**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**KYENDE BORMENTAR**

Hello everyone!! For those of you that may not know, I am the father of the groom and my name is also Kyende..... tonight our family is so happy to be here (**If you are married, you can say**) and my wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are thrilled to have you join us as we witness the marriage of our son to Romell. Romell, you look beautiful

and we are very proud to officially welcome you to our family. The two of you are a wonderful couple and together we are sure you will create and share many lasting memories. (**Are the bride’s parents alive and will they be there? If so, congratulate them and welcome them too**). We would like to congratulate Romell’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My wife and I are so pleased to welcome you to our family as well and we look forward to many more happy times we will all share together.

Throughout the years, as he was growing up, we learned that life is the best teacher.... we also learned that our son, Kyende **ALSO** knew how to teach **us** **MANY** lessons!!! We learned patience, discipline, forgiveness, endurance, determination.... **MORE** **PATIENCE**... (**Wait for the laugh**)... I suppose we might be able to say that Kyende was a “spirited child and young man....” and by **THAT** I mean... he had a mind of his own... as a student, he was independent, adventurous, creative, and ... **ABSENT**!!! Quite a bit apparently, because he was successful at **ONE THING** in particular... he got himself **SUSPENDED**!!! ..... **MANY** times!!! Fortunately, his goodness and determination won. I will never forget the letter he wrote to me **ASSURING** me that bad things like that will never happen to him again. And he kept his word. I think we can say that the **GOOD** news is that Kyende explored his mischievous side when he was younger and hopefully got it out of his system. As we all know, he went on to join the United States Marines and served for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years... we are so appreciative of him for his dedication to the service of his country.... He is a wonderful soccer player, and he is currently a rapid response social worker.... people say the best way to know how to treat people is to “walk a mile in their shoes.” Kyende had his moments growing up, but he’s put his life lessons to good use and turned **HIS** lessons towards helping and healing others. I’m proud of my son... he’s done very well with his life and tonight he enters a new and wonderful next phase with his lovely new wife, Romell.

Kyende, you and Romell make a beautiful couple and your chemistry together shows us just what a happy couple in love looks like..... Of course, as your father, I will always want to watch over you and guide you, so I want to give you some marriage advice.... from the **heart**... you know, if there’s one thing I discovered that is more popular online than kitten and puppy videos, (**Wait for the laugh**) it’s lots and **LOTS** of advice on marriage. (**Wait for the laugh**). I think it’s important that I, as one with experience, share some of this wisdom with you two and all of our guests.... here’s some age old advice from other cultures....

* In Morocco, there’s an expression, “Do not correct with a strike that which can be taught with a kiss....” In other words, measure your comments and don’t over react when you two are in heated “discussions.” Be **KIND**.
* There’s a Zulu proverb that states, “Love, like the rain, does not choose the grass on which it falls...” Love is everywhere.... you two were blessed to find it **together**. Honor your connection.
* From Ghana we learn, “So many little things make a man love a woman in a big way.” Pay attention to details... this goes for **BOTH** of you.... it’s the little acts of kindness, love, attention, respect, that add up to a healthy and fulfilling marriage.

I also found advice from someone that said, “I Wish it Hadn’t Taken me **TEN YEARS** to Learn...” Maybe these tips can help save both of you some time and testing in your marriage...

* When you find out what **REALLY** ticks off the other, **STOP DOING IT**!!!
* He **DOESN’T KNOW** what you’re thinking.... **TELL HIM**
* She **DOESN’T KNOW** what you’re thinking.... **TELL HER.**
* Give each other space...
* Don’t talk about each other in public or to friends.... you must be each other’s **champion**... have each other’s back.
* Don’t answer for each other. If anyone asks either of you what the other thinks or wants or knows, just say, “I don’t know... you’ll have to ask Kyende... or Romell....
* and Kyende??? The best bit of advice I can offer you is simple... **HAPPY WIFE, HAPPY LIFE**`... (**Wait for the laugh**)... it makes all things go much more smoothly if you just remember that **ONE** thing...

Kyende, Romell, I want you to know you can **ALWAYS** come to me for even **MORE** advice, and I will always be happy to give it!!! Just remember that a happy, successful marriage involves falling in love... again and again and again... to **EACH OTHER.** Remember what meant the most to you as you were getting to know each other.... remember to keep learning about each other.... because we.... and **Life**`... constantly change. Remember to love **AND** respect one another, and always remember to focus your sights in the same direction so your goals and missions will be shared. May you both have a lifetime of health, happiness, adventure, fun, respect, and more good fortune than you might ever wish for. Congratulations!!! We **LOVE** you both!!! Thank you!!