

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



PRIME MINISTER

**Remarks by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Ngirente Edouard, at
the 9th International Conference of the African Biblical Leadership
Initiative (ABLI Forum)**

Kigali Convention Center, on October 23rd, 2019

- **Honorable Ministers,**
- **Archbishop Antoine Kambanda, Legal Representative of the Bible Society of Rwanda,**
- **Members of Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Dr Sam Kobia, ABLI Moderator,**
- **Pastor Rick Warren,**
- **Leaders of faith-based organizations,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**

Good morning,

- 1.** I am pleased to be with you today in this important event, representing His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, who had wished to participate in this conference, but could not, due to other engagements. I wish to welcome you all to Rwanda and thank you for being here.

- 2.** I would like to thank the previous speakers for their inspiring talk that has motivational and uplifting message. This makes me believe that this conference will make a positive impact on transformational leadership in Africa.

- 3.** I would like to thank the Bible Society of Rwanda for organizing and hosting this important Forum. I also commend the great work you continue to do through the Bible Mission in partnership with United Bible Society and Churches.

4.The theme of this year's Forum is very significant for our country. It is in line with our journey of unity and reconciliation. We recognize the contribution of the Church in the journey of building unity and reconciliation of the Rwandan society. Bible principles played a considerable role in rebuilding trust and harmony among Rwandans.

For instance, truth telling, apology and forgiveness contributed a lot to the reconciliatory justice and the restoration of national identity and dignity.

5. Within the framework of achieving unity and reconciliation among Rwandans, the Government of Rwanda opted for home-grown solutions. One of these is Gacaca courts, a restorative and reconciling justice.

6.These home-grown solutions were shaped by biblical values together with Rwandan values and have contributed to the country's economic development. This is mainly evident in different sectors of our economy where values of integrity, hard-work and transparency were used to sustain our development process.

Distinguished Guests,

7.It is commendable that Bible Society and churches work hand-in-hand with other governmental and non-governmental institutions. This partnership brings about community development, social welfare and peace in the society.

- 8.**I am informed that the issue of the youth is one of the major focus areas of African Biblical Leadership Initiative Forum. Investing in the youth, providing them with proper value orientation is not an option. The youth should be given a role in forefront of innovation, leadership and decision making.
- 9.**I am happy that African Biblical Leadership Initiative Forum is equipping the African youth with relevant values, skills and knowledge. This will pave the way for them to become role models who will lead by examples of strong moral values.
- 10.**The Government appreciates your mission in the society and your advocacy for different social causes such as trauma healing and literacy. The Government will continue to collaborate with the Bible Society of Rwanda to inspire positive values among Rwandans.
- 11.**Before I conclude, allow me to thank religious communities in Rwanda for their efforts in promoting peace, tolerance and unity. The Government of Rwanda commends the ongoing interfaith dialogues that promote inclusive social cohesion among Rwandans.
- 12.**On this note, I wish you a successful and productive meeting. I hope you will continue to have an enjoyable stay in Rwanda.

May God bless you all!