

# Speech by the Chairman, Dr Hesron Byilingiro, RUM President

Elder Dr Blasious Ruguri, AUCA Chancellor and ECD President  
Honorable Guest of Honor  
Elders,  
Distinguished Guests  
Dear graduates  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

On this 26th graduation ceremony of the Adventist University of Central Africa, we are glad that we have accomplished one of the major stages to crown our lives. It is no doubt graduates are very happy. The academic staff and faculty are happy. Parents and the leadership of the country are happy as well. A joy comes from all around us. The leadership of the Adventist church in Rwanda and the region office based in Nairobi are not spared.

Today, our graduates have won a battle. I wish they could hear a sound clap for their great achievement. You did it. You deserve a word of congratulations... Your last semesters were very much challenging. The coronavirus pandemic did mess almost everything. Surely, it taught us to be good at online lectures which is good additional lesson to Africa in General. It might also have involved more expenses to adjust everything. Praise God that you made it.

Now, as joy and happiness flowed our minds for this graduation, we wonder "is this the end or the beginning?" I can recall a number of bright students, failing to pursue their studies, pretending to have completed simply because they completed the undergraduate studies. For them it was the end, but I want to urge you to further your studies, whether this graduation is for you the completion of the undergraduate or masters level.

In other words, this graduation is not the end. It is the beginning. It might be the beginning to further studies. But it might also be the beginning of another struggle. If you do not further studies, soon or later you wouldn't be employed somewhere. The new struggle, I mean is to prove to the communities you would be serving that you acquired a degree. This is a challenge. You used to study for your personal intellectual growth, but there, it will be the service to the local and original communities.

However, remember that education is one thing, and instruction is another. The service of the community brings both together. Prove that you are educated by elderly and instructed by lecturers. If one fails, another will not serve neither. Some scholars have demonstrated capacities in their academic areas but failed to fit the community because of ill behavior. All eyes will be fixing you to see how well you will be serving. That will display how attractive is the university that integrated the knowledge you will be sharing.

In addition, always remember to update and adjust your knowledge. The future holds a lot. The innovation is at the peak because of technology, competitiveness or more and more research by valued scholars. More to this, we hope that you will be good ambassadors of the university.

Today, you acquire a life ticket to join the existing alumni of the Adventist University of Central Africa. Go and tell the story of your amazing experience to the young generations to register for the next intake. To sum up, I would like to remind you that the top success of your career and your life is to invite God in each and every endeavor ahead of you. After earning a degree and performing well at the workplace, it is not enough. You will still be held accountable to your life and the lives of your fellows. That is getting ready to meet Jesus Christ when he comes. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our graduates, I mean parents, professors.

May the Lord God bless you abundantly. Thank you all, I wish you enjoyable moments upon this graduation day. Once again, congratulations upon this achievement. Thank you for your kind attention!