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AFRU FIRST GRADUATION AFTER BEING CHARTERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA

AFRICA RENEWAL UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2025: A Day of Achievement and Promises.



Africa Renewal University proudly marked a significant milestone with the celebration of its 6th Graduation Ceremony, Held on 28th March 2025 at Africa Renewal University Celebration Ground, in Buloba, along Mityana Road, a day filled with joy, pride, and reflection. The event brought together graduates, faculty, family members, and esteemed guests to honor the academic achievements and hard work of the Class of 2025. The ceremony was a powerful reminder of the university's commitment to excellence in education and the bright future that lies ahead for its graduates. This year's convocation highlighted not only the personal accomplishments of our students but also the steady growth and evolving legacy of our institution.



AfRU Chancellor Calls on Graduates to Embrace Education as a Tool for Societal Transformation



Rev. Peter J. Kasirivu (Chancellor), urged graduates to see education not just as a personal achievement but as a divine tool to transform society. Under the theme “The Power of Education in Changing Society”, Rev. Kasirivu emphasized the lasting impact of education, quoting global icons like Nelson

Mandela and Malcolm X. “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world,” he said, echoing Mandela’s famous words. The Chancellor highlighted education’s role in reducing poverty, promoting health, and spurring national

He drew attention to the low rate of tertiary education in Sub-Saharan Africa only 6% and challenged Christians to value education, occupy leadership spaces, and influence culture for God. Using Uganda’s Muslim

community as a case study, Rev. Kasirivu illustrated how deliberate investment in education led to significant growth in leadership and business. “They decided to change their story through education,” he noted.

He also called for respect for the teaching profession and celebrated AfRU’s newly established School of Education. “Teachers are nation builders. If we want to shape the future, we must shape the educators,” he said. The Chancellor concluded by urging graduates to be culture-changers, influence systems with Godly values, and be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves” in a world that may not always embrace open faith.

“You don’t need a pulpit to preach. Let your life be the sermon,” he said



Graduates paying attention to the Chancellor while addressing them at the Graduation ceremony

Bishop Simon Peter Emiau Urges Graduates to Embrace Stewardship Amidst Uganda's Challenges and Opportunities

In thought-provoking sermon, Bishop Simon Peter Emiau delivered a timely message centered on resilience, opportunity, and responsible leadership during times of challenges at the recent AFRU-graduation ceremony. His address, titled “Every Beginning Marks an End”, touched on Uganda’s current socio-political challenges, while offering a hopeful outlook on the nation’s future—particularly through the lens of education.

Speaking to a congregation of graduates and dignitaries, Bishop Simon Peter Emiau emphasized that while Uganda grapples with corruption, greed, land grabbing, unemployment, and political unrest, it is also a land brimming with opportunity. “Amidst all these negative things, there are great opportunities,” he said. *“Education helps us not only look at one side of the coin.”*



Bishop Simon Peter Emiau
addressing the Graduates

In closing, the Bishop Simon Peter Emiau shifted focus to the theme of stewardship, encouraging the graduates to take responsibility for their lives, communities, and country.

“The way people endure circumstances like walking through heavy rains to get to work is a sign that we are progressing,” he noted. *“Let us be good stewards of what we have.”*

The sermon was a call to action an invitation to see beyond hardship, embrace opportunity, and build a better Uganda through knowledge, responsibility, and vision.

“You Are Africa’s Hope”

AfRU Vice Chancellor says”



Dr. Vincent Byamukama (Vice Chancellor Africa Renewal University) *addressing the class of 2025.*

Vice Chancellor Dr. Vincent Byamukama welcomed dignitaries and guests with a message grounded in faith, gratitude, and purpose. He reminded graduates that their education is not simply for personal

advancement, but a sacred calling to serve others. “You are uniquely positioned to be the change-makers Africa needs,” Dr. Byamukama said. “Let your light shine, and may your work bring glory to God and trans-

formation to our continent.” The Vice Chancellor also highlighted major achievements for the university, including:

— Award of the University Charter in March 2024.

— Accreditation of the university's first PhD in Leadership and three new master's programs.

— A leap in academic output with 35 research publications, ranking AfRU #62 in Sub-Saharan Africa.

— Groundbreaking for a new School of Film, Media, and Creative Arts, backed by a \$500,000 grant.

— Significant ICT upgrades, infrastructure development, and expanded community outreach across Uganda.

He paid special tribute to Cornerstone Church West Los Angeles for their decade-long partnership, which has led to scholarships, improved hostels, vocational training spaces, and lasting impact on student lives.



Closing with a biblical charge from 1 Samuel 7:12, Dr. Byamukama declared, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." He called on graduates to serve with excellence, compassion, and courage, responding to Africa's challenges with faith and leadership.

Awarding of Degrees: A Milestone Achieved

The most awaited moment of the ceremony came when the graduates were called forward to receive their degrees. The ceremony was filled with cheers and applause as students walked across the stage, shaking hands with faculty and receiving their diplomas. This marked the end of their time at ARU and the beginning of the next chapter in their lives

The graduates hailed from various departments, including Business Administration, Education, Social Sciences, Health Sciences, and Theology, representing the university's diverse academic spectrum.



Student walked with a smile shaking hands with the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Invited Guest Of Honor.

A Moment to Remember: The Joy of Reunion



Captured in this moment: the pure joy, excitement, and triumph shared among family and friends as they celebrate overcoming challenges and savoring their hard-earned victories together

As the final notes of the graduation march echoed through the air, the ceremony gave way to something even more profound reunion. With caps tossed high and hearts even higher, graduates flooded the courtyard, their eyes scanning the crowd for familiar faces.

Tears mixed with laughter as families, friends, and mentors embraced some holding on a little longer, savoring the moment that marked not just an end, but a beautiful new beginning. Every hug, every smile, every photo captured a feeling no words could fully hold.

You could feel it in the air—an overwhelming mix of pride, relief, gratitude, and excitement. This wasn't just the end of a chapter; it was the beginning of countless new stories, written in the warmth of community and the bond of shared achievement.



A New Beginning

For the graduates of 2025, the journey does not end today. It marks the beginning of new opportunities, challenges, and responsibilities. Whether pursuing further studies, entering the workforce, or engaging in community service, each graduate now carries the pride of having been a part of Africa Renewal University's legacy of excellence.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025! The world awaits your contributions.

AfRU Chapel

A Midweek Oasis Transforming Lives at Africa Renewal University



Both staffs and students during wednesday chapel

Every Wednesday, the campus of Africa Renewal University (AfRU) comes alive with song, prayer, and powerful messages during the weekly AfRU Chapel service—a spiritual cornerstone of university life that has deeply impacted students both personally and academically.

Held in the university's main hall, the chapel gatherings are more than just a religious obligation—they are a vibrant expression of community, faith, and growth. The service typically features lively praise and

worship, led by talented student-led music teams, creating an atmosphere filled with energy, joy, and heartfelt reverence. “Chapel has become a space where I reconnect with God and regain strength for the rest of the week,” said Sharon, a second-year student. “It’s also helped me discover my gifts in worship leading.”

Each week, the chapel hosts a different preacher, drawing from faculty, guest pastors, and ministry leaders across Uganda. These sermons cover a wide range of topics—spiritual maturity, leadership, integrity, forgiveness, and purpose—tailored to encourage and equip students as they navigate both university life and future ministry or careers.

“The messages preached are timely and practical,” shared Brian, a theology student. “They’ve helped shape my

worldview and prepare me for life after graduation.”

Beyond worship and preaching, AfRU Chapel also serves as a platform for student testimonies, special prayers, and mentorship moments, fostering a culture of accountability, unity, and spiritual formation across the student body.

Faculty members emphasize that the chapel is an integral part of AfRU’s holistic approach to education, blending academic excellence with spiritual depth. “At AfRU, we believe in raising servant leaders grounded



in both knowledge and godly character. The chapel plays a vital role in that mission,” said one university chaplain.

As AfRU continues to grow, so does the influence of its midweek chapel—a steady rhythm in the lives of students, reminding them that faith is not just a subject studied, but a life lived.



AfRU Guild Premier League Kicks Off With Energy and Unity Across



A student participating in the AfRU Guild Premier League

The campus grounds of Africa Renewal University came alive with cheers, chants, and competitive spirit as the AfRU Guild Premier League officially kicked off on February 26th, 2025. The inter-course football tournament has since drawn students from across the university together in one of the most anticipated and unifying events of the semester.

Organized by the AfRU Guild leadership, the league features teams formed from different academic programs, including Theology, Education, Social Work, Information Technology, and more—each battling it out not just for bragging rights, but for the pride of their course.

“The aim of the league is not just competition, but building community and collaboration across departments,” said the AfRU Guild Sports Minister.

The opening matches set the tone with thrilling displays of talent and teamwork. The atmosphere on match days is electric, with fellow students lining the sidelines to support their teams, waving banners, and creating a festive environment that rivals any professional match.

“It’s exciting to see courses coming together like this,” said Daniel, a second-year student and player from the Education team. “We train, we strategize, and most of all—we connect.”





Students gathered to support their course playing during the match.

The league has also become a platform to spot hidden talent and promote leadership, as student team captains take charge of organizing practices, managing team dynamics, and even fostering sportsmanship on and off the pitch.

Beyond the goals and tackles, the Guild Premier League has highlighted the spirit of unity that defines the AfRU student body. Lecturers and staff have also shown

their support, occasionally joining the crowd to cheer on their respective faculties.

With more matches ahead, the competition is heating up, and anticipation is growing for the final showdown. But win or lose, one thing is clear: the AfRU Guild Premier League is more than a football tournament—it's a celebration of teamwork, talent, and togetherness.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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Deadline: **30th May 2025**

Send your applications to: ctashobya@af.ru.ac.ug

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Africa Renewal University