

BISHOP STUART UNIVERSITY

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OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT & ADDRESS AT THE 17TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 6TH MAY, 2022

SALUTATIONS

The Guest of Honour, The President of the Republic of Uganda,
The Chancellor, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Fred Sheldon Mwesigwa,
Emeritus Bishops, Former Chancellors & Board of Trustees,
The Council Chairperson, Prof. Kenneth Kagame & Members,
Honourable Ministers & Members of Parliament,
Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments & Agencies-NCHE, MOES, HESFB,
Vice-Chancellors and Heads of Institutions, Development Partners,
Members of the University Senate and SMT,
Distinguished Political & Religious Leaders,
Distinguished Invited Guests in your various capacities,
BSU Staff Members, Alumni of BSU, Partners, service providers,
BSU Guild President Mr. Emma Behangana, GRC, Students,
Media fraternity and all Friends and Well-wishers,
Beloved Graduands, Parents, Guardians and Sponsors,
Ladies and gentlemen.

A. WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION

Praise the Almighty God! On behalf of Bishop Stuart University (BSU) and on my own behalf, it is my great honour to welcome you all to our 17th Graduation Ceremony today. Our Guest of Honour, H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Tibuhaburwa, the President of the Republic of Uganda, we warmly welcome you to BSU. Your visionary leadership has made BSU to be one of the outstanding Chartered Private Christian-based University in Uganda and beyond. In academic excellence, we globally groom entrepreneurial, transformative leaders and operators. As a fast growing University, BSU strives to be a giant in innovations and action-based research for the fulfilment of Uganda's *Vision 2040*.

Bishop Stuart University started twenty years ago in 2002, it was Chartered in October 2014 and it has since then grown in leaps and bounds, making steady progress and gaining visible growth, a remarkable reputation and a sound public image.

May I take this opportunity to appreciate our parents, the Ankole Diocese; the Founding Chancellor, Retired Jaaja Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Elisha Kyamugambi; the Founding Chair of

Council, Prof. Elly Sabiiti, the Founding Legal Advisor, Prof. Ambassador Francis Butagira, and their distinguished Maamas who have done a wonderful job in nurturing us over the years. Our gritudes are extended to the former Vice-Chancellors: the late Prof. Enoch Rukare, and Prof. Jossy Bibangambah and to all our Staff, Alumni, Synod and Council members for the work well done. We extend our special appreciation to our Chancellor, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Fred Sheldon Mwesigwa for his fast-tracking and implementation of innovative ideas that have transformed the Diocese and the University.

B. GRADUATION STATISTICS

Bishop Stuart University (BSU), for this 17th Graduation Ceremony, a total of **1772** graduands will be awarded degrees and diplomas and certificates in various disciplines. Of these, **02** will receive PhDs which is a clear testimony of our growth in research capacities. **Masters (20); PGDs (57); Degrees (1145); Diplomas (501) and Certificates (47). The females are (840) 47.4% and males (932) 52.6% Graduands.** Note that these are almost evenly balanced. The national and BSU policies promote equitable access to higher education for the girl child is a revelation being fulfilled. We congratulate all our Graduands inclusive PhDs, and Master's Degrees in various disciplines today. Your hard work is a demonstration of our journey to becoming an innovations and research-led university. Congratulations!

C. CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Our Guest of Honour and invited Guests, Bishop Stuart University has undergone major transformation in the twenty years since 2002. Biblically, a youth at age of 20 years is mature enough to be appointed to lead others as revealed in **Ezra 3:8** which says: “.... **the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, [were appointed] to set forward the work of the house of the Lord**”. BSU boasts of having produced over **18,000** graduates in various disciplines, inclusive of today's graduands, a majority of whom are serving the nation both in the private and public sectors. Liberalisation of education is your "**Art Piece**" to show to the world. Support to the Girl Child has been our contribution to this fundamental gender empowerment paradigm shift! We are sure you have not been disappointed by your stay at BSU. We shall keep the candle burning! And you shall be the **Forerunners and an Icon** to the world.

