

**THE MWALIMU NYERERE FOUNDATION**



**REMARKS**

**BY**

**DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM**

**AT THE**

**2002 GRADUATION CEREMONY –  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF TANGANYIKA**

*Dar es Salaam,  
01<sup>st</sup> June 2002*

Chauhan Gabriel -

**Mr. Principal**

**Fellow parents**

**Invited guests**

**Teachers**

**Graduating Class of IST**

Excellent:  
/ **Ladies and gentlemen**

I would like to thank the Principal of the International School of Tanganyika for inviting me to address this graduation ceremony.

As a parent of a student in this school, I am pleased with this opportunity to meet with other parents and invited guests, as well as the teachers of IST to share with them in the joy of such an auspicious occasion.

May I, first and foremost congratulate all the graduating students for accomplishing this major achievement in their lives; and for reaching an important milestone in an exciting lifelong journey in search of knowledge and the attainment of higher horizons. It is indeed a moment of great pride to see young women and men who have worked hard and have tried to make the best of the opportunities before them, reach a point where they are celebrating the realization of their dreams. This is definitely an outcome of a firm commitment, ardent determination, persevering hard work, and remarkable creativity.

I wish to pay tribute to all of you as students, and to your teachers and parents who accompanied you in this journey of success. Indeed, you are a great inspiration to your colleagues who will come after you.

I know that it has not been easy for you as young women and men to cope with the challenges and the many pressures that confront you and the discipline that is demanded out of you. Nevertheless, as you sit here today, I believe you realize that every effort you have put in is worth this achievement. And as you move to the next level, I am confident that if you continue to strive for excellence in all your endeavours, your efforts will be rewarded by the attainment of greater triumphs in your lives.

### **Dear Students**

You are graduating from the IST amidst interesting and challenging times. You have had a unique opportunity to spend several years as part of an international community, getting a taste and more importantly an understanding of the multi-cultural world in which we live. As students who come from different parts of the

world, you have had the privilege of sharing experiences, exchanging knowledge and forming a family in pursuit of the mission and vision of the IST. This is a rare opportunity that many of your counterparts in other schools do not have. You were able to benefit from the diversity of the whole world by belonging to the community of IST. I do believe that every interaction you have made during your stay in this school – whether inside or outside the formal school setting – was an important learning experience for you. In an era where there are so many challenges to peace and international understanding, the future is yours to shape, as the Ambassadors for tolerance and social acceptance, the voices of reason and the spread of hope. The future is yours to influence and we have every reason to believe your voices can and will be heard.

I do hope that you have been able, through the IST experience – to comprehend, at first hand, what it means to talk of the world as a global village. The success of the motto and mission of the IST, which you have contributed in sustaining, is a reaffirmation of the power of solidarity and unity, as well as of overcoming individual differences in the pursuit of a common goal. This graduation is



incontestable proof that diversity is strength which can be used as an asset for the advancement of human kind.

Wherever you may come from; whatever your colour, your gender, your faith, or your social status – I do hope that you have discovered that you have more in common, and that you can supersede the superficial differences in order to attain higher ideals.

I mentioned earlier that this graduation is also taking place amidst interesting times. We are at the advent of the new century and the new millennium. More prominently, you are graduating in the midst of the dynamic of globalisation with its attendant processes of technological changes; advances in information systems; rapid movement of goods, services, and capital; and new ways of production.

As young graduates, globalisation presents ample opportunities for you. At the same time, it also engenders a lot of challenges. By being at the IST you have been equipped with a broad academic base, as well as the tools for an enquiring mind, independent

learning, and societal engagement. These are important levers for functioning in the globalising world. Wherever you may go after graduation, you should be ready to confront the challenges and embrace the possibilities of this new dynamic new world.

You have to maintain the discipline and determination that you have embraced at the IST. The emerging world requires these qualities for you to cope with its challenges. To depend on luck, chance or fluke is a risky venture in the world you are entering. You need to develop a sense of vision, and set out clear goals for you to attain.

There are those who may judge you because of where you are from, but never let the biases of some constrain you in anyway. In the end it will be your performance that will matter most. So, you need always to strive to be the best and to exert the maximum you can give. In this ever-changing world, you will be rewarded by your efforts and by the way you harness opportunities. The world is increasingly being driven by the knowledge society. Immerse yourselves into continuous learning; refining and adapting your skills

on a permanent basis. Seek higher knowledge constantly and deploy it creatively.

Let me emphasize that learning is a continuous experience. What you have acquired here is a sound basis for further education. That education may take place in universities and other institutions of higher learning. But even when you have accomplished that you will still, in many ways continue to be students in search of further knowledge.

I would in this respect like to share with you my own experience. In less than four years after finishing my secondary school education in Zanzibar in what was then known as King George The VI Secondary School (and now Lumumba College) I was appointed as Ambassador to Cairo. This was at the very young age of 22. From Egypt I went as Ambassador to India, then to China and at 28 years I was Ambassador to United Nations in New York. But through out these exciting and challenging assignments I recognized without the slightest doubt the importance of acquiring further education. Thus while serving as Tanzania's High Commissioner to



India, I did my undergraduate studies at the University of Delhi and while at the UN I went to Columbia University to do graduate studies. Indeed, with every post and assignment I understood the compelling need of further learning. This has been my life experience. What I am trying to underscore is a simple truism. This is that the search for wider knowledge is a never ending exercise. Those who ignore this do so at their own risk of being marginalized. And this is particularly true in this highly competitive world.

In African traditions, graduation is equivalent to an initiation ceremony. It symbolizes a change of status in ones life. You have entered a new and higher stage in your lives. You have assumed new obligations and responsibilities in your respective societies. You also have acquired a new standing, particularly in your case as young women and men who are in the fast lane of the global highway. I wish you the very best!

To the Principal and teachers of IST, once again I convey my tributes. For the duration that these students have been at this school, you have been the *loco parentis* for much of the time. You

have imparted into them values, skills, and modes of behaviour that you consider important for the development of their lives. Today, they are graduating and we are all bearing witness to your accomplishments.

To my fellow parents, especially of the graduating students – I do share your joy and pride in seeing these young women and men come of age. It is a precious gift that you are bequeathing into them, which will benefit them as individuals, but also add to the collective assets of the future global generations. I salute you.

Finally, as a Tanzanian, it has always been a source of pride to have the IST as part of the educational institutions of our country. The success of this school, whose graduates are now walking the corridors and lanes of some of the most venerated academic institutions of the world, is a pride to Tanzania. We, the people of this country, will always remain supportive to the noble endeavours of the IST.

I thank you.