

# ANKOLE WESTERN UNIVERSITY

## CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

Beloved:

The value of education can never be overemphasized. As a diocese we cannot thank our forefathers enough for working so hard and putting up schools and institutions of which we are proud, and from which we have benefited immensely.

It is now our turn, and Ankole Western University is one of the opportunities we have to add to our fathers' legacy. The Lord is on our side, and I have no doubt that He is ready to bless our efforts.

### 1. Appreciation

First and foremost I give glory to God for His unfailing mercy and love. He is a faithful God. Thank you Lord! Thank you for founding Ankole Western University! Thank you for what you have done and for what you have in store for us!

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those through whom the Lord brought about this vision right from Bishop Emeritus Yoram Bamunoba, to Bishop William Magambo, and to Bishop Yona Katoneene. I thank them together with all those with whom they worked and served to grow the vision of a university to reality, despite all the challenges.

I heartily appreciate all the councils that have overseen this university from inception to date. Your efforts continue to pay off. Your sweat continues to yield. Your energy continues to bear fruit. Your dreams continue to be realized. Your seeds have sprouted. We thank you and give glory to God!

My sincere thanks also go to Rev. Dr. Mrs. Edidah Mujinya and the entire staff for their tireless efforts. It is on record that their struggle was not in vain. Up until the day AWIST transitioned to AWU, she and the council did a recommendable job and finished their lap on a high note, their other flaws and faults notwithstanding.

Thank you all of you the well-wishers, government officials, elders and stake holders, for contributing your thoughts, time and resources. Do much more, now that we are heading towards the charter!

### 2. The Task Before Us

The day we received the Provisional License yesterday, the Executive Director read conditions that are attached to it. We actually have a maximum of five years since then within which we should receive a charter. It is possible, however, to get it much earlier! It only depends on us. As long as we are zealous and coordinated, we shall soon qualify for it. With the new Vice Chancellor, whose enthusiasm I'm beginning to take note of, I am hopeful that it won't be long before we are invited on campus to receive it. May the Lord keep on our side.

### 3. What we need in order to achieve our set targets

What I require of all of us in order to grow and achieve our goals as West Ankole Diocese are the following:

#### a. Walking in love

I appeal to each one of you, friends from every corner of the diocese: love one another. Love is the greatest gift and it pleases God. Let us love and wish one another well. Let us exercise selflessness as we walk and work together in love. Love is patient. Love is kind. Love forgives. Love covers all kinds of wrong. Love builds it does not destroy.

#### b. Living in unity

We need to be united as West Ankole Diocese. Unity is power. Unity brings harmony. Unity generates teamwork and multiplies strength. As Paul urges the Ephesians, let us embrace one another, keeping the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. He further reminds us that "we were called to one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Eph. 4:1-6). We are all children of God. In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26-28).

Let us be one beloved. Together we can do much more. In unity we shall stand as a diocese and challenge the forces that intend to weaken us and put us down. Our productivity will increase as we all put together resources and knowledge to do better and more. Even in the economic language, business is numbers. Let us shun divisions of any and every kind and promote harmony in diversity.

Jesus warns, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand" (Mathew 12:25). Let us be one people under one Lord Jesus Christ. Let us join hands and work together for the beauty and development of West Ankole Diocese. Our unity will make West Ankole Diocese a model diocese. Our unity will give this university a firm foundation.

It will make it healthy and strong. Let us give no more room to discord and endless debates. It is now time to put the past on our back and get into motion for action.

c. Understanding what AWU is

This institution is a university. Let us not make a big mistake of localizing AWU by thinking that it belongs where it is located.

A university, by virtue of its nature, description and role, is a school for ALL. Ankole Western University is founded by West Ankole Diocese, its main campus is at Kabwohe, but it belongs to all. With that in mind, let us give it room to grow and expand.

d. Maintaining a healthy relationship with the Foundation Body

According to Wikipedia, universities were created in Italy and evolved from Cathedral schools for the clergy during the High Middle ages. It is possible to forget the essence of these roots, but a university is generally regarded as a formal institution that has its origin in the Medieval Christian setting. I urge you to keep this in mind and ensure a cordial relationship with the foundation the church.

For blessings, growth and stability, respect and protect this identity!

e. Refraining from Selfish Ambitions

In our efforts to grow as West Ankole Diocese, let us ask the Lord to keep us away from selfish and egocentric desires and aspirations.

As individuals, we should think in terms of what we can do for the university not what we can gain from it. A lecturer should not go to a lecture room because he or she wants a salary. Rather, because he or she wants students to learn - to get knowledge and skill and then later be given a salary. To a real teacher, a salary is an appreciation, not an incentive.

As Christians, and ethicists for that matter, we should not act as those who, because of selfish interests, end up not making objective decisions. Let us not allow our rationality to be conditioned and subjective. Such as those see something false, but because it will benefit them, they go against their God-given ethical prudence and end up making inappropriate decisions that in the course of time lead Christ's flock into confusion and turmoil. Let us serve His will not ours.

f. Following the standards

To ascertain a steady and solid growth as a university, endeavor to carry out your tasks in accordance with the set standards in terms of policies, statutes, and other substantive guidelines - provided those standards are legal and proper.

g. Caring about Quality

As a university, we should aim at excellence. Therefore we need people who know and can do what they are employed to do, but also who are able to do it well. Employ on merit and hold each employee accountable.

Also, be sure that you do not choke and smother our child through corrupt practices of fraud and favoritism.

Any form of corruption should be avoided. Nepotism, patronage and cronyism should not be given room at AWU.

Be objective in your decisions when it comes to bringing quality staff and workers on board.

Of course your relative or friend can be employed here, but the ground for entry should be characteristic of merit and verity.

h. Determining to Support AWU

We must each exercise our willingness to support this institution. We need thoughts, time and resources, and none of us has none.

So, begin thinking about what you will contribute to the growth of this university.

#### 4. A word to Students

Congratulations upon getting admitted to Ankole Western University. I urge you to work hard. In a few months you will be graduates!

You will enter the community to serve and exercise your knowledge and skills. Prepare to be good ambassadors of this university. Live to love and honor God, He will also honor you (1 Sam. 2:30). Plan to add value to the community to which you will be going. May you have an impact therein and live to leave a lasting legacy.

Above all, guard your lives. Stay away from sin and other vices lest they harm you and render you fruitless. Keep learning. Manage your time well, and exercise solid discipline. Later as an alumnus of this university, never forget her. With little or much, come back at one time and support her. I bless you and wish you fruitful lives.

#### 5. Conclusion

Once again, I thank God that we have Ankole Western University. May we all live to serve God in love and unity, as Ankole Western University continues to be the Light of the World!

To God be the glory!

Rt. Rev. Johnson Twinomujuni  
Chancellor/Bishop West AnkoleDiocese