Your Excellency, BSU today is proud to be counted among the key contributors towards the economic and social transformation of our country, Uganda, the Pearl of Africa. We have made a tremendous contribution in the Education sector in general and great progress in research over the past years, **but we must do more!** Currently, Africa accounts for only 2% of generation of new knowledge even though it contributes 20% of the world's population. What a paradox! We need more PhDs and we must have more support for the “**Higher Education Research and Innovation Fund**” to bridge this knowledge gap. That is why at BSU Council resolved that **every PhD student from BSU should graduate after publishing 2 articles and every Masters graduate should have published one article in a refereed Journal.** All these postgraduate students have made publications if you google their names right now. The journey is still long but we are determined to walk all the way to our destination as we implement our Graduate Handbook, Strategic Plan 2020/2025 and NDPIII and Uganda Vision 2040. BSU will be found present on roll calling as a Christian University with a clear Vision “**To be a Leading University of Recreating Society with Entrepreneurship, Academic Excellence and Christian Values.**” Almost all districts, banks, schools, private sector in western Uganda, have our Alumni who are doing well. What a joy!

In the last 20 years, BSU BOT, Council and Management organs have been at the helm of efficient and transparent leadership and improved service delivery, thrusting the university

from the lower category into a world class Institution of higher education that we are proud of and shall continue to promote to greater heights. ***I'm grateful to God that for eight (08) of these years as the Vice Chancellor, I have been among the champions and vision bearers of this great rise and tremendous recognition!***

Celebrations will be held to pay tribute to all people of Uganda and beyond who have helped build the University to its current prestigious position as one of the best and fastest growing universities in Uganda and the Great Lakes region. In the World of work, especially the different private organizations and government agencies where our alumni live and work, we are well ranked in discipline, hard work, behavior and good character formation.

We have also grown in terms of student enrolment from **200** students in 2002 to currently over **5,000** students. BSU has **05 Faculties** namely: Business, Economics, and Governance (BEG); Agriculture, Environmental Science & Technology (FAEST); Education, Arts & Media Studies (FEAMS); Nursing & Health Sciences (NHS) and Law (FOL). These all constitute **14 departments**. We also have a Directorate of Graduate Studies, Research and Innovations (DGSRI) which coordinates postgraduate programs and a Directorate of Quality Assurance (DQA).

D. REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS REGISTERED

1. BSU Webometrics Ranking

BSU webometrics ranking have tremendously improved from over 20s to 10s and we are working hard to ensure we go to single digits in all Universities in Uganda. We also ranked No. 6 of all private universities in Uganda, we are on the right track!

2. BSU Covid-19 Lockdown Experience

We thank God for the favour He has bestowed on us as BSU. Covid-19 pandemic did not bring us down, we only failed to pay salary in June to September 2020, but the second lockdown found us prepared to ran our courses online and we continued paying full salary 2021 inclusive the 13th Cheque and never defaulted paying our mandatory obligations like NSSF and PAYE. This was due to efficient management of resources by Top management headed by the Vice Chancellor and good governance by BSU Council Chaired by Prof. Kenneth Kagame, Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Keren A. Kabeho; Prof. Charles Kazooba Chair, Committee of Finance Planning and Properties (COFPP); Prof. Elly Sabiiti, Chair, Committee of Appointments and Staff Welfare (COASW); Hon. Dr. Medard Bitekyerezo, Chair, Committee of Audit Risk Management (COARM); Venerable Rev. Denis Kizinduka, Chair, Committee of Discipline and Student Affairs (CODSA); Dr. Kedrace Turyagyenda (Government Representative to BSU Council) and all esteemed council members. We thank you heartily and Thank God for protection.

3. Adoption of Emergency ODeL and VLE

BSU Council, Management and Staff embraced VLE (**Virtual Learning Environment-online teaching**) and emergency ODeL. This was a **big animal to kill** but we did with the help of **NICHE, Prof. Mary Okwakol** and your team. We thank you immensely for your great support to Universities and Uganda Education sector. We thank **Maama Janet Kataaha Museveni**, First Lady, for the several meetings she held with us universities to ensure continuity. It was tough but God prevailed over. Today is the first Post Covid-19 graduation as BSU. We appreciate learners and parents for the support and accepting to study online. Know that no challenge will beat you the fact that Covid-19 did not collapse you our graduates! We thank, service providers **NITA-U, Free 55 zoom accounts, RENU, free data; MTN, Zero-rating; Airtel.**

