

Prime Minister Dr. Justin Nsengiyumva has urged graduates of the University of Rwanda (UR) to use their education as a tool for innovation and nation-building, reminding them that graduation marks the beginning—not the end—of their journey.

He delivered the message on Friday, October 17, 2025, during UR's graduation ceremony held at the university's stadium in Huye District, where 9,529 students from seven colleges received their degrees.

"This milestone you've reached is not the end but a beginning," Dr. Nsengiyumva said. "The road ahead will bring challenges, but it will also open opportunities. Work hard, think critically, and avoid shortcuts. Change only happens when people act."

The prime minister emphasized that the graduates are central to Rwanda's ambition of becoming a knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy, urging them to apply their skills to solve local challenges and create jobs.

"You are the strength of this nation," he said. "Use the education you received to protect what we have achieved and contribute to building Rwanda's future."

Dr. Nsengiyumva also called on the graduates to uphold Rwandan values of discipline, integrity, and patriotism, saying that character and responsibility are as important as technical skills.

"Be young people who love your country and value hard work," he said. "Avoid behaviors that could destroy your future, such as laziness, drunkenness, or immoral conduct."

Prof. Didas Kayihura Muganga, vice chancellor of the University of Rwanda, congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to embrace new technologies—especially artificial intelligence (AI)—which are reshaping global industries.

"We applaud your determination and sacrifices," Prof. Muganga said. "The world is changing fast, and technology will help you navigate future challenges."

He thanked parents and guardians for their sacrifices and urged graduates to remain connected to the university as proud ambassadors of UR and Rwanda.

Caleb Mitari, who spoke on behalf of the graduates, expressed gratitude to the

government, lecturers, and families for their support throughout their studies.

“We will not disappoint those who supported us,” he said. “We are committed to innovation and excellence, both nationally and globally.”

Among the 9,529 graduates, 8,462 completed undergraduate programs, 697 earned master’s degrees, and 35 received PhDs.

Dr. Nsengiyumva concluded by saying that, “What you do from here will define Rwanda’s future,” he said. “Our vision is clear a nation built on knowledge and you are its cornerstone.”