

**KAMPALA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING AND
HEALTH SCIENCES**

ADDRESS BY

**OWEKITIIBWA AMBASSADOR AL-HAJ PROFESSOR
EMERITUS BADRU DUNGU KATEREGGA, NATIONAL
HERO**

**FOUNDING VICE-CHANCELLOR OF KAMPALA
UNIVERSITY**

At

**The 3rd Graduation Ceremony On Thursday
September 8, 2016**

AT MUTUNDWE CAMPUS

Bismillahi ar-Rahman ar-Rahim

RECOGNITIONS:

1. The chief guest
2. The special guest
3. The chancellor
4. The chairman Kampala University Council and Council Members
5. The Deputy Vice chancellor
6. The Principal Kampala University School of Nursing and Health Sciences
7. Honorable Ministers and Ministers of State
8. Your excellencies the high commissioners and ambassadors
9. Honorable members of parliament
10. The Lord Mayor of KCCA: The Mayor of Lubaga Division
11. Vice Chancellors and Rectors from Sister Universities
12. Registrar of Uganda Nurses and Midwives Council,
13. The Executive Secretary UNMEB,
14. Members of staff of Kampala University School of Nursing and Health Sciences
15. Your eminencies the Religious leaders
16. Local Government leaders
17. Our dear parents, guardians , sponsors, and siblings
18. Convocation of Kampala University school of Nursing Alumni
19. Distinguished guests and friends of Kampala University both local and international
20. Graduands
21. Ladies and gentle men

ASSALAM ALAIKUM AND GOOD MORNING

Our beloved Chief Guest Hon. Namisango Betty Kamywa as I heartily welcome you to Kampala University School of Nursing and Health Sciences, (KSN&HS), allow me at the same time, to use this singular honor and privilege to congratulate you on being appointed the first woman Minister of Uganda's Capital City, Kampala. What is even more gratifying is that you hail from Lubaga Division where we are also a leading Institution in the Health Training and Nursing Education. You are not a stranger to Kampala University since we are working together through your organization LUNDA which gives bursaries to the needy qualified students. Please feel at Mutundwe and at Kampala University "The Capital's Chartered University".

Mr. Chancellor Sir, in the same vein permit me to also welcome in a special way, our Senior Guest of Honor, Whom I am also sure has never visited our esteemed school before. On behalf of Kampala University fraternity and on my own, I cordially welcome you and the entire technical delegation from the Ministry of Education and Sports which you have kindly led to this ceremony. The School which is both under the Ministry of Education and the University, maintains warm health relations with the Ministry of Education and Sports.

How can I forget to recognize the esteemed delegations, from our regulators, the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Council (UNMC), our External and Internal examiners, the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Examination Board (UNMEB). We also wish to receive in a special way our colleagues, the Vice Chancellors of Sister universities, the principals of all schools of Nursing and Midwifery, the entire Executive of the Uganda Private Health Training Institutions Association (UPHTIA) –led by Professor Kezaala, colleagues from the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Association, the Nurses Union, our friends from the Germany Development Agency (DAAD), among others, and all of you our esteemed and distinguished guests both local and international. You are all most welcome

Can you imagine how this occasion would have looked without you! That said, and appreciated, why don't we give a loud hand of applause to, first GOD, the parents, guardians and sponsors – who are the very reason why we are here, and finally to graduands who constitute the main center of attraction for this third graduation ceremony. At this juncture, I beseech all of you to

get involved and absorbed into the graduation mood since the Chancellor has already constituted all of us into the 3rd congregation for KUSN&HSC.

About the ceremony

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today marks the 3rd Graduation ceremony for Kampala University School of Nursing and Health Sciences. On this occasion a total number of 256 Nurses are being awarded professional Kampala University Certificates and a pioneer group of thirteen will be awarded Diplomas in Nursing (11 of them) and two (2) Diplomas in Midwifery of Kampala University. For the first time, out of 256 certificate graduands (23%) are male while 198 (77%) are female. These coveted University certificates are over and above the certificates already awarded by the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Examination Board (UNMEB), the state Examination Body for Nurses and Midwives (up to Diploma level) in this country. All graduands being presented today have the requisite qualifications at entry and exit, as stipulated by the Ministry of Education and Sports, by UNMEB, and Uganda Nurses and Midwives Council (UNMC). I want to assure the parents and the public that we have no fake certificates and Diplomas in our university, as you may have read about other institutions in the papers in the last two weeks or so.

The graduating class

The graduating class is composed of five groups, at certificate level who completed and sat for their final examinations between Nov. 2013 and May 2016.

