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Rwandans, friends of Rwanda in UAE mark the 27th Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi

Rwandans and friends of Rwanda in the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Bahrain came together in Dubai and remotely on Friday 21st May to honor over a million lives killed in a gruesome way during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

Addressing the audience, H.E. Emmanuel Hategeka, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the UAE paid tribute to victims and honored survivors who gave all they could by way of forgiveness. He noted that the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi is a stark reminder of the greatest failure of humanity and total failure of the international community in recent history. He called for fighting genocide denial and revisionism.



H.E. Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka called up on the world to recommit to Never Again

"The genocide against the Tutsi was stopped 27 years ago, but the genocide ideology and genocide suspects still at large continue to propagate genocide denial and revisionism even among the unborn youth at the time making the commitment to never again almost mission impossible. On this occasion, I urge the youth in whose hands the future of our country lies to distance themselves from genocide ideology, genocide denial and revisionist narratives," H.E. Ambassador Hategeka urged.

"We also call upon the international community to recommit to Never Again by bringing to justice genocide suspects still at large. There are now over 1,100 genocide fugitives roaming in different countries and they have not been apprehended," H.E. Ambassador Hategeka added.

The 27 commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda officially started on 7th April and will last a hundred days.



130 Rwandans and Friends of Rwanda followed the event physically while over 200 RCA members followed virtually



H.E. Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation

"There is a lot of respect, compassion and solidarity from the people of the United Arab Emirates and from the leadership of the United Arab Emirates towards our fellow brethren in Rwanda and also the leadership of Rwanda led by H.E. the President Paul Kagame, who we hold a lot of respect for; we continue to enjoy strong relations with Rwanda," H.E. Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy added.

She said that this annual commemoration is an opportunity to collectively fight all forms of genocide and extreme ideologies, calling for tolerance, inclusivity and gender equality.

"We stand hand in hand with you and we pray that not only this never happens again but also we work actively together to ensure all forms of hatred, all forms of extremism are fought and tackled," H.E. Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy emphasized.

She commended Rwanda for choosing a path of recovery and reconciliation, a path that offers hope and optimism to future generations, to the region and to the world.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the United Arab Emirates and Rwanda in 1995, UAE and Rwanda have fostered an exceptional and strong partnership that has continued to grow and prosper. "We are committed partner to Rwanda and to its leadership and we always will be," H.E. Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy reaffirmed.

Leadership, Rwanda's key to renewal- Ashish

The 1994 genocide against the Tutsi broke out when Ashish J. Thakkar was in holidays in Rwanda where his family lived at the time.

He recalls the period as highly horrible and confesses that it was hard to think about and acknowledge the atrocities and sufferings inflicted to many people. It is thanks to Rwanda that Mr. Ashish acknowledged and owned what happened. "That instills bravery and I am extremely grateful for this," he said.

The founder of Mara Group and a friend of Rwanda observed that the remarkable progress of Rwanda is a result of collective work by Rwandans but importantly the visionary leadership plays a central role.

"We have to focus on how far we have come as a country and that genocide should never happen again. Leadership is such a key component in this, the UAE has demonstrated this. Leadership can take you to completely different heights as has Rwanda. God has blessed Rwanda truly with H.E. President Paul Kagame whose leadership and his true visionary style but also his humbleness, authenticity and truly living it; not only saying the right things but actually doing them is the most important thing. We have all seen this and we are still seeing it."

He appreciated the vision of the country's leadership which is to become a global model of reference. He portrayed Rwanda as a phenomenal place, one of the top cities in the world, the safest, and the cleanest country in top ten fastest growing economies in the world.

From 26 African countries in which the Mara Group has investment, Ashish says they chose to put in Rwanda the Africa's first smartphone manufacturing facility because Rwanda is really investor ready and open to business.

Kwibuka27: UAE stands in solidarity with Rwanda

The United Arab Emirates conveyed compassion and solidarity with Rwanda at the 27th Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

H.E. Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation who represented her country at the commemoration event said in her remarks: "I am deeply honored and deeply humbled to represent my country at this 27th Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. This is a very important moment and a very important milestone for us to remember and honor the victims and also for us to pay respect to the survivors and ensure that what happened never happens again.



