

Son Excellence Monseigneur Vincent Harolimana,
Eveque du Diocese de Ruhengeri
Distinguished Guests and Friends of INES, the
Northern Applied Science Institute
Dear Graduates and Class of 2017
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope you have visited the Western Province, especially the shores of Lake Kivu, and had the opportunity to contemplate the sun set. It is an amazing spectacle of beauty and colors beyond imagination.

Indeed, as the day declines and gives place to the upcoming darkness of the night, the Sun starts folding its rays in the far-west mountains of the Democratic Republic of Congo, grows its volume and reflects its colors in the vast waters of Lake Kivu, leaving our minds speechless and our hearts rightly murmuring how great and powerful the Maker of Heaven and Earth is.

As the dark dictates the hours of our bedtime, we hold back our dreams and hope against hope that tomorrow will never die. In fact, the dawn finally points out, marking the beginning of the twilight sunrise, and our day, with resolve, grows into a full noon, thus providing a rhythm to the circle of our lives.

Just as our day goes through phases, the graduates we celebrate today have gone through multiple phases: they have known their dusk, sometimes faced

darkness, but they have overcome and prevailed. Today's celebration is, indeed, a testimony that their dawn has grown into a full noon and that all consented efforts of heart and mind are always crowned with success. CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!!!

We have inherited from above RWANDA, the Land of Thousand Hills, but we have caused One thousand problems to the Motherland. I am so happy that TODAY, at the feet of the volcano chain, INES IS GIVING BIRTH TO ONE THOUSAND AND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT (1178) SOLUTIONS.

The complexity of INES laboring has given specific pedigree:

Land survey

Land Administration and Management

Civil Engineering and Computer Sciences

Biotechnology and Biomedical Laboratory Sciences

Statistics Applied to Economics and Computer Sciences

Applied Economics and Enterprise Management

Public Administration and Good Governance

French and English and Education

Law

To you Graduates, heed that, the large spectrum of your knowledge is not for you alone to own. Your knowledge is a gift to Rwanda, a seed seeded into Rwandan soil that ought to germinate and bear lasting fruits.

Here is my take on potential Biotechnology contribution to the national commonwealth:

The Life-giving power of Biotechnologies

Ever since the completion of the Crick and Watson's discovery of the double helix structure of the DNA, the recent discovery of its coding and non-coding regions, along with the completion of the Human Genome Project, a new area of genetic science, GENETIC ENGINEERING, is permeating all the dimensions of our world societies. From food to pharmaceutical industries, from farms to clinics, the virtues of recombinant DNA are being celebrated. In fact, with the successful splicing of genes and possibility of cross-recombination, bioengineering has initiated what reporters evoke as the "biotechnology's revolutionary promise to transform economic systems."

Indeed, the creation of new strain of grain resistant to plant diseases, selective breeding, production of human insulin by bacteria have not only increased food production, but also widened market possibilities.

The hopes raised by biotechnology are limitless: Possibility to cure genetic-based diseases, development of new approaches to cancer or AIDS, possibility to create vegetal vaccines more accessible to the poor, and so on.

Would you guys help Rwanda hail and embrace this era of bio-engineering and "genetic essentialism" with responsibility and increased accountability, as the so pervasive and overruling "technological imperative"

shouldn't write off the prudential reasoning that ought to underlie every human endeavor.

Would you guys help Rwanda deliver to the world the promise of biotechnology, without overlooking the unpredictability of DNA-based technologies?

As you take on this daunting task and leverage your knowledge in "improving the yield of crops and animals, improving nutritional properties of food and food quality, increase resistance to crops pests and diseases, ..." we hope to see the number of Rwandans, who would otherwise go hungry, drop to a minimum. Take heart and let the world know the freedom and power of your inquiring youthful mind. "LABOR IMPROBUS OMNIA VICIT" (Virgil)

As I wrap up my remarks let me remind all of us present that:

We are all embarked on multiple and various life journeys. As some end, new ones disclose opening up new hopes and trials. As we take up the steep climb of our journey, our shadows and lights are put into balance, our strength is tested and our character reshapes for better or takes on a toll for life. For readers of destiny one's blessings or misfortune lies at this juncture.

As some sink into their failures and others enjoy the easiness of their climb, History continuously witnesses the emergency of a new breed of men and women lit to enlighten and inspire a new generation. Let's all help the new graduates to take off and fly and enjoy the rising RWANDA focusing on the core values of the Rwanda we want:

- Self-determination, including self-sufficiency as a Nation (Kwigira), Solidarity and Dignity (Agaciro)
- Unity and Rwandan Identity/culture
- Integrity
- Equity (including gender)
- Transparency and openness
- Accountability
- Community participation and contributing to local innovation
- National stability

CONGRATULATIONS to the class of 2017

CONGRATULATIONS to the Professorial body

CONGRATULATIONS to the Parents

CONGRATULATIONS to INES

Thank you