

A WORD FROM THE CHANCELLOR

On the occasion of the 11th graduation ceremony of Busitema University, I congratulate you all for this achievement. You have worked hard and I am indeed proud of your accomplishments.

The zeal you demonstrated towards your studies, the respect you accorded your Lecturers, the University support staff and your fellow students have all accorded critical first steps in your career development. It is a good beginning. I extend sincere gratitude not only to you but also to your parents, guardians, teachers, mentors, and peers for the help and counsel they accorded you over the years, making it possible for you to achieve this glorious finish.

Today certainly marks the beginning of the new phase in your life. Your time at Busitema University has been a phase to help you establish your roots firmly so that you can continue to grow and to be more productive in the years ahead of you. You have received 'nourishment' in the form of knowledge to help you bear good fruits that will last. You have also received anchoring to support you to withstand the storms of life that will come your way.

As you exit the gates of Busitema University, there is no doubt that many challenges will lie ahead of you. I am confident that your remarkable experience at Busitema University, the manner that you have conducted yourselves over the years, and the knowledge and skills you have received will help you to overcome the future challenges.

The journey that you are now embarking on encompasses not only personal, and family responsibilities but also the navigation of global communities and nations. This will place enormous pressure on you to respond to the new challenges, especially those caused by Covid-19, using the knowledge and skills you have acquired at Busitema University but also being increasingly creative, innovative and cooperative. You must continuously adapt to a rapid changing

world especially the digital environment. Knowledge itself is changing and increasing at breathtaking speed. If we stick on what we know we shall soon fall behind. We must participate in the ever changing world by daring to experiment, innovate and change the world we live in. Despite our many difficulties, or perhaps because of them, Uganda offers enormous opportunities for innovation in virtually every field. If you aim to serve you will find unlimited opportunity. But if you aim to consume, you will find no opportunity at all.

I want to challenge you and all your fellow graduates, past and present, to intensify and innovate energy to create a better country. It is us to create a better country than what we inherited. A spirit of blame does not in itself meet the crying needs we face. But an unyielding determination to meet needs, even when we are now monetarily under-compensated, can make a remarkable difference in the lives of the people whom God brings our way and presents us the opportunity to serve. Love is not about getting. It is about giving and until we practice and transform love, I believe we shall not be able to turn Uganda and ourselves around.

I also challenge you to go out and love the world, starting with your family! You will be amazed at God's response to your sacrifices. Remember our country's motto: *For God and my Country*. This vision of our motto is the way to peace and prosperity.

I wish you great success and excellent health as you leave the gates of Busitema University. Let us continue, together, to *Pursue Excellence* in everything we do.

For God and My Country

Prof Vinand M. Nantulya
CHANCELLOR