

STATEMENT BY RT. HON. DR. ERIC TIYO SEKEBUGA ADRIKO

ON THE OCCASION OF INVESTITURE OF THE FIRST

CHANCELLOR OF MUNI UNIVERSITY; SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

Embargoed. Check against delivery

1. PROTOCOL

- Your Excellency, The President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
- Rt. Hon. Prime Minister
- Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister
- First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports
- Excellencies, Ambassadors and Members of Diplomatic Corp
- Hon. Ministers present
- Hon. Members of Parliament
- Distinguished Chancellors and Vice Chancellors
- Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education and Sports
- Executive Director, National Council for Higher Education
- Chairman and Members of Muni University Council and Senate
- Religious leaders present
- District Chairpersons and Resident District Commissioners of Arua, Nebbi, Moyo, Yumbe, Maracha, Adjumani, Zombo and Jonam
- His Worship the Mayor of Arua District
- International Partners, Corporate and NGO Representatives
- The Guild President and Student Body
- Distinguished invited Guests, Parents and Guardians
- Ladies and Gentlemen

2. CITATION

Your Excellency

We extend to you a very warm welcome to Arua and West Nile.

I congratulate you whole heartedly upon your landslide Victory in the February 2016 Presidential Elections. This is an excellent sign of trust and confidence I and my fellow Ugandans have in your exceptional leadership.

This is a great day for West Nile.

We thank your Government for the vision of establishing Muni University in the West Nile region that is strategically located geographically, culturally and religiously. We lie at the meeting point of the religions and cultures of the world.

The University was established in 2013 and it is nearly 2 years since the pioneer students were admitted. The University is already providing quality Higher Education, generating new knowledge and promoting innovative students and staff who are providing leadership in their community. Changes in the immediate communities are already evident and we know this will scale outward and upwards.

Your Excellency, the benefits of the strategic location of Muni University notwithstanding, the people of West Nile have hitherto been faced with the challenge of the daunting distance in their quest to access quality and affordable education elsewhere in the country. Your government provided for this region a first class road to ease movement, this was followed by electricity and now we are proud to have a University that is easily accessible to the people in the region.

We thank you for this far sightedness and vision. We also thank the people of West Nile for having reciprocated your noble gesture by voting very well and electing you to be at the helm of guiding the destiny of this country for the next five years. The Unity and Peace which we enjoy today is the dividend of good leadership. It is appropriate that we should overwhelmingly give practical support to where support to us comes from i.e. Your Excellency.

3. GRATITUDE

This is a great day for me too.

I thank Your Excellency for having honoured me by appointing and installing me as the First Chancellor of Muni University; an eternal gift as there will not be another 1st Chancellor of Muni University.

I receive the honour on behalf of the many deserving people of the region this University serves who have great talent and potential.

I will serve to the best of my ability to help create and build an environment that promotes innovation, develops our nation and creates an opportunity for all who desire with these guiding principles; That we become,

- Best in West Nile
- Best in Uganda
- Best in Africa
- Best in the World!

4. TRIBUTE TO FOUNDERS

- I would like to thank all the stakeholders whose work this far has made this special day possible. Your efforts are truly appreciated and have left as indelible mark in the history of the people of West Nile. In particular we give thanks to:-
- The Government and the Minister of Education and Sports for the grant of University and bringing it to fruition.
- Cabinet Ministers from West Nile region for being in the Cabinet and championing the cause of Muni University. It is not easy.
- We are grateful to the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), for guiding the University this far.
- The former Minister of Education and Sports Hon. RTD Major Jescia Rose Epel Alupo and her Team for expeditiously implementing and delivering the Muni Project into a fully fledged University.
- The technical team put together in 2010, from the Construction Unit of Ministry of Education and Sports and Ministry of Works and Transport by former Permanent Secretary-Mr. Francis K. Lubanga did a commendable job in designing and supervising the construction of the Faculty of Technoscience, which has been commissioned today.
- The Muni University Task Force for the great work to prepare the source documents.
- The Task Force Executive Committee for lobby and zeal to move forward. The Chairperson Prof. Christine Dranzoa will forever be the mother and

baby sitter of Muni University. We congratulate you on your appointment as the first Vice Chancellor of Muni University. You richly deserve it.

