

**MUNI UNIVERSITY**

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST  
GRADUATION CEREMONY OF MUNI UNIVERSITY**

**&**

**INSTALLATION OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE CHANCELLOR**

**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017**

**AT MUNI UNIVERSITY MAIN CAMPUS**



## 1.Protocol

- H.E. The President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
- The Rt.Honourable Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament.
- The Rt. Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business in Parliament
- First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports
- Hon. Ministers
- Hon. Ministers of State present
- Hon. Members of Parliament
- Your Excellences the Ambassadors
- Executive Director,National Council for Higher Education
- The Chancellor, MU and your dear wife
- All Chancellors of other Universities
- Chairman Muni University Council and Council Members
- The Vice Chancellors of other Universities
- The Deputy Vice Chancellors present
- Delegations from other Universities
- Resident District Commissioner, Arua
- Chairman, Arua District Local Council V, and counterparts from other districts.
- His Worship the Mayor, Arua District
- Religious Leaders here present
- District, Cultural and Local and Traditional Leaders
- Development Partners present
- All District Education Officers, Head Teachers of Secondary and Primary Schools present.
- All delegates from other Institutions
- Members of Senate
- Staff of Muni university
- The Guild President and Students
- Members of the University Community
- Graduands
- Parents and Guardians
- Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **2. Welcome Remarks**

Right Hon.Prime Minister, who is representing His Excellency, the President of the republic of Uganda, and Visitor to Muni University, The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports represented by the Director, higher education and BTVET. The Chancellor, distinguished and invited Guests, Graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am profoundly honored to welcome you all to the 1<sup>st</sup> congregation of Muni University.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, on September 12, 2016, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, alongside the Hon. Minister of Education and Sports commissioned the University and installed you as our first Chancellor.

I am glad that you are heretoday to exercise the powers and authority that was entrusted to you.

### **2.1 Statement of Acceptance**

The Rt Hon. Prime Minister; The Minister of Education and Sports, Chancellor, my colleagues and distinguished guests,I am profoundly happy and humbled for having been installed today as the

Founding-Vice Chancellor of Muni University on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of our Lord. It is only God, who can reward His Excellency the President, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the gift of Muni University to the people of Uganda West Nile. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart.

I therefore want to thank you, the Ministry of Education, Chancellor, and Council most sincerely for trusting in me, that I can make some contributions in building our country through Muni University. I, Professor Christine Dranzoa, therefore accept this position of Vice Chancellor, not because I am the best, but have something little to offer with the help of God and support of my Team. Therefore;

For all of you who believe that through generation of new knowledge, research & innovations, involvement of all stakeholders and outreach a total transformation of the lives of our people is very close we shall continue this journey.

For my inspirational hard working, integral peasant mama Victoria Waiya (RIP) represented here today by Mummy Amalia Bako, and my inspirational educationalists friend and mentor, Professor Mary N.J. Okwakol, Vice Chancellor, Busitema University and a woman of many firsts, your encouragements keep me ahead.

I pledge my commitment to the GoU, Council, Senate and the entire Muni University.

### **3.0 Report**

I would like to report that Muni University Community and the people of West Nile Region at large are very grateful for the love and commitment you have shown to this young University.

### **3.1 Brief Historical Background**

In December 2009, the Minister of Education and Sports appointed a three-member task force led by Professor Christine Dranzoa, to begin the process of establishing a public University in the region without inheriting any facility from any institution.

I am now glad to report that we took up the assignment, sourced for land, established a strategic and master plan, mobilized resources and developed curricula as a requirement for the establishment of a public University.

In May 2013, Muni University was established as the sixth public University in Uganda under statutory instrument No.31 of 2013. Vision of MU is *"To be a model university of transformation and development"* and Mission is *"To provide quality education, generate knowledge, and promote innovation and community empowerment for transformation"*. The objectives for which the University is established are as follows:

- a) To equitably expand higher education at undergraduate and post graduate levels.
- b) To increase the number of scientists in Uganda that included basic and applied science and science teachers.
- c) To develop human resources appropriate for a decentralized system of governance.
- d) To produce engineering, technology, and medical personnel appropriate for rural industrialization and development and
- e) To undertake basic and applied research geared towards rural transformation.

