



14th National Umushyikirano Council



15-16 December 2016

Concept Note

1. Introduction

As part of efforts to reconstruct Rwanda and nurture a shared national identity, the Government of Rwanda drew on aspects of Rwandan culture and traditional practices to enrich and adapt its development programs to the country's needs and context. The result is a set of Home Grown Solutions - culturally owned practices translated into sustainable development programs. One of these Home Grown Solutions is Umushyikirano.

Umushyikirano is an annual event that gives Rwandans from all walks of life the opportunity to ask questions directly to their leaders. The event is chaired by the President and attended by members of the Cabinet and Parliament, representatives of the Rwandan community abroad, local government, media, the diplomatic community and others invited by the President.

Governed by Article 140 of the Constitution, the National Umushyikirano Council meets at least once (1) a year. It debates issues relating to the state of the Nation and national unity. The President of the Republic convenes and presides over the National Umushyikirano Council and determines those who participate. Resolutions of this Council are submitted to the relevant institutions to enable them to improve their service delivery to the population. A presidential order may provide for other matters for the National Umushyikirano Council.

It is in this regards that this year's National Umushyikirano Council, the 14th edition, will take place from 15 to 16 December 2016 at the Kigali Convention Centre.

2. Proposed theme: Shaping together the Rwanda We Want

The proposed theme aims at taking stock of Rwanda's achievements registered in the last few years, Rwandan values, and the future we want. More broadly, panelists will stress the importance of collaboration between leadership and citizens as pillars to Rwanda's continued development.

3. Discussion Topics

Panel One: Rwanda's Achievements: "A Product of Unity and Unconventional Solutions"

Over the past two decades, Rwanda has registered unprecedented social and economic transformation in all spheres of life. There has been sustained progress in the unity and

reconciliation of Rwandans reaching 92% in 2015, access to education with the primary net enrolment rate increasing to 97% from 72.6% in 2000. In the health sector, the maternal mortality rate dropped from 1071 in 2000 to 210 in 2015 while the infant mortality rate dropped from 107 in 2000 to 32 in 2015. Rwanda's growth is due to clear policies and strategies which have resulted into significant decrease in poverty rates from 58.9% in 2001 to 39% in 2013 while extreme poverty was reduced from 40% to 16% in the same period.

The successful implementation of social programs and other government programs is a result of visionary leadership, shared vision and collaboration between leadership and citizens. The topic seeks to highlight Rwanda's development agenda through concrete examples and demonstrate how citizens and leaders have worked together.

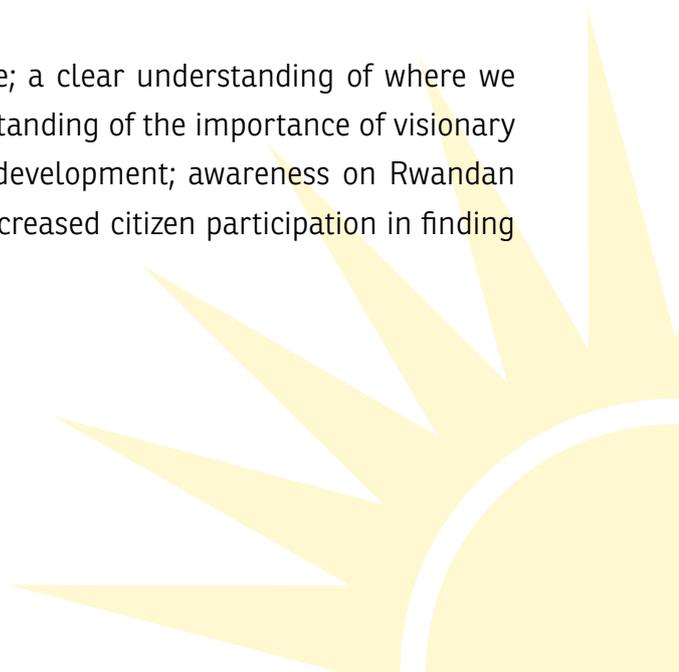
It is expected that the cross cutting discussions on this topic will enhance the Unity and Reconciliation of Rwandans, increase citizens' commitment to protect and safeguard the current achievements; enhance knowledge on key government programs and Home Grown Solutions that transformed the lives of Rwandans; articulate the central role of leadership in enhancing Rwanda's Brand and in the country's development and increase an understanding that a shared vision is instrumental to any success and determination of the country's future.

Panel Two: The Rwanda We Want -U Rwanda Twifuza

Rwanda's vision encapsulates universal access to improved living standards, sustained food security, protection of the Rwandan family, universal access to quality affordable services in health, education, finance, housing, energy, infrastructure etc. However, improved state of living conditions should be underpinned by upholding some of our values (self-reliance, dignity, integrity, patriotism, hardworking, innovation...) as key drivers to our desired social welfare/ common vision.

The topic will provide a snapshot of where we want to be as Rwandans (Vision 2050 under preparation) and stress the importance of Rwandan values that underpin our ambitious vision and underscore the imperative for continuity.

Overall, the expected outcomes from this topic include; a clear understanding of where we want to be as Rwandans (Vision 2050), a shared understanding of the importance of visionary leadership as a driver to future social and economic development; awareness on Rwandan values that will facilitate us to achieve vision and an increased citizen participation in finding solutions to emerging challenges.



4. Format

- » A short video on citizens' aspirations on the Rwanda we want;
- » The discussions shall be conducted in a "Davos style" format with speakers taking few minutes to shade light on the topic and then followed by discussions from the floor audience;
- » The moderator will be responsible for orienting questions from the audience and remote sites across the country to concerned respondents;
- » Citizens will participate the National Umushyikirano Council through establishment of remote sites;
- » The public will be fully engaged either by contributing within the conference hall or through telephone calls & SMS, emails & other social media. The event will also be broadcasted live on both radio and TVR.

5. Agenda

◆Day One

- » Remarks by His Excellency the President of the Republic at the official opening of the 14th National Umushyikirano Council;
- » Presentation by the Right Honorable Prime Minister on the status of implementation of the 13th National Umushyikirano Council Resolutions;
- » A short video (5-7 minutes) on citizens' aspirations for the future- Rwanda we want;
- » **Topic 1: Rwanda's Achievements: "A Product of Unconventional Solutions".**

◆Day Two

- » **Topic 2: The Rwanda We Want -U Rwanda Twifuza;**
- » Presentation of Resolutions of the 14th National Umushyikirano Council;
- » Closing Remarks by His Excellency the President of the Republic.

