



Speech by the Governor, Bank of Uganda at the Launch of the Ultimate University Quiz – Season 4 *September 10, 2026*

To our partners at Vision Group, Uganda Communications Commission, Uganda Revenue Authority, Capital Markets Authority, Turkish Airlines, Harris International Limited, and Parliament of Uganda; To our Vice Chancellors, Deans, and Guild leaders; And to the twenty university teams from across Uganda—from Kabale to Gulu, from Soroti to Kampala—**embodying the diversity and intellectual promise of our nation**: Good morning.

I extend my sincere greetings to you all and warmly welcome you to the Bank of Uganda (BoU) for the launch of the fourth season of the Ultimate University Quiz.

Sixty years ago, the BoU opened its doors with a mandate to safeguard this nation's currency and financial stability. Today, we reaffirm that a nation's true wealth is not only measured in shillings and reserves, but in the **minds we nurture and the knowledge we cultivate**. And unlike money, knowledge earns a kind of compound interest that has no ceiling—the more of it you spend, the more of it you keep.

That is why, for a fourth season, the BoU stands as platinum sponsor of this competition.

Let me be plain about why this matters. Uganda's economy grew by 6.4 percent in the last financial year, and we expect that to accelerate toward 7 to 7.5 percent in this one. Inflation has trended below our 5 percent target, near 4 percent in recent months. The shilling has remained stable amid very challenging global financial conditions. **None of this is accidental**. It is the product of thousands of decisions made by people trained to reason under pressure, weigh evidence, and hold their nerve when answers are unclear. These are the very skills this quiz demands—and the very skills that will drive Uganda's future prosperity.

This investment in young minds is especially critical in a country where **over 70 percent of the population is under 30**. As our financial sector evolves with

digital technologies, the need for a **financially literate, innovative, and adaptable population** has never been greater. The Ultimate University Quiz is one way we invest in that future.

So to the twenty teams before us—**representing every region of Uganda**—I offer three instructions, as seriously as any policy directive:

Ask boldly. The student who fears being wrong will never discover what is true. Every advance this continent has made—in finance, technology, or public health—began with someone willing to ask an inconvenient question.

Reason rigorously. Speed under the studio lights will win you points. But the habits you build here—checking assumptions, questioning instinct, and working with the evidence—will win you a career.

Build together. No team has ever won this quiz on the strength of one mind alone. Uganda’s future will not be built by one mind alone, either. It will take engineers listening to economists, regulators listening to innovators, and this BoU listening to you.

There is an old African proverb: *Knowledge is like a garden—if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.* Vision Group has marked that garden. Our sponsor-partners have fenced and watered it. But it is **you—students from every corner of Uganda—who must do the cultivating.**

To last season’s champions, Uganda Christian University, and to Ndejje and Busitema, who pushed them to their best: thank you for showing the country what is possible. To this year’s twenty universities: the trophy is real, and so is the prize behind it. But the **greater prize is what this competition will make of you**—sharper, bolder, and more useful to Uganda than you were this morning.

To all **students:** Embrace this competition as a platform for growth. Read widely. Ask bold questions. Use this quiz to sharpen your skills and prepare for leadership and service to Uganda. Go and be bold.

To **universities:** Your participation from every region strengthens our national intellectual community. Continue fostering environments where curiosity, collaboration, and excellence thrive.

To **employers and the private sector:** Invest in young talent through mentorship, internships, and practical exposure. Uganda’s demographic

advantage will only become an economic dividend if institutions open pathways for young people to apply their knowledge productively.

To **sponsors and partners**: Your support is not merely sponsorship—it is a **strategic investment in Uganda’s transformation**. Thank you for expanding this initiative’s impact. Thank you for your vision.

To **policymakers**: Let us strengthen programmes that connect education to employability, financial capability, and innovation. The challenges of youth unemployment and underemployment require coordinated action and long-term commitment.

To **all of us**: Let us make the Ultimate University Quiz more than a seasonal event. Let it become a **sustained national movement**—one that celebrates knowledge, promotes lifelong learning, and prepares young Ugandans to build the future they deserve. Let us continue investing in our greatest resource—our minds. They are, and will remain, this nation’s soundest currency.

It is therefore my honour to declare the Ultimate University Quiz Season Four **officially launched**.

Thank you for listening to me. God bless!