

**SPEECH BY THE CHANCELLOR ON THE OCCASION OF THE
FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY AND THE INSTALLATION OF
THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF MUNI UNIVERSITY
SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER, 2017, AT MUNI UNIVERSITY MAIN
CAMPUS GROUNDS**

Rt. Hon. Eric T S Adriko, PhD.

EMBARGOED: CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

1. PROTOCOL

H.E. The President of the Republic of Uganda

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister

The Rt. Hon. Deputy prime Minister

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports

Hon. Ministers Present

Hon. Minister of State for Education

Hon. Members of Parliament

Excellences, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corp

Permanent Secretaries present.

The Executive Director National Council for Higher Education

The executive Director, Higher Education Students Financing

Board

Chairman of council and Council Members

Members of Senate

The Vice Chancellor of Muni University

Chancellors of other Universities

The Vice Chancellors of other Universities

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs of Muni University

The University Secretary Muni University

The Academic Registrars present

The Civic and Religious Leaders here present

District Chairpersons, Resident District Commissioners and all Local Leaders

HIS worship the Mayor of Arua Municipal Council

Chief Administrative Officers

District education officers

Head of schools and Institutions

International Partners, Corporate and NGO representatives

The Guild President and the Student Body

Members of the University Community

Distinguished invited Guests

Grandaunds

Parents and Guardians

The Media and Security Personnel

Ladies and Gentlemen

2. WELCOME

H.E. The President,

On behalf of the University I extend a very warm welcome to you and The First Lady Hon. Mama Janet Museveni to Muni University. I also take the opportunity to warmly receive you in your role as VISITOR to the University.

Your Excellency, thank you for creating the 1st public Universities closer to the people. There is nothing more important than the gift of education.

Together with major infrastructure projects funded by your Government in Roads, electricity, IR, etc we are truly in the environment of Borderless Information System.

Thank you for opening people's eyes. The people and local Governments have supported your ideas by giving land and supporting your leadership.

The people are behind you and will always continue to be.

Distinguished Visitors

I welcome all of you distinguished visitors and friends for putting time aside to join us here today.

We have all come today to bear witness to a great day. A day where we celebrate West Nile and most importantly, these graduates; our children.

Community of West Nile,

I also thank the community that made this dream come true. The many who donated land attended meetings, facilitated meetings and discussions. Thank you.

3. INSTALLATION OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

The University today has accomplished yet another important task in history of the University by Installing the First Vice Chancellor, Professor Christine Dranzoa.

I want you to join me in congratulating Professor Christine Dranzoa, upon this great achievement.

Professor Christine Dranzoa, led the task force team that was appointed by the Ministry of Education and Sports to start the first Government University in the West Nile Region.

We thank members of the task force for taking up that assignment that paid off and now we have Muni University.

4. PIONEER GRADUANDS AND PARENTS

Grandaunds

Our pioneer Graduands, the very first graduates of Muni University, I congratulate you all for completing your studies. We recognize your hard work and efforts. We are all happy as we are going to celebrate together.

Parents

I thank our dear parents, guardians and donors and our Government who have supported us all along by paying the necessary fees and other related expenses.

We thank you for choosing to bring your children here to Muni University.

Thank you all for gracing this occasion and witnessing the fruits of your labour.

To my colleagues from Academia and business communities thank you for coming. My colleague the Chancellor of.....are in the congregation and so are Vice Chancellors of.....and so are..... from the business fraternity.

5. STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

Minister of Education

The University was established by Statutory Instrument No. 31 of 2013.

Today the University is 4 years old and has continued to **grow and receive very good reviews.**

For this

We extend appreciation for the constant support of our Parent Ministry.

We are indebted to the Ministry of education who have been a partner since day one, working closely with us to ensure that we are providing and facilitating the highest level of teaching and

learning practice with real outcomes. The fact that we are here today celebrating our graduating pioneers, show a real deliverable, a desirable outcome from our partnership.

University Council

I commend the University Council for the concerted efforts exhibited in steering and managing the affairs of the University in the face of increasing financial challenges.

We extend appreciation for the good and harmonious governance practiced by the Council, The Vice Chancellor and Management. The good work ethics shown to us has enabled us to build the institution from scratch to what we are seeing today.

To ensure good governance going forward the University Council enacted key governance tools- Strategic Plan; Human Resource Manual; Budget and Policy Documents.

We have received praise for best University Management team in the Country.

Opinion Leaders have judged MUNI as role model for **VALUE FOR MONEY**, based on budget out-turn for completion of iconic structures at the University.

For all these outstanding initiatives we are very grateful.

Prayer

The University nevertheless is aware of teething challenges to growth for which we need Government support i.e.

- University ability to support its budget through admissions of private students is limited because its main admission is in science based subjects which is not attractive to private entry Students; the University therefore needs a lot of Government support for its budgetary requirements.

- Resource Constraint has allowed 55% CAPEX release outturn. Presidential Directive was to enable for UGX 15Bn Annual release to finance CAPEX.

- There is underlying challenge of retaining staff due to distance. This requires Innovative equalization intervention.

- Muni University outreaches to and is supported by all the Districts of West Nile. We therefore have the challenge to open the Satellite Branches to bring the region closer.

- We wanted a University. The University is here but we lack indigenous or local content of the students!!

- The region has challenge of producing children who can feed the University. Currently not many of the local children qualify.

- We need to wake up. Public University will not admit low grades.

- Problem needs systematic solution; teachers upgrading themselves; enabling students to study more effectively and longer e.g. at night with solar lighting etc.

6. STAFF

I am aware that Muni University has got a fairly young and lean academic staff structure often assisted by part time lecturers from other institutions and visiting scholars from other Universities.

I would therefore like to thank the academic staff for doing a tremendous job of teaching and supervising students, despite other challenges that you and the University might be facing. Your hard work and effort is noted and duly appreciated.

7. STUDENTS

I would like to applaud the students of Muni University for upholding a very high degree of discipline, hard work and commitment. I urge you to continue to work together in the spirit of friendship. All these values pay at the end of the day and we are the beneficiaries.

8. PARTNERS

I would like to appreciate all our distinguished invited guests, partners, well-wishers and our esteemed stakeholders for accepting our invitation to come and celebrate with us this important milestone.

9. GRADUANDS AND ALUMNI

Finally, dear Gradaunds, I congratulate you once again for making us proud.

I wish to remind you that there are a lot of challenges ahead of you.

It's your responsibility to remain focused and to build on what you have attained and climb all the ladders in academia. Ensure you make the right decision and choice in whatever you do.

Do not give up if you fail for the first or second time. Remember there is always room for improvement.

10. CONVOCAATION

Upon award of your degrees, you become a member of Muni University Convocation as an Alumni.

You should continue to show interest in the progress of the University, just as the University must follow your progress in life.

The formal link between you and the University is provided for through the Convocation. Therefore do not forget your roots. I urge you to use this link and make it strong. I urge the University administration to take steps to convene the Convocation and ensure a functioning secretariat.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In conclusion I thank the Vice Chancellor for the excellent arrangements made for this day.

I thank all members of the University for the Cooperation which enabled the results achieved.

Above all I thank the Government of the Republic of Uganda our mother benefactor.

I wish you all happy celebrations and great memories of this day.

It now remains for me to perform the very pleasant duty of awarding Diplomas and Certificates and Conferring Degrees upon you.

Congratulations to everybody and thank you very much for coming.

**For “Transforming Lives”
and
For “God and my Country”**

Eric T S Adriko, PhD
Chancellor