The Diploma Class

I am happy to report that following the joint Inter-ministerial inspection team of the school in 2012, the school's application to teach / train Nurses and Midwives up to Diploma level was approved. Consequently two programmes i.e. Diploma in Nursing and Diploma in Midwifery were mounted from May 2013. We are therefore witnessing today, the first graduation of the Pioneer Diploma Group which presented thirteen (13) candidates eight (8) of whom scored distinctions in Research which is a core subject for this programme.

Certificate in midwifery

I am glad to announce that come November 2016, the School (KUSN&HSC) will be offering a new programme that is certificate in Midwifery. This programme will go a long way to address a warping gap in the Health Sector. Certainly this country has produced more Nurses than Midwives yet it is a well known fact that the Ugandan population is very fertile and the birth rate is recognized as one of the highest in the world. At the same time the maternal mortality rate in Uganda is not only alarming, but one of the highest in the world.

Developments at KSN&HSC Since inception

This school which I personally founded in 2005, amidst several challenges has significantly expanded in terms of space and infrastructure and grown in terms of academics and professional health programmes.

To date, the Institution has passed out 473 health professionals who are part of the local and international work force in the sector. What is even more interesting is that currently the school boasts of as many trainees (460) as those who have graduated since its inception. Our students

hail from all countries of East Africa. All our graduates are fully registered by the (UNMC) as per the law and many have already topped up to qualify for Diplomas and Degrees in Nursing Sciences. Many have been placed in Private, Government and District hospitals. While others have opted for Greener pastures in Europe and USA. All our tracer studies confirm that our products are not only professional but also exemplary.

Celebrating Eleven years of Dedicated Service to the Nation

Mr. Chancellor Sir, management has decided to use this occasion also to celebrate 11 years of our existence as an Institution fully dedicated to the service of this Nation. Any Institution that survives over ten years is praise worthy given the conditions we operate under. We have indeed exhibited our resilience and our ability to excel- despite the fact that we are a private Health Training Institution. Our performance over the years is next to none and UNMEB can attest to that. As we celebrate eleven years of being a success story, we wish to remind our dear parents, students, sponsors and guardians, that our governing policy is going to be strictly based on quality-and as you all know quality has a value and must be paid for. We are going to cut down on our in-takes by raising the cut-off points and to strengthen the pre-entry aptitude tests. We are also going to increase our Diploma intakes for both Direct and top-up candidates, we are going to close the window in advance, for potential failures and re-takes.

Allow me to inform the congregation Mr. Chancellor that KUSN&HSC in pursuit of its strategic plan has already submitted to NCHE its curriculum for a Bachelor of science in Nursing and the initial response has been generally positive. We are also ready to share the same draft with the relevant professional bodies in the Health Sector, for further advice. It is therefore hoped that by

the time we return for the 4th graduation anniversary in 2019, the Nursing degree programme will have been rolled on Insha'Allah.

Good news for the Graduands – The Grant of Kampala University Charter March 2016.

Mr. Chancellor sir, the chief and senior Guests, as we celebrate the twin function of today, I am pleased to further inform the congregation that on 23rd March 2016, H.E the President signed and granted a charter to Kampala University , thus making it the 9th Private University (out of 32) to be Chartered. By chartering KU even our School of Nursing is equally chartered, I therefore, congratulate all of you whose names are about to be pronounced / read for being the first Nurses to graduate under the Capital's Chartered University. Please note, it is also important to know that as a result of the Charter, the first year first semester students offering Diploma in Nursing or Midwifery are now eligible beneficiaries of the Higher Education Students' loans- an arrangement of the government of Uganda .For Celebrating the Charter in style, you will soon be notified when a suitable date has been confirmed. In the meanwhile keep us in your prayers.

The school's prospects and challenges;

Mr. Chancellor Sir, permit me to inform the chief Guest, the Senior Guest and all members of the congregation that our Celebrated success story has not been without serious challenge. Allow me to mention but a few.

The Unit cost for Educating /Training a Professional Nurse;

At KUSN&HSC, a student pursuing a certificate pays on average of 3.0 Million shillings annually. This covers accommodation, meals, uniform, hospital practicum, bus transportation, UNMEB Examination fees, University Exams, sports and games, books etc. however, the actual

unit cost of training a quality Nurse like we do is five (5) times the figure being paid to us at the moment, this implies that Kampala University heavily subsidizes your children at a rate of 70% on annual basis, in other words, you parents, sponsors and guardians are only putting up only 30% of the cost it takes to train your child at professional level. This is indeed a big sacrifice the university is undertaking to find the financial resources to bridge the gap. It is therefore in this light that we appeal to Government through the Minister of Education and Sports to extend financial and material support to KUSN&HSC. The same applies to all our other well-wishers, donors and development partners.

