



Republic of Rwanda  
Office of the Prime Minister

**REMARKS BY RT. HON.PRIME MINISTER DR.  
JUSTIN NSENGIYUMVA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY – GRADUATION  
CEREMONY AND TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

Burera, 25 January 2026

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- **Your Excellency First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda**
- **UGHE Chancellor and Vice Chancellor**
- **UGHE Board members and Supporters**
- **Faculty and staff**
- **Graduates**
- **Proud parents**
- **Fellow cabinet members**
- **Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen**

1. I am pleased to join the University of Global Health Equity community today to celebrate the graduating Class of 2026. I am honoured to represent His Excellency Paul Kagame at this ceremony.
2. I am joined by H.E the First Lady, whose leadership and lifelong commitment to health, education, and human development have made her a role model and an inspiration to a generation of Rwandan girls and women. Her honorary degree today is a fitting recognition of that impact.
3. Congratulations to all of you. This milestone reflects years of disciplined training and a clear commitment to public service. Today, you move from preparation to responsibility.
4. This ceremony also marks ten years since the establishment of the University of Global Health Equity. In that time, the University has distinguished itself as an institution that prepares competent health professionals to address complex, real-world challenges, through technical excellence, systems thinking, and leadership.

5. I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Rwanda's friends and partners present here today, particularly Partners In Health, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Mastercard Foundation, and the Cummings Foundation. We are pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Cummings. Your sustained support has been critical to building an institution that strengthens local capacity and delivers lasting impact.
6. I also wish to recognise the faculty, researchers, and the University's leadership and management. Your dedication to teaching, research, and mentorship is at the core of UGHE's success and has shaped the graduates we celebrate today.
7. We also honour the legacy of the late Dr. Paul Farmer; ***Muganga Mwiza***, as he was fondly called. His vision laid the foundation for this University.
8. Dr. Farmer championed the organisation and delivery of quality healthcare in ways that reach all populations, a principle that continues to guide this institution's approach to health system development.
9. Graduates, you enter the workforce at a time of increasing pressure on health systems, in Rwanda and globally. Emerging diseases, workforce shortages, and financing constraints are no longer abstract challenges. They require practical solutions.
10. Responding effectively to these challenges demands more than clinical expertise. It requires an understanding of policy, management, data, and implementation, as well as the ability to translate plans into results.

- 11.** Your training has prepared you for this responsibility. You are expected to serve not only as practitioners, but also as leaders who strengthen institutions, improve service delivery, and support sound decision-making across the health sector.
- 12.** Africa's progress will depend on strong and resilient systems supported by a skilled and accountable workforce. That is why Rwanda, together with its partners, is investing in the expansion of medical education at all levels and remains firmly committed to human capital development through world-class institutions such as University of Global Health Equity.
- 13.** UGHE is an African institution with a continental purpose, hosted in Rwanda and designed to serve Africa. Today's graduating class, drawn from 7 African countries and 1 European country, reflects the diversity, talent, and shared purpose needed to strengthen health systems across the continent and beyond.
- 14.** Graduates, whether you were born here or joined us later, please rest assured that Rwanda will always be your home.
- 15.** As you move forward, I encourage you to approach your work with professionalism, responsibility, and a strong sense of service. Be prepared to lead, to adapt, and to work collaboratively across disciplines.
- 16.** When challenges arise, do not regard them as barriers, but as opportunities to think critically, innovate, and create meaningful solutions. Your ability to solve problems with integrity and creativity will define your impact in an ever-changing world.

- 17.** I am confident that the knowledge you have gained, the discipline you have developed, and the values you carry have prepared you well for the responsibilities ahead — and that you are fully equipped not only to succeed, but to lead with purpose and integrity.
- 18.** Once again, congratulations to all of you, Class of 2026. I wish you every success.

**I thank you.**