

RECTOR'S SPEECH



AT THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS CEREMONY OF THE

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN UGANDA

HELD AT IUIU MAIN CAMPUS, MBALE

SATURDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018

Our dear Chief Guest, The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Hon. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi representing H. E. The President of the Republic of Uganda,

Hon. Vice Chairman of NRM, Alhaji Moses Kigongo,

Your Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Alsebil, the University Council Chairman,

Rt. Hon. Ally Kirunda Kivejinja, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Affairs & Vice Chairman of the University Council,

Your Excellency Ambassador Muhammad Naeem Khan, Assistant Secretary General (S&T) of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC),

Traditional Leaders,

Honorable Ministers,

Honorable Members of the University Council

Your Excellencies, the Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Your Eminencies the Religious Leaders,

Honorable Members of the various University Council Committees,

Honorable members of Parliament,

The Resident District Commissioners,

My Colleagues the Vice Chancellors of Sister Universities,

The Local Leaders,

Staff of the Islamic University in Uganda,

Alumni and students of the Islamic University in Uganda,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7/Assalaam Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

First of all, we thank Allah (SW) for enabling us to congregate here to celebrate 30 years of the existence of the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU).

Dear Chief Guest, and all of you our distinguished guests, we welcome you to IUIU and thank you very much for coming to celebrate with us IUIU's 30 years of

service to humanity. Your presence is a great honour to IUIU. We pray to Allah to reward each one of you most appropriately.

At moment like this, one cannot help but remember with a sense of deep appreciation the role of the founding fathers of IUIU. In particular, The Late King Faisal bin Abdullaziz Al Saudi of Saudi Arabia, President Zia Al Haq of Pakistan and the late President Idi Amin Dada of Uganda for the critical role they prayed at the initial and early stages of founding of IUIU in the 1970s.

**Dear Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today, 30 years ago, the narrative of university education in Uganda was changed forever. Until then, going to a University in Uganda meant going to Makerere University – Uganda’s oldest University established in 1922. If one missed admission at Makerere University, that person would mostly likely not ever have a University Education. All that changed on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1988 when IUIU opened its doors to the first group of 80 students – all of whom had missed admission at Makerere University.

Established by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), with the cooperation and support of the Uganda Government, the IUIU started on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1988 with 80 students and two degree programmes. There were many challenges and a lot of sceptism. Many people actually did not expect IUIU to survive to see its first birth day. Indeed the odds were and have been very many.

**BUT** Alhamdulillah, during the last 30 long but short years, IUIU has not only survived, but has also grown and developed to the level of International recognition. Permit me to highlight some of the salient achievements during the last 30 years of IUIU.

1. The University has survived, grown and developed.
2. The number of students has grown from 80 in 1988 to now 8,612 (4,522 (52.50%) males, 4090 (47.50%) Females).
3. The number of Faculties has increased from 2 in 1988 to now 7 plus a Centre for Post Graduate Programmes and a Remedial Studies bridging for students who come from countries that do not have the “A” level system of education.
4. Academic programmes have increased from 2 in 1988 to now 70 offered in 25 departments.

5. Campuses have increased from 1 in 1988 to now 4 plus two study centres.
6. The nationalities of students have increased from 1 in 1988 to now 23.
7. The nationalities of staff have increased from one in 1988 to now 8 plus visiting professors from other countries.
8. The University has graduated 25,000 students who are serving in different capacities in both the Public and Private sectors. Some are Ministers, Members of parliament, Civil Servants academicians, heads of institutions, etc. In Uganda, the Minister of State for East African Affairs Hon. Julius Wandera is an Alumnus of IUIU. Rwanda and Gambia have also had ministers who are IUIU Alumni. Many others have become successful entrepreneurs. Indeed, IUIU graduates are found all over the world.
9. The physical facilities of the University have significantly increased.
10. The University has won many awards, the latest one being voted as the Best Visionary Religious University in Uganda in 2017.
11. Trained over 1000 master graduates and over 50 Ph.D holders in different disciplines.
12. Carried out hundreds of community activities including the following:
  - a) with support from Doctors Worldwide of Turkey, Medical surgical caravans at Kibuli Muslim Hospital and Gombe Hospital at which 250 sick and poor Ugandans of all faiths and gender, suffering from hernia were operated and treated free of charge.
  - b) Medical eye caravans carried out in Iganga, Mbale, Busia, Arua and Lira Districts and which 520 blind Ugandans were operated of cataracts and treated free and give their sight back. An additional 3,000 people with sight difficulties were given free eye glasses. With support from the new Council Chairman and his friends in Saudi Arabia, a new round of giving free eye glasses is about to begin. Ultimately, we hope to give out 10,000 pairs of eye glasses to those who need them.
  - c) Hepatitis B Immunisation in Koboko District – 3,000 Ugandans were immunized against Hepatitis B virus in 2016.
  - d) Weekly Immunisation of children within Mbale District. Thousands of

children in the communities around IUIU have so far been immunized.

- e) Constructed a house for one poor lady and another one for a poor man in Mbale.
- f) Constructed a three – classroom block in Ongara – Bukedea District.
- g) Leadership training workshops for Muslim Leaders in Palisa, Budaka, Lango Region, Karamoja Region, and Isingiro District.
- h) Offered scholarships to hundreds of needy students.
- i) With support from SENA Foundation of Turkey, the University has established at IUIU Females’ Campus a free training course in Tailoring for females who are orphans, school dropouts or widows. Already 111 girls have graduated and currently are enrolled in the Tailoring programme at the Females’ Campus at Kabojja.
- j) Helped many poor Muslims to perform Hajj.
- k) supported seven groups in Koboko to carry out income generating projects which was significantly helped their families.
- l) With support from the Inter health Alliance of USA, distributed solar panels to rural schools in many districts of Uganda.

