

RECTOR'S SPEECH



AT THE 25<sup>th</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN UGANDA

HELD AT IUIU MAIN CAMPUS, MBALE

SATURDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017

Our dear Chief Guest,----- representing H. E. the President of the Republic of Uganda,

Your Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Alsebil, the University Council Chairman,

Rt. Hon. Ally Kirunda Kivejinja, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Affairs & Vice Chairman of the University Council,

Your Excellency Ambassador Muhammad Naeem Khan, Assistant Secretary General (S&T) of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC),

Your Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto, AL haji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, CFR, mni,

Your Royal Highness Ihaji Muhammad Ibn Idris Ibn Muhammad Abali, the Amir of Fika, Yobe State, Nigeria and other

Traditional Leaders,

Honorable Ministers,

Honorable Members of the University Council

Your Excellencies, the Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Your Eminencies the Religious Leaders,

Honorable Members of the various University Council Committees,

Honorable members of Parliament,

The Resident District Commissioners,

My Colleagues the Vice Chancellors of Sister Universities,

The Local Leaders,

Staff of the Islamic University in Uganda,

Distinguished Guests,

The Graduands,

The Students of the Islamic University in Uganda,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalaamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuhu

It is a great honor and privilege for me, on behalf of the IUIU Community and

my own behalf, to welcome you dear Chief Guest, and all our distinguished Guests, to this 25<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU). We also welcome H.E Ambassador Muhammad Naeem Khan, Assistant Secretary General of OIC, in charge of Science & Technology, representing H.E the OIC Secretary General. We are humbled and very much appreciate the presence of all of you on this occasion.

Dear Chief Guest, permit me to recognize the presence of a Special Guest and friend of IUIU, His Eminence Al-haji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, CRF, mni, the 20<sup>th</sup> Sultan of the great Sokoto Sultanate, Sokoto State, Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Sultan of Sokoto is not only the leader of all Muslims in Nigeria but also the most respected Religious and Traditional Leader in Nigeria and the whole of West Africa. In his illustrious career, he has served his country in various capacities including in the army where he reached the rank of a Brigadier General, before he took the mantle of being the Sultan of Sokoto slightly over 10 years ago. Indeed, he is a great Muslim leader who not only believes in, and works for, peace and mutual co-existence, but has also, on countless occasions, advocated for a free and just society where all people have rights to pursue their dreams and aspirations without undue hindrances. His presence on this occasion is a clear sign of his love not only for IUIU and Uganda, but also for education generally and all human endeavors that lead to peace and development. He is a diplomat, Scholar and an educationist. Currently, besides his other many duties and responsibilities, he is the Chancellor of the oldest and biggest University in Nigeria – The University of Ibadan.

Ladies and gentlemen, join me in welcoming His Eminence, AL haj Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, the Sultan of Sokoto to IUIU and Uganda. You are most welcome, Your Eminence, and thank you for honoring our invitation.

We have also been blessed on this occasion to have in our midst, His Royal Highness The Amir of Fika, Yobe State, Nigeria. He is not only a friend of IUIU, but he is also one of the development partners of IUIU who sponsors many students to study at IUIU.

I wish to also recognize a delegation from Sokoto State of Nigeria. The Sokoto State sponsors many students at IUIU. Over 208 students sponsored by Sokoto State have already graduated from IUIU. At today's graduation ceremony, ten students sponsored by Sokoto State are to receive degrees in various disciplines. We also have a delegation from Kaduna State, which sponsors many students at IUIU especially in the Medical School. We are grateful to both Sokoto and Kaduna States for patronizing IUIU for the education of their citizens. Another delegation is from Yobe State besides one led by His Royal Highness the Amir of Fika. We also welcome and thank all delegations from various institutions in Uganda and abroad. In particular, we wish to recognise the delegation from the International Islamic Charitable Organisation (IICO) and Africa Muslim Agency (AMA) of Kuwait. Both IICO and AMA sponsor students to study at IUIU for which we are most grateful. Thank you very much for coming.

Dear Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Alhamdulillah, this is the 25<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of the Islamic University in Uganda. On this occasion, let me briefly inform you of the current state of the University.

**Student numbers:** For the 2017/2018 academic year, the students so far registered are **8,136 (4,263 males (52 %) and 3,873 females (48 %)**. The students come from 21 countries. This number will go up after November 2017 and May 2018 admissions of the Nursing students and the January 2017 and April intakes at Kampala and Females' campuses. Insha Allah

## 1. Academic Programmes

This year the University is running a total of 72 programmes at its four campuses. The programmes are offered in 7 faculties and 40 academic departments. These programmes range from Certificate, (Undergraduate and Postgraduate), to Diplomas, Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate degrees.

