



## Speech by the Vice Chancellor Muni University.

### 1. Protocol

- First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports and chief guest
- The Chancellor
- The Rt. Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business in Parliament
- Hon. Ministers
- Hon. Ministers of State present
- Judges of the High Court
- Heads of Diplomatic Missions
- Hon. Members of Parliament
- Former National Leaders
- Traditional Leaders
- Religious Leaders here present
- Permanent Secretary (MoES) represented by Commissioner Jolly Uzumukunda Kalabyi
- Permanent Secretary (MFPED) represented by Ms. Teddy Alako

- Chairman of Council and Council Members
- Members of Senate
- The Vice Chancellors of Sister Universities
- The Deputy Vice Chancellors
- District Chairpersons
- Resident District Commissioners
- Local leaders
- Academic Registrars here present
- All Civic Leaders here present
- Parents and Guardians
- Muni University Alumni
- The Guild President
- Staff of Muni University
- Graduands
- Special Guests
- The Media
- My Colleagues, Muni University Awards and Ceremonies Committee
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **2. Welcome Remarks**

The Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, The Chancellor, Distinguished invited Guests, Graduands, Parents Guardians, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am greatly honored to welcome you all to the 2nd Congregation of Muni University, this 3rd Day of November 2018.

## **3. Brief Historical Background**

As you may all be aware, the establishment of Muni University dates back to December 2009, when the Minister of Education and Sports appointed a three-member task force led by the Vice Chancellor, to begin the process of starting a public University in the region without necessarily inheriting any facility from any institution.

I will always be happy to report that the task force did a commendable job by securing land, putting in place the

necessary arrangements and documentation including the master plan to mention but a few.

The Government of the Republic of Uganda provided the initial 13 billion UGX shillings, which enabled the task force to kick start the university.

In May 2013, Muni University was established as the sixth public University in Uganda under statutory instrument No.31 of 2013. Objectives are to broaden access and increase human resource capacity needs in Uganda.

Foundation Statements of MU Vision and Mission for Muni University: The Statutory Instrument provides the vision of the University as follows: ***“to be a model academic and professional university of transformation and development”*** while the Mission is ***“to provide quality education, generate knowledge; promote innovation and community empowerment for transformation.”***

The University opened its gate to the 99 pioneer students on 1st November, 2014.

The University was commissioned by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, on September 12, 2016.

A total of 77 of those pioneer students graduated on November 4th 2017.

#### **4. Gratitude**

We shall forever remain grateful to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, for establishing a public university in the region.

We acknowledge the support of the ministries of Education and Sports, Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Public service, the Parliament of Uganda, University Council and Senate, the community of West Nile and all our partners.

## **5. Second Graduation Ceremony**

As you all know, graduation ceremony is an important event in the university calendar. It also opens the door for the graduands to the numerous opportunities that they should take advantage of.

Today, we shall present 92 graduands for conferment of degrees. Forty-seven (47) students will receive their degrees in Bachelor of Information Systems and another forty-five [45] in Bachelor of Science in Information Technology.

A total of seven (7) will graduate with first class degrees.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I would like to inform you that for every graduating season, names of the best performing students shall be published in a devoted page of the graduation booklet/order of proceedings and etched on the Wall of Fame.

## **6. University Council and Senate**

I want to welcome members of Council and Senate to this important and historic occasion and thank you all for the continuous guidance and support to management. I welcome and introduce the new Chairperson of Council Mr. Bwoch Gustavio Orach Lujwero. I equally welcome the Vice Chairperson Mr. Habib Tibrichu Amin and the entire team. Thank you very much for your constant oversight.

## **7. Staff**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I wish to report that our staff are calm, and dedicated to their work. The university has got 155 members of staff. Of this total, the full time staff are 125: - 39 Academic Staff, 38 Administrative Staff and 48 Support Staff. There are 9-part time staff and 21 casual workers. We have 20 staff on staff-development at various levels.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to welcome and introduce to you and the congregation, Dr. Morgan Andama, who was recently appointed to the position of Acting Dean, Faculty of Science. Dr. Eng. Geoffrey Andogah is the Dean, Faculty of TechnoScience. We thank the deans for their excellent academic leadership.

The staff have worked very hard to train these graduands, who today will graduate and walk away with their Academic Transcripts and Certificates. I want to commend the office of the Academic Registrar for the team spirit exhibited so far.

### **8. Students Enrollment**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I would like to report that the student's enrollment for the four undergraduate programmes of Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Bachelor of Information Systems, Bachelor of Nursing Science and Bachelor Science with Education stands at 382 with 86 females, 30% are private sponsored and 70% on Government Scholarship. 58 students are on the Higher Education Students Loan Scheme.

