

## Nkumba University Vice Chancellor 23<sup>rd</sup> Graduation Speech – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Nkumba University Chancellor – PDG Emmanuel Katongole  
Nkumba University Foundation Body Members  
Nkumba University Board of Trustee Members  
Nkumba University Council Members  
Nkumba University Management and Staff  
Nkumba University Alumni Members  
All students  
Distinguished Guests,  
Members of the Press,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Today is a very special day for all of us who gather physically here amidst the current Covid-19 pandemic as we graduate out approximately 1,312 students at diploma, bachelors, post graduate levels including 9 PhDs. To those who are participating remotely and virtually using technology we value your resilience to make sure that you attend the ceremony in person. Therefore, I would like to welcome you all to Nkumba University's 23<sup>rd</sup> graduation ceremony and thank you for being here today. We are honoured with the physical and virtual presence. I greet you all with affection in the name of the almighty God.

This is not only the day which marks the end of your long academic journey at Nkumba University, but also the day we can celebrate having gone through a stressful and innovative Covid – 19 semester without anyone infected by the virus on our campus. It was really a very peculiar last semester that we had to spend together using a new mode of teaching and learning and faced with numerous challenges. However, you managed to come out as winners and here you are today ready to receive your certificates as the reward to your resilience and hard work.

I sincerely admire all of you, students, faculty and NU staff alike, that we could get through the past semester which had very tough days together, full of anxiety, fear of the unknown, a season to learn new innovation for education but very united and caring for each in order to survive within the educational paradigm shift. As the Ag. Vice Chancellor of this university, I am very proud of you all and thank sincerely the former Vice Chancellor Prof. Wilson Mande for having sailed us through that trying time. I would like to congratulate all the students and their families for their hard work and intensive study here at NU. All of you can be very proud that you adhered to the NU 4Cs which are Competence, Confidence, Creativity and Character.

But at the same time, I am really sorry that we must have this graduation ceremony as a scientific one with down sized numbers of students attending in person to avoid infection from Covid 19, without any guests and the jubilations from the continuing students. This ceremony itself is a representational of the new normal that the entire world is facing but coming with opportunities that we need to tap into as NU. One of the things that the Covid

19 virus has forced many people and organisations to do is to perform an evaluation and reflection on how things have been done in the past and how they can be done going forward. NU has done the same in collaboration with its students and staff and the University is already living in the new normal. Therefore, I call upon students and staff that have not yet embraced the new normal to please move fast because the Covid-19 virus is still with us for some time and hence need to adapt new survival mechanisms. Covid-19 pandemic attacked the entire world equally at about the same time but because of society disparities the reactions are different. Different behaviour reaction in different societies are very evident and any institution that does not respond by adopting ICT to support it in its business will cease to survive. However, in far too many ways, you have seen how fragile our world is and how so much vanished so fast even the simplest things like hugging friends. This trying moment affects us all, but it comes at a particularly formative moment in your lives.

My dear graduands, learning how to think about the real world and making sure you have practical survival instincts is the most valuable and knowledge fulfilling asset you have attained from NU. The capability to problem solve, synthesize, analyse is what counts out in the real world after your graduation. You enter a world that needs not only your talent, but also your acumen, audacity, and kind-heartedness. Am very confident that the NU 4Cs (Competence, Confidence, Creativity and Character) just gave you the ability to think better or deeper. Remember that you graduate in much harder times, where you have more people searching for jobs than the number of available jobs. It is awful to think about graduating and not getting a job for so many years, I urge you that what you achieved from NU is good enough to support you in creating the jobs. I have no doubt that you will continue to impress us with so many achievements in the years to come.

Do not be afraid to fail if you love something, believe in the best, think your best, give your best at work, have a goal for your best, never be satisfied with less than your best, and in the long run things will turn out for the best. There will be obstacles, difficulties, and temporary defeats on your world journey but look at them as opportunities you find along the way that make your life better. Remember to have a purpose, a vision, a great deal of passion, willpower, workmanship, and sincerity in whatever you do. Consider using the 6 Ps to guide your work life as described here;

Have a **Purpose**: you need to know the underlying goal of whatever you intend to do. Focus on your unique strength and avoid relying on your weaknesses to determine the purpose of your work life. So always try to listen to that inner voice that tells you who you really are and what your vision and mission in life are.

