

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



THE PRIME MINISTER

**Remarks by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Ngirente Edouard, at
the High Level Gala Dinner in honour of Youth Connekt Participants**

Kigali Convention Center, on October 11, 2019

- **Honourable Ministers, here present,**
- **UNDP Assistant administrator and Regional Director for Africa,**
- **UNDP Resident representatives,**
- **Head of UN Agencies,**
- **Youth Delegates**
- **Development partners,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**

Good evening,

- 1.** I hope you have enjoyed your stay in Rwanda. As you might know, this year's YouthConnekt Summit has brought together over 90 nationalities. This is exceptional and shows the interest that the YouthConnekt has raised continentally and globally.
- 2.** I would like to thank our development partners, especially the UNDP, KOICA and other Youth Connekt Rwanda partners. Your good collaboration and partnership with the Government of Rwanda in organizing this Youth Connekt Summit 2019 made it a big success.
- 3.** Earlier this year, the African Union recognized the YouthConnekt as a continental Initiative that can fast track the progress of Agenda 2063 and the African Youth Charter.
- 4.** This important endorsement, along with various regional efforts of the YouthConnekt Africa Hub, has led to the growth of the hub membership to 12 member States. Additionally, some more countries are planning to launch the YouthConnekt program.
- 5.** The youth of Africa have over the past few days demonstrated their capacities to bring forward solutions that address some of our most outstanding challenges. They have also made their voices heard in their call for action to the African leaders.

6. As you already know, by 2055, Africa's population will have doubled. This is just 35 years from now. Therefore, investments should be made in our youth to ensure that they are competitive on the labour market. This will be possible when our youth are equipped with needed skills.
7. However, youth unemployment is a growing concern on the continent and globally. This challenge needs to be seriously addressed, and in a sustainable manner by engaging both Public and Private sector.
8. In this regard, every stakeholder has a role to play in addressing youth employment, and it is time to align vision with resources and execution. The recently ratified Continental Free Trade Area is one step further on our journey of continental transformation towards achieving a common vision.
9. As leaders, let us make it our legacy to ensure that this generation is enabled to drive Africa's economic transformation, to change the narrative of our continent, to develop value chains, ecosystems and live dignified lives. If we do so, we can rest assured that the future generations will prosper.

**Hon. Ministers,
Distinguished Guests,**

10. I would like to welcome you to enjoy this evening with us. I wish to extend, on behalf of the Government of Rwanda, our sincere appreciation for your participation in 2019 YouthConnekt Africa. If you have a few more days, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit the countryside, and continue to enjoy our beautiful natural attractions.

I thank you so much!