

JUSTICE BAMUGEMEREIRE ADVISES GRADUANDS ON LIFE AFTER UNIVERSITY

BY HENRY NSUBUGA

The chairperson to the commission of inquiry into land matters, Catherine Bamugemereire, has challenged the 1,234 graduands from Uganda Christian University (UCU) to get ready to move out of the comfort zone and face the reality in the outside world.

Bamugemereire was on Friday presiding over UCU's 20th graduation ceremony, which had 661 male students (54%) and 573 female students (46%) graduate with diplomas, degrees and masters.

At least 38 students, including 21 females, got first class degrees.

Bamugemereire said while many of the graduands until now lived a quite fortified, protected and highly programmed lifestyle arranged by their parents and the academic environments, time had come for them to start their own life.

"You will, therefore, start making lifestyle decisions, but my question is: Can you survive outside your parental and university bubble?" she asked.

She said days of many jobs for a few graduates are no more and that today the job market is over supplied. Bamugemereire said this



John Semakula, a senior writer with New Vision (left) John Kakande, the editor New Vision and his daughter Dinah Nambi after the graduation on Friday

requires them to use their best skills to make choices that are innovative and can enable them to earn a descent and honest lifestyle.

She also lashed out at Ugandans who have a dependency syndrome and are always saying "*Twagala gavumenti etuyambe*" literally meaning, "We want the Government to help us."

"We do not expect UCU graduates to join that chorus and crowd. Abraham Lincoln stated that the best way to predict your future is to create

it. You also need to know that the graduation is not the end, but the beginning of an entirely new dimension of growth."

Bamugemereire said while Uganda faces the challenges of unemployment, the scarcity of employable people persists, adding that the market is not just looking for doers, but people who can do things right.

She said making key decisions in life such as fearing God, saying no to corruption, performing with



The Archbishop Stanley Ntagali waving to the people after the graduation. Second-right is Justice Bamugemereire

diligence and passion all tasks assigned to her and looking out for the weak and vulnerable are some of the pillars that have made her what she is today.

The Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, Stanley Ntagali, who is UCU's chancellor, warned the graduands to always guard themselves against materialism.

Ntagali urged them to work to uplift others rather than stepping on others to grow their own wealth.

"Start small and grow slowly, as you are able. Where possible, team up with your

peers to generate wealth. What you fail to do alone may be possible with others," he counselled.

UCU's vice-chancellor, the Rev. Can. Dr John Senyonyi, said Uganda She Cranes player, Ruth Aturo, was among the graduands with a diploma in business administration.

New Vision senior writer John Semakula was among the five students who graduated with master of arts in journalism and media studies.

Frank Obonyo, UCU's public relations manager, graduated with a master of literature. Among the jubilant parents

who saw their children out of the university with flying colours was *New Vision* editor John Kakande, whose daughter Dinah Nambi graduated with a bachelor of laws.

However, as the rest of the graduands were celebrating, Irene Amuno, who got a first class degree in divinity and theology, was on clutches. Amunu said a month to the graduation she got an accident in Kitgum.

"Though I am in pain, I am grateful to God that I am still alive to also witness this success unto my life," she said.

PHOTOS BY HENRY NSUBUGA