



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students of AKU

From: Dr. Sulaiman Shahabuddin

Date: September 5, 2025

Subject: **Message by President Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin to AKU Global Community on Kampala Campus Inauguration**

I am writing to you today with a deep sense of pride and immense excitement. We are on the cusp of a truly historic moment for our University. On September 11, 2025, we will officially launch our new campus in Kampala, Uganda, and commence construction of the new Aga Khan University Hospital, Kampala.

This is not just a new building or another project. It is a powerful and meaningful step forward in our shared mission. The land for the campus was generously provided by the Government of Uganda and funding for its construction was provided by our Founding Chancellor, generous donors and the Government of Germany's BMZ and KfW.

A central vision of both our Founding Chancellor, His Late Highness the Aga Khan IV and Ugandan President H.E Yoweri Museveni was that the Aga Khan University and its Hospital would create meaningful public and private partnerships. This is evident by the location of the new campus, which will allow us to engage with the local community and develop close working relationships for joint research, joint delivery of academic programmes and healthcare services. The campus will also be part of an integrated healthcare and education system of the Aga Khan Development Network in East Africa.

The new campus is stunning, featuring a seven-storey University Centre, a nine-storey student housing building and a four-storey ambulatory care building, the Nakawa Specialty Medical Centre. At full capacity, the University will be home to 100 faculty and 700 students – 164 of whom will be living full-time on campus in the new student housing building. We cannot wait to welcome the first cohort of the new four-year Bachelor of Nursing Science programme later this month. The upcoming 101-bed hospital will enable Ugandans to receive advanced care locally and train the healthcare specialists the country urgently needs.



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In Uganda, our alumni hold leadership positions in clinics, hospitals, schools, universities, media organizations and government. In addition to graduates of our degree and diploma programmes, more than 7,000 Ugandan educators, health professionals, journalists and communicators have gained new skills through our short courses and certificate programmes. This expansion will not only extend our reach but also provide greater access to education and healthcare for the people of Uganda and, more broadly, throughout East Africa.

To mark this milestone, we are honoured to have both the President of Uganda, His Excellency Hon. Yoweri Museveni, and our Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan, presiding over the ceremony. We are also delighted that Princess Zahra Aga Khan, the University's Pro-Chancellor, Prince Aly Muhammad and the First Lady of Uganda will also be present.

For those who can't be there in person, we want to ensure you don't miss a moment. We have arranged to livestream the ceremony for our global audience on AKU's [website](#), AKU Global [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, as well as [Ismaili TV](#). Livestream links and details on in-person viewing across our campus will also be announced soon.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has helped us reach this milestone moment. From the tireless work of our past and current leaders, projects and campus development teams, to the support of our faculty and staff, and to the generous donations of our supporters and partners, this project truly represents the power of collaboration and a shared commitment to our mission.

A few photos of the new campus are provided below for you to view and share in the excitement of this historic moment.

Thank you.



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Exterior view of the University Centre



Exterior view of the Student Housing Building



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Interior view of the Atrium, University Centre



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Interior View of the Students Residences



Aerial view of the Kampala Campus