

## **Executive Director's Message – 2021 Graduation**

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The year 2020 saw the re-set of the global operating system following the rapidly spreading Covid-19 pandemic which challenges many orthodoxies about many aspects of life and left many ruins in the financial, psycho-social, logistical and multiple other domains of many people. It significantly disrupted the study and career opportunities of many learners, including in many well regarded universities across the globe.

That today we are seeing another cohort of our students graduating is a huge moment to pause and reflect, celebrate and, especially, to pay tribute to this heroic outcome of the hard work and commitment of our resilient students, staff, sponsors and partners across the board. We cannot but celebrate you, our graduands, because you have completed your studies through a very exceptional triumph that involved many unique experiences and examinations that pressure-tested your mind, body and spirit, given the extraordinary environment.

The theme of this year's Graduation; ***“Technology-enabled Learning, Innovation and Growth”***, typifies Cavendish University Uganda's (CUU) leadership in Technology and Innovation in Uganda's higher education space. The past year saw our university setting the pace by holding the **01<sup>st</sup> ever Virtual Graduation in Uganda**, and becoming **one of the very first Universities in Uganda to be approved to conduct online teaching** by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), all on account of the Covid-19 lockdown. CUU quickly followed this by being **one of the first institutions to secure approval to conduct online exams** and proceeding to baffle planners, administrators, lecturers and students alike with the quality and speed of execution, the result of the steadfast teamwork of the CUU community. During the past year, our university has demonstrated its agility and ability to innovate, upgrade, adapt and systematise digital education, building on existing platforms, study content, and digital veteran staff to meet the evolving needs and aspirations of current and future students.

In the past year, our university, and especially our students, continued to stand out and to establish themselves as key influencers of tomorrow's agenda. One of our Master of Laws students, Ms. Pheona Nabaasa Wall was elected President of the Uganda Law Society (ULS), an association which is at the helm of promoting justice, rule of law and good governance in Uganda. Only recently, Cavendish University Uganda was voted the **Best Private University in Uganda** at the **2020/2021 Consumers Choice Awards** taking the **Gold Award**. This is the second time that our university wins this same award, the first time having been for the year 2019. This award recognises brands in the Private Sector that consistently deliver a high level of service to their customers by exemplifying integrity and professionalism.

To our Graduands, you leave us now to join a world which is undergoing a much more dramatic transition than that seen by your parents, on account of the confluence of multiple disruptive forces – a number of which would rank among the greatest changes the world has ever seen. Compared with the Industrial Revolution, it is estimated that the current change is happening 10 times faster and at 300 times the scale, that is to say, 3,000 times the impact. Urbanisation, technological change, aging and global connectedness - movements in capital, people, and information (data and communication), are trends that are gaining strength, magnitude, and influence as they interact with, coincide with, and feed upon one another in ways that will significantly

disrupt long-established patterns in virtually every sector of the world economy and every aspect of our lives. I hope that your ***Cavendish Experience*** has enriched you culturally and professionally and inspired you to become ***Employable, Entrepreneurial and Ethical Leaders*** and that Cavendish has built you to be dynamic in your assumptions, tendencies and habits, behaviours that you will find very important in succeeding in your future workplaces. **Congratulations and best wishes in your new paths!**

In a special way, I wish to welcome our new **University Chancellor, H.E. Dr Goodluck Jonathan, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**. We look forward to his leadership in inspiring our students to reach their full potential.

**David Mutabanura**

**Executive Director**