

Speech by the Guest of Honour, Dr Rose Mukankomeje, DG Higher Education Council

AUCA Chancellor and ECD President
AUCA Council Chairman
AUCA Vice chancellor
All Leaders of ECD
All AUCA Members of the Council Present
University Vice Chancellor
All AUCA Deputy Vice Chancellors
Education Stakeholders,
Dear Graduates
Dear Parents
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am honored and privileged to be part of this very exciting occasion, to celebrate this significant event: 26th graduation ceremony for undergraduates and the 4th graduation for Masters Programs. On behalf of Hon Minister of Education and on my own behalf, I am delighted to convey to you our warm congratulations for this achievement. Government of Rwanda appreciates AUCA contributions in this area of Higher Education.

This is a great day for you and I am very happy to be sharing it with you

As you know the importance of delivering quality education and the development of human capital is central to Rwanda's vision of becoming a prosperous knowledge-based economy. This is clearly articulated in key national policy documents such as the National Strategy for Transformation 2017-24 and it is regularly reiterated and reinforced at all levels of government.

Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Higher education provides the high-level human capital required for national strategic direction and management for each aspect of national life. Rwanda position in World economic and technological advancement largely depends on the Higher education product. This is why Rwanda considers quality, relevant and technology focused higher education very vital for her transformation.

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However, despite great efforts to increase access to higher education in Rwanda, number of Rwandese getting access to Higher education is still low. Enrolment in 2018/19 was only 86,206 compared to people of with the higher education age of 1,168,850, meaning only about 7% of Rwandese can access higher education. Correspondingly, number of learners accessing Higher education to population is still low, at 697 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019.

In this regard, more encouragement and support to private sector to invest in education are very important; but with this changing world, we have also to support more online and distance education in Higher education.

We acknowledge the progress and achievements made by AUCA and would like to take this opportunity to stress the necessity of revitalizing Higher education teaching, learning and assessment to address the critical mismatch between the skills provided by HLLs; and those for current and future labor market and technology skills demands through more practical focused teaching and effective assessment to ensure Higher education does produce the required human capital which is the foundation and catalyst to the knowledge economy.

Also, the Education Sector Strategic plan vision is to ensure Rwandan citizens have sufficient and appropriate competencies (skills, knowledge and attitudes) to drive the continued social and economic transformation of the country; more innovative and responsive research and development in relation to community challenges are absolutely needed today.

Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to reiterate the Ministry of Education appreciation to AUCA contribution for the development of Education in Rwanda and particularly its commitment to be the center of excellence in undergraduate and post graduate programs while providing centered quality education founded on a holistic approach that prepares people for the service of this life and the life to come.

The Government of Rwanda was amazed and commend the quality of the Adventist School of Medicine of East Central Africa- ASOME infrastructure and other facilities that are physically in place at Masoro AUCA main campus. We expect a lot from this school for Rwanda and for our Continent/Africa

Dear graduands finishing today, we thank you for your courage, resilience, determination and trust that led you till today. This year of the Covid 19 pandemic was tough for education sector but together we have made it. Your dedication and hard work have paid off and you have gained valuable skills to apply in your future careers. May God Bless you.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to make these brief remarks. My warmest congratulations go to today's graduates, your parents and AUCA Leadership who have done this to happen.

Thank you for your kind attention