These numbers will soon increase as we roll out the newly accredited Bachelor of Business Management and Entrepreneurship and BSc Agriculture.

### **9. The Students Guild Government**

I would like to commend the students' Guild Government for always exhibiting mature and exemplary leadership approach and working in harmony with management.

The Guild Elections were conducted in April and HE. Akatukwasa Duncan, a student of Bachelor of Science with Education was elected as the Guild President for 2018/2019 Academic year. He is deputized by Ms. Aseru Jesca, a Nursing Science Student.

In appreciation of the good student's service and dedication, the Chancellor will present to the previous Guild President and his deputy, certificates of recognition for exhibiting discipline and exemplary leadership during their tenure of office.

### **Bereavement**

On a sad note, I would like to report that the Student Guild Council lost one of its very promising member to the Guild Representative Council, Ms. NNAJINGO JAMIRA (RIP), on 9th April 2018. She was a first year student of Bachelor of Information Technology. She was buried in Gomba -Mpigi District.

I request that we observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the late Nnajingo. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

#### 10. AIMS [Academic Information Management Systems]

Our Chief Guest, allow me to report that Academic Registrar's office is implementing AIMS where students' portal on enrolment, registration and fees payment are done.

AIMS is Academic Information Management Systems; a government project being implemented in public universities. When fully operational, management of academic information and data would be greatly enhanced

#### 11. New Academic Programmes

The University is in the process of rolling out new academic programmes and developing the required regulations and guidelines to regulate the conduct of these academic programmes.

Bachelor of Technical and Vocational Education has been re-submitted to the Council after effecting the corrections.

The Bachelor of Science in Agriculture was approved by NCHE in 2017. Preparations are underway to mount this program. One staff has come on board to plan for the programmes.

On 17 September, 2018, office of the Academic Registrar organized a Stakeholders workshop to review curriculum for Bachelor of Education- Primary, Post Graduate Diploma in Education and Post Graduate Diploma in Financial Management. The curriculum for Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of surgery is also being reviewed by the various stake holders.

The Bachelor of Business Management and Entrepreneurship was accredited by the Council in May 2018. The programme has been advertised and is expected to begin in November 2108.

## **12. Planned Faculties and Programmes**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, in order to manage and organize the upcoming new programmes adequately, there is absolute need to put in place the relevant faculties, schools or colleges that will house the programmes.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, besides the two Faculties, I am glad to report that Council at its 20th sitting yesterday, approved the following new faculties;

- i) Faculty of Health Sciences
- ii) Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
- iii) Faculty of Education and
- iv) Faculty of Management Sciences.

In the next 5 to 10 years we have ambitious plans towards generating highly desired human capacity for development as stipulated in the NDP II, Government's vision 2040 and Sustainable Development Goals in transforming lives by rolling out community demanded and relevant programs in the six faculties. Programmes Such as Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Medical Laboratory Sciences, BSc Welding, BSc Computer engineering, Bachelor of Vocational and Technical Education, Computer Science, Tourism and Hospitality Management and many others are being developed.

## **13. Multipurpose Health Science Laboratory**

I would like to report the technical hand over to the University of the first-half of Iconic Multipurpose Health Science block. The arrangements to fully utilize the facility are underway.

The building was sponsored by the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education and Sports with the help of a loan from the African Development Bank AfDB.

However, there is need to secure additional funding to complete the second phase of the specialized section of multipurpose health science block.

## **14. Research Output**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to mention that staff of the university have been engaged in research activities and project proposal writing.

- 1) Three research projects are currently under implementation Using indigenous knowledge to promote cowpea production and utilization
- 2) Promotion of Bamboo for rural livelihood. Bamboo Nursery has been established adjacent to the Library block.
- 3) Strengthening Arua District capacity to guide sustainable livelihood based interventions for refugees and host communities' integration

The University has received some support especially from Bill and Melinda Gates, Rufford Foundation, NARO, INBAR, PSF, EU and internal sources for its research endeavors and curricula development.

The University is also in the process of putting in place a Research Ethics Committee that will clear research protocols before submission to Uganda National Council for Science and Technology for final approval.

## **15. Business Incubation Center**

The university is currently setting up an ICT Business incubation center. The BIC will comprise the technology support center, the research laboratory and business incubator itself. The BIC will be used for ICT services on commercial terms, undertaking research, nurturing and translating new ideas into viable businesses ventures. Dean, FTS is leading an interim team to kick start activities at the BIC.

## **16. Partnerships**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, in an attempt to expand our partnerships network and collaboration, the university has entered into partnerships and collaborations with many institutions like;

- i) RENU, DAAD, CUUL, HESFB, UVCF, IUCEA, AAU,UCC
- ii) University of Mpumalanga, South Africa.
- iii) Sangmyung University, South Korea.



