

BISHOP STUART UNIVERSITY:

SPEECH OF THE GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW CHANCELLOR OF BISHOP STUART UNIVERSITY – 8/12/2007

The Bishop of Ankole Diocese and Chairman of Board of Trustees of Bishop Stuart University

Rt. Rev. Dr. George Tibesigwa

Members of the Board of Trustees, BSU

The out-going Chancellor of Bishop Stuart University Rt. Rev. Bishop Elisha Kyamugambi

Members of the Ankole Diocesan Council

Chairperson and Members of BSU Council

The Vice Chancellor

Vice Chancellors or Representatives of other Universities

Members of Parliament

Political and Administrative leaders from Ankole Districts

Religious leaders

Civic Leaders

Staff and students of BSU

Invited distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we greet and welcome you all to Bishop Stuart University and to a function that is a new milestone in the Development of Bishop Stuart University and in the achievements of Ankole Diocese and the Province of the Anglican Church of Uganda as a whole.

Today's function is twofold. It is the installation of a new Chancellor and the handing over of the outgoing Chancellor of BSU. All of us want to thank God for the vision he gave to the outgoing Chancellor and the team that worked with him to establish Bishop Stuart University. For a University to reach this stage of development, there are hurdles that committed people like the Rt. Rev. Elisha Kyamugambi must have passed through. We thank you Bishop Kyamugambi for your commitment, courage and leadership initiative. May the Lord reward you.

Today, we praise God for the New Chancellor The Rt. Rev. Dr. George Tibesigwa. It is a great responsibility for you Bishop George, to ensure that the progress of BSU continues. May the Lord bless you as you ensure this and lead to even bigger achievements. There is no doubt that God chose you, and you have all the support and blessings from him, and from all of us.

TODAY'S THEME: "THE ESSENCE OF EDUCATION"

Today's theme is the Essence of Education. It is important therefore, that **we**, the beneficiaries of education, understand **what** education is all about. What is the "Essence of Education"?

First, education is primarily the acquiring of knowledge through the accumulation of information and facts. But the Essence of Education is the ability to **interpret** that information and those facts, **sieve** them, and **relevantly apply** them to our own situation. There is such a thing as an irrelevant education!

Secondly, the Essence of education is the ability, on the part of the educated to put difficult concepts in the easiest language and terms that even children and simple minded people can understand them. An educated person is **not** one who has acquired a lot of knowledge through the accumulation of facts and so tries to impress people with it. We call such a **learned** person. But an educated person is one **who**, not only has acquired knowledge, but is also able to pass it on to others relevantly and in the simplest ways.

Finally, my observation through the years is that education **without virtue** is dangerous. Giving knowledge to someone who is morally bankrupt is as bad as giving a gun to a mad person. That is why it is important that in our educational system we should always emphasize the twin van-guards of education i.e Academic Excellence and Moral Uprightness. We badly need these **two** for the proper development of our nation.

Unfortunately, however, there is a tendency these days in many of our institutions in this Country where Academic Excellence or Professionalism is emphasized more, at the expense of moral uprightness. And so, we can and have recruited and employed someone academically or professionally qualified but whose moral standard is wanting. And if we continue to do so our nation is likely to continue wallowing in corruption, poverty, and backwardness. As American President Abraham Lincoln always said, "A nation is as good or as bad, as strong or as weak, as its families and schools (educational system) are. If a nation is led by academically qualified but morally bankrupt people, that nation cannot endure for long. Why? Because moral decadence in any nation is a sure foundation for the collapse of that nation.

Therefore in our academic institutions such as Bishop Stuart University we need to lay equal emphasis on both Academic Excellence and Virtue.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Diocese of Ankole for the practical implementation of Education as a priority service. I thank the Diocesan Council and the entire synod for the smooth governance of BSU. I also thank the BSU Council for the good governance and representation of the foundation Body. Last but not least I thank the Vice Chancellor and his staff for their practical implementation. Bishop Stuart University is what it is because of able and clean management of the implementing staff under the leadership of the Vice Chancellor – Prof. Jossy Bibangambah.

The students and the entire BSU Community greatly affect the name of the University. I must thank the students for what they are today and ask them to put their University on the map by doing the right thing at the right time in the right way.

Finally, I wish to thank the government of the Republic of Uganda for the policy of privatization of Education which allowed the Diocese of Ankole to establish a University under the control and supervision of the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) that has licensed the operation of Bishop Stuart University since June 2006. The stakeholders should tirelessly work for a Charter.

We praise God for the Diocese of Ankole and the Province of the Anglican Church of Uganda as a whole for implementing education as a priority service for the Christians.

**FOR GOD AND OUR COUNTRY
AMEN**

Rt Rev Edward B. Muhima PhD