4. Commissioning of the Faculty of Nursing & Health Sciences (NHS) Teaching & Administration Block

The building which cost **Ugx. 2,106,026,273** from internally generated funds was completed and commissioned by H.E. Rtd. Maj. Jessica Alupo, The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda. Our Nursing academic programme, which Your Excellency historically urged BSU to start training distinguished nurses. Your Excellency, on a happy note, our students have excelled and exhibited professionalism wherever they have been deployed, both in government and in private health facilities. Some of them are in Mulago, on World Health Organisation and abroad. Even at the onset of Covid-19 in March 2020, our nurses were among those who were deployed in the Grade B Entebbe Hospital and in Mbarara Regional Hospital that managed Covid-19.

5. UNIMEB Examinations Centre Number for NURSING Training & Exams

We are also glad to report to you that Uganda Nurses and Mid Wives Examinations Board approved BSU as an Examination Centre in 2019. This is an indicator that BSU has matched the expectations of the regulator which gives a niche to our graduate nurses in the job market. **We train the best nurses** & Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH) trains and provides extended internships. Directors, MRRH can attest to this, inclusive Dr. Celestine Barigye.

6. Academic Excellence of BSU Law Students & Masters of Laws (LLM)

BSU School of Law was ranked the **2nd in the country** and some of our students have always excelled as the best in the country at the **Law Development Centre** and we are among the youngest and fast growing Law Schools in the country. To prove our growth and worth, our **Masters of Laws programme (LLM)** has been accredited by National Council for Higher Education with effect from 14th March 2022 to commence in next Academic Year 2022/2023.

7. Academic Programme Accreditation- PhD in Religion and Modernity

The National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) recently accredited our PhD in Religion and Modernity, effective in Academic Year 2022/2023. We call upon Church leaders and others from other religions to come and study at BSU. The course is all-embracing.

8. UBTEB Centre for Science based Diplomas in Engineering, Agriculture and Catering

We have embraced **5** Diploma programs accredited by Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB). UBTEB is our springboard to Engineering & Technology courses.

9. Journalism and Mass Communication

Today, we are also graduating our first cohort of Journalism and Mass Communication cohort. We have been able to put a studio in place where practical lessons for our students are conducted.

10. Research Ethics Committee (REC) Accreditation

BSU has been granted accreditation of Research Ethics Committee (REC) by Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST). REC activities will henceforth be open to BSU students, staff and any other researchers; local, national and international. This will go a long way in improving research and publication to foster new knowledge.

11. Staff Development and Capacity Building

Bishop Stuart University has a partnership with Regional Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) under which many staff members have been supported to pursue

further studies at Masters and PhD level. To date, ten (10) staff members have been supported under this programme. Great thanks to Prof. Adipala Ekwamu and our partners in Government & Private Universities and other agencies and distinguished persons, namely: Prof. Banarbas Nawangwe, VC Makerere University; Prof. Celestine Obua, VC Mbarara University of Science Technology (MUST); Prof. Elly Katunguka, VC Kyambogo University; Prof. Joy Kwesiga, VC Kabale University; Prof. Christine Dranzoa, VC Muni University; Prof. Aaron Mushengyezi, VC Uganda Christian University (UCU); Prof. Wasswa Balunywa, Principal Makerere Business School, (MUBS); Prof. Kyamanywa, VC Uganda Martyrs University (UMU); Prof. George Openjuru VC, Gulu University. We also appreciate Prof. William Bazeyo for Innovations and Dr. Bitature, the Promoter of Innovations. We are very grateful for your stimulating support and encouragement for academic growth of BSU.

12. BSU Gratuity Scheme

The University also has a gratuity scheme which supports staff to pursue their academic careers using their savings. This is all aimed at ensuring that our staff are trained and empowered to handle the demands of dynamic academia in the 21st Century.

