

SPEECH BY THE 13TH CUU GUILD PRESIDENT (26 AUGUST 2021)

Good morning to you all. The opportunity to stand before this noble gathering could not bring with it more delight. It is my first time to address such an audience, this convocation, and henceforth, I should be very organized with my life; lest, it should also be the last.

The Guest of Honour today, the Chancellor, the Chairman University Council, the Vice-Chancellor, the Executive Director, Our university staff, all today's dignified guests, the 2021 graduating class, student leaders and fellow students, ladies and gentlemen (both here and those following virtually). On behalf of the Cavendish University Uganda (CUU) student body, I welcome all of you to the third CUU Chancellor installation and tenth graduation. And it is with the sincerest esteem that I take the rare opportunity to welcome our dear new Chancellor, His Excellency, Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, former Head of State and fourteenth President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Your Excellency, it livens our spirits to have you present with us today and as yours is always a Transformative Agenda, we are all eager to listen to you as you break it down for us.

CUU is a leading student-centric and technologically oriented university in Uganda. It is the best private university and continues to soar high even in these turbulent times occasioned by the coronavirus pandemic. It was the only university that never shut down its activities even once when education was shut down. One morning we were regular (on-campus) students and the next morning we were long distance (off-campus) students. Such was the seamless transition to the new normal of teaching and learning and this culminated in the first-ever and historical virtual and scientific graduation in East Africa, more or less similar to the present one. Such events are now the norm and the count has long been lost. I am proud to note that the CUU Academic Model has proved to be one of the future times, if not the current, and so the present graduates today did not lose a single semester to delay the normal completion of their respective studies. They are prepared for the technology-driven world and they should compete favourably in the job market.

CUU is a cosmopolitan institution with students from nearly all over the African continent and I should note that the Chancellor's fellow countrymen and women make a significant population. The fact is not so much surprising because Nigeria is also the most populous

in Africa. CUU students are therefore appreciative of a multi-cultured society and here, it is unity in diversity. We students are very proud to go to CUU and count ourselves chanced to have for our Chancellors, great Pan-African patriarchs. For the graduating classes, whose academic awards shall be conferred on them by Your Excellency, it will be a rare blessing indeed to sip from your cup of wisdom as they go out into the world. Again, I should be the most attentive and hardworking, for as a student leader, I am going to listen to you today and next year, and as a graduate, the year after next year. What accountability I will have to make after those three sips from your cup of knowledge!

In conclusion, CUU students are excited to host you today and have you as our Chancellor. I only stand here to represent the rest in saying, Your Excellency, Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, you are most welcome to Cavendish University Uganda. In the same breath, we thank Maama Patience Jonathan who came with you today. We are proud to be counted her children. Indeed, success begins at Cavendish! Thank you for listening to me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Blessed Atwine Mugisha', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

BLESSED ATWINE MUGISHA

13TH CUU GUILD PRESIDENT