think about that – how many hours do you spend sleeping? How many hours do you spend watching movies or playing console games? How many hours do you spend actually working?

As young professionals, you have a lot to prove in the job environment. Your time management shall be a crucial determinant of your success. Therefore, do not snooze on your desks. Do not arrive late to work. Do not leave before the right time. Do not procrastinate. But most importantly – work SMART.

4. Your legacy starts here today – right now.

Moving forward, all the decisions you take shall shape the path of your future. Therefore, be bold – confidence can take you places. Take risks – how will you know how high you can fly if you do not take the leap? Be flexible – listen to new ideas with an open mind – never stop learning. Make valuable friends – after all, your network is your net worth. Be trustworthy – if you wanted to be trusted, be trustworthy. Lastly, remember these words from Warren Buffet, “It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you’ll do things differently”

Conclusion

As I conclude, I would like to thank the University Foundation Body, Board of Trustees, University Council, Management, Staff and Alumni for all the support rendered in the operations of this great institution. Your dedication and commitment to the university’s vision is clearly evident today. We are immensely appreciative of our dear parents, guardians, and all benefactors for facilitating these student’s stay here. We do not take you for granted. To the team that has prepared this graduation event, thank you for a job well done.

Finally, to the students, some of you might be worried about what is to come. You shouldn’t, smile – you’ve already survived one of the deadliest pandemics in history. In addition, you have been equipped with all the necessary knowledge and skills to wade through life. What could possibly bring you down?

In my time here, I have witnessed ingenuity, creativity and talent among you. Do not let that fire go out. Fly our flag high up there - I wish you all the best in your futures. Thank You.

I Owe You!