



17th National Umushyikirano Council

Concept note

1. Introduction

This year's Umushyikirano scheduled to take place on December 19th - 20th 2019, is an opportune time to collectively reflect on the nation's vision 2020 and the development journey ahead. In the next two days, discussions will focus on continued efforts to sustain gains and foster inclusive growth.

In particular, discussions during the 17th Umushyikirano will touch on economic growth and opportunities to improve competitiveness, as well as advance social development through strengthened and resilient communities.

2. Discussion Topics

Topic 1: Driving Double-Digit Growth

This session will reflect on choices, principles and values that have been central for economic progress over the past 2 decades, and in particular over the last year.

In 2000, Rwanda was one of the poorest countries in the world, with 60% of its population living under the poverty line and a per capita income of USD 290. Today, Rwanda has achieved substantial progress, with economic growth rates averaging 8% annually, among the fastest in the world. This year, Rwanda registered 12% growth in the 2nd quarter, and 11.9% in the 3rd quarter, primarily driven by

construction, manufacturing and service sectors. This growth did not happen by chance; it is a result of concerted efforts by the public and private sectors to increase investments and improve lives of Rwandans.

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) has made significant strides in building an enabling environment for business to thrive. Consequently there have been a number of reforms and investments in essential infrastructure that have boosted growth. The private sector has also played a vital role in economic development, through continual increase in the number of businesses, diversification of products, and improved quality. This progress demonstrates that Rwanda's growth has been a shared journey.

Expected outcomes in this session include: awareness of achievements that need to be sustained, identification of new opportunities, and an improved understanding of the role of all Rwandans in achieving even more ambitious targets, stipulated in the National Strategy for Transformation 1 (NST 1) and Vision 2050.

Session Structure

The session will begin with a video illustrating Rwanda's growth story, key achievements and critical contributors to growth.

Panel Structure

- **MINECOFIN:** Discuss Rwanda's development trajectory, key achievements made over the last decade, and highlight government strategies for continued accelerated growth.
- **RDB:** Discuss RDB's role in improving Rwanda's business climate, the role of FDI in double-digit growth, and existing initiatives to support the growth of the private sector.
- **MINICOM:** Discuss the achievements registered through the Made in Rwanda campaign and the key sectors that will drive growth beyond 2020.
- **Private Sector/Entrepreneur:** Emphasize the private sector's role in accelerating and maintaining double-digit growth.
- **Economic Analyst:** Provide analysis on the key drivers of growth, highlight the necessary actions required to propel the economy forward, and forecast where the country is headed.

Topic 2: Engaging families for community resilience

This session will take stock of achievements made to address vulnerabilities, specifically in health and education, through national and locally driven solutions. Further, it will reaffirm the critical importance of the Rwandan family, as a central

unit of the Rwandan society, engaged in solving problems within communities and nurturing community resilience.

Accomplishments in the past 25 years, within the health sector have seen life expectancy increasing from 49 years to 67 years, a decrease in child mortality, improved access to healthcare through the Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI) scheme, and more than 70% decrease in the disease burden overall. Additionally, within the sector of education, with universal access to education, there has been increased enrolment, introduction of early childhood development centers, improved school feeding programs etc. These advances have proven to be key contributors in building resilient communities.

Nonetheless, there are still areas for improvement, notably; malnutrition, school drop outs at an early age, drug abuse and teenage pregnancies, etc. Homegrown solutions have been pivotal in the transformational journey and this Umushyikirano will be an opportunity to renew commitment in prioritizing human development. Expected outcomes in this session include; increased awareness of the critical role home grown solutions play in addressing community challenges, and an improved understanding of the need for collaboration of all stakeholders to ensure quality human development for all Rwandans.

Panel Structure:

- **MINALOC:** Discuss government interventions/mechanisms established to build engaged and resilient communities, and how these governance platforms have encouraged communities, together with local government entities, to understand and solve pertinent issues in human security, health and education.
- **MIGEPROF:** Discuss government efforts over the past two decades, in promoting responsible parenthood and empowering families to address gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, drug abuse and dropouts.
- **Community Health Worker:** Discuss the role of Community Health Workers in partnering with communities to ensure healthy and prosperous families.
- **Community Leader:** Share experience as an engaged community leader in building resilient communities, focusing on families, with particular emphasis on values, roles and responsibilities in promoting family welfare.

3. Format

- The event will be broadcasted live on radio and TV. The public will participate from the conference hall, and other satellite locations, telephone calls, SMS, emails and social media.
- Panels will be interactive and speakers will each take a few minutes to shed light on a topic, followed by discussions from the audience.
- Citizens will participate from remote sites across the country.