***SPEECH OF INES’ VICE CHANCELLOR***

***15th GRADUATION CEREMONY***

***27th October 2023***

1. **Salutations**

* Your Excellency Right Reverend Vincent HAROLIMANA, Bishop of Ruhengeri Diocese and The Chancellor of INES Ruhengeri,
* Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defense;
* Your Excellency Ambassador of the Republic of Mali in Rwanda
* Representative of the Governor of the Northern Province;
* Representative of the DG of HEC;
* Representatives of the Government;
* Very Reverend Vicar General of Ruhengeri Diocese;
* Representatives of National Army
* Representatives of National Police
* Founders of INES Ruhengeri,
* Chairperson of INES Ruhengeri Council Members,
* Vice-Chancellors of Partner Universities
* Deputy Vice Chancellors,
* Reverend Priests, Sisters and Brothers;
* Distinguished Guests,
* INES Ruhengeri Staff,
* Parents and Guardians,
* Graduands and Students,
* Ladies and Gentlemen, all protocol observed.

1. ***Welcome and Congratulatory Remarks***

I am delighted to welcome you all in this congregation of our 15th Graduation Ceremony of INES Ruhengeri. And I firstly take this opportunity to congratulate all our graduands for completing their studies successfully. I thank all other stakeholders of INES Ruhengeri, namely: Parents, Guardians, Staff, INES Management, INES Council, Founders of INES, among others, for their collective efforts whose culmination is the graduands we present to you today. On this, allow to invite some guest to stand up for the recognition.

***The List of guests by Protocol: …..***

1. Your Lordship Vincent HARORIMANA, Bishop of Ruhengeri Diocese, Legal Representative and Chancellor of INES-Ruhengeri;
2. Dr MUKANKOMEJE Rose, Director General of HEC and representative of the Ministry of Education in these ceremonies;
3. Coloner Celestin KANYAMAHANGA, PS MINADEF
4. Mr NZABONIMPA Emmanuel, PES Northern Province, representing the Governor in this Ceremonies
5. Founders of INES-Ruhengeri
6. Chairperson of INES Council, Dr MAZARATI Jean Baptiste
7. Members of INES Council
8. Nous avons un prêtre qui nous vient du Casamance, Sénégal ;
9. All the priests;
10. Religious here present;
11. Dr Raymond NDIKUMANA, DVC of Strategic Planning and Administration, UR
12. Representatives of different Universities and Colleges here represented
13. Prof Omar MUNYANEZA, CEO of WASAC
14. Mr NGAMIJE Guillaume, CEO of COGEBANK
15. Representatives Bank of Kigali
16. FAWE Rwanda Chapter delegation;
17. Chancen International;
18. INES Alumni
19. ***15th Graduation Ceremony***

Your Lordship Chancellor, Representative of the Minister of Education, Representatives of the Government in these ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the happiest moment for a teacher is when a student he/she has been nurturing comes of age and fulfils the requirements to move to the next stage of life. I therefore extend my heartfelt congratulations to the 2023 class. I also extend congratulations to all the staff of INES-Ruhengeri for their tireless dedication; this required efforts at all levels. Today, we are presenting to you, Chancellor, **827** graduands. At the end of this ceremony, you will declare them graduates.

Among them, 449 are females (54.30%) while 378 are males (45.70%). Congratulations to ladies, congratulations to our Nation which promotes girls education in all disciplines. Moreover, 20 of today’s graduands (i.e. 2.4%) were international students. This is an indicator of how INES-Ruhengeri’s efforts to internationalize its education are paying off.

Your Lordship Chancellor,

Representative of the Minister of Education, Representatives of the Government in these ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

We are celebrating the graduation but at the same time, we are registering new students. In total we have 4515 students, and among them 567 international students from 17 countries.

Internationalization of INES-Ruhengeri is not limited to having international students.

This year, next month, on December 7th, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of INES’ existence. We are proud of having a strong partnership with international universities and professional boards; and this is allowing us to develop new programs, new projects, to exchange staff and students.

The list is long but allow me to mention the following:

**From Germany**, we have seven university partners.

**From Italy**, we have five. **From Poland**, we have six. **From Switzerland,** we have two. **From the Netherlands,** we have three. **From Belgium,** we have three. **From Spain**, we have two. **From USA,** we have three. **From China,** we have one**. From Malaysia,** we have one. **From Turkey,** we have two**. From South Africa,** we have two**. From Tanzania,** we have two**. From Kenya,** we have three**, From Uganda**, we have two**. From Malawi,** we have one, **From DRC,** we have one, **etc.** To give just an idea.

Thanks to a diversified partnership, we are growing surely.

We thank very much our partners who are paying scholarship for a good number of our students:

Mainly, I am extending my gratitude to:

* MINUBUMWE
* Ministry of Defence
* Chancen International
* FAWE Rwanda
* New Life
* Direct Aid

We are also thanking different partners who are coaching our students during industrial attachment or clinical attachment. These include different government institutions, public hospitals, private companies, our Province and its Districts, etc. We always value your contribution to our endeavors.

A special gratitude note goes to all who were directly or indirectly involved in the teaching and learning of these graduands.

Your Lordship Chancellor,

Different people joined efforts for making this celebration a success. Allow me to recognize some of them:

On the top, we have the **Higher Education Council**. They worked very hard for checking all files of our candidates before presenting them to you as graduands.

We are thanking very much the Founders of INES-Ruhengeri; you provided all the necessary for the education of these graduands.

Other partners supported us financially.

We have the pleasure to recognize the following:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO** | **SPONSORS** | **CONTRIBUTION** | **OBSERVATION ON THEIR ATTENDANCE** |
| 1 | BANK OF KIGALI (BK) | 2,000,000 FRW |  |
|  | WASAC | Providing the a job position to the best performer from Civil Engineering |  |
| 2 | COGEBANQUE | 2,000,000 Frw | FRW |
| 3 | LA PALME HOTEL | LAPTOP |  |
| 4 | Hugo Engineering Durability Company | LAPTOP | 450000 |
| 5 | ANSS Ltd | LAPTOP | 450000 |
| 6 | Ir ANTOINE KANOBANA | LAPTOP | 450000 |
| 7 | BONI SUPPLIERS LTD | LAPTOP |  |
| 8 | ICN | LAPTOP | FRW |
| 9 | LOTIS | LAPTOP |  |
| 10 | ENTREKA LTD | 250,000 RWF |  |
| 11 | Comfort Hotel | 30,000 Rwf |  |
| 12 | SINA GERARD, Urwibutso Entreprise | Ubushize yaribagiranye |  |

***Conclusion***

Your Lordship Chancellor, Government Authorities, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is no doubt that INES has grown to maturity thanks to the founders, INES Council, Senior Management Committee and Senate for providing great leadership and support. This is also due to a good partnership with the Government Authorities at different levels, Ministerial, Provincial and District level, and especially the security we enjoy thanks to our men and women in uniform. We appreciate very much your sacrifice for the good of our Nation.

By concluding my remarks, I would like to remind to our graduands,

Dear graduands, you are among the lackey few who will have achieved this milestone; and so you are obliged to share what you have acquired helping your nations to straggle for equity and equality. Be useful and resourceful wherever you will be. As the saying goes “wealth when you use it, it comes to an end. Knowledge, when you use it, it increases”.

Learning and working are closely intertwined in our life, and we should always remember to put into practice at work what we have learned, and at the same time through our work, continue to pick up skills. Ensure that you receive the highest education.

Thank you very much. May God bless you all!