

# **BUGEMA UNIVERSITY**

## **STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS 2022**

**APRIL 2022**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the 2022 State of the University Address.

I would like to begin my remarks today with a message of deep gratitude.

Before I get to that, I request that we all stand up and observe a moment of silence for the demise of right honorable Jacob Oloulanyah who was the speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and number three of this country.

May the good Lord comfort his family and his excellence the president of the Republic of Uganda.

At the same time, we wish to congratulate Hon. Annita Annet Among upon being elected the speaker of parliament of Uganda.

To our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends—to all who comprise the University of Bugema community: thank you. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for your tireless work and perseverance. Thank you for your extraordinary service.

This academic year, like the one before it, was challenging for our university. We celebrated the arrival of vaccines in Uganda, and we felt hope and renewal as the pandemic

improved. Yet, amid our progress, new variants of COVID such as the delta variant that confronted us and claimed a number of lives of our people, including one of our council members prof. Noble Banadda and then the latest omicron variant that had threatened us with another closure but God saved us from it.

When I look back on the past 12 months—a year with no shortage of obstacles—a clear and compelling story emerges: a story of a community bound by a deep sense of purpose, driven by an unyielding commitment to a shared mission.

This commitment led us to confront the worst of the pandemic, summoning the best of who we are in pursuit of a noble calling. And it propelled our university to exceptional achievements. This made Bugema University to come out as one of the leading Universities in using online learning in Uganda, and it is this that has enabled us to hold two virtual graduations— a remarkable achievement no other University has been able to do.

Today, let's look back on this difficult yet remarkable year, a year when the traits that define Bugema.

University of fortitude, commitment, and steadfast devotion to excellence in service—were once again on full display. Then, let's cast our eyes ahead and consider how we can shape a bright, boundless future for Bugema University

## AN OUTSTANDING YEAR FORGED BY UNYIELDING COMMITMENT

Attracted by our world-class learning environment and facilities Bugema University attracted the first ever high numbers in the nursing certificate. Our enrollment has come closer to where it was before COVID-19 outbreak, with a record number of over 2800 students now enrolled for all course across board.

### Sports

We celebrated tremendous sports achievements and in a special way we want to recognise these outstanding special sports personalities and these include;

Joan Najjuma who won the national wood ball female competition and thus a gold winner in this sport.

Mr. Musiima Isaac our footballer who was the leading scorer in the recently concluded Buganda masaza cup.

The nine footballers who also participated in the Masaza cup.

The two footballers who have been called to super division due to their outstanding performance.

The current football team generally for being the best in discipline among all we have ever had.

And lastly on football allow me recognize our first football captain Kagoda Charles for being exemplary and organized.

We also have had our first strong female football team and two of our players have been called to the under 20 national football team.

Our national volley ball team for being the table leaders in the serie C national football league and with a very big potential for qualifying for serie C if it wins its next play off match and the subsequent tier match.

And finally allow me recognize the personalities who have been behind this achievement.

These are coach Medi for football

Coach Ssemakula Mukiibi for woodball

Coach Paul for volley ball.

## **Health services**

Our health facility that has been operating at health Centre 111 level is being elevated to a fully-fledged hospital. To be a hospital, this means this health facility is providing specialized treatment for inpatient (or overnight) stays, it has specialized doctors in a number of areas and offer services in a number of areas which include the following, Dental services, Ward/ Indoor facility services, Physiotherapy services, paediatric services, maternity services, Laboratory services, general medical services, Radiology services, two operating theatres and thus surgical doctors that carry out operations with very good improvement doctors that offer these services. It is

against this background that I tell you, you should not hesitate visiting it when you get sick.

Although it is moving in this direction, a few things are yet to be worked on, for it to be fully operational at this level and these include the following;

- Getting all competent personnel required
- Putting in place a mortuary
- Working on ethics to govern staff

### **DIARY FARM AND CROP**

Our dairy farm has also continued to grow stronger modernized from time to time. Recently we were able to add more high breed animals to bolster our milk production and we are planning to add more.

We have planted pastures and animal feeds for these animals.

The crop farm is also doing quite well with increased yield in bananas, sweet potato, and other crops. We now also most fully depend on this farm for the matooke we use here.

Other development projects started

Food and nutrition students started making food and nutrition related products as part of their studies and these included; Juice making,

Started bee keeping with support from RUFORUM

Started mushroom gardening

Started Rice growing

We have finalized plans to start rearing in house goats and structures to undertake this project are already in place, only about to buy goats to put in.

Making of cosmetics

Changed and improved on horticultural production by growing some horticultural crops in green houses.

