

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
P.O. BOX 160 KIGALI

OPENING REMARKS AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF POLICE SENIOR  
COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE

DELIVERED BY: BUSINGYE Johnston

National Police College, MUSANZE

25<sup>th</sup> June, 2021

- The Inspector General of Rwanda National Police;
- UR-Vice Chancellor;
- Governor of the Northern Province;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic and Research;
- Commandant of National Police College (NPC);
- Commandant of RDF Staff College (CSC);
- RNP Commissioners and Senior Officers
- UR- Principal College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS);
- UR - Director Center for conflict Management (CCM);
- UR-Coordinator of Masters Programs;
- Mayor of Musanze District;
- UR- Registrar;
- Graduates of Police Senior Command and Staff Course, intake 09;
- Distinguished Guests,
- All protocols observed,

It is my great pleasure to preside over this colorful ceremony combining the graduation and closing of the 9<sup>th</sup> intake of the Police Senior Command and Staff Course. This is an important

achievement for you, the College, which accompanied you in this one-year long journey, your respective institutions that nominated you to this course and indeed, your families.

On this day of joy, I want first and foremost, to commend your remarkable efforts, hard work, team spirit, dedication and resilience that you testified in the pursuit of success during this critical period of Covid-19 pandemic which made your learning environment less conducive. The full-time face masks in class which has become a new normal, the Covid-19 restrictive measures imposed on you to prevent the spread of the pandemic made all of you, including Rwandan students, feel far away from your families than ever before. They have also prevented our brothers and sisters from Kenya, Namibia, South Sudan and Somalia, participants to this course, to move around and enjoy the beauty of Musanze City and beyond. I have also learnt that during the period of this course some members lost their beloved ones, in different circumstances.

Despite this challenging situation, however, you have overcome and today we are here to celebrate the harvest of your hard work and perseverance. As you are celebrating, you should remember that no matter how successful you have been, there is still more to do, more to learn and more to achieve.

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a fact beyond contestation that peace, security, governance, justice and development are interlinked and interdependent. In Rwanda, we have witnessed how identity politics, bad governance, unequal access to opportunities and resources, discrimination, exclusion, civil unrest, structural impunity and other evils that Rwandans experienced, led to the tragedy of genocide against the Tutsi and endemic poverty. We have, on the other hand, observed how unity and reconciliation, justice and good governance contribute to social harmony, peace and accelerated development that places Rwanda among the rapidly growing economies in the world. Finally, we have also learnt that security is no longer state-centric and that the nature of contemporary threats has made it more human-based.

In the face of this reality, I cannot emphasize enough the need to have highly trained, professional, human rights abiding and disciplined law enforcement officers, combining strategic command aspects and a full understanding of national, regional and global peace and security dynamics that allow them to respond to any law enforcement challenge of their time and future one.

Needless to say, the complexity of contemporary law enforcement challenges associated with sophisticated technologies in the commission of crimes, globalization, and countries

sovereignty with no harmonized laws, among others; have transcended the limits of individual nation states. Therefore, this requires that law enforcement officers be ahead of criminals to be able to intercept their enterprises before they succeed, but also calls for regional and international cooperation, joint training, experience and information sharing, as well as joint strategies to respond to identified challenges.

All leaders and professionals in your own right, you are now more ready to serve people. The concept of people from your perspective includes the good, the bad, the undecided, the unknown people. We should always recall that we owe each of these categories of people more duties, rights, obligations, than they owe us. This is the burden of a police leader, with some you are a good police leader, with others, you are a bad one; for the police leader, they are all people to be served as professionally as possible regardless.

I am happy that the training delivered by the Rwanda National Police College and the composition of course participants since the College inauguration in 2012, reflects this understanding. I take this opportunity to thank all sister African countries which have responded to the call of this international cooperation in field of training and look forward further to strengthening cooperation in other areas of law enforcement.

I strongly believe that the level of this course, the rich and diverse experience exchanged amongst yourselves and the profile of trainers who delivered it, gave you confidence that the knowledge and skills acquired here will help you to deliver on your future responsibilities and make a difference. Let the titles and symbols bestowed on you reflect your ability to bring solutions to law enforcement challenges facing your respective countries.

While the course has been an opportunity to enhance your knowledge, skills, as well as exchange experience and good practices, I am sure it was also a unique occasion to nurture friendship and connections that will serve as a channel for continued exchange of information.

As I conclude, I want to commend the Rwanda National Police for fostering the partnership between its National Police College, the University of Rwanda through its Center for Conflict Management and other stakeholders to make this course a success. The Government will continue to provide what it takes to ensure that the Police remains ahead of the faced challenges.

On this note, I officially declare the Police Senior Command and Staff Course Intake 09 officially closed.

I once again congratulate you all!! Thank you.