- I want to thank the Chairperson and Members of University Council for navigating the first tortuous steps to the birth of the University by providing Strategic Direction to the Management of Muni University and for ensuring that the University runs smoothly.
- I want to express my gratitude to our own people of West Nile (MAYANK) and the entire Country for supporting Muni University as a Government Initiative and Innovation.

5. GOING FORWARD

Going forward we will work to implement Government plans and grow the University in conformity with the Constitution namely:-

- To avail every citizen equal opportunity to attend the highest educational standard possible.
- To afford every citizen the opportunity to a competitive quality higher education. One that prepares you to be the best anywhere in the world. As a young University that has just started, I am aware that the needs of the University for Quality Higher Education are vast. I urge Government to continue entrusting us with grants and funding in order to achieve this goal.
- For our Youth-Establishing an Agriculture and Livestock Production Centre at Okollo is one of our primary goals in the near future. I appeal to Your Excellency to increase the support to Muni University to allow us the opportunity for Capacity Building for our Youth and the Local Government in Arua.

To the people of West Nile we must play our full role to support the institution. We beseech of you as follows:-

- West Nile Parliamentary Group-Muni University to be a standing item on the agenda of your meetings
 - MAYANK-Muni University to be a standing item on the agenda of your meetings. Leave doors open
 - Public-Make Muni University your consultant for guidance on civic affairs.
 - University-Be responsive to public issues and proactive on academic affairs
-
- I am confident Muni University will realize it's Vision of becoming a Model Academic, Professional University for Transformation and Development locally, regionally and internationally.
 - I urge the staff and students to continue building excellent academic culture and set strong foundation of integrating the community in their research, teaching and learning as they grow academically and economically.

As Chancellor, I will endeavor at all times to be:

- Father to all
- Cheerleader to enable achievement of full potential of the region in academia and all other contests
- Lubricant for good governance
- Endeavor to open doors

- My commitment is to work hand in hand with the University Council, Vice Chancellor, Senate and all our partners to expand the existing networks in order to spur Academic Supremacy, economic development and sustainability.

6. TO WELL-WISHERS

I thank all of you guests for putting aside everything else and honouring our invitation. To all who have sent messages of congratulations and well-wishers, I say thank you for joy expressed, messages written, calls made, and hugs given.

7. DEDICATION

I dedicate this statement to:-

- My late Father Natani Pete Tiyo
- My Mother Siporah Agoliru
- My late Grandmother Raseli Ibi
- My Late Wife Mary Wangari Adriko
- My wife Julie Luwum Adriko

“What I am I owe it to them”

I believe that if my educational genetic finger-printing was done there would be remarkable similarity with my parentage.

My late father and my mother were barely literate, in fact academically I am an orphan, yet they begot in me and my brothers and sisters brilliant minds and academicians.

My late grandmother was largely responsible in obtaining parental consent at various stages of my higher education. Her wisdom and foresight continues to be my inspiration.

My late wife was singularly ambitious and fervently believed in adding value and so she encouraged me to reach the limits of achievement.

My wife Julie Luwum Adriko has always offered wise counsel and leadership in public affairs. She encouraged me to rise to the challenges of the office of Chancellor and to reach the limits of achievement.

8. INDEBTEDNESS

Introductions-for my ascendancy to this high Title.

- Hon. Simon Ejua and Hon. James Baba for invitation to make motivational statement before West Nile Parliamentary Group in Parliament.
- Rt. Hon. First Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Gen. Moses Ali and Hon. Fred Jachan Omach's endorsement of my candidature.
- Prof. Christine Dranzoa-with whom we shared her vision of Muni University and sought for my input.
- Dr. Elizabeth Madraa-Vice Chairperson of Council
- Prof. Tickodri Togboa Stevens Sandy
- Elders and opinion leaders of the region.

9. COMMITAL OF STATEMENT

Mr. President

In accordance with tradition, I now convey to the University Librarian these Statements to be archived as fonds of this 1st Chancellor and many more to come.

It is now my humble privilege to Publicly Accept this Noble Responsibility of Chancellor of Muni University and look forward to building a strong foundation.

“For God and my Country”

THANK YOU

DATED 12th day of September 2016