The University is positioning itself to utilize the great advances in Science and technology that characterize the 21<sup>st</sup> Century world. In this regard, the University will launch two online programmes in early 2018. They are **Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT)** and the **Master of Business Administration (MBA)**. Thanks to technology, students from all over the world will be free to register, study and graduate from IUIU without ever having the need to physically come to the University Campus! Indeed, the University of the future is more likely to have hundreds of thousands of students, spread all cross the globe, accessing learning through intelligent and self-improving technological learning tools, manned by a few professors and IT wizards. While the traditional University will remain in place, at least for this century, it will have few students than the online and Virtual universities. By having online programmes, IUIU is trying to bring the future home.

During 2018/2019 academic year, the IUIU Faculty of Health Sciences will add three new programmes to the already running Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree programme at Kampala Campus. The new programmes in the Medical School will be:

- i) Bachelor Science in Nursing;
- ii) Bachelor Biomedical Sciences; and
- iii) Bachelor of Public Health.

We are also working to start a Master's degree in Information Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Software Engineering next academic year under the Faculty of Science.

Details of the academic programmes offered at IUIU and those we plan to start soon are indicated in the Graduation Booklet available to you all. Suffice it to add, the Bachelor of Islamic Banking and Finance, Post Graduate Diploma and Masters Degree in Islamic Banking and Finance programmes are already running at Kampala Campus. The Islamic Banking and Finance industry is one of the fastest growing businesses all over the world. Graduates of these programmes have ready jobs waiting all over the world. We hope Uganda will soon join the rest of the East African countries in allowing financial institutions to offer Islamic banking and financial products.

## **2. Staff:**

The University uses services of a total of **593** full time members of staff coming from six countries. We thank the Governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, and Egypt for seconding staff to IUIU.

This year, a total of 49 staff members are pursuing higher studies in various institutions of learning worldwide. Of these 28 are pursuing PhD programmes. We are grateful to all our development partners who are assisting IUIU in its Staff Development Programme.

I congratulate the following members of staff of IUIU who recently completed their studies and returned to IUIU. Dr. Nakitto Saidat, PhD in Laws from Brunel University (UK), and Dr. Ssali Muhammad Bisaso PhD in Education (Curriculum & Instruction) from Turkey.

In addition, 21 staff members recently completed their masters degrees in various disciplines. We congratulate all of them.

We thank all our staff for the great work they are doing for this University in spite of the many challenges we still face. It is through their dedication and sacrifices that this University has been able to achieve a lot in a relatively short time. Please give them a big clap.

### **3. The Graduands**

Distinguished Guests, today is harvesting day for the men and women assembled before us who have successfully fulfilled the requirements for the different awards they chose to study at IUIU. A total of **2,331** graduands will receive various awards which are broken down as follows:

i. Certificates	128
ii. Undergraduate Diplomas	352
iii Bachelors' degrees	1,655
iv. Postgraduate Diplomas	59
v. Masters degrees	137
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>2,331</u></b>

**The male graduands are 1,303 (56%) while the females are 1,028 (44%).**

With today's graduands added, the total number of graduates IUIU has so far added to the world's human capital is **24,879**. Many of these graduates are rendering vital services to their countries. Here in Uganda there is one Minister of State, several members of parliament, diplomats, CEOs, head teachers of schools, etc. In Rwanda the Minister State for Education is an alumnus of IUIU, and the story goes on and on.

Dear Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For a University that started with only 80 students and two degree programmes in 1988, to be graduating over 2,300 students at ago, is no mean achievement.

We thank Allah for this achievement and pray to Allah to bless the graduands. We thank the Government of Uganda and especially H.E. the President of Uganda, and all development partners who have supported us this far.

We congratulate the parents and guardians of our graduands, for choosing IUIU as the University for your children. We have given your children the best training possible and we are sure that if they properly utilize the knowledge, skills and values we have inculcated in them, they will succeed in life insh Allah. Once again, we congratulate and join you in celebrating the success of your children and dear ones.

### **First Class Awards**

A **total of 119 First Class Honors degrees** will be awarded to the graduands who have distinguished themselves academically. We congratulate them and also challenge them to offer first class services to humanity wherever they will be.

Dear Graduands, I wish to remind you to thank Allah for enabling you to reach this point in your life. We also remind you to be good ambassadors of IUIU wherever you will be. We invite you to join us on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018 as we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IUIU, your alma matta.

### **Awards to Outstanding Graduands**

As the usual tradition at IUIU is, the University will give presents and awards to the best graduands as follows:

**1 The Prince BadruKa kungulu Award** is given to the best graduand of the year in terms of learning and character. This was won by **Luqman Yassin Gelle Warsame** who was doing a Bachelors degree in Economics and scored a CGPA of 4.79 which is a First Class degree.