- iv) University of Genoa
- v) FH Canada
- vi) Muni-Labs
- vii) Ruforum
- viii) Joadah
- ix) Lake Albert Foundation
- x) American Peace Corps/Seed Global Health Partnerships.
- xi) World Food Program
- xii) Food and Agricultural Organization
- xiii) KALIMSO (Kabale-LIRA-Muni-Soroti Universities)
- xiv) NARO
- xv) Arua Regional Referral Hospital.
- xvi) Arua School of Nursing and Midwifery.
- xvii) Virtual University.
- xviii) Institute of Kigezi Health Care Foundation.
- xix) Private Sector Foundations and

## **17. Other Developments**

Muni University participated in various activities and events;

17.1. National Dean of Students and Guild Leaders' Conferences. Muni University hosted the 10th Guild leaders and 4th Dean of Students Forum conferences from 13th -16th September 2018.

This is a forum where all the Vice Chancellors and other managers of the universities both public and private, meet to discuss issues pertaining to the management of University affairs. More than 20 universities participated in the conferences.

## **17.2 National Mathematical Contests**

Mr. Chancellor and our Chief Guest I would like to report that Muni University participated in the National Mathematics contests and two students from Muni University Mr. Sserumaga Enoch and Tumwine Edson emerged the best and took the trophies for position one and two respectively.

This year's competition attracted 48 contestants all together from Makerere University, Kyambogo University, IUIU, Gulu University and Muni University.

I congratulate the two students for lifting the trophies

## **17.3 Huawei "Seeds for the future".**

Mr. Chancellor and Chief Guest, It's Important to note that this year Muni University sent four (4) students to China under competitive Innovation ideas in ICT, Courtesy of Huawei, Seeds for the future programme. I congratulate you and may those who are here stand up for recognition.

#### **17.4. Community Outreach**

Ladies and gentlemen, I take this opportunity to inform you that staff and students of Muni University participated in fund raising activities, Keep Arua clean and engaged in various community outreach activities in health centers, schools, held radio talk shows and were hosted on West Nile web to give information to the public.

#### **17.5. Certificate Courses in French for Beginners**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, among the short courses introduced, Certificate in French for Beginners kick started this September and it is expected to end in October, 2018. A total number of 16 students were admitted.

The course is open to the public and interested applicants are invited to take the course that is offered in the evening and weekend

#### **18.0. Challenges**

The Chief Guest, I want to bring to your attention the following challenges facing the university that needs to be addressed in order for the university to grow and develop accordingly.

##### **18.1 Funding of the University activities**

The key challenge is how to increase Government Subvention and releases to Muni University. We are accumulating what I would call domestic arrears for our unfunded priority to the tune of 7.08 B.

The Budget cuts on Capital Development Fund has continuously affected the development plans of the University.

In 2016/2017 Financial Year, out of the 4.55Bn planned only 2.535Bn was received which was 55.7%.

In 2017/18, 3.48bn was received out of 4.55bn budgeted representing 76%.

Limited funds hinder planning and the development of key physical infrastructure and equipment for mounting new programmes.

## **18.2 Human Resource Capacity Development**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, how to attract, recruit and retain skilled Staff into Muni University is still a challenge and not about to go away. This problem is compounded by limited social services, amenities and other opportunities within the region.

## **18.3 Physical Infrastructure**

Muni University is yet to put in place specialized physical infrastructure for research and teaching laboratories. This affect the delivery of academic programmes and other activities

## **18.4 ICT**

The University is still building her ICT capacity. Though, RENU connected the university on the National grid, there is still need for more funds to sustain the connectivity and increase the bandwidth. This demand shall escalate as the students' population grows.

## **Appeal**

We appeal to the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education and Sports for more funding to this young institution. The main campus of Muni University has a well-developed physical Master Plan. The master plan has twenty (20) major physical structures that require support for their development. Basing on the average expenditure on the current infrastructures, Muni

University will require about 15 Billion shillings annually for a period of 20 years to fully finalize the infrastructure development on this current campus. It is our prayer that the development fund for Muni University will be increased.

## **19. Conclusion**

Finally, I congratulate all our Graduands, Parents and Guardians for this wonderful achievement and I urge you the Graduates to utilize the knowledge and skills you have acquired for the betterment of yourselves, family and the entire Nation. You are getting out more empowered. We remain very proud of you for as long as you keep to the ideals and values of good leadership in your society.

You should Act as goodwill ambassadors of your Muni University where ever you go. I thank everybody for gracing this important occasion

I wish you a happy and peaceful celebration.

May God bless you. Transforming Lives

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY