



UNIVERSITY OF KISUBI

In Virtue We Educate
Office of the Vice-Chancellor

UNIVERSITY OF KISUBI

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH

At the

Family Day Celebration to Mark the Receipt of the Charter

Held on Saturday, February 2024

Protocol:

Msgr Lawrence Ssemusu, the Main Celebrant,

Br Casio Aizire, Chancellor of the University of Kisubi & Provincial Superior

The Chairman and Members of the Registered Trustees of the Uganda BCI,

Dr Karungi Charlotte Mafumbo, the Chairperson and Members of the University Council;

The Senate and fellow staff members;

Sr Dr Speranza Namusis, President of ARU & Mother General of the SMR, Gogonya

Religious Leaders at various levels

Mrs Mildred Ssentooogo

Head of Sister Institutions

Former Council members and staff,

Donors, Partners and Special Guests;

Alumni

The Guild President, your Administration and students of the University of Kisubi;

The Media Fraternity;

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good evening

This evening, we gather to thank God for His graciousness to us as the UniK family. God has been gracious to us by enabling us to get Chartered. While praising and thanking God, we celebrate, jubilate, and have fun in the spirit of UniK's Vision and Mission. The Chartering process has been a long and gruesome exercise, but at the same time, it is a learning process that has enabled us to comprehend how to run and operate a university worthy of its name. Several people have played significant roles since its inception to the acquisition of the Charter.

The UniK's journey started on 15th August 2004 with the signing the MOU between the Registered Trustees of the Uganda Brothers of Christian Instruction and UMU leading to the establishment of a Center of Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) at Kisubi. At this stage, the people who played a significant role were Br Barigye Vincent, the Provincial Superior then and his Council; Br Mubiru Tibyasa, the Chair of the Registered Trustees of the Uganda Brothers of Christian Instruction; Br Prof Yiga Andrew, Br Byaruhanga Aloysius Amooti; Br Mugema Deogratias and late Br Kasendwa Henry. Br Barigye Vincent led the Brothers team that negotiated with the Management of UMU, led by its Vice-Chancellor Prof Michel Lejeune. We are grateful to our founders for dreaming big and ensuring that the dream came to see the light of the day.

The Charter application is an arduous process, which involves several activities, including but not limited to applications, presentations, visitations, and inspections to verify the assertions and when NCHE is satisfied that the University meets the minimum requirements for the award of the Charter, it recommends the institution to be awarded a Charter by President. But before the President assents to the Charter, the Attorney General must scrutinize the Charter to ensure that it complies with the Constitution and other laws of the land. Once satisfied, the Attorney General clears the Charter to be presented through the Ministry of Education and Sports to the President for his approval. After the approval, the Charter is handed over to the University, and a copy is gazetted. Your University has successfully gone through the Chartering process.

Br Chancellor, Chairman of the Registered Trustee of the Uganda Brothers of Christian Instruction, Msgr Lawrence, ladies and gentlemen

We have the Charter! UniK now is a Chartered University!

Congratulations, UniK Family; Congratulations to the Registered Trustees and the Brothers of Christian Instruction; the University Chancellor, the Council, the Senate; the current and former staff members; the Alumni, and the Guild President, and your Government and the current students.

Congratulations to the Catholic Church in Uganda because now the Church has a second chartered university after Umu.

We have waited for a long time, and it has been a gruelling journey, but it has been worth the wait and effort expended because of the great learning and the honour the Charter bestows on our University. The Charter is the highest accreditation a private University can receive in Uganda. It empowers the institution to offer all academic awards, including doctoral programs. The academic qualifications of a Chartered institution rank pari-passu as those of any public University and are globally acceptable.

Special Appreciation

We thank His Excellence, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda, for liberalizing university education and approving our Charter. A special mention goes to the Minister of Education and Sports and our regulator, the National Council for Higher Education, for guiding us through the chartering process.

Br Barigye Vincent, who reawakened the idea of starting a University at Kisubi, and the following Brs Yiga Andrew, Mubiru Tibyasa, Aloysius Byaruhanga, Mugema Deogratias and Kasendwa Henry, who negotiated with UCU to start the University at Kisubi. Thank you for being foresighted.

Br Francis Blouin, the first Principal who organized the university in its initial stages and taught the rest of the Brothers how to operate an institution of higher learning. His wisdom, generosity and servant leadership endeared him with many students and staff alike. We are equally grateful to the American Brothers of Christian Instruction for allowing Br Francis to come to Uganda and serve our institution in addition to the financial assistance to the young university.

We are grateful to Kampala Archdiocese for, among several offers and support, leasing the land on which UniK is standing to the Registered Trustees of the Uganda Brothers of Christian Instruction;

We thank Uganda Martyrs University leadership, including Prof Michel Lejeune, Prof Charles Olwenyi and Prof Patrick Kyamanywa, who have worked with UniK and the Brothers of Christian Instruction in the establishment of this University.

In the same vein, we are grateful to Walsh University for supporting the University of Kisubi in various ways including staff development, academic program development, teaching and joint offering.

The various institutions we collaborate with funding partners, especially Porticus, have made tremendous contributions to UniK's growth and development.

The Council members under the several Chairpersons, starting with Hon. John Ntimba, of happy memory, Prof John Ddumba Ssentamu and Dr Karungi Charlotte Mafumbo for the oversight, insight and foresight roles played to guide this young institution to this level. Getting UniK chartered means that you have played your roles well.

The University's leaders since its inception: Br Dr Francis Blouin (RIP); Br Dr Luwerekera Bernard, Prof John Panacaras Ssebuwufu and the humble servant, Br Dr Deogratias Mugema for leading UniK to get Chartered. The Management team for the countless hours spent in and outside the Boardroom. The teamwork exhibited has made a significant contribution to this achievement.

The Senators who have steered the University's academic life during the Chartering process. Thank you for a job well done

We appreciate the current and former staff members' contributions in various ways. Your patience as we muscled the resources and sacrifices made in the process are laudable. You are a true family.

The Alumni, current students and your leadership since the inception of this institution, thank you for not only espousing UniK as your University but also ensuring that you stand tall to be counted in all academic and non-academic spheres. In particular, your leaders have been focused, and mature. Your presentation to the NCHE verification team was exemplary and impressive. Special mention goes to UniK's first Guild female president, Ms Nanyanzi Maltina Grace, who led the students during the Charter verification exercise. The long wait for your University to get Chartered is over. UniK is now a Chartered University.

Now that we are a Chartered University, the bar has been raised high, and we must get reinvigorated to defend our new status. The Trustees now own a Chartered University; the

Council members and Management are leaders of a Chartered Institution; the staff are now employees of a Chartered University; and the students are studying in a Chartered University. We are thus all challenged to rise up to the occasion, act, serve, behave and conduct ourselves as per our new status. We are now playing in the major or premier league. We must never be found wanting! We must judiciously guard our Charter.

Long live UniK

In Virtue, We Educate

For God and my Country

Br Dr Deogratias Mugema

Vice-Chancellor of a Chartered University