

PRESS RELEASE

Umushyikirano to draw on Rwanda's shared vision to speed up national development

Kigali, 16 December 2014

Rwanda's annual Umushyikirano will bring together leaders and citizens to discuss the country's progress, the importance of building on achievements and the role of families in national development. The homegrown solution serves as an opportunity for citizens to be active participants in shaping policy as well as hold leaders accountable.

This year the event, also known as the National Dialogue Council, will be held alongside the meeting of the Advisory Council for the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide. Themed 'Common Vision, New Momentum', the two day meeting will begin on 18 December and will be chaired by President Kagame.

Citizens will join the dialogue through sms and online platforms as well as through the national fibre optic video conferencing set up at sites across Rwanda. As in previous years, Rwandan youth will join the discussion through the annual YouthConnekt Convention bringing together 2,000 young people including entrepreneurs and professionals, innovators, artists, students, and young people living with disabilities.

The topics for Umushyikirano 2014 are 'Family – A Foundation for National Prosperity' and 'Safeguarding our Achievements for a Better Future'. They aim to highlight the progress made towards Vision 2020 and the steps needed to ensure Rwanda's transformation to a middle-income country. The topics aim to stimulate an inclusive dialogue that will result in solutions to the challenges Rwanda faces today.

The presentation to be given at the Advisory Council for the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide is titled '20 Years of Renewal' and will cover the achievements and plans in the prevention and fight against genocide ideology and denial. It will also include the efforts being undertaken to preserve the evidence of the genocide against the Tutsi, ensure the welfare of genocide survivors and respond to cases of trauma.

Governed by Article 168 of the Constitution, Umushyikirano is a forum where participants debate issues relating to the state of the nation, the state of local government and national unity. Umushyikirano draws its strength from the direct participation of citizens in the decisions that affect their daily lives. Umushyikirano has been crucial for Rwanda's development by placing the needs of citizens at the centre of policy making. Members of the Cabinet and Parliament, representatives of the Rwandan community abroad, local government, media, the diplomatic community and citizens attend the event.

Media Enquiries:

Please direct media enquires to info-umushyikirano@ogs.gov.rw.

You can stay up to date by visiting www.umushyikirano.gov.rw, following @Umushyikirano on Twitter or liking the event Facebook page. You can also learn more about Umushyikirano at Rwandapedia.

Visit www.youthconnekt.rw or follow @YouthConnekt for more information about the YouthConnekt Convention taking place alongside Umushyikirano.

Photos from past events are available at www.flickr.com/govrw and www.flickr.com/paulkagame. Photos of this year's event for use by media outlets will be uploaded to www.flickr.com/govrw.

