



**23<sup>rd</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY,**

**(2ND VIRTUAL)**

**SATURDAY 24TH APRIL 2021**

**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES,**

**KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY,**

**AL HAJI DR. HASSAN BASAJJABALABA**

**PRESENTED BY MR. AMBROSE KIBUUKA**

**SPEECH OF THE CHAIRMAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ON THE 23<sup>rd</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY OF KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

The Chancellor of Kampala International University, Prof. Mahmood Mamdani  
Cabinet Ministers  
Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners,  
Members of Parliament,  
Permanent Secretaries,  
Chairman of the University Council and Council Members,  
Fellow members of the Board of Trustees,  
The Vice Chancellor of Kampala International University,  
Vice Chancellors of other universities,  
Representatives of the various universities and organizations,  
Staff of Kampala International University,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Alumni,  
Graduands,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take the honor to welcome all of you to the second virtual graduation ceremony Kampala International University is holding. If anything, this is apparently a confirmation that indeed the new era has irreversibly taken root. For the most part, this new era has dictated upon us to operate in a very unfamiliar territory, yet expected to deliver results as though it was business as usual. And it is in this context that I would like to start by heartily appreciating all those who have made extra effort to pull off this 23<sup>rd</sup> graduation ceremony, despite the limitations and challenges imposed by COVID-19.

My message is captured in 5 short point:

### **1. THE NEW CHANCELLOR**

In my remarks during last year's graduation ceremony, I welcomed Professor Mahmood Mamdani as KIU's new Chancellor. I did highlight that we were inspired by his outstanding international exposure and scholarly reputation, as a seasoned researcher. We are confident that KIU will highly benefit from his insights as we grapple with re-aligning and repositioning the institution under the dictated of the new era. Let me reiterate that KIU's strategic direction is to champion a new approach to higher education that directs scholarly capabilities to the generation of innovative solutions to societal challenges. Our conviction is that this can only be achieved through a vibrant research culture. Once again, we welcome you on Board Mr. Chancellor sir.

### **2. EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC DOWNTURN**

As we all know aware, COVID-19 disrupted everything. Private universities were severely affected. KIU was no exception. With a strong strain on the cashflows, the Board of Trustees has had to suspend some aspects of the infrastructural development in order to meet the recurrent needs. This will have significant impact on the institution's growth plan as had been projected prior to COVID-19. Nevertheless, the Board of Trustees remains committed to transforming KIU into a world-class university.

### **3. FOCUS ON ELECTRONIC CAPABILITIES**

In order to re-align KIU with the imperatives of the new era, the Board of Trustees is now directing much of the strategic investments in developing the insinuation's electronic capabilities. This includes systems that enable administrative and academic management processes to be transacted electronically (virtually), research processes, as well as teaching and learning processes. With the support of a matching grant from Nuffic (Netherlands), establishment of a state-of-the-art e-learning studio is in advanced stages. Over EUR 200,000 is being invested and the studio is set to be operational by August 2021. Once completed,

the multi-functional studio will take care of the university's digital content development needs as well as professional recording and broadcasting.

#### **4. APPRECIATION TO THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF**

I wish to acknowledge and thank members of the University Council who have stood with KIU through thick and thin. Many of you have been very supportive in different ways during the hard times imposed by COVID-19. You have always availed yourselves whenever called upon to transact the Universities business, even when it meant the inconveniencing virtual meetings.

In a similar vein I thank the Management and staff for their dedication and sacrifice. KIU's high success rate in transitioning from the conventional face-to-face operations to the virtual mode attests to your commitment, despite the hard circumstances under which you operate. Holding this second virtual graduation ceremony is evidence of your flexibility and dedication. Thank you very much.

#### **5. APPRECIATION TO PARENTS/SPONSORS AND STUDENTS**

The general public, and in particular our students and their parents/guardians/sponsors have been a strong pillar of KIU's continued operation. We thank you for exhibiting flexibility, patience when we had to switch from the usual mode to virtual operations.

I congratulate the graduating class for persisting through the hard times to see to it that you graduate. Needless to say, you enrolled into university during a COVID-free era but now you are graduating into a COVID-19 sensitive job market. The lock-down and COVID-19 aftermath have taught you very useful adaptation skills. You have learned what it means to adjust and change your expectations each time it is necessary. With the knowledge and skills you have been equipped with, go out there and figure out how to adapt to any situation of life until you shine.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

The Board of Trustees appreciates all stakeholders, including the relevant government ministries and departments for the continued support and cooperation. We remain committed to developing KIU into a world-class university.

We will continue exploring the heights.

I thank you.

**Al Haji Dr. Hassan Basajjabalaba**  
**Chairman Board of Trustees**  
**Kampala International University.**