The new University opened its gate to students on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2014

The first Chancellor was appointed in May 2014 and installed on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### **3.2 Gratitude**

Rt.Hon Prime Minister, and Chief Guest, allow me, through you to convey our sincere gratitude to His Excellency President Yoweri and

the government of Uganda for accepting and approving that a public University be established in the West Nile Region. This is a perpetual gift and engine for social-economic transformation to this region and Uganda.

I thank the Government for providing the initial UGX.13 billion that enabled us to put in place the infrastructures you see on this Campus. We are grateful for the presidential pledge of 15 billion per year for the development of Muni University's Master Plan.

We are grateful for the funds we received from the African Development Bank through the Government of Uganda.

Allow me to thank members of the Arua Community Association, elders and politicians for the initial struggle and the role they played in the seeking to establish a fully pledged government University in this region.

We are very grateful to Arua Local Government and Arua Regional Referral Hospital for donating land that will be used for the establishment and expansion of the Medical School.

We thank the Communities of Adribu, Endebo and Anyiribu of Madi Okollo County for donating 2,900 acres of land that is planned for the establishment of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine.

I cannot forget to thank the elders of Bidibidi in Yumbe District, for donating 439.58 acres of land that has been earmarked for agricultural and geological research.

We thank the late Chief Openjuru and his people of Pakwach for donating a land parcel covering 147 acres along the banks of river Nile in now the new District of Pakwach.

This area is earmarked for research and development of fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, hospitality and petroleum management.

We are also grateful to government that Pakwach has been granted the status of a new District that started operating in July 2017.

Your Excellency, our partners, with this vast acreages of land that the university has acquired, we shall never stop being the proverbial "Oliver Twist." Please facilitate us to put these land parcels in to productivity.

Further support will aid us to execute and accomplish our strategic and master plan, start agricultural production so that together we can build a modern university and a center of academic and professional excellence that will transform the lives of our people.

#### **4.0. University Council and Senate**

I want to thank members of Council through the Chairman of Council, Dr. Johnson Nkuuhe and Vice Chairperson Dr. Elizabeth Madraa and Senate for the oversight role they render in the administration of Muni University that has led to the steady growth and development of this young institution.

#### **5.0. The Students Guild Government**

I commend the Students' guild government for exhibiting mature and exemplary leadership and working cordially with management since the inception of the university.

The first Student's guild government was constituted in May 2015, led by Hon. Apangubo Patrick and deputized by Hon. Akumu Kpacite Lawrencia.

The second Guild government was led by Hon. Okot Felix Otim, deputized by Hon. Ruth Ninsiima.

I would like to thank the current guild president Hon. Gerald Oola and his team for following the footsteps of their predecessors of

exhibiting exceptional leadership and promoting cordial relationship between the students and University Management.

I urge the student body to continue working with management and maintain the high standard of students' leadership that has been set by their predecessors at Muni University.

**The Chancellor will present to the past top Guild leaders, certificates of recognition for exhibiting discipline and exemplary leadership during their tenure of office.**

### **5.1 Students Enrollment**

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 of Science with Education stands at 368 with 285 males and 83 females.

We are very hopeful that these numbers will increase steadily as more programmes are rolled out. We thank our MoES, Finance, Public Service, National Council for Higher Education for their support.

### **6. Planned programmes**

We intend to gradually roll out new programmes: Bachelor of Science in Agriculture has been submitted to National Council for Higher Education for accreditation.

Bachelor of Technical and Vocational Education will soon be re-submitted to the Council after effecting the corrections.

The Curriculum for Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery has been developed and is yet to be reviewed by various stake holders.

Bachelor of Education [Primary and Secondary] has also been developed and is being reviewed by stake holders.

Other planned programmes include the following:

- i) Bachelor of Midwifery

- ii) Bachelor of Dental Surgery
  - iii) Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science
  - iv) Bachelor Computer Science
  - v) Bachelor of Computer Engineering
  - vi) Bachelor of Engineering [Mechanical, Electrical and Civil] and
  - vii) Postgraduate Programmes in various fields.
- we pledge to consult and involve all stakeholders at various stages

### **7.0 Maiden Graduation**

Distinguished Guests, this Graduation Ceremony is an important occasion in the history Muni University because it is the first. For Muni University, this marks the beginning of a new chapter where the university is also contributing to the man power needs of the country and beyond.

