

# REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



## Remarks by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente

### At the 4th Forum on China-Africa Local Government Cooperation

Kigali | 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- **Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**

1. I have the pleasure to address you today at this important Forum on China-Africa Local Government Cooperation.
2. I would also like to thank the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) for organizing this Forum.
3. This year's Forum is taking place at a time when Rwanda and the People's Republic of China are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our bilateral cooperation, that started in November 1971.
4. The Government of Rwanda commends the continued cooperation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and Africa through various platforms including the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).
5. Our bilateral cooperation with China has played a significant role in the transformation of our key development sectors, including infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, ICT, trade, mining, transport, as well as tourism.
6. China and Africa have worked hand in hand to strategically develop political and socio-economic ties, and now, China is ranked among the top largest investors in Africa. This has created many opportunities and jobs for our respective peoples.

- **Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**

7. Despite the challenging times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the strategic partnership between China and Africa has continued to be reinforced in many areas of mutual interest.
8. We have benefited from China's solidarity in the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, China is one of Africa's biggest suppliers of personal protective equipment in fighting Covid-19.
9. In Rwanda, China has supported our efforts to fight COVID-19 with the distribution of testing kits, personal protective equipment and vaccines.
10. In a bid to further cement our existing friendship and local government cooperation, our two countries (Rwanda and China) have started to implement city to city cooperation to enable people-to-people relations, cultural exchange and socio-economic development.
11. This Forum highlights the commitment from both China and Africa to deepen our relations beyond the usual framework and include local governments that are the backbone in delivering essential services to citizens.

- **Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**

**12.** Before I conclude, I would like to reiterate the importance of maintaining the existing political will to strengthen our relations based on mutual respect, fairness, as well as win-win cooperation at various levels.

**13.** Once again, I thank the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries for having organized this Forum.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**