I believe we are not asking for too much since sister institutions in the same category have been assisted and the categorization that puts our school as a private institution for profit is not only ridiculous but unacceptable for there is no known Nursing School in Uganda that generates profit. The categorization equally violates the status of our Charter as no Chartered Institution is for profit anyway. We therefore call for a re-categorization of our Institution-which is not for profit.

The construction / Tarmacking of Wamala Road

Wamala Road which is the main road for the University is in a sorry state. On two occasions, I have used university funds and my own to rehabilitate it. Our chief Guest and Minister of Kampala, while we don't complain seriously about making contribution towards road construction in Mutundwe area, we wish to submit that making / surfacing KCCA roads is not our core duty besides the fact that our council has never allocated any budget for road works. As credible tax payers we deserve a tarmacked road like all our fellow residents in the area whose roads have already been tarmacked. Our section of Wamala road is the only one left yet it leads

to this great university. Our building was originally white but the dust turned it brown so in our effort to renovate the building, we have this time round decided to paint it brown so that it fits in the surrounding environment.

The Frequent fires

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am sorry to report that our success story is attracting a number of negative forces that are determined to frustrate our development. A case in point is the constant fires that have in the last 12 months gutted two of our school buildings.

In December 2015, the Kenya House across the road, and which is still under construction, was torched by arsonists who are still at large. A part from weakening some of the structures, the institution lost property in that inferno estimated at the cost of billions of Uganda Shillings. The Police Investigations in their report confirmed arson as the cause of fire but to date have never apprehended the culprit (s).

As if that is not enough, on Sunday 4th September, 2016 at exactly midnight, another fire whose cause has not yet been established started from the computer laboratory which was firmly locked. The fire spread very fast but thanks to the quick move this time, by the Fire Brigade and Uganda Police, it was contained after a long struggle. But at the end of the exercise all the 120 computers, the Server system, the Cisco switches, the furniture etc had been reduced to ashes. Our engineers are assessing the extent of the structural damage to the building while the insurance underwriters are also doing their job.

However, the most unfortunate incidence during the fire fight is that three student Nurses sustained multiple fractures when they decided to jump from the 3rd floor to the ground floor.

This was indeed a reckless leap in the dark. They were quickly taken to hospital, where one is in critical condition while two are out of danger but experiencing agonizing pain.

Let me use this occasion to thank all our students who remained steadfast and played vital roles in fighting the fire using the small extinguishers that are normally available for emergence aid. Mr. Chancellor Sir, through our Chief Guest, We wish to appeal to Government to beef up security at our university campuses, to enable us curb out arson and all acts of terrorism. We cannot afford to lose multi-billion buildings and properties at the hands of a few /misguided anti-progressive elements in our society. The police should be seen to be playing a more visible role at our campuses.

Message to the Graduands

Ten years of nurturing this school and marking your third graduation in as many years, is my greatest achievement, as the founder of this elite school. My dear graduands go yonder and administer the knowledge, professionalism, and skills you have obtained at Kampala University. Always remain exemplary and ambassadorial. Go to the world and become agents of transformation and vanguards of fundamental change. Always remember our calling- “Viva Kampala University” wherever and whenever you are. You will have paid me handsomely if you do that as an alumni.

Message to the parents, guardians and sponsors

Kampala University will always be proud of you for giving us an innocent human being whom we have turned into a professional Nurse. We thank you for the definitive decision. Once a Nurse you remain one for the rest of your life. While we have former head teachers, managers,

commissioners, etc and retired generals, there are no former or retired Nurses. These professionals are as old as they are new.

The staff of Kampala University school of Nursing and Health Sciences

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Permit me to thank, the Board of Trustees, the Council, the Senate the Principal of KUSN&HSC, and the entire management of KU, the Ceremonies and Graduation committee for making the exquisite preparations for such a colorful ceremony.

In the same vein Mr. Chancellor allow me Sir to record on behalf of KU management our unlimited appreciation to you personally for your unswerving commitment, sincere love, and good will to Kampala University which you have steered in the Chancellor's capacity for the entire period of our existence. We also thank you deeply for presiding over this momentous congregation.

To our Chief Guest, the Senior Guest, the distinguished and esteemed guests, the invited guests, the graduands, the students, beloved parents, the press and people of Mutundwe , we owe you a million thanks for turning up in such huge numbers to grace this auspicious occasion.

Viva Kampala University!

Thank you for listening

Owek.Amb. Prof. Badru D. Kateregga

Vice-Chancellor.