I therefore welcome all the Graduands, Parents and Guardians to this important landmark in the history of the University. I must add that it is because of your dedication, hard work and commitment that we are gathered here today. Congratulations to you all.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, we shall therefore present to you a total of 77 pioneer Graduands from the two programmes of Bachelor of Information Systems [44] and Bachelor of Science in Information Technology [33] and out of this [18 are females and 59 are males]

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I would like to inform you that among the 77 pioneer graduands, four of them are graduating with first class degrees and one of **them is Mr. Bendicto Longok, who hails from the Karamoja sub region.**

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the four best performing Students, who are graduating with first class degrees in this first cohort and inform them that they will receive certificates of recognition for their good performance.

They are;

**i) Bachelor of Information Systems**

Draku Job

**ii) Bachelor of Science in Information Technology**

Konde Sharif

Mutyaba Ibrahim

Longok Bendicto

These four graduands will receive Certificates of recognition that will be presented to them shortly by the Chancellor.

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 **University Wall of fame**.

### **8.0 Staff**

The major challenge facing the University at the moment is inadequate staffing, equipment, and Machinery, laboratories, and expansion of infrastructure for new programmes and office space. The government has helped a lot but there is still need to do more. We call upon our partners and donors to help us to expand access and improve the quality of outputs.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I would like to report that the university has got 142 members of staff, 112 have been confirmed in the services of the University and 30 are academic staff and 9-part time staff and 21 casual workers.

11 staff are pursuing PhD and 5 are on Masters Programmes.

We're grateful to the Ministry of Education and AfDB V HEST project and DAAD for supporting staff development programme at the university.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to welcome Dr. Geoffrey Andogah, who was recently elected unopposed to position of Deanship, Faculty of Technoscience and I thank the entire staff who work selflessly to see that University runs smoothly.

## **9.0 Partnerships**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, in an attempt to expand our partnerships network and collaboration, more than 20 institutions have partnered with Muni University so far. 52% are actively engaged.

The following are some of our partners and collaborators;

- i) Sangmyung University, South Korea
- ii) University of Mpumalanga, South Africa
- iii) Genoa University, Scuola Politecnica, Italy
- iv) American Peace Corps/Seed Global Health
- v) Virtual University, Uganda
- vi) Uganda Communications Commission
- vii) Makerere University
- viii) Joadah Consults
- ix) Lake Albert Foundation
- x) RUFORUM (African Regional Agric University Forum)
- xi) Higher Education Students Financing Board
- xii) Research Education Network, Uganda (RENU)
- xiii) Private Sector Foundation
- xiv) Institute of Kigezi Health Care Foundation
- xv) Forum for African Women Educationists
- xvi) Arua School of Nursing and Midwifery and
- xvii) Arua regional referral Hospital
- xviii) Stanbic Bank, Centenary Bank, KCB Arua Branch
- xix) Muni-Labs

xx) Rotary Club of Arua.

## **10.0 Other Developments**

Muni University has participated in National and International activities but a few notable ones include the following:

### **51<sup>st</sup> Uganda Vice Chancellors Forum**

The University hosted the 51<sup>st</sup> Uganda Vice Chancellors forum, meeting here on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 and the function was very successful.

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.

### **Regional Library Managers Workshop**

Muni University Library hosted a training workshop for Librarians working in Libraries located in the West Nile Region. The training workshop was supported by our partner the Good Steward Global Initiative, (USA).

Muni University Library with other partners will therefore remain a focal point for training and supporting Libraries in this region and beyond.

The training was very successful and I congratulate the University Librarian, Dr. Frederick Mukungu and his entire organizing team for a job very well-done.

### **Research & Education Network of Uganda workshop.**

Muni University hosted a one-week workshop on Equipping Network and Systems Administrators/Engineers for Research & Education Network for Uganda (RENU) member Institutions with the skills

required to design robust, scalable and secure ICT infrastructure that are able to utilize the high-speed connectivity to the Internet provided by RENU in order to be able to facilitate teaching, research and collaboration.

RENU is a global initiative with a purpose of interconnecting communities to collaborate together and to create human friendships and networks.

German Development Corporation DAAD training workshop for the DAAD beneficiaries took place in Muni University, in July 2017.

RUFORUM AGM, MU participated in the just concluded RUFORUM AGM, Malawi

### **11.0. Research Output**

The staff of the university have been engaged in research activities and project proposal writing.

The university has received limited support especially from Bill and Melinda Gates, Rufford, NARO, INBAR and internal sources.

More than 15 research proposals and projects were written last academic year.

