

**Barbro Johansson Model Girls' Secondary School (Barbro School)**

**The Speech By Ms. Halima Barugahare Kamote, The Headmistress of Barbro School in Marking the Celebration of the 17<sup>th</sup> School Anniversary and 15<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Form Four, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, Luguruni Estate, Kwembe Ward, Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam**

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*Honourable Mussa Azann Zungu, Chairman of the Tanzania National Assembly and MP, Ilala Constituency, representing Honourable Ndugai, Speaker of the Tanzania National Assembly,*

*Professor Anna Kajumulo Tibajuka, Founding Chairperson, Joha Trust and MP Muleba South,*

*Mr. Salmon Odunga, Chairperson, Joha-Trust Board of Trustees, founder members and School Board members,*

*Mrs. Annert Nara, Municipal Academic Officer, Ubungo District and other Government Officials,*

*Leadership from Kwembe ward,*

*Parents and Teachers' Association (PTA) Chairman Dr. John Kyaruzi, current and the past PTA committee members,*

*Invited neighboring Schools and Heads of Schools, teachers and students from Schools implementing the Pilot Project on "Enhanced quality Secondary education for girls, inspired and guided by BJS model concepts",*

*Graduating students of Form IV, all other students and Barbro School community members,*

*Members of Mass media,*

*Distinguished guests,*

*Ladies and gentlemen.*

***Honourable Guest of Honour,***

I would like to use this opportunity to join the Chairperson of JOHA TRUST in welcoming all our distinguished guests who have come to celebrate with us the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Barbro School and 15<sup>th</sup> graduation of our 116 form four students who will sit for their National examinations at the beginning of November 2017. On behalf of Barbro School Community I welcome you all to this historical event.

May I convey my special thanks to you Hon. Mussa Azann Zungu for sparing a chance in your tight schedule in order to join us cherish and inculcate various talents and capabilities to our girls as well as gratify the graduands and the school staff members. I trust that your visit here will inspire our girls and facilitate efficient and effective response in serving others in their communities.

I also use this opportunity to sincerely thank all those who prepared this ceremony especially students and staff of Barbro School. I thank each and every one of you sparing your time to be with us today.

***Honourable Guest of Honour, ladies and gentlemen***

A lot has happened and there is a lot to be said for the 17 years period of which the School has been in existence. If this School was a child we would say that at the age of 17 she will be considered as adult. However, due to the

time limitation I will focus on a short history, some achievements, recognizing our partners in development, challenges and a word of wisdom to the graduands.

Each year these celebrations are commemorated on 25<sup>th</sup> September, the birthday of Dr (Mama) Barbro Johansson. These functions are done in order to appreciate and honour Mama Barbro, a missionary, an esteemed teacher, an activist and a diplomat. Mama Barbro will always be remembered for her tireless contribution in the struggle for enhancing not only girls' education in Tanzania but also boys' education.

Barbro Johansson Secondary School started operating in the year 2000 at Ada estate, Kinondoni district, Dar es Salaam, having 40 needy girls of form one pioneer class from various parts of Tanzania. All those students were recruited from poor families; hence they had 100% sponsorship from JOHA TRUST fund.

In the year 2001 JOHA TRUST and SIDA through the Swedish Embassy in Dar es Salaam, the lead donor then, reached a decision to also accommodate in the School students who are capable and diligent, and whose parents can afford paying school fees. This decision was crucial for the sustainability of the school especially when the donor's scholarship grants cease. In the year 2002 Barbro school shifted from the rented premises in Ada estate to the current premises after completion of construction of the first phase here at 50 - acres Luguruni estate, provided by the Government of Tanzania.

***Invited guest, ladies and gentlemen,***

In 17 years the school has grown and currently the school has 643 students ranging from form one up to form six. There are 63 staff including 34 qualified teachers and 29 non-teaching staff. O-level subjects offered are 16. These are Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Information & Computer Studies, Kiswahili, English language, Literature in English, French, Geography, History, Civics, Commerce, Book-keeping, Bible Studies and Islamic Knowledge . Advanced level offers 9 combinations including PCM, PCB, CBG, EGM, ECA, HKL, HGL, HGE and HGK and giving the students a wide range of choice of combinations of subjects and combinations. This year we will have Pre-Form One class that will commence on 7 October 2017. Application forms are available at administration office or our website [www.johatrust.ac.tz](http://www.johatrust.ac.tz).

***Honourable Guest of Honour;***

We also have a sister School in Bukoba called Alexander Kajumulo High School with 181 Form one to six. So far the Barbro School Luguruni campus has produced 1030 form four graduands, and 934 form six graduands. In addition to this year's 116 form four graduating class we get a grand total of 2080 graduands from this school. 99.9% of students who graduated over 17 years of existence passed in their National exams enabling them to continue to the next levels of education.