Ashish J. Thakkar, a Friend of Rwanda

President Macron seeks forgiveness from Genocide survivors



French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday, May 27, made a speech in which he sought the forgiveness of the survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, for what he admitted was his country's historical and political responsibility in Rwanda. He delivered the speech at the Kigali Genocide Memorial - the final resting place for more than 250,000 victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi. He had just laid a wreath and honored Genocide victims.

According to Macron, France has a duty to face history and to recognize the suffering it has inflicted on the Rwandan people by, for too long, being silent in as far as facing and examining the truth is concerned. Macron said: "As I stand with humility and respect at your side on this day, I come to recognize the magnitude of our responsibilities."

Macron added: "Recognizing this past, our responsibility, is an unrequited gesture. Demand for ourselves and for ourselves. Debt to the victims after so many past silences. A gift to the living whose pain we can, if they accept, still ease.

"This journey of recognition, through our debts, our donations, offers us hope to come out of this night and walk together again. On this path, only those who have been through the night can perhaps forgive, give us the gift of forgiving ourselves."

In a joint press conference, Rwanda President Paul Kagame lauded Macron for his apology to Genocide victims during his remarks at the Kigali Genocide Memorial adding that it was something more valuable than an apology, the truth.

"Speaking the truth is risky. But you do it because it is right, even when it costs you something, even when it is unpopular. Despite some loud noises and voices, President Macron took this step. Politically and morally, this was an act of tremendous courage. These risks paid off because there was good faith on both sides," he said.

Macron arrived in Kigali in the morning of May 27 for a two-day official visit.

President Macron seeks forgiveness from Genocide survivors | The New Times

Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka presents credentials to IRENA



H.E. Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka (left) presented his credential letter to DG Francesco La Camera at IRENA HQ

H.E. Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka presented his credential letter to Francesco La Camera, Director General of IRENA as Rwanda's Permanent Representative to the intergovernmental agency with headquarters in Abu Dhabi – UAE. The ceremony took place on May 03, 2021 at IRENA Headquarters.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is a member based agency with the mandate to promote increased adoption and sustainable use of renewable energies supporting countries in energy transition through policy advice, research, technology, knowledge exchange as well as providing a platform for resource mobilization.

In conversation with DG Francesco La Camera, Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka reaffirmed Rwanda's commitment to increasing the share of renewable energy with a clear national vision of becoming a low carbon, climate resilient economy by 2050.

"Thank you so much DG Francesco La Camera for your warm welcome to IRENA as Rwanda's Permanent Representative. I look forward to scaling up in our cooperation in renewable energy transitioning for a greener future of my country," Ambassador Hategeka said after presenting his credentials.

By 2024, renewable energy will constitute 60% of Rwanda's energy mix. With a target of universal access to electricity, 52% of households will be connected to the grid while 48% will be off grid using solar home systems and mini grids.

"Enhanced partnership with IRENA will promote exchange of knowledge and best practices in renewable energy. We will also work together in resource mobilization efforts to implement our NDC especially for renewable energy targets," Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka underscored.

On his part DG Francesco La Camera praised Rwanda as a unique country at the forefront of climate change action, green, stable and secure with a good investment climate. He reiterated IRENA's intention to host the next investment forum under climate investment platform in Rwanda in 2022.

DG Francesco La Camera encouraged different actors in Rwanda to share projects in renewable energy and climate investment for consideration by over 300 partners collaborating under IRENA's climate investment platform.

Amb. Hategeka presents credentials to IRENA | Rwanda in UAE

Business, Trade and Tourism

Rwandan fresh products now available at Lulu hypermarket

Enjoy a taste of Rwanda's horticultural fresh products now available at Lulu hypermarket UAE. Pick best Green Banana/matoke, Green Chili, Habanero chili and Avocado Hass at Al Barsha Lulu Hypermarket and Dubai Festival Plaza outlets while stocks last!

As consumers in UAE enjoy Rwanda fresh products, the availability of the produce at Lulu hypermarket is also a big boost to Rwandan farmers! With this market access, farmers can invest more in agriculture for both domestic and foreign markets. The first shipment reached Dubai on May 18. Consumers in UAE will surely enjoy the freshness and organic nature of these Rwanda products timely delivered by RwandAir.

Lulu Hypermarket is a major retail chain of 209 hypermarkets and supermarkets in Asia and Middle East. Horticulture products from Rwanda are also exported to Carrefour and Golden Tree Fruits Vegetables Dubai.



