

## A WORD FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

With immense pride and joy, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our graduates, their parents, and benefactors on the occasion of the 15th Graduation Ceremony of Busitema University. Today is a celebration of your extraordinary dedication, perseverance, and the culmination of years of hard work. You have overcome challenges, excelled in your academic journey, and now stand ready to embrace the vast opportunities that lie ahead.

We give thanks to God for bringing us this far—Ebenezer: thus far the Lord has brought us! Your time at Busitema University has been a journey of growth, resilience, and preparation for the future. The values of integrity, respect, and compassion that have been nurtured in you here will be your guiding light as you step into the world as leaders, innovators, and change-makers.

We take great pride in the achievements of many of you who, with the support of our dedicated lecturers, took advantage of Busitema University's enabling environment to create innovations and produce publications that have gained global recognition. These accomplishments reflect your potential to be job creators rather than job seekers—an essential quality in today's rapidly evolving world.

While it is important to celebrate this remarkable milestone, it is equally vital to remember and acknowledge the contributions of those who have supported your growth. Give back to society, for it is through giving that we sustain progress and create lasting impact.

I am deeply grateful to our staff, parents, guardians, the Government, and all stakeholders who have been instrumental in ensuring the success of our training programs. To our graduates, I encourage you to seize every opportunity to refine your skills further, especially in volunteering, apprenticeships, and internships. These experiences will allow you to develop your talents and gain valuable experience as you transition from academics to the professional world.

## Busitema University continues to grow and excel in several key areas including:

• Human Resource Development, where we have expanded our academic strength, with over 80 staff members now holding PhDs, and many others promoted to higher ranks.



- Research Excellence in which the University is securing competitive grants in diverse fields, including natural products research, space science, materials science, renewable energy, and artificial intelligence. These grants are enabling us to adopt innovative, project-based learning approaches.
- Infrastructure Growth where significant developments have been made, such as the ongoing construction of the Maritime Institute in Namasagali and the Lecture and Laboratory Complex at the Faculty of Health Sciences in Mbale. The Medical Centre at Busitema Campus and the Natural Products Research and Innovation Centre have been completed and are ready for commissioning. These advancements enrich the experiences of both students and staff.

Once the Chancellor confers your academic awards, you will join the ranks of Busitema University alumni and become members of the University Convocation. I urge you to remain connected to your alma mater, contribute to its development, and benefit from the network of like-minded professionals within the Convocation.

Beyond the knowledge and skills you have acquired, let honesty and integrity be the cornerstones of your endeavors. The education you received at Busitema University is not just a degree—it is a foundation for success, equipping you with critical thinking, creativity, and resilience to navigate an ever-changing world.

As you leave the gates of Busitema University, take a moment to rejoice, reflect, and reposition yourself to chase your dreams with renewed vigor. This is your time to shine and make a difference.

Congratulations on this momentous achievement. Go forth and pursue excellence in all that you do!

**Pursuing Excellence** 

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Professor Paul Waako