13. BSU & TWU Canada, Establishment of FAR Centre

BSU in collaboration with Trinity Western University (TWU) Canada established a Facilitated Academic Resource (FAR) Learning Centre to house and support learning in Trinity Western University which was launched on 1st October 2021. The study programme commenced in May 2021/2022 with two post graduate programmes: Master of Arts in Leadership & Master of Arts in Education Leadership. Both programs were approved by NCHE. We appreciate TWU for their support for the FAR Centre that enabled us to start online classes with ease during onset of Covid-19. Our recovery was fast due to that external support, local networking and benchmarking. Thanks to Prof. John Mugisha, VC Cavendish University; Prof. K.M Mathew, VC ISBAT University; Prof. Jude Lubega, VC Nkumba University and others including Prof. Betty Ezati, Makerere; and Prof. Paul Birevu Muyinda of Makerere University. Currently the programme has attracted 7 students from Uganda.

14. BSU Excelled at RUFORUM Triennial Conference & 7th African Higher Education Week

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Maud Kamatenesi Mugisha and Dr. Rebecca Kalibwani - the Principal Investigator of the RUFORUM Entrepreneur-ship Challenge Program (RECAP) and Agribusiness Incubation at BSU; Mr. Hillary Nahurira, BSU incubate and Winner of the RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition in Africa 2021 attended the events at Palais des Congres de Cotonou, Benin, from 6th-10th December 2021. The ultimate aim of this first RUFORUM Triennial Conference and the 7th Higher Education Week was to accelerate Agricultural Transformation. Mr. Nahurira Hilary (BSU Alumni and Incubator) at the BSU Agribusiness Incubation Hub emerged the 4th out of 22 African Young Innovators in the whole of Africa and the 1st in Uganda.

15. 15th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting from 2nd to 6th December, 2019

BSU also participated in the exhibition and emerged the best exhibitor out of 121 African member Universities that participated in the exhibition during the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting and exhibition at University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

16. Participation in Annual Agriculture Awards by Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) UN

Our alumni Mr. Nahurira Hillary was recognised as the 3rd National Youth Champion in Agribusiness for his outstanding contribution towards the growth and development of the Agriculture Industry in Uganda.

17. Membership in Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)

We wish to inform you that BSU is now a member of Association of Commonwealth Universities. This is an indication that BSU is recognised as an International University.

18. State House Sponsored Students

We have been able to receive students on state house scholarship whose tuition has always been promptly paid to enable the financial operations of the University. Currently we have **19 sponsored students** for the Academic Year 2021/2022. We appreciate the Government of Uganda under your leadership, Your Excellency for such initiatives which are aimed at supporting children from vulnerable families to access higher education.

19. Higher Education Students Financing Board (HESFB)

We thank HESFB for the tremendous support that has seen many academically brilliant students from poor backgrounds access quality higher education. We thank the Executive Director HESFB and his team for the good work. Today a total number of **513 students** from our University have benefited from this scheme since 2015 and their tuition fees are being paid in time. In this academic year, 2021/2022, we received **85** HESFB students.

20. Medicinal Plants Project at Ethnobiology Laboratory

We have partnership with National Agricultural Research Organisation/WB (NARO-ZARDI, Mbarara); PHARMBIOTRAC; MUST; AVSI Say Project; Makerere University &GOU, Mak-RIF Projects; Uganda National Council for Science & Technology (UNSCT) and Frevasema Limited with Prof. G.W. Bazirake implementing essential oil crops commercialisation project. The project targets to establish an inclusive Out-growers scheme of the targeted aromatic crops, develop and incubate and commercialize essential oil based innovations and register respective patents with implementing partners. A demonstration-garden (10 acres) has been established at NARO-Mbarara ZARDI with aromatic crops like lemon grass, lemon eucalyptus, rosemary and lavender in addition to those in the mother garden at BSU. We also established a gene bank of some medicinal trees of Uganda with funding from PHARMBIOTRAC. This targets the conservation of not only endangered species of Uganda but also wild species of commercial importance that can be domesticated for commercialisation. Also an inclusive out growers scheme is to exchange knowledge and commercial skills between the communities, innovators and our students. The Lab was founded by Prof. Maud Kamatenesi Mugisha and has Laboratory Technologist Mr. Noah Waisindye (MPH).