### **12.0. Community Outreach**

Muni University actively engages with the community through its outreach activities that ranges from formal training programmes, career guidance to school children, Health Education, Mobilization through radio talk shows and various for a. We thank all the media houses in the region especially Arua One, Radio Pacis, TBS and others.

### **11. Students Achievements**

### **13.1 Students Innovation/Awards**

I would like to report that our students have been involved in a number of innovative activities

Mr. Jonathan Kigozi, a third year student of Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, presented and defended his innovative ideas and was selected among the 10 students from Uganda and participated in the Huawei **Seeds for future program 2017**, in the Company Headquarters' in China.

Seeds for the Future is a global Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) flagship program initiated by Huawei in 2008 where university students from different countries have been taken for a study trip to the Huawei headquarters.

The program seeks to develop local ICT talent, enhance knowledge transfer, promote a greater understanding and interest in the telecommunications sector, improve and encourage regional building and participation in the digital community.

The second student, Hon. Gerald Oola, the Guild president and third year student of Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, participated in the 5th Annual Hock-a-thon competition in Mbarara University and was among those who won and received 782 US Dollars award.

This is an event that brings together participants across disciplines and sectors from Uganda, the USA and India to discuss, innovate and appropriate medical technologies for low and middle income countries.

We are grateful to these students for raising the banner of Muni University high in the various competitions and innovations.

## **13.2 Sports**

I am pleased to inform you that Muni University emerged the best university in the Arua District University ball games tournament after winning 3 of the 5 trophies and Ms Charlot Amaniyo, a third year student of Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Muni University emerged as the best player of the tournament.

#### **14.0.Challenges**

Your Excellency, 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.

These challenges include the following;

#### **14.1 Funding of the University activities**

The key challenge is how to increase government subvention and releases to Muni University. Currently, the unfunded priority of the University amounts to 7.08 B. Budget cuts of 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% and in 2017/18 quarter 1 of the 1,383,864,000 budgeted; only 289,918,193 has been received.

Limited funds hinder planning and the development of key physical infrastructure and equipment such as specialized research and teaching laboratories, agricultural workshops, machinery and equipment. Consequently, establishment and conduct of several professional programs are hindered. The commencement of key professional programmes such as Agriculture, Engineering and Medicine is dependent on key milestone such as increase on wage-bill and completion of ADB V Multipurpose labs, construction of the second half of the university's specialized laboratories.

## **14.2 Human Resource Capacity Development**

How to attract, recruit and retain skilled Academic Staff and Administrative Staff into Muni University is another major challenge. There is difficulty in attracting and retaining senior Academic Staff at Muni University due to limited social services, amenities and other opportunities within the region.

The insufficient wage bill cannot fund the recruitment plan. This year's recruitment plan was at a cost of UGX 1,369,537,800 intended to recruit 26 members of staff of which 21 were to be Academic staff. Due to the implementation of salary enhancement by government, the available funds for recruitment has reduced to UGX 505,319,972 which can only pay salary for 9 members of staff (7 academic and 2 support staff)

Very few students in the region benefit from the government scholarship since the requirements are set high hence leading to low intake in the University on Government sponsorship.

How to develop and retain young academics requires substantial funding and support.

How to attract credible partners to undertake sustainable public private partnership still remains a challenge.

## **14.3 Physical Infrastructure**

Muni University still lacks specialized physical infrastructure such as specialised research and teaching laboratories. This hinders the conduct of specialised and professional programmes and activities

## 14.4 ICT

The University and the West Nile region still lacks adequate ICT facilities. However, RENU has started connecting the university on the national grid.

We continue to appeal to the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education and Sports to increase the development fund for this young Institution to fulfil its mission and mandate.

## 12. Message to Graduands.

I once again congratulate all our graduands. I urge you not to detach from the core values of the university, these will make you good and useful citizens.

Be disciplined, hardworking and committed, learn to explore your potentials because you are potentially intelligent.

You should apply the knowledge acquired social skills instilled in to you to be competitive.

You should Act as good ambassadors of Muni University where ever you go, know that you will forever be critical partners of Muni University as the pioneer Alumni. Create jobs and develop programs that will support the economy in sectors like; education, health, telecommunication, agriculture, engineering among others as courses you have completed are skill based, empower communities with the skills acquired and be relevant to them in order to transform lives

## Conclusion

I thank everybody for gracing this important occasion and I pray for journey mercies to all of you going to different locations and I wish you a joyful celebration.

May the Almighty God bless you all as we continue ***Transforming Lives.***

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY