



BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

SPEECH BY

**THE CHAIRPERSON COUNCIL
PROFESSOR WILLIAM BAZEYO**

**DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIXTEENTH
GRADUATION CEREMONY OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**

HELD ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2025

HE the President of the Republic of Uganda

Hon. Ministers

The Chancellor of Busitema University

Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners and Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Hon Members of Parliament present;

Members of Council;

Members of the Senate;

The Vice Chancellor, Members of Management and staff;

Spiritual Leaders and Cultural Leaders;

District Leaders;

The Guild President and your executive and students

Parents and Guardians;

Ladies and Gentlemen, and the Press

I would like to thank God for this day that He has given to us to welcome all of you to our university as we celebrate excellence, resilience, and the promise of a brighter future for our graduands on the 16th Graduation Ceremony of Busitema University.

It has been a long journey for many of us here and without the support of our dear parents and sponsors it would have been very difficult and for that reason I wish to congratulate them.

I also salute our dedicated Staff and management led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Waako, for yet another great harvest and contribution to the body of Human capacity in Uganda

which is a critical need for the development of our country. Your commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and institutional development has been central to the tremendous progress we are highlighting today

In a special way, I wish to extend our deepest appreciation to the outgoing Chancellor Prof. Vinand Mutakabala Nantulya for the dedicated service and guidance you have provided over the last 8 years. Your tenure has strengthened the university visibility, enriched partnerships, and inspired our community. We remain deeply grateful for your contribution. Please in your continued service to the nation, always remember BU.

Today, I have the privilege to congratulate and warmly welcome to the BU family the new installed 3rd BU Chancellor Eng. Prof. Badru M. Kiggundu. Your leadership, integrity, and national contribution make you an excellent fit for this noble position of leadership at the helm of our University. You have joined a team that is strategically positioned to make BU a hub of knowledge, Innovation and zeal to challenge the development huddles of our nation.

To my colleagues, members of Council I say thank you for committed support in serving BU which has strengthened governance, shaped policy direction, and ensured that BU remains responsive to national development priorities and University firmly aligned to its mandate.

To our graduands, today marks the start of a new chapter. You have worked diligently, demonstrated character, and endured challenges. As you transition into the world of work, entrepreneurship, further studies, or public service, I encourage you to uphold the values of Busitema University: integrity, professionalism, innovation, and service to society.

The nation is depending on your creativity and your ability to generate solutions in areas such as agriculture, engineering, science, health, education, and technology. May you become champions of ethical leadership and transformation wherever you go.

To our dear parents, guardians, and sponsors, we cannot thank you enough. Thank you for your sacrifices, patience, and unwavering support. Your investment in the success of these graduates has made today possible, and we celebrate you equally. (*Standing Ovation*)

This year, Busitema University proudly graduates 1,915 students, an increase from 1,607 last year. The postgraduate numbers have more than doubled from 61 to 139 and won't forget to congratulate our very first 2 PhD graduands of BU. Congs!!

This year, the operationalized its Strategic Plan 2025/2026–2029/2030, fully aligned with Uganda's National Development Plan IV (NDP IV). This yet is a commitment to STI and we join many other institutions in supporting Competence-Based Education (CBE), TVET, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and ISO Standards.

We also note from VC the university's speech the increased contribution of over 30 innovations. This year, two commercially viable innovations entered the market. The University has also registered 07 trademarks, advancing BU's intellectual property portfolio and supporting commercialization efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen BU has 50% of its staff as PhD holders which is not common in many institutions of higher Learning. This is commendable and more are following suit. (110/230).

Our Guest of honor, Infrastructure is a very big problem at BU despite the current more than five major projects being supported by the Government. These will expand teaching, learning, digital, laboratory, and research facilities BUT I add they are still very few. Our Prayer is that BU Infrastructure support is fast tracked and prioritized.

This year, we also fulfilled a long-standing Presidential Directive by operationalizing the Maritime Institute. The university admitted the first cohort of students into Maritime Engineering programmes; an important milestone for Uganda's maritime and blue economy aspirations. The Maritime Lecture and Laboratory Complex is nearing completion, and we are sincerely grateful to the government and especially H.E who authorized NEC (National Enterprise Corporation) to carry out the construction. It is a good piece of work and we thank them.

I extend our deepest gratitude to the Government of Uganda for the unwavering support extended to the University through the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The University's budget has grown to UGX 73.15 Bn, enabling us to accelerate our academic, infrastructural, and research priorities. We say thank you but add please we need a lot more to reach where we wish to be as we serve this nation.

In Conclusion, once again Congratulations to the Class of 2025. We wish you a future filled with impact, purpose, and success.

Prof. William Bazeyo
28th November 2025