



REMARKS OF HER EXCELLENCY MRS JEANNETTE KAGAME

Kepler College Inaugural Graduation



Kigali Convention Centre, 12 November 2025

Congratulations to the Graduates of the class of 2025!!!

What a milestone, what an achievement!

Honorable Ministers,

Founding Chancellor, My dear friend and faithful companion of this nation, Monica Geingos, A friend of the youth. Always happy to have you in whichever capacity that brings you back to our country.

CEO and Faculty of Kepler College,

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Class of 2025,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Afternoon!

I am deeply honored to join you today and grateful for the invitation to celebrate this important milestone in Kepler's journey.

This is indeed a beautiful day, for not only the Graduates and the Kepler community; it's a good day for all of us.

Today, we celebrate more than a graduation. Today, we honor the realization of a vision that began years ago with a simple yet profound belief: that every student, no matter his or her background, deserves quality education. Today, we witness the fruit of dedication, perseverance, and a bold commitment to learning that transcends walls and borders.

What you have received from Kepler college is precious; a college that is intentional about the way it crafts its curriculum and how it molds and shapes its students, to perpetually be in synch with what the world is looking for – whether in corporate or in community; whether here or abroad; whether today or tomorrow. It is intentional about staying at the top of global trends and the future of development.

It is inspiring that so many of your graduates find meaningful employment within one year of their graduation. This is not the story of all graduates the world over; it is a testament to a market-focused education model that works. It is by no means a small feat, and so I congratulate the Board, the CEO and the Faculty of Kepler College, as well as the participating companies for this success. **PAUSE**

I am particularly touched by Kepler's commitment to inclusion.

You have reached out to people who are not always included in mainstream programmes; people who are sometimes forgotten in the hustle and bustle of life: the refugee population and students living with disabilities.

As someone who was born and raised in exile, I deeply understand what it means to be on the outside looking in, to long for opportunities that nationals take for granted. Like many Rwandan refugees, our formative years were spent worrying about our future; a future, which depended heavily on education.

Our chances to access higher education were made bleak by the unreasonably high cut-off pass-marks demanded of us, unlike the nationals.

This led to Rwandans in exile building their own schools in refugee camps and in the peripheries of the city, and teaching their own refugee children with the little resources they had. The famous **Collège St. Albert** in Burundi is one such institution, born of necessity and the pain of exclusion. As a young student at a Burundian School, I would often find a quiet corner at **Collège Saint Albert**, a place that felt like home, where I could focus on my evening studies. I bet you did not know that your very own Chair of the Board of Kepler College, Professor Charles Murigande, was a student there, and later gave back by becoming a pro-bono teacher! If I'm not mistaken, our minister of education was one as well. From his pitcher and that of many other Rwandan teachers in exile, Rwandan children drank in the wisdom of knowledge and flourished across the world.

Our circumstances did not define us, but indeed strengthened us into more resilient, more resourceful and more determined human beings.

Thank you Kepler for taking the bold decision to give equal chances to all. You share the values of Rwanda, a host country that embraces all, with a leadership that fiercely believes in dignity and humanity. I encourage you to continue to do more in support of those that may find themselves on the fringes of society.

To you, class of 2025, Kepler has equipped you with more than degrees. It has given you the tools to think boldly, to solve problems that others might shy away from, to communicate with clarity, to lead with integrity, and to adapt in a world that is always changing. You are prepared to tackle global challenges, innovate fearlessly, and lead responsibly, all while carrying the values, roots, and spirit of your communities.

My plea and prayer to you is: Make the best of this opportunity and give your utmost best – always; wherever you will be and in everything you do: at formal work, in self-employment, in service to others, or in your own families. Do not spare any effort or any passion to pay forward what you have so richly received.

Show gratitude and compassion by giving back:

- Give of yourself,
- Give of your time,
- Give of your resources,
- Give of your talent so that someone else may benefit from what you have received.

For to whom much is given, much is expected.

As new graduates, going out into the world, you will be expected to contribute to the body of knowledge and to the shaping of the future: be it in research and innovation; in finding solutions to current and emerging challenges; in modelling good behavior and professional

conduct; or in leading others. People will watch to see what you bring to the table in real terms.

But the key question is – beyond others’ expectations of you, what do YOU want for yourselves? When the curtain of your life is finally drawn, what is the story you want people to tell about you? What impact, what legacy did you leave behind?

1. Do you want to be remembered for your character – kind, humorous, patient, loving?
2. Do you want to be remembered for your individual exploits and personal achievements?
3. Do you, perhaps, want to be remembered for the values you espoused and the principles you upheld? or
4. Do you want to be remembered for the positive impact that you had in your own community, in your country, or as a global citizen?

However, breaking through this frontier of legacy and impact, depends highly on the mind-set you adopt, the choices you make and the attitude you wear going forward.

It is so easy to take all that you have for granted; to forget the debt of gratitude you owe to all those in your journey of life: your parents, your guardians, your sponsors, your teachers, your community, and your friends. It is so easy to walk out of this place, degree in hand, and just float through life.

Just as Kepler began with a vision, wisdom and nurtured it into reality, so too, are you called to plant seeds of hope, leadership, and compassion wherever your journey takes you. Let your ideas take root, your purpose flourish, and your commitment inspire others.

Congratulations again Class of 2025. **Go conquer!**