



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

SPEECH BY

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

HELD ON FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2025

Hon. Ministers;
Hon. Members of Parliament;
The Chairperson and Members of Council;
The New Chancellor, Eng. Dr. Prof. Badru M. Kiggundu
The Outgoing Chancellor, Prof. Vinand Mutakabala
Nantulya;
Members of Senate
The Vice-Chancellor and Staff; Busitema University;
Parents and Guardians;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased to join you today at this 16th Graduation Ceremony of Busitema University, an occasion that marks both academic achievement and a significant leadership transition. On a day like this, we must not only celebrate individual achievement but also of the progress we have made as a nation. From the difficult years to an era of peace, stability, and steady transformation. It is through education, guided by the correct ideology that Uganda will continue to advance.

Let me to begin by paying special tribute to **Professor Vinand Mutakabala Nantulya**, the outgoing Chancellor. Professor Nantulya has served this University and the country with exceptional dedication and patriotism. Under his leadership, Busitema University has expanded its academic programmes, strengthened its research outputs, and upheld the values of integrity and scientific rigor. His guidance has contributed to shaping graduates who are not only knowledgeable, but also ethical and innovative; the qualities Uganda needs for its socio-

economic transformation. I thank you for your distinguished service to Uganda.

It is now my pleasure to congratulate and warmly welcome the new Chancellor, **Eng. Dr. Prof. Badru M. Kiggundu**. You assume this responsibility at a strategic moment when Uganda is intensifying its investment in human capital, science, technology, and innovation as the engines of transformation. Your extensive experience in engineering, leadership, national systems management, and public service positions you well to steer this University to greater heights. I call upon the University Council community, and all partners to accord you full cooperation as you take on this important role.

I commend the **University Council, Management, Senate, and staff** for their steadfast leadership in steering Busitema University along a path of academic excellence and innovation. Your collective commitment has strengthened the University's role as a centre of science driven development and positioning it to contribute to nation transformation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, for universities like **Busitema to thrive, there must first be peace, stability, and a correct ideological foundation**. When we were in the bush, we understood very clearly that without peace there is no education, without security there is no investment, and without a correct ideology there is no sustainable development. That is why the NRM Government's first task was to secure peace, defeat sectarianism, and unite the country. With these foundations in place, we are then investing in infrastructure and the expansion of educational institutions across the country.

It is through these deliberate efforts that young Ugandans from every region can now access higher education. Many years ago,

attending university was a privilege for the very few. Today, because of the peace and stability we have ensured, institutions like Busitema University continue to open their doors to thousands of students every year, empowering them with skills that are critical for national development. Therefore, to the graduands, your achievement today reflects not only individual effort, but also the broader progress of our country.

Uganda's path to socio-economic transformation is anchored in four sectors: **commercial agriculture, industries (factories), services, and ICT**. For many decades, Africa trapped itself in the unprofitable practice of exporting raw materials and importing finished goods. That type of economy cannot create wealth or prosperity. Universities such as Busitema must therefore play a central role in reversing this trend by training a new generation of scientists, engineers, innovators, and problem-solvers who will support value addition, manufacturing, and industrialization.

Government continues to prioritize **Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)** because they form the foundation of modern prosperity. Even during the liberation struggle, our fighters even without laboratories, internet, or modern factories applied scientific reasoning and innovation to repair weapons, improvise communication systems, and solve problems of survival. That same spirit of creativity, discipline, and problem-solving must guide the youth of today as they confront the challenges of nation-building.

To the private sector and development partners; I encourage you to deepen collaboration with Busitema University. Help to convert knowledge and research into enterprises, industrial growth, and national competitiveness.

To the graduands, your education is not merely for personal prestige but a tool for value creation and a call to serve your country. You must use the competences you have acquired to solve real challenges in your communities, workplaces, and across the nation. You must be creators of opportunities, not just seekers of employment. I encourage you to use your knowledge and skills to modernise agriculture, strengthen health systems, innovate in engineering and manufacturing, advance digital solutions across key sectors, and convert research into enterprises that create jobs and wealth for Uganda.

To the parents, guardians, and sponsors; thank you for your sacrifices, guidance, and encouragement. You have played a crucial role in shaping these young men and women. Continue supporting them as they transition into productive citizens and leaders of this country.

Finally, to the new Chancellor Eng. Dr. Prof. Badru M. Kiggundu, your track record is clear, you lead with wisdom, integrity, and firmness. To Professor Nantulya thank you once again for your patriotic service. To the University council, Management and staff of Busitema University, keep the standards high. And to the graduands, go forth as patriots, innovators, wealth creators, and builders of a modern and prosperous Uganda. Your country believes in you and expects much from you.