



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

**(2ND VIRTUAL)**

**SATURDAY 24TH APRIL 2021**

**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON,**

**KIU UNIVERSITY COUNCIL,**

**PROF. FRED WABWIRE MANGEN**

## **SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ON KIU'S 23<sup>RD</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**

On behalf of the entire University Council and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands and welcome all our guests and students who are virtually attending this memorable function. I recognize the challenges that we are still facing, especially the University during this COVID-19 season. It is my prayer that, it ends soon to enable the University operations resume to normal.

Today, we are excited that we have managed to have this ceremony, which is the second of its kind in KIU and a very great innovation, for which we congratulate the Vice Chancellor and his management team.

Today, we are celebrating yet another big commencement of **3,521** graduands from various academic programmes at the level of PhDs, Masters, Bachelor Degrees, Diploma and Certificates. This is a clear testimony of the great achievements and steady growth that the University is experiencing. As we celebrate today, KIU has been ranked the best private university in the East African region and the leading private University in Uganda, attesting to the wonderful infrastructure, the highly qualified and skilled human resource and the studious students that have been trained here. As the University Council, we commend the incredible investment by the Board of Trustees, specifically, the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Al Hajj Dr. Hassan Basajjabalaba. KIU is proud to have him as the Chair of the Board and his entire team of Trustees.

## **Appreciation to the VC and the University Management**

I wish to acknowledge the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo and his management team for the visionary, dynamic and able leadership, as well as the University Senate, academic and non-academic staff, students, strategic partners and all key stakeholders for working tirelessly to enable KIU progress to a level where it is recognized as the best private university in the region.

This year 2021 continues to be a challenge with education institutions still suffering the larger part of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it has also been a time when the strength of most institutions has been tested. The resilience that the University has demonstrated has shown that it can stand the test of time and still deliver the desirous services to the community, and for this I commend you. As we navigate through this new and unpredictable situation, we appreciate the patience and hard work of all our partners, and pledge our support as the University Council to make sure that KIU enriches what it has achieved so far and keep on taking very long strides in the higher education realm.

## **To the Graduands**

We know that, you would have preferred to be physically present for your graduation and have your parents, sponsors, guardians and classmates physically witness your graduation like your predecessors. However, tough problems require very innovative solutions, which justifies this virtual graduation. This new opportunity will allow you go out and compete as you are supposed to without any delays. As a University, we have therefore

created opportunities for you to go out there and compete in the global environment, get into the world to work and change it for the better.

Therefore, receive my warm and hearty congratulations upon your graduation. Great thanks to the parents, guardians, sponsors and all those who have made a contribution to your success at KIU.

I wish you all the best in the next chapter of your life. Have blessed celebrations and to emphasize, Covid-19 is still with us; sanitize, wear you masks and wash your hands in order to prevent the further spread of this pandemic.

**Prof. Fred Wabwire Mangen**

*Chairperson, KIU University Council.*