

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



THE PRIME MINISTER

Keynote address by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister

Dr. Ngirente Edouard

At the launch of Volkswagen E-Mobility Project

Kigali Convention Center, October 29th, 2019

- **Honourable Ministers,**
- **Members of Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Chairman and Managing Director of Volkswagen Africa,**
- **CEO of Siemens South & Eastern Africa,**
- **CEO Volkswagen Mobility Solutions Rwanda,**
- **Distinguished guests and participants,**

Good morning,

- 1.** On behalf of His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, I am pleased to join you today at the official launch of the Volkswagen E-Mobility Project. This is a good step forward in providing innovative mobility solutions to the Rwandan market.
- 2.** First, let me start by congratulating Volkswagen for being the first company to assemble cars in Rwanda. Thanks to this partnership, today we witness yet another milestone in our “Made in Rwanda” initiative with the introduction of Volkswagen’s first electric cars on the continent.
- 3.** Earlier this month, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda launched the first smartphones (Mara phones), made in Rwanda. These, and other initiatives demonstrate that we are committed to not only adopting but also driving technological advances that revolutionize our economy.
- 4.** In our National Strategy for Transformation (NST1 2017-2024), Rwanda prioritises development of a climate resilient low carbon economy. This includes building smart green cities, smart transport facilities and services as well as the use of ICT and digital solutions for improved service delivery.

5. E-mobility presents great opportunities to substitute expensive fuel imports with electricity generated in the country. In 2018, fuel products were the largest single import product category into Rwanda, accounting for 12% of all imported goods.
6. Rwandans are becoming increasingly aware that protecting the environment is a top priority. We are confident that the introduction of environmentally friendly transport services will accelerate the reduction of air pollution levels.
7. We commend Volkswagen Business model in Rwanda that promotes services through VW Move and the plan to roll out in other countries on the continent. Your ambition to expand invites us to collaborate across policy fields, sectors and industries in order to make a holistic transition to the environment friendly transport on the continent.
8. Volkswagen Rwanda's investment is contributing to the creation of jobs especially among youth since operations started in June 2018. This complements Rwanda's target to create at least 1.5 million decent and productive jobs by 2024. The private sector is central.

Distinguished Guests,

9. As I conclude, allow me to once again thank Volkswagen for setting up its e-mobility operations in Rwanda. We reiterate our commitment to ensure a transition towards clean, competitive and connected mobility for Rwandans.

10. I would like also to commend the partnership between Volkswagen Rwanda and Siemens in setting up the first initial charging station for electric cars. We also appreciate the investments made by Ampersand and Safi Ride in electric motorcycles.

11. I am confident the pilot project will be successful and will lead to the successful adoption of electric vehicles in Rwanda and on the continent.

I thank you for your kind attention.