



IJAMBO RYA NYAKUBAHWA MADAMU JEANNETTE KAGAME

Mu masengesho y'abayobozi Bakiri Bato – Young Leaders Prayer
Breakfast



Ku wa 13 Kanama 2023
KIGALI

**Ba Nyakubahwa ba Ministiri,
Bayobozi ba Rwanda Leaders Fellowship,
Bayobozi b’amatorero n’amadini atandukanye,
Bayobozi mu nzego zitandukanye turi kumwe uyu muni,**

Mwiriwe Neza!

- Iki cyumweru ndetse n’imperera zacyo ni umwanya udasanzwe kuri twe!
- Kuri uyu muni, nejejwe no kubana na Young Leaders - Abayobozi bato b’umukumbi w’Imana n’u Rwanda.

Mumfashe tubishimire Imana!

- Nagira ngo kandi nshimire Rwanda Leaders Fellowship, kubera umwihariko mufite, mu rugendo rwa muntu rwo kubaka isi no kuyihindura nziza kurusha uko twayisanze.
- Igaburo ry’uyu muni, si iritunga **umubiri gusa**, ahubwo rigaburira **Umutima-Nama** n’**Umutima-Mana**, igihe tukiri ku isi, kuko aribyo bitegura ijuru tutabonesha amaso yacu.

**Mwarakoze kuntumira kugira ngo dusangire iryo gaburo
rirema!**

- Uyu munsi rero, nifuje gukoresha indimi zose, kuko nzi ko zose muzikoresha.

Dear Young Leaders,

- Congratulations for achieving what you have, respectively. I know that before me are servants of the country, servants of God, entrepreneurs and skilled professionals, artists and influencers, social justice advocates, diligent friends and mentors, and yes, young, loving parents. One would wonder how you balance it all.
- This reality gets more evident once you become a parent, **‘Si jeunesse savait, si vieillesse pouvait’** - ukize ubusore arabubagira there is perhaps no greater stake to your survival and success, than the lives that God allowed you to bring to this world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- You asked me to have a conversation with you on parenting today. To put everything in context I wish to share two inspiring poems that shade some lights on how complex raising children can be a daunting task.

- From **The Parenting Map** by the renowned psychologist Dr Shefali Tsabary, who said:

**“There is no emotion compared to what you invoke,
No experience that comes near parenting you,
No journey I would rather take than by your side,
No adventure I would rather choose than to watch you grow.
You, my dear child, are my greatest teacher.
Through you I learn how to love without control,
To caretake without possession.”**

- And from the late poet Kahlil Gibran ‘On Children’:

***“You may house their bodies but not their souls
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow
Which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.***

***“You are the bows from which your children
As living arrows are sent forth
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite
And he bends you with his might
That his arrows may go swift and far
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness
For even as he loves the arrow that flies
So he loves also the bow that is stable.”***

Dear Guests,

- I suspect that you never really know the strength that gets you through juggling all that is required of you; you just do, because you must.
- But what I know for certain, is that along the way, you will question your choices, and with reason.
- What if you had done things differently?
- What if there were a “Mode D’emploi”, as we say, that could guarantee that your children would never know pain?
- Sadly, **Dear Guests**, this scripted guide does not exist as of yet.
- We draw strength from each other’s candid, honest and brave sharing of our own experiences navigating through parenting, without a “Mode D’emploi”.
- It starts with us, **Ladies and Gentlemen**. At every point.
- It starts with your relationship with the other soul to which you owe your existence as a parent.

- Bitangirana namwe n’abo mwashakanye, kuko byatumye mwitwa ababyeyi.
- It starts with your home, and its capacity to cover your children in the love they need, to know their worth, as God’s creations, in His own image.
- Once more, **Young Leaders**, an exact “how” to do it all, and to do it well, can be elusive. Adding to what you might learn from The Parent Map book, if you wish to read it, I wish to share a few lessons that have proven their effectiveness.
- First, you **must not push your children**.
- Do not be the force looming behind them, pushing them down the path you believe they should pursue.
- Instead, **pull**.
- **Don’t push. Pull!**
- Be a pulling force into the fate you desire for them, by achieving this fate yourself. Mubabere urugero!

- Allow me to repeat myself: If you want success for your children, endeavor to be successful yourself.
- Show them how attractive what you desire for them actually is.
- If you want happiness for your children, strive to be happy yourself. Perhaps this might require that you take things off from your plate, that you allow yourself the same gentleness with which you peer upon your own bundles of joy.

Bavandimwe, Bana Bacu,

- Uburere buboneye, nitwavuga ko ari isomo wakwiga gusa mu mashuri, ni ngombwa no kuzirikana ibyiciro 4 umwana anyuramo mu mikurire ye:
 1. **Gutoza umwana imyitwarire iboneye – Discipline:** icyiciro cya mbere gitangira umwana akivuka kugeza agize imyaka 5. Aha niho umwana atorezwa ikinyabupfura, aho yigana ibyo ukora byose.
 2. **Gutoza no kwigisha umwana - Training:** guhera ku myaka 5 kugeza kuri 12, aho utangira kwigisha umwana ugamije kumuha ubumenyi butandukanye n’ indangagaciro zikwiriye.

3. **Kuba imbarutso yo gutekereza no gutera imbere kurushaho - Coaching:** Bamwe muri mwe mufite abana bamaze kugera mu cyiciro cy'imyaka 12 kugera kuri 18, mwumva bavuga ko iki cyiciro kigoye. Natwe kandi tuba twaranyuze iyo nzira, ngira ngo niyo mpamvu tugira impungenge! Tuba tuzi ibyo tuvuga.

4. **Kubaka ubucuti n'umwana - Friendship:** icyiciro gihera ku myaka 18 kuzamura. Aha niho ababyeyi bagomba guharanira kuba inshuti n'abana babo. Nta wabinyuranya, kuko hari igihe umwana aba akeneye gutozwa kuruta ko umubera inshuti, ni ngombwa rero gukurikiranya ibyo byiciro byose neza.

- As the saying goes, **'Success is when your children want to be with you, when they are adults.'**
- **But young parents, unfortunately, it isn't enough to be pragmatic in your parental choices.** I can only emphasize how receptive your children are, and how your emotions, your frustrations, and yes, your passions, can become their own.
- So how do you embody the energy you wish for them to experience at every turn of their lives?

- Let us picture one moment, what could become of our world's future, should you forsake your roles as parents.
- For once, let us not focus on the single parents, particularly the single mothers. Instead, let's talk about the drastic damage that absent fathers do on their homes and children.
- Let's talk about where we would be as a world, if we all chose to abandon, or simply avoid our homes.
- What if women and men, both decided that the bar, the streets, others' homes, were more worthy of their presence and time, than the children who look to them for the guidance and love they need to develop healthily?
- What would this world look like if it were only made of poisonous habits, depression, low self-esteem, trauma, and other problems linked, in psychology, to absent parents?
- Today, we revoke such a world, through prayer, and by following our national values and choices, while also acquiring enriching parenting knowledge.

- The rule of **three eights** may be a good place to start; splitting every day into three parts – eight hours of good sleep, eight hours of hard work, and eight hours shared across friends, family and faith, health, hygiene and yes, hobbies. Ariko ndagira ngo twitonde harimo byinshi bisaba kwitonda.
- However, it is your responsibility to ensure that this joy does not bleed into strains, for those you love. Igikwiye kubanza ni abo ushinzwe!

Dear Guests,

- Sin is a tricky concept to truly confront. After all, they seem so human.
- Pride. Greed. Lust. Gluttony. Sloth. Envy. Wrath.
- Isn't it scary, that arrogance, selfishness, promiscuity, excess, laziness, jealousy and fury are the primary offerings of a practice that is seemingly normalized – **abusing the drink**.
- Have we deluded ourselves into thinking, that to sin casually and habitually is harmless, so long as tolerated by those around us?

- It is not. As earlier stated, your children are sponges; they absorb your commitment to virtue, wellness and hard work, as much as they may absorb indifference and carelessness.
- The true nature of our choices will show themselves on our children.
- As a wise person said: *“a lie does not become the truth, wrong doesn't become right and evil does not become good, just because it is accepted by a majority.”*

Esteemed Guests,

- Fathers of daughters, or of sons that may one day have their own, may you treat the women that gave you the blessing of parenting, with the respect, with the consideration, and with the love that you would want for those for whom you care most.
- Know that their offering is the greatest of all, and nothing can rival with what they have chosen to give you.
- But also, **Young Men**, I must ask that you stop worrying so much. Worry is a thief of joy.

- Do not let uncertainty about how, and what you will bring home, hinder you from providing in the first place.

Remember, your valued contributions are not just financial; they are emotional and spiritual.

To our **Dear Young Female Leaders,**

- Please, refuse a life of purely enduring.
- **No.** Your worth is not in your ability to tolerate.
- Your biology and ability to bear life, is not a sentence to an eternal, sole responsibility to advance the lives you have created.
- Also, men and women, nurture solidarity among all, to create fair and reasonable benchmarks of what should be accepted in a marriage, and what should be fiercely opposed by society as a whole.

Young Couples,

- We wish you nothing but joy and longevity. We wish that you forever find yourselves in each other, through vulnerability. This will require letting go, and having faith in your marriage, faith in each other, faith for what God has in store for your home.

- I pray that in the future, what you receive, are filled cups, of nurtured and supported partners, of inspired children who are taught the powers of love. From the heart of their homes – their parents.
- **Rwanda Leaders Fellowship**, your noble work is a precious gift to us all. Until the next time, may you remain touched, inspired and nourished by God’s own light.
- May God bless you all!