**2 IUIU Alumni Award** is given to the second best student of the year. This was won by **Luhupa Muhamudu** who is graduating today with a First Class Bachelor's degree with a CGPA of 4.97, in Islamic studies and Arabic Language

**3 The International Islamic Charitable Organization Award.** This is awarded to the best Female graduand. This year, **Ms.Nakiganda Barrah Badrudin**, who is graduating today with a First Class degree with a **CGPA of 4.83** in Bachelor of Arts in Sharia, won the award.

**4 Rector's Award:** This award is given to the best innovative student in the Faculty of Science. This was awarded to **Ms. Akampereza Phiona E.** She was doing a Bachelors degree in Food Science and Nutrition. This student's innovation is a lecithin stabilized coconut drink from coconut milk extract, to make a rich nutrient yoghurt. We congratulate her.

Allow me ladies and gentlemen to, in a special way, recognize the following graduands:

1. Muwaya Omar Ductoor – Chairman L.C. V- Mayuge District – Masters Public Administration;
2. Inyere Christiano – Academic Registrar, Uganda Collage of Commerce Tororo – Masters of Business Administration;
3. Kifampa Hamid – Inspector of Schools – Mityana District- Master of Education;
4. Senkasi Ibrahim – Head teacher – Kayunga Primary School, Kyotera- Masters of Education,

And many other VIP students that time does not permit to mention each one of them. I congratulate you all and thank you for choosing IUIU for your postgraduate university education.

## **Future Plans**

The University focus is first to consolidate where we have so far succeeded. Then more efforts are being put in establishing more science and technology-based programmes. As already mentioned, new programmes will be established in the Medical School next academic year. The establishment of a Faculty of Engineering and Technology will soon begin insh Allah, with the support of the Government of Uganda and the Islamic Development Bank. This country needs more engineers and technologists to boost our development efforts as we work to achieve Uganda's Vision 2040. In this regard, IUIU will do its best to train the appropriate engineers and technologist fit-for-purpose of our society.

We are finalizing plan to start an endowment (waqf) at Nsambya. We are grateful to the Islamic Development Bank that has approved funds to construct the first building of the waqf. We are also most grateful to Government of Uganda for donating the land at Nsambya.

Dear Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, our plan is to develop IUIU into a community-based University – one that endeavors to address the challenges faced by our communities. We already have successfully executed several community programmes and projects. In the days and years ahead, you will see IUIU more and more of our students and staff descending from the "Ivory Tower" to the valleys and plains to work with communities to raise their standard of living. We will need everybody's support in this endeavor.

## **Appreciations**

On behalf the staff and students of IUIU, I wish to extend our deepest appreciations to the Government of Uganda for its continued support and

assistance to IUIU. We also thank the Governments of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Nigeria and Turkey for all the support extended to IUIU.

We thank H.E Dr. Abdulaziz Alsebil, the University Council Chairman for his great contributions to IUIU. We thank all Council and Council Committees members for their support and guidance extended to us.

We thank H.E OIC Secretary General, and H.E Ambassador Mohammad Naeem Khan, the OIC Assistant Secretary General in charge of Science & Technology, for all the great support given to IUIU. We thank the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) for the continuous great support given to IUIU. The Islamic Development Bank is thanked very much for assisting IUIU in many different ways. We thank the University of Lahore of Pakistan, Kibuli Muslim Hospital, the Habib family of Jeddah, ISESCO, Muslim World League, Iqraa for Humanity organization of Jeddah, the International Islamic Charitable Organisation (IICO) of Kuwait, Munadhamat Al-Dawa Al-Islamiyyah, Zakat House of Kuwait, Africa MuslimAgency/Direct Aid, WAMY of KSA, SESRIC of Turkey, Doctors Worldwide of Turkey, TIKA of Turkey, and all our great partners and friends for the enormous assistance extended to IUIU. After Allah, without your support, we would not be able to achieve a lot.

In a special way I wish to that Prince Kassim Nakibinge Kakungulu and the Young Men Muslim Association for the great support given to IUIU, especially in the establishment of the IUIU Kampala Campus. We are most grateful.

We thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our line Ministry, for all the support they continuously give us. We also thank the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, and the Ministry of Education and Sports, and all other

government departments for their valuable support and assistance. As some of you may be aware, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Honourable Janet Museveni, visited IUIU on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2017. We were honoured to host her and thank her very much for all the support to IUIU.

We thank the leaders and people of Mbale for their support.

I thank all the staff, students and other individuals who have contributed to the success of this occasion. I salute the Chairpersons and Members of the various Graduation Ceremony Sub-committees for their tireless and great efforts in making this occasion a success. We also thank the security personnel and members of the press for their support.

Lastly, I thank our dear Chief Guest and all of you distinguished guests, for having accepted to be part of today's congregation. In a special way, we thank those who travelled great distances to get here, especially H.E the Sultan of Sokoto. We pray to the Almighty Allah to reward you most appropriately, and to take you back home safely. *AMEEN.*

Assalaamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu.

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Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo

**R E C T O R**

**11<sup>th</sup> November, 2017**