



SPEECH

BY

**PROFESSOR CHRISTINE DRANZOA
THE VICE CHANCELLOR**

**AT THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF MUNI UNIVERSITY AND THE
INVESTITURE OF THE CHANCELLOR
DR. ERIC TIYO SEKEBUGA ADRIKO**

ON 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

**"Today, knowledge has power. It controls access to opportunity &
advancement"**

Protocol

- Your Excellency, The President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
- Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister
- First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education & Sports
- Excellencies, Ambassadors and Members of Diplomatic Corp
- Hon. Ministers present
- Hon. Ministers of State present
- Hon. Members of Parliament
- International Partners of Muni University
- Chancellors from Sister Universities
- Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education and Sports
- Permanent Secretaries
- Executive Director National Council for Higher Education
- Chairman and Members of Muni University Council and Senate
- Vice Chancellors present
- Officers and Staff from Sister Universities
- Religious Leaders present
- Resident District Commissioners (RDC) of Arua, Nebbi, Moyo, Yumbe Maracha, Adjumani, Koboko and Zombo
- District Chairpersons of (MAYANK) Moyo, Maracha, Arua, Yumbe, Adjumani, Nebbi, Koboko and Zombo
- His Worship the Mayor of Arua District
- Corporate and NGO Representatives
- All District Leaders present
- All Principals of Constituent Colleges (Both Public and Private Universities)
- Council Members and Principal of NTC, Muni
- Head Teachers
- The Guild President and Student Body
- Staff of Muni University
- Community Leaders
- Invited Guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

PART ONE

1.0 Welcome remarks

Your Excellency, First Lady & Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, dignitaries, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen you are warmly welcome to Muni University on this historic occasion. We join the entire country in congratulating you, upon winning God's favour and that of the people of Uganda for another term of Service in the Presidency.

Your presence on this new campus is a very humbling experience and we are proud to host you. We thank you most sincerely for accepting to come to officially commission the University and install our Distinguished First Chancellor, Dr. Eric Tiyo Sekebuga Adriko.

Special honor goes to you, our eminent First Chancellor and your dear spouse for accepting to lead and set the academic tone for future Chancellors of Muni University. We pledge our total commitment to the service of the University.

1.1 Brief background.

In December 2009, a three-member Task-Force headed by Professor Christine Dranzoa, Dr. James Lam Lagoro, and Rev. Fr. Dr. Epiphany Picho Odubuker was formed with instructions to proceed with the fast tracking of a public university from a "green field" without taking over an existing institution.

1.1.1 Terms of Reference for the Task Force

The terms of reference for the Task Force included:

- (1) Sourcing for land
- (2) Developing a strategic plan and master plan
- (3) Coordinating the development of infrastructure
- (4) Mobilizing funds, human and educational resources

- (5) Identifying and developing curricula as a statutory requirement for establishment of a public University and any other assignment essential to the project.

Muni University was established by Statutory Instrument No. 31, and became the Sixth Public University in Uganda on 9th May 2013.

1.1.2 Objects of Establishing Muni University

The objectives of Muni University's establishment are to:

- (1) Broaden access to higher education.
- (2) Offer opportunities for the education of health professionals, scientists, engineers, educationists and
- (3) Develop skills in leadership and governance.

The University Council developed an ambitious Strategic Plan (2015-2020) with strategies of contributing towards Uganda's Vision 2040 and the Sustainable Development Goals through knowledge economy.

1.1.3 Vision

The vision of the University is "to be a model University for transformation and development".

1.1.4 Mission

The mission of the University is: ***"To provide quality education, generate knowledge, promote innovations and community empowerment for transformation"***.

1.1.5 Values

We value quality, equity, responsiveness, professionalism, honesty, and Innovativeness in all operations.

1.1.6 Motto

The University motto is "***Transforming Lives***".

PART TWO

2.1 Progress so far made

Your Excellency, Muni University admitted the first cohort of students in 2014 and has progressed as described in the following subsections.

2.1.1 Academic Programs and Students

Your Excellency, the current student enrollment stands at 343 (76% are government) students, offering four (4) academic programs, which include:

- (1) Bachelor of Information Systems
- (2) Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
- (3) Bachelor of Science with Education and
- (4) Bachelor of Nursing Science.

In addition to the core content offered by these programmes, all the students registered at Muni University offer four compulsory cross-cutting courses to give them a firm grounding and create uniqueness in the products of Muni University. These courses include, ICT, Peace and Ethics,

Communications & Study Skills, and Entrepreneurship and Business Management.

The four (4) programmes are housed in two (2) Faculties. These are the Faculty of Technoscience and Faculty of Science. We plan to establish more faculties in a phased manner and on annual basis.

2.1.2 Human Resource

Muni University has a total of 114 members of staff. Of these, 32% (36) are academic staff and 68% (78) administrative staff. They are young, vibrant, and highly committed.

The projected numbers of staff and students in the medium term is 550 and 4500, respectively.

2.1.3 Governance and Management

Your Excellency, as enshrined in the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act (2001), (UOTIA) as amended, the governance of a public university comprises the Visitor, Chancellor, Council, Senate, and the various Committees.

(i) The Visitor

The (UOTIA, 2001) provides that the President of the Republic of Uganda shall be the Visitor of a public university. Hence, Your Excellency, you are the Visitor of Muni University.

(ii) Chancellor of Muni University

Section 30 of the UOTIA (2001) mandates the Chancellor of a public University as Titular Head of the University. The Chancellor is

responsible for appointing the Vice Chancellor and the Deputy Vice Chancellors upon recommendation of Council.

Your Excellency, you appointed Eng. Dr. Eric Tiyo Sekebuga Adriko in May 2014 as the First Chancellor of Muni University and he duly accepted the appointment. His investiture couldn't be held earlier than today because our facilities were still under construction. We are very grateful and privileged to you, your Excellency for gracing this occasion.

(iii) University Council

In line with section 38 of the UOTIA (2001), Muni University Council was constituted immediately after its establishment in 2013. Muni University Council is the overall policy making organ and is responsible for overseeing administrative, financial and general welfare of students and staff. Muni University Council is chaired by Hon. Dr. Johnson Nkuuhe.

(iv) University Senate

The University Senate is provided for by section 44 of UOTIA (2001). Senate is responsible for the academic matters of the University. The Vice Chancellor chairs Senate. There are three ministerial appointees on senate. These are Professor Balidawa Callistus, Associate Professor Joseph Oonyu, and Dr. Mary Basasa Muhenda. The rest of the members of the University Senate are Professors of the University.

(v) Students Guild

Muni University Students' Guild was constituted in May 2015. The current Guild President is Mr. Felix Okot. They work very well with University Management.

2.1.4 Start-up Physical Infrastructure Development

There are twelve (12) buildings constructed with a total sum of Ushs 8.8 Billion only. The new buildings include the following:

- (1) A two storey lecture block
- (2) One storey Office block with 21 offices
- (3) One IT workshop block,
- (4) One Computer Laboratory
- (5) One semi-storey Faculty Library with 150 sitting capacity
- (6) A17-bed Clinic (level of Health Center III)
- (7) Three blocks of Guest houses with 20 rooms, one restaurant, and Conference Hall
- (8) A power house.

In addition, Ushs 3.4 Billion was used for the construction of external works (landscaping and road networks inclusive). Therefore, with preliminaries and electricity reticulations, a total amount of UGX 13 billion was used for the entire start-up infrastructure. We thank Your Excellency and the Government of Uganda for funding these facilities.

Muni University has commenced the construction of a Multi-purpose Health Science Laboratory and Lecture Space. This project is funded by

the African Development Bank under the HEST V Project at a total cost of US\$ 2.3 million. This project will initiate the establishment of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

2.1.5 Land

Your Excellency, in addition to the land, where the main campus is located (at Muni Hill, 130.054 acres), several land parcels were donated by the communities in the West Nile region. These parcels are as listed below:

- (1) Arua Local Government and Arua Regional Referral Hospital have offered two pieces of land for the establishment of facilities to house the proposed Medical School by Muni University.
- (2) Communities of Adribu, Endebo, and Anyribu of Madi Okollo-county offered land of about 2,900 acres. This piece of land is planned for the establishment of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine.
- (3) Chief Openjuru W. Omach IV (RIP) followed the footprints of his late grandfather who in 1910 donated land for the Missionaries. Together with his people of Paroketo, he donated a land parcel covering 147 acres along the banks of River Nile at Pakwach, for expansion of Muni University. This area is zoned for research and development of fisheries & aquaculture, tourism & hospitality and petroleum management.

- (4) Yumbe elders under the leadership of Hon. Rashid Govule Iyiga, and local communities gave the University 439.58 acres of land at Bidibidi, Ramogi Sub County. This land is ear-marked for the development of agro-forestry technologies, research & development, and production.
- (5) Zombo, Moyo, Koboko, and Adjumani district Local Governments have invited the University to receive their land offers. Highland agricultural research, geological research, cross-border Research and food safety/diagnostic studies will be created in these areas.

PART THREE

3.1 Challenges

Your Excellency, in spite of the progress so far made, several challenges have continued to bog down the efforts of the university in achieving its vision and mission. Among others, these challenges include the following:

3.1.1 Funding

Limited budgetary provision that cannot meet the plans and needs of a young institution like Muni University.

3.1.2 Physical infrastructure

Inadequate physical infrastructure such as specialized research and teaching laboratories limit establishment and conduct of several professional programs.

3.1.3 ICT

Limited ICT resources, the National backbone Infrastructure (NBI) has not yet reached the West Nile region. This limits bandwidth and accessibility for training, research and capacity development.