Rwanda fresh produce stocked at Lulu Hypermarket

RwandAir named Africa's safest airline for passengers

RwandAir, the national carrier became the first African airline to be awarded the diamond status rating for Covid-19 prevention measures, with officials describing the award as "the highest attainable level."

This implies RwandAir has the highest levels of safety and hygiene standards across every touch point in the airline's journey, according to a statement released on Tuesday May 25. The award attributed to the airline's sustained work to ensure the highest standards of cleanliness and sanitization for its customers and crew, was given by APEX Health Safety, powered by SimpliFlying.



"The health and safety of our customers and staff is the top priority for RwandAir," said Yvonne ManziMakolo, CEO of RwandAir, adding, "So we are delighted to be awarded Diamond status from APEX Health Safety, powered by SimpliFlying, for our Covid-19 prevention measures."

In addition, she said, "Reaching the highest attainable level for hygiene standards is a powerful clean bill of health for the airline, and validation for all the hard work we have put in to ensure the safest possible traveler experience for our customers and staff."

Joe Leader, APEX CEO, said: "RwandAir has demonstrated the highest possible level of care for its customers becoming the first African airline to reach the hospital-grade Diamond level of APEX Health Safety powered by SimpliFlying's comprehensive review.

"RwandAir proves that reaching this level of health safety does not depend upon the size of the airline, but rather the incredibly proactive steps taken for customer and staff wellbeing. We are deeply proud of RwandAir as a rising star for our entire airline industry in Africa."

RwandAir named Africa's safest airline for passengers | RwandAir

Expo 2020 Dubai: Visitors to marvel at Rwanda's remarkable transformation

Expo 2020 Dubai visitors will be able to marvel at Rwanda's remarkable transformation into a tech-centric hub and model of African progress. The six-month mega event is an opportunity to showcase African vast potential.

For six months from 1 October 2021, more than 190 participating nations, including every country in Africa, will gather in the UAE to broaden horizons and exchange ideas that inspire action to tackle real-life challenges and spur positive change. Expo 2020 will open up new markets, offering an unrivalled opportunity for countries to reach an international audience, seek investments and forge new partnerships that will reinvigorate their economies

The first time in the 170-year history of World Expos that every African nation will participate with its own pavilion, Africa's participation at Expo 2020 is testament to the long-standing friendship between the UAE and Africa – a relationship that is based on mutual respect and a shared vision, and one which continues to flourish.

Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General, Expo 2020 Dubai, said: "Africa is the future – not just for Africans, but for the entire world. The youngest, fastest-growing continent on the planet is brimming with promise, and the global community has a shared responsibility to ensure it grasps that opportunity for the good of us all."

Visitors to Expo will be able to marvel at Rwanda's remarkable transformation into a tech-centric hub and model of African progress, taste Ethiopia's next big super-grain and chocolate from Ivory Coast, invest in Kenya's croton nuts energy and explore Gabon's space ambitions, among others.

Africa to showcase its potential at Expo 2020 Dubai | WAM

Amb. Hategeka paid a courtesy visit to Czech Republic Ambassador to UAE

On May 18, 2021, H.E. Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka paid a courtesy visit to H.E Jiří Slavík Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Arab Emirates. Their exchange focused on areas of common interest across diplomacy, development in healthcare and education and 4th Industrial revolution as well.

Ambassador Hategeka took the opportunity to brief his host on Rwanda's development journey, the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and its commemoration.

H.E. Jiří commended and applauded the great leadership of the government of Rwanda and progress post the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.



Amb. Hategeka paid a courtesy call to Belgium Ambassador to UAE

On May 19, 2021, H.E. Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka paid a courtesy call to H.E Peter L.J.F. CLAES, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the United Arab Emirates. They discussed Rwanda-Belgium bilateral relations.

Ambassador Hategeka took the opportunity to brief his counterpart on Rwanda's renewal journey, the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and its commemoration.

Pictorial: Kwibuka27 in UAE



H.E. Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka with H.E. Reem Al Hashimy and diplomats



Officials, friends of Rwanda and Rwandans at the event



Lighting commemorative candles



Genocide Survivor Nkuringoma G. gave his testimony



H.E. Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka urged the youth to distance themselves from genocide ideology, genocide denial and revisionist narratives



Uruyange cultural group based in UAE performed Kwibuka27 songs