***Honourable Guest of Honour, ladies and gentlemen,***

Our school is not left behind in various school competitions including essay competitions, quiz and other academic matters. In many occasions this school has managed to become winners. I believe you have witnessed yourselves several winning certificates which have been displayed on the notice board outside the Administration Block. This year our students have shown great competitiveness in the debate competition held in Zanzibar whereby students from secondary schools of Barbro Johansson, Feza Boys, Al Muntazir and Mtakuja as well as students from Universities of Tanzania, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Africa and Cameroon participated. In that competition Barbro team with students Joan Mshona and Nasra Mohammed of Form 6 emerged 2<sup>nd</sup> winner. Also our student Thecla Ngwilimi form 6 emerged as best overall debater while Nasra Mohammed became 2<sup>nd</sup> winner in public speaking.

Likewise our student Brenda Ngatala (Form 6) was selected and attended girls in science camp in Malawi from 29 July to 16 August 2017. The camp brought together participants from USA, Liberia, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia,

Rwanda and Tanzania. The camp was organized by US Embassy in Malawi in collaboration with Google, NASA, Intel and US Department of State whereas participants learnt various aspects on technology. In Malawi our student Brenda and her team emerged best overall in their project of a virtual laboratory for schools.

Also, the school has facilitated various talents among students such as leadership, creative arts, drama, singing, traditional and modern dance and various sports and games that have inculcated the spirit of cooperation and courtesy with other schools at national and international levels.

***Honourable Guest of Honour;***

An exchange programme for both students and teachers with friendly Swedish schools has been operational for more than 13 years now. At the beginning of this year 2 Barbro School students namely Agnes Komungoma and Swalha Seleman went to Sweden for one month under this programme. Likewise 4 students from Sweden were at Barbro School for one and a half months from July to August this year 2017 for the said programme. We expect 10 of our students and one teacher to go to Sweden for two week at the end of November 2017. This programme has enhanced international and intercultural relations, sharing of ideas, knowledge and experiences on pedagogical and social issues.

***Honourable Guest of Honour and invited guests;***

The School continues to implement the Resources constrained Girls' Outreach Programme. Via this programme, girls from humble families, some of them from far regions, have been reached. Currently 8% of the Students are provided with scholarships. Thanks to Joha Trust Sweden (JOHAFONDEN), a sister organization under the Chairperson Madam Gun Britt Anderson and the Patroness Madam Lizbeth Palme, who have consistently continued to sponsor students in need of financial support. This year 2017 JOHAFONDEN have provided a grant SEK 750,000 equivalent to approximately TZS 186m for scholarships to the needy students. They have also provided various teaching & learning materials and facilitated our academic progress by sponsoring various courses, seminars and workshops for our teachers.

***Honourable Guest of Honour, ladies and gentlemen;***

Barbro School continues to implement Forum Syd funded project that disseminates the good practices (Model Concepts) of Barbro School to other Schools in Dar es Salaam and Pwani Regions. This pilot project that that started in August 2015 and expected to finish in 2018 involves 5 Schools namely Kibaha Girls' Secondary School (Pwani Region), Kwembe Secondary School & Bethsaida Secondary School (Kinondoni District), Majani ya Chai Secondary School (Ilala District) and Chang'ombe Secondary School (Temeke District). Barbro School shares with the named schools various strategies used for provision of quality education, especially for girls, with the aim of improving the quality of education offered at those schools and finally disseminate the model concepts to other schools in the country. I am glad that these schools are represented in today's occasion. The project has already shown some positive results in participating schools in project pillars of positive discipline, remedial classes, students clubs, guidance and counseling and parents' participation through Parents and Teachers' Associations. Thanks again to our friends JOHAFONDEN who provided support obtained from Forum Syd for this project.

***Invited guests, ladies and gentlemen;***

The good cooperation between the School and the Parents in students up bringing has been maintained. The School had organized seminars on children upbringing and how to help students choose future career for the new Form one and Form 5 year 2017. These seminars were carried out on 11 February 2017 and 5 August 2017 for the parents of Form one and Form five respectively. I believe that these seminars have been of benefit to us.

***Ladies and gentlemen;***

When we talk about development we should remember that there are people who have participated fully to cultivate that development. We sincerely thank the pioneers and founder members of this school. These distinguished founder members include the late Ambassador Wilson Tibaijuka (may the Almighty God rest his soul in peace), Honourable Prof. Anna Tibaijuka who is currently in USA to receive a UN Award for her contribution in sustainable development but has sent her greetings, Mr. Salmon Odunga, Ambassador Paul Rupia, and all members of the Board of Trustees who have voluntarily and tirelessly continued to use their time, brains and energy supporting this school to ensure that the Barbro school dream become reality.

I would also like to use this opportunity on behalf of the school community to thank all those whose opinions, financial and material contributions have made us reach where we are.

First and foremost, we highly appreciate the support of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for providing us a 50 acres plot of which we are proud of, providing us with infrastructure such as roads, water and electricity, School registration, School inspection, National Examinations and cooperation in imparting education.

***Honourable Guest of Honour,***

This school could have not have reached this far without the big financial assistance from the Government of Sweden, through the Embassy of Sweden in Dar es Salaam for 12 years from 2000 to 2012. This financial assistance was utilized for construction of school buildings and for sponsorship of Barbro needy girls. Let me assure you our Swedish friends that the tree that you have planted will continue to bear fruits that will feed many for a long time to come.

***Ladies and Gentlemen;***

I am compelled to show my courtesy to the parents of this school under the leadership of their Chairman Dr. John Kyaruzi. The parents have actively participated in various contributions earmarked for the development of this school, including providing support to our needy students, enhancing progress in academics and social affairs, Currently the Parents of Barbro School are fundraising for construction of multimedia and library block, not to mention a tremendous cooperation rendered in implementing the Pilot project on disseminating model concepts that I have mentioned earlier.

As a matter of fact, it is not easy to give my gratitude to all those who have volunteered to support the development of this school, because the list of these stakeholders is long. May I just say to all of you, thank you very much for your wonderful support.

***Honorable Guest of Honour;***

Despite all the achievements the School faces some challenges.

Due to the financial constraints and limited budget development of the infrastructure which is in the school's master plan has not been accomplished. The infrastructures that have not been accomplished are: conference and examination hall, library and multimedia block, staff quarters, internal roads and other infrastructure.

***Invited guests,***

Mobilizing adequate resources and scholarship funds for girls from resource constrained families is yet another challenge. Lack of enough scholarship fund has a direct effect on enrollment of intellectually talented needy girls. Already Joha Trust has been forced to face reality and reduce scholarships offered from 100% in 2000 when we started to 8% this year 2017.

A biggest challenge now is maintaining the education standards offered with restricted resources available.

***Honourable Guest of Honour, ladies and gentlemen;***

Of the duties you will have to perform today, is to award various groups. There are teachers who have performed better than others in the National Examinations and long serving staff who have been in the School for 10 and 15 years. Also, we have the best worker for the year 2017. We humbly request you to award them with certificates, as a gesture of gratitude, for performing better. Also there are students that will receive awards for better performance in their subjects, leadership, discipline, sports etc. Finally you will award the graduands with completion certificates.

***Honourable Guest of Honour;***

At this juncture, with your permission Hon Guest of Honour, may I now turn to the graduating students:

We have 116 Four students graduating today; all of them have excelled in their subjects. Explicitly speaking, “the hero is awarded at her home”. Thus, soon you will award them their completion certificates. These girls have high expectations. The school has prepared them to earmark high objectives in their lives and there is no doubt that all of them will achieve the goals they have set for themselves. Most of them have been with us for four years. Without considering the time we have had with them, we tried our best to give them proper skills and knowledge.

***My Dear graduating girls,***

A graduation ceremony is always such a special occasion - the culmination of years of hard work; the actualization of goals attained and the acknowledgement of successes achieved. So, it is only fitting that today we commemorate the road that we have all traveled together these last few years.

It has been a journey that started with tentative steps perhaps, but one that has taken us to remarkable heights. We have encountered some trials and tribulations along the way...soldiered on and come out the stronger for them.

We have experienced exceptional moments, magical moments and created memories that will be fondly remembered in the years ahead.

As we look back over the last few years, certainly there was a beginning, and thankfully there was a progress and yes - undeniably we have been successful!

Today I offer these wishes for you ...

1. Don't stop learning. Take a piece of the school with you. Over time you will have absorbed not only information, knowledge and skills, but also an institution's history, culture and values including love, compassion, kindness, wisdom, creativity, endurance, respect, and courage . Take that experience and use it to make a difference wherever you go
2. Respect all people and you will be respected back but mostly respect your parents who have invested so much for you. Don't bite the hand that fed you.
3. Always, always be true to yourself. Never try to be what you are not. This is a recipe for disappointment and unhappiness.
4. Never imagine that you are too small or insignificant to make a difference. Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who does nothing because he could do only a little.
5. Be courageous about meeting people, about having a go at something you haven't done before
6. Have big dreams and ambitions. We believe that we have prepared you to be resilient and equipped you with the grit and determination to succeed and overcome the inevitable knock-backs along the way.
7. Maintain the friendship you have built here at School but don't only stick to friends who are like you, reach out and listen to those who have different interests and backgrounds, and most importantly – volunteer some of your time.

8. Don't be afraid to fail. It's easy to feel defeated at times, but view these moments as a challenge. Positivity attracts positivity. Learn from your mistakes and persevere as the unhappiest people may have never failed at anything.
9. Make happiness your choice. Your thoughts belong to you alone and they determine your outlook on the world.
10. Just remember that so many people believe in you and have invested so much in helping you succeed. Now it is up to you to take advantage of what they have given you and succeed in your coming national examinations since the education you have just received is the beginning of another long journey towards higher secondary education and eventually universities.

Now my girls, on the behalf of Babro community, I wish you all the best for you coming National Examinations and may you achieve abundant blessings in your future years ahead.

**Honourable Guest of Honour,**

Let me conclude by insisting that we need joint effort in cultivating sustainable development not only at Babro, but also at our Nation at large. You are warmly welcome. Let us celebrate this historical and wonderful day together.

I thank you for your attention.