***WELCOME REMARKS***

***ON THE INES RUHENGERI 20TH ANNIVERSARY***

***7th December 2023***

1. **Salutations**

* Honorable Minister of Education
* 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 the 20th anniversary of INES Ruhengeri. I firstly take this opportunity to thank Hon. Minister of education for taking this time to be with us today. Honorable Minister, we do not take your presence for granted because your presence at INES today is a sign of your personal commitment to the education of quality and for the progress of our country through knowledge and research.

I thank all other stakeholders of INES Ruhengeri, namely: Founders of INES, INES Council, Embassies, NGOs and associations, companies, local leaders, Parents and Guardians, INES staff and Management, among others, for their collective efforts whose culmination is the celebration of today. On this, allow me to invite some guests to stand up for the recognition.

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

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

Honorable Minister, Your Lordship Legal Representative, Representatives of the Government in these ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of INES-Ruhengeri’ existence. This is the time to look behind and realize what we have achieved so far. We know where we are, and we have a vision, we have good plans, and you are here to recognize those who helped us to be where we are now. We also need your support to obtain excellent achievements in the work that awaits us in the future.

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. We appreciate very much your sacrifice for the good of our Nation.

Thank you very much. May God bless you all!