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# REMARKS OF HER EXCELLENCY MRS JEANNETTE KAGAME

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Green Hills Academy Intangarugero Graduation



Kigali Convention Centre, May 31st, 2025

**Dr Daniel Hollinger,**  
**Green Hills Academy Faculty and Staff, Board Members,**  
**Honourable Guests,**

- Good afternoon to you all.

**But most pressingly, Dear Intangarugero,**

- Congratulations, today is your day!
- What a joy it is to be here to celebrate it with you.  
Green Hills Academy, it's good to be back.

**Intangarugero,**

- I must admit that every year, I look forward to discovering the term of endearment granted to our new class of graduates. And from what I have heard, your name suits you well.
- I strongly believe in the power of words, I strongly believe in the power of constructive affirmation.

- In Kinyarwanda we say “*izina niryo muntu*”, which translates to “you become your name”.
- You have set today an example of what every person should keep striving for, throughout their lives: reaching important milestones. Always keep sight of the things, the necessary efforts, that will get you there.

### **Dear Graduates,**

- Your name was well chosen because of:
  - your talent,
  - your brilliance,
  - your dynamic youth,
  - your exposure to the world,
  - your world class education...
- And the fact that these features make you **visible**.
- You **will** be seen.

(PAUSE)

- You will be praised for your good principles, or sanctioned for your poor choices. You will inspire your peers and those that will come after you.
- Therefore, you need to be constantly conscious of the example that you set. Know that success comes with high stakes, and attentive eyes.
- I do not say this to scare you. But as a parent, as a grandparent, the protective urge is hard to dispel...so please, bear with me, as I repeat, briefly, some heartfelt parent advice. Celebration and praise will come, I promise, for you deserve it, but for now, I urge you to remember this:
- There will never be a time like this for you again. Savour it. Make the best of it. Today, **Intangarugero**, you are young, and the world is your oyster, but you also benefit from the protection and attentive support of older people around you.

- Global trends will sprout from you. Tomorrow's reality will be moulded by your hands. This is an incredibly fortunate time in your life.
- There will be times where you will miss these days. So please, I repeat, make the best of your good fortune. Have fun, but ensure that this fun, does not cost you your future happiness, health, or dignity.
- Know that everywhere you go, you are a mirror of your upbringing. Know that the parents who have invested in this upbringing, who have spared no effort in earning you the best secondary education available to you, who have believed that you deserve all this faith and investment....**these parents, are worth listening to.**
- Because believe it or not, we were once your age. What can come across as lectures, is often just regret or disappointment that parents wish to spare you. What can seem like overzealous advice is wisdom earned at a cost.

(PAUSE)

**Dear Guests,** on another note,

- The point I wish to address next, is likely the elephant in the room, as far as education in the current age of artificial intelligence is concerned.

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- ChatGPT (OpenAI), Gemini, and all the others. Gamechangers in research, reporting, self-learning and written communication. They have made some mentally demanding processes undeniably easier, and faster.
- I think we should not be relics of the past, and demonise artificial intelligence. After all, **every generation should know** their own form of ease, that the generations before them, may not have experienced.
- Nevertheless, I understand our educators' concern.

- As a person, your chances of achieving success, and being well overall, will always be tied, to **what you know, what you understand, and what you do with it.**
- Do not let the comforts of the AI crutch, turn you into a person that knows less, and is able to do less things. Use it to learn, not to avoid the necessary process of actively learning.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Guests,**

- A graduation is the culmination of many people's efforts indeed.
- Green Hills faculty and staff, Dr Hollinger, thank you for providing our graduates with the knowledge and conducive environment to attain this important step. Yours is a work of the heart; ensuring our most precious wealth, our dear youth, is equipped to earn itself security, wellness and success.

- We thank and applaud you.
- To the parents, you have truly done well. The tales of your children's good performances, creativity and ambition make all of us proud.
- Through children, we craft the future. Thank you for making this future bright, colourful, and exciting.
- To the valedictorian, what a performance! You have earned your flowers, and I wish you many more wins. Remember this moment; remember that hard work, focus and determination will always single you out. Keep it up!

**Dear Guests,**

- I am grateful to be able to share this day with you. I love this school. I love Green Hills. I love and believe in its vision, and I love and applaud what many of its alumni have gone on to accomplish, thank you Mutoni, to contribute to our national mission.



- My parting words are a sincere thank you. Wherever the world takes you, **Dear Graduates**, may you always find a home in Rwanda, and a family in Green Hills Academy.
- For the youth that will be celebrating in more “adult” style today, (PAUSE) enjoy yourselves...while remembering your name.
- May you set a great example tonight and always!

Thank you!