### **Capital projects**

We advanced several capital projects over the last year.

Constructed a perimeter wall around the side of the small gate and a gate was installed in that area

Rehabilitated three staff houses

BUSA has constructed a gym at the sports ground

A surfing Centre at the department of agriculture

a powerful router, from a 2900 series to a 4300 series was bought due to the fact there was an overwhelming number of users on the internet thus the Cisco border router available no longer had the power to sustain the traffic pushed through it.

the University increased access and connectivity. The internet access bandwidth increased to 1.3Gbps, from 1.00 Gbps the previous year.

Tracing Alumni (Tracer Studies 2016–2019)

The Quality Assurance Directorate carried out Tracer Studies to find where students who completed from Bugema University are. Various tools were used to accomplish this work.

At the end of this exercise, a total of 1051 Alumni were reached using the following means;

### **Academic programs**

New programs accredited and these included

Phd programs in the following areas were started;

PhD in rural development

PhD in environmental management

PhD in educational management

PhD in

Other programs

Bachelor of Science in Food Technology and Human Nutrition

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture

Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Innovation and Management

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences

Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry

Bachelor of Science in Statistics

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PERFORMANCE**

In the past one year, we further established BU as a civic University, cementing our identity as a university of the people in our surroundings. Our community ties provided opportunities for service delivery, research and teaching. Our community activities continued to provide a valuable relationship with the community.

The school of business started a program of supporting communities by giving them basic knowledge in banking and financial management.

The department of social work and social administration also started on a community program where they offer counselling services to community members.

With support from RUFORUM, the department of agriculture in the school of nature sciences has been involved in promoting agriculture in our communities by

offering high quality seeds to farmers, training them in good agricultural practices and buying the farmers produce.

Bugema University vocational school has for some time been offering technical and vocational skills training to people in the community at the school, in Kalagala parish, Kalagala sub-county in Luweero District and again in Bidi Bidi refugee camp in partnership with ADRA Uganda and Y-Global.

### **Making it possible for all students to acquire education at the heart of everything we do.**

Bugema University has been at the fore front of making it possible for our students who may be disadvantaged to acquire education at Bugema.

This, we have been doing by giving full and half bursaries to these students through the work program. A total of 151 Students is now enrolled under this program

We have also been offering full and half bursaries to outstanding sports personalities and a total of 62 Students are on this program.

### **TURN AROUND STRATEGY**

The university has embarked on a turn around strategy where we are to committed to refocus on our organizational culture.

Among the key issues in our organizational culture are the issues outlined in the student's handbook which have to be observed strictly as laid include;

Dress code – Bugema students have been known for decent dressing and we are going to ensure this is further respected by always advising our students to dress decently as this helps to ensure they are respected in the community.

### Others to be put here

Bugema University has had a very clear and well-defined calendar of events which are drawn many years before they occur. We are moving back to observing this calendar of events which is always in our bulletins.

Some of the critical events include critical deadlines we are supposed to adhere to, we are going to continue observing these deadlines as laid down and some of these include the following;

Registration, once this is set, we shall strictly observe it and deadline for registration for this semester is 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Other deadlines include the following;

Submission of course outlines by lecturers

Submission of exams

Modulation of exams

Marking exams and submission of grades

Modulations of grades

Clearance for graduation

**Our future plans and programs**

**The University has developed a niche, the basis upon which it has to be known and this is agricultural sciences.**

Yet, of all our accomplishments in 2021–2022, I am most grateful for how we came together to enrich and elevate our community. Throughout the year, we were able to maintain our normal study programs despite the prevailing condition of COVID–19.

## **BOUNDLESS POSSIBILITIES**

When we look back on the year ending and consider these many accomplishments—representing historic success across every facet of our mission—the picture is clear: The state of our university is strong. In the year ahead, as our nation and world seek to move beyond the pandemic into a brighter tomorrow, how can we make Bugema University even stronger?

Today, I am announcing several measures that firmly answer that question.

- Bugema University is committed to supporting and advancing the work of the University by maintaining a solid framework of fundraising, relationship building, and financial management. This is expected to be accomplished through a number of measures which include the following;
- Hosting an annual event to raise funds, recognize outstanding faculty and alumni, and providing networking opportunities for school deans, trustees, and higher education, corporate and political leaders,
- Seeking corporate partners to provide scholarships to students on our campuses,
- Establishing and managing a Bugema University Real Estate Foundation to facilitate financing of capital improvement projects at Bugema University.
- Managing the finances of Bugema University program funds and private grant awards held in the Foundation.
- Building and strengthening a strong and devoted alumni and friends to stand behind all of our accomplishments