



UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

REMARKS BY THE UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR, THE MOST REV DR STEPHEN SAMUEL KAZIIMBA MUGALU AT THE 23rd GRADUATION CEREMONY ON FRIDAY, 28TH October 2022 AT UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, MUKONO.

Our Guest of Honor, Your Excellency, The president of the Republic of Uganda.
Cabinet and State Ministers Present,
Members of Parliament Present,
The Chairman of the University Council,
Members of the University Council,
The Bishop of Mukono Diocese,
My brother Bishops Present,
Members of the Provincial Assembly Standing Committee,
The Vice Chancellor, Uganda Christian University & Your wife,
Deputy Vice Chancellors
Members of Staff, Uganda Christian University,
Members of the Buganda Kingdom Government Present,
The Students' Guild Leadership,
Parents, Guardians and Friends of the Graduates
All Graduate candidates
Distinguished guests

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

It is my honor and privilege to welcome you to this 23rd Graduation ceremony. Thank you all for honoring the invitation.

I would like to take this privilege to welcome and thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda for accepting to be our Chief Guest today. We welcome you, Your Excellency to Uganda Christian University.

CONGRATULATIONS: It is with great pleasure that I once again stand before you to preside over the 23rd graduation ceremony as we also celebrate the Silver Jubilee for this great University. Uganda Christian University, is 25 years old today! I would like to thank the University Council, the Vice Chancellor and the management team, members of staff, students' government as well as our development partners and other stakeholders for the achievements over the past 25 years and for the immense support you have given us.

I do appreciate our distinguished teaching and non-teaching staff who have displayed incredible talent, commitment and motivation, despite the many challenges they have faced. I cannot underestimate the work you do behind-the-scenes to keep our university running; you

have pushed ahead on many fronts. As your Chancellor, am very grateful and may God bless you richly.

GRADUANDS: Today marks a milestone event in your lives. Graduation is an occasion for celebration, representing the culmination of your years of hard work, commitment and focus. You and your families have made sacrifices to achieve this goal, and we salute you all.

Graduands, I urge you to be passionate about what you choose to do. If you have a great idea, work at it, don't give up. The world is currently ablaze with start-ups which have been initiated by young people such as you. Your success shall be measured by the vibrancy and dynamism of your individual ideas. You have been prepared well for this task. I need to remind you again that graduation is not an end in itself but a springboard.

To the entire UCU fraternity, I once again commend you for being responsive to the needs of our country. It is my confidence that the graduates who are today being assorted out are well baked and equipped with knowledge, skills and positive attitudes in areas of career development, moral development and entrepreneurship.

UCU AT 25 YEARS: I am exceedingly delighted to preside over this historical 23rd graduation ceremony, when UCU is celebrating her Silver Jubilee and 100 years of Bishop Tucker School of Divinity and Theology. I am blessed to have been one of the pioneer students of Uganda Christian University straight from Bishop Tucker after graduating with a Diploma of Theology from Bishop Tucker College.

Uganda Christian University is the first private University chartered by the government of Uganda and voted the most beautiful Christian University in Africa. UCU has stood the test of time to become one of the leading power-house in education in Uganda. From its premier theological seminary/college, Bishop Tucker Theological College, which was established in 1913, it has been a journey of God's faithfulness. Ebenezer, thus far the Lord has helped/brought us (1Samuel 7:12).

Uganda Christian University is dedicated, through teaching, scholarship, service, spiritual formation, student development and social involvement, to preparing students for thoughtful, productive lives of Christian faith and service in their respective professions and places. Fundamentally, UCU takes pride in the provision of **a complete education for a complete person.**

STRATEGIC POSITIONING: The benefits are many if you position yourself right to take advantage of life's many opportunities. You must be immersed in an experience that provides meaningful opportunities to prove that you are a capable leader of tomorrow by learning how to be a force for good in the world.

You are expected to approach problems with creativity, preparing for a diverse global marketplace defined by **innovation**. Uganda Christian University has empowered you to develop the requisite knowledge and skills to achieve your goals outside the classroom.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES IN THE 25 YEARS: Brethren, notable achievements have been witnessed at Uganda Christian University in the last 25 years just as the Vice Chancellor has said. Diverse areas of science, technology and innovation as well as in knowledge transfer have been achieved. Constituent colleges have enriched UCU outreach and diversity. These developments are consistent with Church of Uganda Strategic Plan 2025, which promotes self-sustainability. We give thanks to God for this journey of faith. I would like to appreciate the work of our founding fathers, our partners and all who have been instrumental in the growth and development of UCU to today.

EBOLA: We thank God for taking us through the covid19 pandemic and securing our country. We need to keep vigilant because we have been invaded by another deadly enemy; the Ebola virus, which is said to be one of the most dangerous pathogens in the world. According to the World Health organization (WHO), an average of 50 percent of people infected with Ebola die. Ebola is transmitted through direct physical contact with a person who is sick. Let us work together to raise awareness of hygiene practices and encourage each one to take necessary precautions and adhere to the advice from the health workers and the government.

CLERGY TRAINING: I would like to commend the University through Church Relations office, for offering training to our clergy and school chaplains. Apart from the initial ministerial formation, clergy need continuous training support in many areas to enable them serve effectively in today's Church. May I suggest that this collaborative training continues as we appeal for supporting resources in this area.

TO ALL GRADUANDS: I take this opportunity to once again thank our dear parents for the sacrifice you have made to enable our students complete their studies. To our graduands I would like to remind you of our values, of diligence, integrity, servant hood and stewardship. You have a duty to uphold the flag of UCU while remaining men and women of integrity guided by humility and discipline. It is through these attributes that you will remain useful to your families and society.

CONCLUSION: Finally, I offer my hearty congratulations to all the graduands for the successful completion of your courses. The academic pressures you endured have indeed yielded today's joy. As you move to the next stage of your lives and careers, I encourage you to put your trust in God who knows, and who is the Alpha and Omega. He holds the future. Have hope beyond affliction and you will triumph over many challenges. Because Christ lives, you can face tomorrow!

Thank you and congratulations once again. I commend you to God the Alpha and Omega.

The Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu
**ARCHBISHOP, CHURCH OF UGANDA &
CHANCELLOR UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**