

# *REPUBLIC OF RWANDA*



Statement by

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On the occasion of the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup>  
Liberation Day of the Republic of Rwanda

The Hague, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024

- *Excellencies Ambassadors, Heads of Mission and international organizations, members of the diplomatic corps;*
- *Distinguished guests and representatives of the host country*
- *Dear compatriots and friends of Rwanda; ladies and gentlemen;*

Good evening!

1. The entire team of the Embassy of Rwanda and myself wish to thank you all for finding time on your busy schedules to be with us today. It is always a pleasure and an honour to welcome friends on this very special day as we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Rwanda and the 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of Rwanda, which was on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July but we celebrate today. So in some ways the Republic of Rwanda is both 30 years old and 62 years old.
2. Since today is a celebration and not some kind of diplomatic sermon, I will try to be brief so that we can get to the celebrating. Three months ago many of you were with us in Amsterdam as we commemorated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1994 Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, the final result of decades of divisionism and ethnocentric political ideology that were maintained even after our independence in 1962 and nearly drove our country to extinction.
3. But today we are here because the Government and the people of Rwanda demonstrated unparalleled resilience, sense of patriotism, a vision to succeed against incredible odds and an open minded and inclusive approach to nation building for the future generations to enjoy and preserve.
4. Three decades are not a long time, Rwanda went from being a broken country with a shattered economy and a torn social fabric with very little chances to recover as many in the international community predicted, to one of the fastest growing economies in Africa and model for sustainable growth and resilience, women empowerment and inclusion as well as a beacon for stability and a security in our region. Like a phoenix reborn from its ashes, Rwanda was able to forge for itself a path that leads to a better life for all its people without distinction. These strides are driven by values of accountability and ambition to make durable change
5. Throughout this journey of rebuilding, Rwanda benefited significantly from the support of friendly countries such as the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which is among the first countries to open an Embassy in Rwanda post 1994 and has played a great role in our reconstruction, especially through the reforming our judicial system and

continues to be a reliable partner in ensuring accountability for the crime of genocide. We value the relationship that we were able to build between our two countries over the past three decades and are committed to double efforts in strengthening our ties and expanding our cooperation across various sectors of mutual interest.

6. Similarly Rwanda remains committed to strengthening its very positive ties with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. We believe that there is great potential for strong cooperation in key sectors of importance for our countries, especially in the technology and digital innovation fields.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

7. Rwanda believes in the merits of multilateral diplomacy and its role in promoting international cooperation aimed amongst other things at creating and maintaining international peace and security and achieve sustainable development for all.
8. Being a country that has experienced the short falls of the international system, Rwanda has striven to take our international responsibility as an active member of the international community and resolve to contribute to peace-keeping and stability missions whenever required for the past 20 years and remains one of the top contributor of uniformed personnel for UN peacekeeping missions. We remain committed to playing an active role in the multilateral arena particularly here in The Hague.

**Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,**

9. In order to conserve my birth right, allow me to briefly address my compatriot in the room in our mother tongue!

Banyarwanda, Banyarwanda kazi, namwe nshuti zurwanda mwabaherekeje.

10. Nongeye kubashimira ko mwabashije kubona umwanya wo kwitabira iki gikorwa kuri uyu mugoroba kugira ngo tubashe kwifatanya mu kwizihiza umunsi wo kwibohora ku nshuro ya 30.
11. Numunsi wamateka uduha umwanya wo gusubiza amaso inyuma tukareba aho igihugu cyacu cyavuye arinako duharanira gisigasira ibyagezweho kandi tunatera ikirenge mu cyabatubanjirije bamenye amaraso yabo kugira ngo tube dufite igihugu twese twisangamo kandi twibonamo.

12. Mboneyeho n'umwanya wo kubwira urubwiruko ruri hano, benshi tungana cyangwa se ndutaho gato ko igihe cyo gukorera igihugu cyacu no kukirengera ari none kandi ko tudakwiye guteshuka ku nshingano zo guhangana nabashaka kuduhungabanya mu nzira yacu twihaye yiterambere rirambye.

**Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen**

This year's theme is "Rwanda journey continues", alone we may go fast but together we will go fast and further. So join us on this exciting journey and let's break the speed and distance limit.

Happy Liberation Day!