



Reeta Roy: An impactful leader at the helm of the Mastercard Foundation

Ms Reeta Roy's recognition during Makerere University's 76th graduation ceremony stood as a testament to the profound impact of her leadership and the lives she has touched across the continent.

BY MONITOR REPORTER

During its 76th Graduation Ceremony, Makerere University awarded Ms Reeta Roy, the former President and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation, with an honorary doctor of laws (Honoris Causa) in recognition of her leadership in advancing equitable access to education and youth empowerment across Africa.

Speaking at the graduation, Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University, noted that Ms Roy was honoured for her humanitarian service and dedication to African youth.

"Today, the Chancellor of Makerere University conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Reeta Roy. She was recognised for the immense work she has done in empowering African youth facing social and economic bar-

Ms. Reeta Roy addressing the guests at the event.



riers to opportunity to access higher education and secure gainful employment," Prof Nawangwe said.

Her recognition stood as a testament to the profound impact of her leadership and the lives she has touched across the continent.

To many, the honour didn't come as a surprise, as Roy has led one of the world's largest foundations dedicated to advancing education, financial inclusion, and dignified work for young people for more than a decade. Soft-spoken yet resolute, Roy is highly regarded for her values-based leadership and her firm conviction that Africa's greatest resource is its young people.

During her 18-year tenure, the Mastercard Foundation significantly expanded its investments in education and employment programmes, reaching millions of young people across the continent. Central to this effort has been the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme, which has opened doors for highly talented young people facing social and economic barriers to opportunity to access higher education and develop leadership skills.

Makerere University and the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program have helped hundreds of students to pursue degrees while receiving mentorship, leadership training, and support to create social impact in their communities.

Many Mastercard Foundation Scholars have gone on to become entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders tackling challenges in health, agriculture, technology, and public service.

Who is Reeta Roy?

Roy isn't from a world of prestige and power. Instead, she traces her roots to humble beginnings in Malaysia. Her determination stems from her family's story of hard work and migration.

She was born to Durgadas, a doctor from India, and Emily, a nurse. Her father died when