13. Established many international links which have helped the University to improve its services. In a globalised world, International linkages are very critical. IUIU is a member of many International Organisations such as Association of Commonwealth Universities, Federation of Universities of Muslim World, Association of African Universities, etc. It also has memorandum of Understanding with many Universities.

14. Trained over 209 teachers for the State of Sokoto of Nigeria under a special programme. In addition, another group of 40 students from Sokoto State have been trained in various fields. I am very much delighted to report that Senator Aliyu Magatakarrda Wammako, the former Governor of Sokoto State under whose wise leadership this programme began, has blessed this occasion with his presence. Thank you very much Senator Wammako.

Currently, we have students sponsored by Sokoto State and Kaduna State in the Medical School and other faculties.

15. Trained over 150 teachers for Somalia to help them rebuild their education sector.
16. Many others that time does not permit to.

Dear Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Institutional building is not an easy thing. Like everything else in life, there are challenges and opportunities. The strategy of Management over the years was to capitalize on every opportunity that Allah presented to IUIU, and not to allow the temporary challenges to derail the University from its vision. This took a lot of dedication, focus, sacrifice and personal perseverance from all the stakeholders of the IUIU, especially the staff and the students. At this stage, I wish to recognise and thank the staff of IUIU over the years for work and sacrifices made to keep IUIU going and developing. Thank you very much. Please give them a big clap.

We also thank the current students and Alumni for their cooperation discipline and understanding. Students are the key stakeholders in any academic institutions. We are proud of our students and alumni for their discipline, hard work and focus.

The University has enjoyed a lot of support and assistance from the Government of Uganda, especially from H.E. The President of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Without the personal support of H.E. The President and his Government IUIU, would not be able to do much. We are most grateful.

The University has also enjoyed the grate support of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for many years since 1976. We are grateful.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has been very supportive of IUIU. Many academic staff have been seconded to IUIU over the years. At this occasion, we have a contingent of 12 TAC volunteers academic staff who arrived this week from Nigeria. Another group of 18 is expected next week. We are grateful to the Government of Nigeria- "**The Heart Beat of Africa**" as they call themselves.

Further, the Republic of Turkey has also been very supportive of IUIU in various ways through Doctors Worldwide, TIKA, SENA Foundation, SESRIC, IZMIK etc. We are very grateful.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has also been seconding staff to IUIU through Al – Azhar University. We are most grateful.

I wish to thank the OIC General Secretariat for the continuous support to IUIU. The Secretary Generals and Assistant Secretary Generals over the years have been very supportive and helpful. In a special way, I wish to thank the current OIC Assistant Secretary General, (S&T) Ambassador Muhammad Naeem Khan, who has personally visited IUIU more than the others before him, and he has made IUIU matters one of his top priorities. Thank you very much Your Excellency.

The Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) of the OIC is the greatest contributor of grant funds to IUIU since its establishment. Without the valuable financial and material support of the ISF, life at IUIU would be very difficult. Thank you very much ISF.

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has been very critical in the development of IUIU facilities. We thank IDB for the great support.

The International Charitable Organisation (IICO) of Kuwait, Iqraa Foundation of Jeddah, ISESCO, WAMY, IIIT, Direct Aid / African Muslim Agency, Munadhamat Al –Dawa Al- Islamiyah, SESRIC, and all the other organizations and institutions are thanked for the great support.

We thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Sports, and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda for the valuable and continuous support to IUIU.

We thank the people of Mbale, Kibuli, Kabojja and Arua for their support to the IUIU Campuses. Thank you very much.

We thank Prince Kassim Nakibinge Kakungulu and the Young Men Muslim Association (YMMA) for the great support extended to IUIU KC and the University generally.

We are grateful to Kibuli Muslim Hospital and Masaka Regional Referral Hospital for the support extended to the IUIU Habib Medical School. We thank the University of Lahore and the Habib Family for assisting us to start the Medical School.

We thank all the institutions, organizations and individuals who, in one way or the other, have contributed to the IUIU. May Allah bless and reward you all most appropriately.

Dear Chief Guest, and all of you our distinguished guests,

As part of the celebrations of the last 30 years of IUIU's service to humanity, we had several activities. These included blood donation, fundraising marathon for buying a Hematology Analyser machine for Nakaloke Health Centre III estimated to cost US\$ 10,000=, cleaning of Mbale Town, Quran competitions, lunch for the IUIU Alumni, exhibition, etc. We are grateful to all those who participated in these events. In a special way, we want to than Africell, Movit, NSSF, various media houses especially Step TV & Radio, Open Gate, NBS, Salam TV, UBC TV Pearl FM, Voice of Africa FM, IUIU FM, etc for the support.

### **Future plans:**

As we move to the next 30 years, IUIU will focus more on Science and Technology programmes. We plan to start the following programmes:

- BSC. Nursing August 2018
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science August 2018
- Bachelor of Public Health August 2018
- Mater of Information Technology August 2018
- Ph.D in Education August 2018
- BIT – online August 2018

With support from IDB and Uganda Government, funds may soon be available to establish a Faculty of Engineering and technology in the next 2-3 years insh'Allah.

Despite the achievements listed herein, the University still facing some challenges which require your financial and material support. We need lecture rooms, Halls of Residence, staff houses etc.

Finally thank you all for coming to celebrate with IUIU. Some outstanding contributors to IUIU will be recognised today. Others may be reconised in November, 2018. We thank them all and congratulate them. But we want more.

I thank all those who have participated in making this function a success. Thank you very much.

May Allah take all of you safely back home.

Assalaam Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabaraktuh.

Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo  
**RECTORp**