Be **Passionate**: in order to fulfil your vision, you need to do it with passion which is the energy and power that comes from focusing on what excites you as said by Oprah Winfrey. Your passion will lead you to your purpose hence making you a change agent in this world.

Have a **Perspective**: it is important that you believe in yourself and the potential you have to make a difference in the world. Therefore, it is very important to adopt the right perspective where you look at challenges as growth opportunities.

Be **Prepared**: the best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today to make sure that you plan each and every step of your production. By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail in whatever you do.

Be **Productive**: Stop theorizing only but take action, start doing even though not getting it perfect as it could be but at least await results. The more you take action, the more results you expect to be output. So many successful people had to work harder than others to be what they are today.

Be **Persistence**: In life never give up irrespective of all the challenges and problems you may face. Persistence is the key to achieving the goals in your life, just do not give up even when the times are so hard like what we have in this Covid 19 era. Persistence overcomes all the resistance ahead of you and it is the reason that today you will be conferred the degree you worked so hard to attain.

My dear graduands, be proud that you will be attaining your transcripts and certificates today immediately after the degrees have been conferred. Therefore, I request all those that have been invited to attend physically not to go back home without passing by their Schools to pick the documents. With support from ICT systems that are being implemented at NU, all continuing students will be able to access both their statement of results and financials from anywhere, at any time and at their own wish with effective from April 2021. There is going to be more continued integration of ICT for teaching, learning and research as more innovations are adopted at NU. This will go a long way in improving accountability to its students by the University.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, through the hard work of the Nkumba University faculty, these students have finally completed their studies and will be conferred degrees. This did not come so easy but with dedication and passion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all NU faculty for utilising the 6Ps to nurture and mentor these students. The determination was vividly seen during the past Covid 19 semester which required many of you to adapt new teaching methodologies so that you could get these students complete their studies. I would want to let you know that there are no secrets to success but it is the results of preparation, hard work and learning from failure as said by Colin Powell that will take NU forward. Let's avoid living a disowned academic life as NU faculty if we are to be ranked amongst the best in the world. This is the time for us to focus on the 6Ps as done by the best academic institutions in the world to pave way for a new NU.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am happy to inform you that NU trains health practitioners for this country which is a field of great interest to you. Indeed, today you will be conferring degrees to Public Health Students. As per regulation, health workers have to be shown to the public and it is one of the reasons they are attending in person to receive their

instruments of work. NU has a big vision within this health sciences field and one day we hope to start the NU Teaching Hospital. This will go a long way to support research undertaking within the health science field and also to the Nkumba community.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the very hard-working women and men of the Board of Trustees, University Council and Senate spend long hours applying the 6Ps for the good of the University. We thank you so much and we value your love for the educational sector and in particular Nkumba University.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, on behalf of the University Management, staff and students and on my own behalf, I take the opportunity once again to warmly thank you for accepting to be the 5<sup>th</sup> Chancellor for this prestigious institution. I congratulate you upon this achievement and we look forward a very successful, developmental and fulfilling tenure.

NU would like to appreciate the Pullemoller Foundation for the Pullemoller Award given to the student who has excelled in both sports and academics. NU also appreciates the government of Uganda for the support offered in the construction of the library. Appreciation goes to Prof. Gordon Wavamuno for the phase one construction of the Wavah ICT Block. NU appreciates also the Higher Education Financing Board for giving loans to our students.

To all Nkumba University staff thank you so much for the efforts put in making sure we have this ceremony successfully undertaken. To the ceremonies committee, school administrators, deans, HODs, AR department thank you all for a job well done. The bar has been set and we should never allow to go lower again.

To all parents out there, I would like to inform you that our February 2021 intake is still on and I call upon applicants to apply before the end of the month. Application forms can be found on the Nkumba University website: [www.nkumbauniversity.ac.ug](http://www.nkumbauniversity.ac.ug)

I wish all the graduands the best of their ceremony and welcome to the Nkumba University Alumni.

I OWE YOU

**Prof. Jude T. Lubega**  
**Ag. Vice-Chancellor**