21. Agribusiness & Ethnobotany Chair by Prof. Dr. Tumusiime Mutebile

We also acquired equipment from Prof. Tumusiime Mutebile, Former Governor, Bank of Uganda. Here, we engage in we have innovations in Agribusiness and Ethnobiology. Prof. Tumusiime Mutebile Contributed enormously to the establishment of BSU Library, establishment of the Agriculture and Agribusiness program. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws (*Honoris causa*) of BSU. . This year we lost our Hero in academia and development.

22. Greater Ankole Agricultural Exhibition at Kakyeka & the signing of an MOU with UDB

BSU participated in the exhibition from 21st-23rd February 2022 and signed the MOU with Uganda Development Bank (UDB), to cooperate in mandates of Research, Agri-business, Value Addition, and Entrepreneurship to Commercialization of our innovations to the market. We hope to see fruition of this MOU in the near future.

23. Agro-Studies Programme to Israel

BSU students are benefiting from the Israel Internship; a collaboration that was harnessed by the Government of Uganda under the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES). BSU annually sends Agriculture students to Israel for apprenticeship through the Agro Studies programme for skills development. Our students trained in Israel are now great entrepreneurs and they are self-employed all over the county which is great for community empowerment and development. A total number of **255 students** have benefitted from the programme since 2014. The BSU contingent has been highly commended for their diligence and our students have demonstrated a mindset change in transforming Agriculture in Uganda.

24. Signing of MOUs with Farmers' Cooperatives

BSU has signed MOUs with Farmers' Cooperatives in the country for the purpose of collaborating with them in areas that offer a program of study and work-based learning to provide students with real-life practical experiences where they can apply academic and technical skills to develop their employment capabilities and also for apprenticeship.

25. Infrastructural Developments

The University has also since made strides in infrastructural development. This includes, the Faculty of Business building renovation, **Faculty of Education ISSB Building was commissioned by Maama Janet Kataaha Museveni** in 2018, MOES; Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences which have been successfully completed and the construction of Science Research Laboratories and Library projects which is steadily ongoing. **AVSI donations**, we thank them for the Poultry unit, Zero-grazing unit, Silage banker and shed-net besides youth skilling. **NARO-World Bank for the Essential Oils Extraction Unit and Oil Production House. Prof. Tumusiime Mutebile, Equipment for Agribusiness & Nutri-medicinals** value addition.

26. Hosting the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO)

BSU hosted the Secretary General of the Pan African Women's Organisation delegation on 26th April, 2022 and Ms. Grace Kaboyo who is also the Presidential Advisor on Special Duties. The SG said that Africans need to unite and work as a team and promote humanity "**Obuntu**" on the African continent. She echoed PAWO support for Pan African Clubs, to provide internships and establish a Guild Commercial Center to mobilize funds and support the BSU Students' Guild activities.

27. BSU Public Lecture

BSU on 5th May, 2022 will hold a public lecture under the theme: "**Higher Education in Uganda's Growth and Management in Post Covid-19 Era**". The Guest Speaker will be Prof. John F. Mugisha, Vice Chancellor, Cavendish University and the discussant will be Mr. Mugumya Herbert, Senior Regional Director, Population Action International (PAI). This is a clear manifestation that BSU has metamorphosed into a classic 21st Century University that embraces change to meet the demands of this epoch in the Education Sector.

28. 7th BSU Mission and Exhibition Week Celebrations

BSU 7th Mission and Exhibition Week is scheduled for **12th – 19th June, 2022**. The purpose of this event is to not only showcase University innovations and achievements but also to promote the propagation of the Gospel of Christ in a holistic manner. Preparations are underway to ensure a successful event. I therefore take this opportunity to invite you to attend the celebrations and contribute to publications, innovations and exhibitions.

29. The 13th Inter-University Human Rights Competitions

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) conducts inter-university Human Rights competitions hosted by universities in Uganda on rotational basis. BSU was selected to host the competitions this year, following our performance as the 2nd Runners-up at the 12th FHRI

competitions that were held in Gulu University from 18th to 19th November, 2021. The competitions will take place from **20th to 21st June, 2022.**

30. Winners in Eastern Africa Universities Women's Games Competition

BSU participated in the Eastern Africa Universities Women's Games hosted by Busitema University from 15th-17th April, 2022. The University participated in football and emerged the best with a gold medal, Volleyball as champions with a gold medal, Wood ball as the second with a silver medal and Netball as the third with a bronze medal. Overall, we emerged the 3rd (2nd Runner up) for the Eastern Africa University Women Games 2022, henceforth qualifying to participate in the same games at United States International University Kenya in February, 2023.

31. Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) Projects

BSU is a Regional Centre for OWC who presented a tractor to us. However, we need a full set, with all the equipment and demonstration support of trained technicians and staff to fight the war of poverty in Western Uganda, "**The Food Basket of Uganda.**" We, therefore, request for support so as to step up our University Farm activities to include food processing and value addition as well as job creation.

32. Government Programs on Job Creation

Our BSU programs are on high demand and are focused on community needs and solving problems of development such as Animal Health and Production, Community Development and Education, among others. BSU alumni comprise the critical number of officers in Western region, such as production officers, social workers, Community Development Officers and Agriculture Extension Officers, accountants, NGO workers, farm managers, principle farmers, great Teachers, Head Teachers, Tutors & Principals, Inspectors of Schools nurses and health workers and political, opinion, and civic leaders in society who are contributing to the growth of our country.

33. Rev. Kamujanduzi Award of Academic Excellence

Hon. Justice Kenneth Kakuru offered an award to the best student of Bachelor of Theology in memory of his late father, Rev. Kamujanduzi. The award is presented on the day of graduation effective from the 15th graduation in 2019. The first winner of the award was Ven. Rev. Atuhaire Patrick who is now the Archdeacon of Kanywamaizi Archdeaconry, Ankole Diocese. He was the overall best student in Bachelor of Theology with a CGPA of 4.67. The year 2021 virtual graduation will be awarded and both got first Class 2021, namely (i) Atwebembeire Amon CGPA 4.53 and (ii) Tunanukye Boaz CGPA 4.45.

34. Signing MOUs for Research and Development

BSU signed Memoranda of Understanding with Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), Muni University for research in various areas and development of HEIs in Uganda.

35. Corporate Social Responsibility

The University values giving back to the community as a means of improving livelihoods and making a contribution to the development of our society, as follows: free Medical Health Camps and mobile clinics; aided and supported construction of the houses for vulnerable families; construction and refurbishment of a Health Centre II now to be HCIII at Rwakishakizi, Mbarara City South Division; painting of zebra crossings in Mbarara City; dialogue and conflict settlement through provision of Legal Aid clinics by Faculty of Law; support with relief materials for disaster stricken areas and refugee camps in Bududa, Kisoro, Kasese, Nakivale, Rwamwanja; relief items during the Covid-19 lockdowns; supporting church

projects; preaching the Gospel of Christ; supporting needy and talented students under the Games and Sports scheme, work and study, Alumni and the Chancellor's Scholarships; exhibitions, Discipline and Christian values drivers; etc.

BSU APPEAL TO OUR GUEST OF HONOUR

We thank Your Excellency for all that you have done for us and also request for more support from you. In particular, permit me to mention the following:

1. **Support of Science Lecturers:** Your Excellency, since you really support us with Government students under the Loan Scheme HESFB and State House Scholarships, similar support towards postgraduate studies for BSU lecturers will bear much fruit in skilling Uganda.
2. **Construction of Science and Research Laboratories:** The construction of Science and Research Laboratories is ongoing. We have received **2,990,689,918Bn** on the 2011 Presidential Pledge and we await the outstanding **4,347,310,082Bn**. Your Excellency, the balance of the pledge will enable us complete the complete the project, conduct advanced research and start more high-tech degrees in Sciences and Engineering as per the laboratory design.
3. **Parish/Village Development Model:** a BSU node to coordinate in Agribusiness innovations, Nutri-medicinal plants & products and Technology would be ideal.
4. **Staff SACCO Support and Boost:** Your Excellency, we request for **UGX two Billion** financial support to our staff SACCO to improve our livelihoods. We promise you that we shall innovate. "The mother of innovations is the needs gap."
5. **Meritorious Awards:** Your Excellency, our fallen hero, Governor Prof. Dr. Tumusiime Mutebile, who BSU honoured with *Honoris Causa* Honorary Doctorate of Laws). The Agribusiness and Ethnobotany Chair created by him needs your support to perform its roles and continue his Legacy in the development of Uganda. "**Heros don't die, rather they get transformed and live on in action.**"
6. **Construction of the Sports Complex:** The construction of the sports complex at BSU stopped with the clearing of the grounds. We pray that it meets your benevolent support in promoting sports and athletics in the Region and in Uganda as a whole for this venture which will enhance competitive sports.
7. **Construction of BSU Road and Taxes compliance:** We requested Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) to support us to tarmac our University Road Network. BSU is one of the biggest and compliant Tax Payers in Mbarara City. We pay on **average UGX 1.4 Bn/Yr** and in the last four years we have **paid 5.8 Bn** in PAYE. BSU is among the **top ten tax payers in the Education institutions in Uganda** and under the Medium Tax Payers transferred to Head Office. Also, BSU on average pays over UGX 54 million per month to NSSF and in the last **four years, paid UGX 2.6 Bn** and we are the among the top 5 contributors to the NSSF Fund in Mbarara. We also deduct withholding taxes (WHT) of behalf of Government for the supplies/service providers of BSU and remit to URA. We have always promptly remitted our tax obligations to URA. It is therefore our humble request that the University Road network is tarmacked to improve **its aesthetics and accessibility**.
8. **Recognition and Security in HEIs:** Your Excellency, **the role of foot soldiers with no guns** but who are determined to mentor, promote good discipline, wholly support Government programs and uphold our country's dignity, deserve your recognition. We are the "**unsung heroes**" as we groom leaders in academic institutions and especially in Higher Education Institutions and young Leaders' dialogues. It is a mammoth task:

promoting National peace, security, unity in purpose and keeping focused on academia, is mouthful workload. The National security agencies, RDCs, RCCs, DPCs, DISOs, etc, are witnesses to our sleepless nights as we work together for the good of our motherland.

E. A WORD TO OUR DEAR GRADUANDS

Our Esteemed Graduands, we congratulate you once again, your parents, guardians/ sponsors upon this noble achievement. Bravo! Bravo!

We have trained you to be critical thinkers, entrepreneurs with integrity, a work force that is ready to face the world of work, please work hard, be Godly, resilient and focused. You will succeed!

For the Masters and PhDs, the word to you is that, potentially, you are global citizens. Hence, go and change the situation in Africa! Provide noble skills to Uganda, the Africa we want and Universe to the Glory of God! Be reminded of our theme for 2022 which is our **Core Value No. 3: Pursuit of Knowledge and ingenuity** derived from 2 Corinthians 9: 6-9 which says: **“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.....having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”** Go and sow generously, God will give you blessings at harvest time. **BSU@20years Wawoo! You are great Leaders and Supervisors!**

F. VOTE OF THANKS

1. Our special thanks go to our Guest of Honour, the President of the Republic of Uganda, for honouring our invitation and gracing our 17th Graduation Ceremony
2. Our sincere thanks to our Chancellor, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Fred Sheldon Mwesigwa for his far-sighted leadership and for constituting the 17th BSU Graduation Ceremony. You have done a wonderful job.
3. Chairperson Council, Prof. Kenneth Kagame and all members of the University Council. Thank you for your wise leadership.
4. Thank you all BSU students’ parents/guardians and sponsors: HESFB, State House, Father Bash Foundation, Madhvani Foundation, Juna Amagara Ministries, Compassion who assisted projects, Rose Marie and Darly Kingston from Canada and all our partners.
5. We appreciate all our Government & Development Partners; AVSI, RUFORUM, UNCST, WB, MOES, NCHE for their incessant support.
6. We appreciate all members of Staff (Academic, Administrative & Support) and Management for the Job well done.
7. The Guild Leadership and the entire students’ body for the good discipline. Keep BSU’s good brand supreme and globally recognized.

Finally, on behalf of Bishop Stuart University and on my own behalf, I thank and give praise to the Good Lord who has made it possible for us to prepare and successfully conclude this 17th Graduation Ceremony. Thank you and God bless you!

Our God Reigns! For God and my Country!

**Prof. Maud Kamatenesi - Mugisha (PhD)
Vice Chancellor (BSU)**