3.1.4 Human Resource

Difficulty in attracting and retaining senior academic staff at Muni University due to limited social services, amenities, and other opportunities within this region.

PART FOUR

4.0 Appreciations

Our utmost gratitude goes to you, Your Excellency for the Vision and Gift of a Public University for this region and for salary enhancement of university staff. The higher education students' loan is also benefiting our needy students.

- Ministry of Education and Sports.
- The Permanent Secretary, Dr. Rose Nasali Lukwago and her staff.
- Former Ministers Hon. Namirembe Bitamazire, Hon. Rtd. Major Rose Alupo Epel and former Permanent Secretary Francis Lubanga.
- A technical team comprising Ministry of Education & Sports, Ministry of Works & Transport; Ministry of Lands & Surveys.
- National Council for Higher Education.
- Stanbic Bank Ltd
- Ms Ambitious Limited Company.

- Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
- Hon. Fred Jachan Omach, the former State Minister for Finance and General Duties.
- Professor Hung Kook Park of University of Sangmyung in South Korea.
- The Governing Council of NTC Muni under former Chairperson Mrs. Margaret Asiyeni Tiyo and her team.
- All the political leaders, elders, community members from West Nile region, partner institutions, funders, bilateral partners and well wishers, for your support and encouragements.
- Technical Team, We have reached this far because of the enormous dedicated support of the Technical team. In a very Special way, Your Excellency, allow me single out a few Lead Persons - Retired Structural Engineer Michael Sentongo, Eng. Justus Akwankwasa, Eng. Doreen Matovu Lwanga, Eng. Gideon Munduga, Eng. Joseph Mademaga, Eng. Peter Lating, Prof. Eng. Tickodri Sandy Steven Togboa, Quantity Surveyor Kiza Smith, Architect Moli Tom Atikoro, Assistant Architect Frederick Lubiga, Eng. Willey Ocen, Eng. Brian Odong (Electrical), Asst Eng. Jackson Odoch-clerk of works, Director Elizabeth Gabona, Commissioner Robert Odok Oceng, Commissioner Joseph Pade, Rev. Fr. Dr. Picho (Project Manager).
- Central organizing committee led by Hon. Sabo Kamilo and deputized by Associate Professor Anguma Katrini, entertainment groups, media, staff, students and service providers, we thank you very much.

PART FIVE

5.1 Appeals

Your Excellency, we are aware you have several national and regional urgent development needs that require your attention, but Muni is a unique, accountable, science based institution that is expensive to establish, we have no option but to revert to you for more support as we aspire to become a model University for transformation and development. These include:

5.1.1 Completion of the Health Science Building

Your Excellency, the funding for the construction of the multi-purpose health science laboratory under ADB HEST V Project is inadequate. To complete this structure, an additional US\$ 10.5 billion is required. It's our humble request to you that this appeal meets your most favourable consideration.

5.1.2 Information Communication Technology Support Centre

Your Excellency, to meet the rapid changes in technology, we have initiated the establishment of a Modern University Information and Communication Technology centre. This Centre will provide opportunities for staff and students to conduct innovative research, incubate bankable ideas, assemble solar-supported computers, and manufacture computer ink for local use (in UPE and USE schools, colleges, universities, hospitals) and for export. There is only US\$ 682,500,000 available under ADB V HEST Project catering for the support centre and the business incubation. An

additional UGX 1.95 billion is required to complete the technology center. I humbly submit this deficit for your consideration.

5.1.3 Land Use

Your Excellency, the university is blessed with vast land (over 3,500 acres) given graciously by the communities of the region. We intend to put this land into productive use, conducting research, training and enhancing skills of students, communities, and youth in value addition. This will require construction of infrastructure, farm machinery, agricultural equipment, and some livestock to boost the initial activities, especially, on Madi Okollo land. Your Excellency, we humbly request your support in this context to enable Muni University's plan of establishing the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences.

5.1.4 Staff development and Retention

Your Excellency, the University has young staff. Because of brain drain, professors are too few in the country and are not easily attracted to lecture in upcountry universities like Muni University. We therefore, appeal to the government for scholarships for staff development, research funds, and as well as acquisition of research facilities to enable them conduct research.

5.1.5 Physical Infrastructure Development

Your Excellency, 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 twenty (20) years to fully finalize the infrastructure development on this current campus. Your Excellency, our appeal to your esteemed office is to increase the development fund for Muni University.

PART SIX

6.1 Conclusion

Once again, I take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President and the First Lady & Minister of Education and Sports for responding positively to our Invitation, I also thank all dignitaries, invited Guests, ladies and gentlemen who have made it to this auspicious and historic occasion. We congratulate our First Chancellor.

I wish to conclude by saying that may the Almighty God Protect You and grant you journey mercies as you return to your various places as we strive towards **Transforming Lives**.

Thank you.

For God and My Country.