

SPEECH BY

**HER EXCELLENCY JESSICA ALUPO (MP)
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY
AT KING CEASOR UNIVERSITY BUNGA**

22ND FEBRUARY, 2022

The Minister of Education and Sports
The Chancellor, King Ceasor University
The Chairperson University Council,
The Vice-Chancellor and your staff
All invited Guests, Parents, and Graduands
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to join you at this 2nd graduation ceremony of King Ceasor University. I congratulate the University for taking the guidance that the President has been giving the Country to mount programs that are critical to national development that will lead our young people to employment and production. I am happy that you have concentrated largely on Science and Technology programs. I urge you to maintain the training of professional programs that do not turn your graduands into job seekers but train them to be innovators and contribute to the NRM vision of taking this country to middle income status by 2040.

The National Resistance Movement Government has identified education as one of our priorities particularly Science and Technology as a big driver towards sustainable development. Government highly values human capital development and this explains why the government provides free education at primary, secondary and offers state loans and scholarship opportunities to increase access to higher education.

When NRM came into power, there was basically one University, Makerere University, and access to University education was limited. Through its liberalization policy, more Universities were established both public and private. Today we have 54 Universities in the country. Ten of these are Public Universities and 43 are private out of which 10 are chartered. This is a great achievement for this country and I thank all those proprietors who have supported Government to expand provision of education.

Government is continuously focusing its efforts on quality of education, as this quest for quality education is critical to human capital development. No country can develop beyond its quality of graduates. I therefore challenge all Institutions of Higher Learning to institute coherent internal quality assurance mechanisms aimed at developing quality programs that meet the expectations of our graduates and their employers nationally and internationally. I wish to remind universities that your core mandate is teaching, research and community engagement. I therefore urge you to develop and offer programmes that equip our students with innovative and applicable skills that will enable them become productive citizens in our development agenda.

I would like to thank the founders and leadership of King Ceasor University for supporting Government in implementation of its programmes, and I urge you to ensure the University is fully chartered by the National Council for Higher Education.

To the graduands, I want to say that graduation Day is a special day in the life of any student; it is the crowning moment of all the hard work, frustrations and anxieties endured during the course of academic life. I congratulate you for finishing the “race”; and join you to celebrate this important achievement. There is no doubt that having come this far, you have burnt candles, you have obediently followed instructions from your lecturers, and you have generally worked hard to achieve this. This is a moment every parent would want to witness and cherish in their quest to secure a brighter future for their generations to come.

Government has provided long term peace and stability which is a pre-requisite for success in development. While you look for jobs, or while you start your own enterprises, and while you build great steps into the future, whatever you do, contribute to the sustainability of this long-term peace and stability.

The journey which you have started today is of great

importance to the growth of our country, and I wish all of you God's blessings as you serve your country. I thank you.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY