

THE LIGHT

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24th commemoration A nation from **ashes**



**A nun saves
100 girls**



**Africa wins big
with AfCFTA**

THE LIGHT

MAGAZINE

***The management and staff of THE LIGHT
MAGAZINE PUBLICATIONS Ltd pay tribute to the
victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi as
we mark the 24th commemoration***



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THE 24th commemoration will be held under the theme "Remember-United-Renew". Twenty four years is too short a period for Rwandans to forget that they had been divided and polarized along ethnicity lines by the genocide regimes, beyond hope for a united and seamless Rwandan society. Such divisive politics culminated in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi which claimed over one million Tutsi in the space of 100 days.



Ernest Nyetera
Managing Director
Light Publications Ltd

ideology, Rwandans in a new and liberated Rwanda with seamless Rwandan society again say, "Never Again" a reason that makes remembering critical to the present and future generations. We pay respect to the innocent victims who were killed in the act of remembering alongside reinforcing the uncontested value of unity and reconciliation achieved as people who share a common history and destiny.

The heinous genocide was planned, prepared and systematically implemented by the genocide governments which mobilized part of the population to kill the Tutsi with an ultimate aim of cleansing and exterminating them for what they are. The seed of genocide ideology planted and nurtured by the genocide regimes was a catalyst that made it possible for Rwanda to experience the worst part of her history.

Notably, at the time when the same people who executed this genocide crave to falsify this bad history through denial of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis and promoting different manifestations of the genocide

Again, thanks to the visionary and focused leadership of President Paul Kagame and the RPF-Inkotanyi-led government that have spared no single effort to mend and unite the Rwandan society, and return the dignity of the Rwandan people and the right to live in their homeland with equal rights and freedoms that had been robbed of them.

Above all, we join our fellow Rwandan people to extend gratitude to the leadership for the socio-economic transformations that was 24 years ago a dream in a nation tattered and left as ashes by the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

THE LIGHT
MAGAZINE

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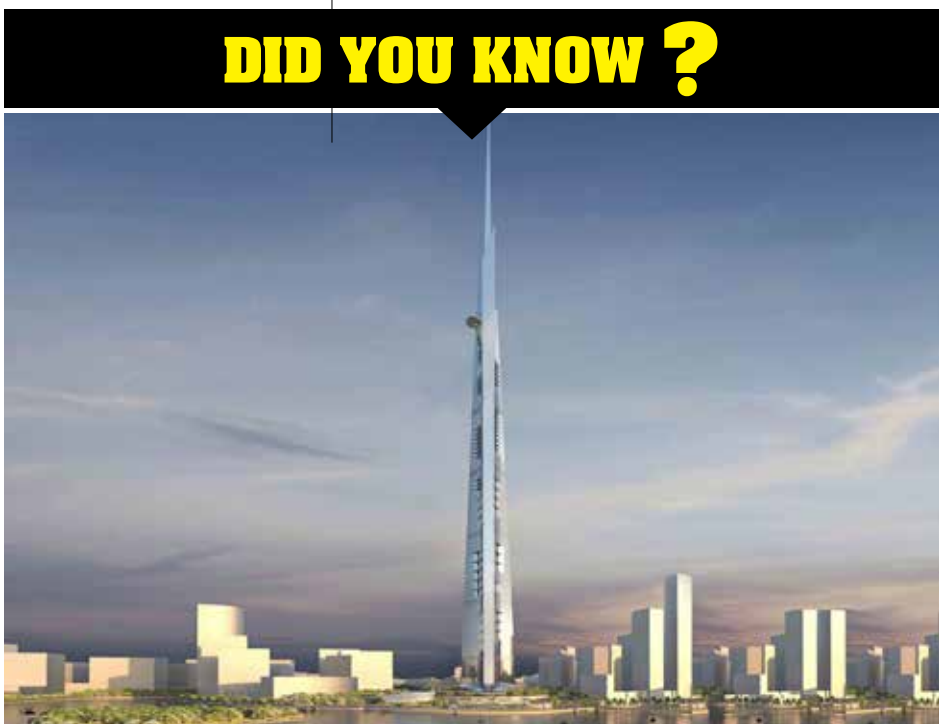
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing this March, the landmark visit is the first known trip outside North Korea since President Kim assumed power in 2011.

During the visit, Kim pledged to denuclearise the Korean Peninsula in the meeting with President Xi Jinping, according to China's state news agency. Xi held talks with Kim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, and he and his wife Peng Liyuan hosted a banquet for Kim and his wife Ri Sol-ju.

Kingdom Tower Jeddah

Saudi Arabia is constructing the world's tallest skyscraper in Jeddah projected to be the first structure to reach the one-kilometre-high mark. It will eclipse the world's tallest building, Dubai's Burj Khalifa, which is currently at over 828 meters.

The Kingdom Tower, also nicknamed Jeddah Tower is a \$1.5 billion superstructure that is expected to be completed in 2020, it will feature residential, hotel, office space, luxury condominiums as well as shopping facilities and have the world's highest observatory deck.



DID YOU KNOW ?



Meeting scientists: President Paul Kagame and his Senegalese counterpart Macky Sall addressed the Next Einstein Forum in Kigali. The forum brought together Africa's innovators to highlight discoveries and catalyse scientific collaboration for human development.



To improve relations between Rwanda and Uganda, on March 25, 2018 the leaders of the two countries met in Entebbe and resolved on different bilateral issues.



The 10th Extraordinary Summit of African Union convened in Kigali with at least 19 heads of state and government in attendance, 44 member states signed the Continental Free Trade area (AfCFTA) agreement.

On the sidelines of the AU Extraordinary Summit, President Cyril Ramaphosa met his host to discuss various issues on bilateral relations between Rwanda and South Africa.



President Paul Kagame held an interactive session with broadcasters from across the continent during the 11th General Assembly of the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB) where he spoke about a broad range of topics from broadcast rights for African content, to AU reforms and African migrants' issues.



"The sunniest countries on Earth should not lack for energy. The fact that they do is an unacceptable irony," President Paul Kagame told an International Solar Alliance (ISA) Founding Summit in New Delhi, India in early March.



Museveni, Kagame hold talks

P**RESIDENT** Paul Kagame on March 26, travelled to Uganda for a one-day official visit where he held talks with his counterpart President Yoweri Museveni.

The two leaders discussed a wide range of bilateral relations, regional and international issues according to a press statement. They took note of the friendship and mutually beneficial

co-operation between Rwanda and Uganda and reiterated their commitment to further strengthen existing ties.

During a joint press conference, President Museveni blamed the bad relations between the two neighbours on poor communication. He said there was no fundamental problem between Rwanda and Uganda.

President Kagame on his part

emphasised the need for the two countries to work together.

President Museveni congratulated President Kagame for assuming Chairmanship of the African Union and for successfully hosting the recently concluded tenth Extra Ordinary Summit of African Union that saw 44 member states endorse the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Regional road launched

The rehabilitation and widening of the Kagitumba-Kayanza-Rusumo road in the Eastern province of Rwanda was launched this March, the road network will benefit about 1.1 million people.

During the launch of this project, the Rwandan government was joined by the African Development

Bank [AfDB] which will finance 51 per cent of the project equivalent to \$93.1 million and the European Union, the Japanese Embassy and Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Martha Phiri, Country Manager of the AfDB expressed appreciation for the strong partnership with the Government and the

people of Rwanda.

She observed that the road project aligns with Rwanda's ambition to become a regional logistical hub. The project also falls in the three of the Bank's High 5 priorities which are Feed Africa, Integrate Africa, and Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa.

The 208-Km

Kagitumba-Kayanza-Rusumo road will strengthen transport links and facilitate travel and intra-trade especially among Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. The project will include two cross-border markets at Kagitumba [Uganda/Rwanda border] and Rusumo [Tanzania/Rwanda border] and the rehabilitation of 10 milk collection centres and 10 boreholes among other activities.

Rwanda signs harbour dev't deal on Lake Kivu

RWANDA renewed its partnership with TradeMark East Africa [TMEA] in which the later will support the construction of harbour facilities at Rubavu and Rusizi ports on Lake Kivu and support the implementation of the industrial park development strategy.

Claver Gatete, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning who signed on behalf of government commended the renewal of the agreement with TMEA as a valued partner in development.

"Trademark East Africa is one of our valued partners. We commend it for its speed of implementation and willingness to listen to and respond to our priorities. TMEA's new strategy augers well with government plans of



Hon. Gatete and TMEA Group CEO, Frank Matsaert

raising Rwanda's profile and increasing our export competitiveness," Minister Gatete noted after signing.

The new deal extends

TMEA's partnership to 2023 valued at US\$ 53 million and will support interventions that will lead to job creation, poverty

reduction and increase trade for Rwanda.

Frank Matsaert, TMEA's Group CEO said, "All these efforts will contribute to creation of additional employment opportunities as investors capitalise in the transport and manufacturing sectors and export growth. Our second phase - will consolidate successes achieved by our partners and innovate around lessons we have learned so far. What we will have is a leaner, more efficient programme that will deliver at least 100,000 jobs for the people of Rwanda in 6 years."

The organisation will support the implementation of quality standards in key export sectors like honey, tea, coffee, meat and horticulture, automation of trade processes and work in facilitating trade nationally and beyond Rwanda's borders.

Mastercard to invest in job creation

Recently, Mastercard Foundation announced it will be investing \$100 million in Rwanda to train young people with skills in order to create employment. This is part of a 10-year project to support the African continent create 30 million jobs for young people by 2030.

The foundation said \$50 million will be set aside over the next five

years to provide 30,000 Rwandan youth with skills in technology and digital literacy in the hospitality and tourism sector.



More resources will be allocated to recruitment of educators and training them on how to provide the young people with the required skills for jobs.

Africa is projected to be the youngest continent in the world by 2050, with its youth population expected to double from the current 480 million to 840 million, according to the African Development Bank.

Africa's success story of national building

BY GEORGE KALISA

The international community and African countries in particular have pertinent lessons to learn from Rwanda's success story. President Paul Kagame and his RPF-Inkotanyi party found Rwanda in a state, the world thought was beyond repair.

However, only 24 year down the road researchers, politicians, academicians, the business community alike from all over the world stream into the new Rwanda to draw lessons on reconciliation, peace-building, good governance, human rights and freedoms, socioeconomic development, women emancipation among others.

PRESIDENT Kagame the founder of the new Rwanda inherited a failed state that had been torn into pieces by ethnic violence 24 years ago and against all odds the country now boasts of an average of 8 per cent economic growth, 64 per cent women's representation [a world record], and seamless unity and coherence of the Rwandan people.

Rwanda in 1994 was a ragged small nation that had hosted bloodshed that culminated in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi claiming over one million Tutsis. All water bodies had

been filled with dead bodies others had been dumped into pit latrines and trenches. Forests became much safer places than churches which had turned into slaughter houses. The

country saw darkness at midday and the hunted innocent Tutsi saw every second and minute as a miracle during the 100 days of the infamous genocide.

"We wish to inform you

that tomorrow we shall be killed [redacted]," a message to family friends reads at the peak of the genocide in April.

Yelling, screaming and groaning characterized the small east and central African country when the entire world was simply watching including those that relentlessly wish to lecture Rwandan leader who stopped the genocide on issues of fundamental human rights they learn through rote learning from textbooks with no experience of how human rights are defended and promoted.

Not even a baby in the uterus deserved the right to grow. Expectant Tutsi



President Paul Kagame during Umuganda



mothers had their wombs ripped up to end the life of the zygote suspected to be a Tutsi blood. Religious leaders who preach Jesus Christ's Gospel of peace, love, unity and justice every Sunday clad in "sacred" cassocks and white collars with inhumane hearts clothed in sheep's skin had a 100-day honey moon with the angels of death that had been anointed and baptized by the French blood suckers. Shame upon them! And, it is needless to mention that their complicity role in 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi greatly made the genocide implementation plan successful.

As we gather this year to

remember the heinous days when Rwandans ended lives of fellow Rwandans at the wish and craft of the French political shots and generals it is paramount to appreciate that the then inferior but superior RPA in the cause of human rights squarely defeated the so-called superior French forces but more carnivorous, barbaric and murderous [1994] than the wild beasts subscribing to the big five animal family.

Simultaneously, peace-loving people across the world use the commemoration time to pay great tribute to the RPF/RPA whose rare commitment and sacrifice put the last nail to the genocide saving many lives of genocide survivors. In the same spirit, they pray that the masterminds and implementers of this worst crime against humanity take a leaf from Pope Francis and apologize by bringing to book all genocide fugitives still at large in France and its allies. Pope Francis recently apologized on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church for its documented role in the genocide.

The Rwandan leader, I met for an interview in 2007 is a down-to-earth leader,

incorruptible, determined and visionary, with a clear vision of Rwanda's future who deals with challenges using cross-cutting home-grown solutions.

JUSTICE, RECONCILIATION AND PROGRESS

Home-grown solutions [fair translations in English] have played a significant role in national building and cementing the coherence and unity of Rwandans

...they pray that the masterminds and implementers of this worst crime against humanity take a leaf from Pope Francis and apologize by bringing to book all genocide fugitives still at large...

as a people who share a common history. *Gacaca* [a traditional justice system], *agaciro* [human dignity], *Umuganda* [community works], *kwigira* [self-reliance]

and *ubudashyikirwa* [exceptional performance] are some of the strategies Rwanda has interwoven in its stance for good governance and never again for the resilient country to host genocide and genocide ideology.

They are seamlessly sandwiched and catalyzed with institutional and people centred developmental reforms and policies.

No wonder, 24 years later, Rwanda's steadfast transformation into a peaceful, progressive African country which respects the rule of law to the letter including upholding democratic government principles are basis for ranking it one of the most competitive economies in Africa year in, year out.

Rwanda is the second easiest place to do business according to Global Technology report 2015 and second most competitive in Africa revealed the World Bank report 2017, and boast of an average GDP growth of 8 per cent which translates in the transformation of the lives of the Rwandan people.

On justice, close to two million genocide suspects received fair hearing through the Gacaca courts and today Rwandans live as a people united by the common history and destiny.

The government of national unity established the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide (CNLG) and the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) to basically promote reconciliation and promote benchmarks for unity and reconciliation.



Nearly 100 mosques closed in Rwanda

BY GEORGE KALISA

Rwanda's Mufti Sheikh Salim Hitimana told this reporter on March 28 that Rwanda Governance Board (RGB), the regulatory body of religious activities had temporarily closed 99 mosques out of 449 in the country during the crackdown on churches and mosques that lacked minimum infrastructural and hygienic standards while others raised security concern.



Sheikh Salim Hitimana

"The inspection exercise for minimum standards had led to the closure of 99 mosques and we are trying to comply with the new regulations and soon a good number of them will be reopened," said Hitimana.

Hitimana said that since they rectified a number of things the number of mosques that had been temporarily closed is dwindling and the current number lies on the downward of 100.

According to the list of closed mosques, a copy of



which The Light Magazine has seen, the City of Kigali and the Western Province have been the most affected by the crackdown with 42 and 30 mosques temporarily closed respectively. They are followed by the Eastern, Southern and Northern Provinces with 12, 10 and 5 mosques.

Most mosques were asked to undergo rehabilitation, install water and build toilets according to the tabulated data that indicates mosques and reasons for closure.

The inspection of worshipping places started in mid-February.

Concerning the use of loud speakers the Mufti said they are not allowed to use them during the sermons but can only use them to call the believers for prayers.

“Using loudspeakers lasts

“
The inspection
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Sheikh Hitimana.

for a very short time less than a minute and we are allowed to use them while calling people for prayers but we don’t use them during the prayers,” added Sheikh Hitimana.

At the peak of the closure of places of worship six evangelical pastors were arrested and charged with convening unlawful

meetings and inciting the citizens to rebel against the government. There was no Muslim leader arrested in connection to the closure of mosques.

By March 20, altogether 6,315 places of worship including mosques had been closed countrywide according to media reports.

Rwanda is a Christian country with about 80% Christians and this accounts for the big number of churches affected compared to Muslim temples.

Some people in the capital Kigali see the crackdown on the places of worship as a violation of the right to worship and started shift services in Churches that were not closed while the majority side with the government move.

Jackie Kabagwira a

faithful at ADEPR Paroisse Nyarugunga in Kigali says her congregation nowadays fellowships from ADEPR Paroisse Kamashashi in the afternoon ever since her Church was closed. Thus, Kamashashi hosts two different congregations one in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

A senior official from RGB told the media recently that most affected churches had in one way or another violated the law and had turned churches into cliques.

“The 2012 law states that when people want to pray, they come together and inform local leaders. However, some went beyond bounds and turned prayer groups into churches. When they pray freely, they do not remember that there are basic requirements,” said Justus Kangwagye, a senior government official at RGB.

Kangwagye said that some people started churches with a small number of worshippers, but did not consider expanding the building when the size of congregations started swelling.

“Whoever started with 20 Christians or 20 Moslems and they became 100 and did not consider changing the building was also affected,” he explained. As to whether the inspection has ended or still ongoing Kangwagye declined to comment.





With us you are Number One

"It is an honour to have received the Business Award for **"Highest Growth"** at the Annual Recognition Awards Ceremony where Rwanda has been recognized amongst 16 other Countries for its exceptional business growth in 2017. The Journey continues." Twitted **Sarah Doukoure**, the Managing Director of ENGEN RWANDA.

With you We are Number One.



African nations win big with AfCFTA

The African continental free trade area AfCFTA that 44 African countries signed will benefit about 1.2 billion people and in monetary terms this economic bloc is worth \$3,000 billion according to the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat.

Africa's single market is currently the largest in the world in terms of number of member countries. The treaty marks the creation of the largest free trade zone since the founding of the World Trade Organization

(WTO) in 1995. Its benefits will not come overnight, however, since the economic integration is a process. Asked a similar question during the press conference that was held after the AfCFTA launch on March 21, President Paul Kagame said:

"But, from signing to ratification and putting the continental free trade area into force is all the process that there're many steps one following another up to that point.

The reluctance of Nigeria [Africa's biggest economy] to

join at the first whistle is seen as a big blow to the Africa's single market by many economists. However, the fact that other strong economies like South Africa, Egypt, Morocco and Kenya signed AfCFTA, everyone can read the writings on the wall that the future of the market is bright.

Further, its success will depend largely on the audacity and readiness of African countries to sweep under the carpet a great deal of sovereignty interests and put above common economic interests.

44 African nations okay single market

AFRICAN leaders from 44 countries out of 55 signed and launched the African Continental Free trade Area (AfCFTA) on March 21 during the 10th Extraordinary Summit held in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

THE other two legal instruments which were synchronously signed were the protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to free movement of persons, right of residence and

right of establishment, and the Kigali Declaration, of which the majority signed.

Nigeria, Eritrea and Burundi boycotted the historic signing. Nigeria's option to wait and/or keep out has been seen by many economic observers as a blow since Nigeria

commands a big part of the AfCFTA.

Forty four countries signed and ratified the AfCFTA, 43 countries signed the Kigali Declaration, and 27 countries signed the protocol for free movement of people.

About 20 Heads of State

attended and witnessed the historic event when Africa finally said farewell to fragmented markets. These were Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou, Rwanda's President Paul Kagame, Tchad's President Idriss Déby, Angola's President João Lourenço, Central African Republic's President Faustin-Archange Touadéra, Comoros' President Azali Assoumani, The Republic of Congo's President Denis Sassou Nguesso, Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh, Ghana - President Nana Akufo-Addo, Gambia





– President Adama Barrow, Gabon's President Ali Bongo Ondimba, Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta and Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique.

Others were President Brahim Ghali [Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic], President Macky Sall [Senegal], President Cyril Ramaphosa [South Africa], President Omar al-Bashir [Sudan], President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz [Mauritania] and President Emmerson Mnangagwa [Zimbabwe].

Commenting on the importance of the AfCFTA President Paul Kagame said during the opening remarks that, "At the same time, we will be in a better position to leverage our growing strength and unity to secure Africa's rightful interests in the international arena"

He added: "The advantages we gain by creating one African market will also benefit our trading partners around the world, and that is a good thing"

Kagame said that AfCFTA will fuel prosperity and increase value addition for good and services made in Africa.

"The promise of free trade and free movement is prosperity for all Africans, because we are prioritising the production of value-added goods and services that are "Made in Africa" " said Kagame.

Meanwhile, during a previous press conference South African President Ramaphosa echoed good

news to Rwanda when he announced the end of the bad air that existed between the two countries for years.

"Consider Rwanda-South Africa visa issue, as a matter that is solved. We are working with President Kagame to put relations between Rwanda and South Africa on a much better footing," President Ramaphosa said.

"Amongst the issues we discussed, was that we must resolve the challenge of issuing of visa to people of Rwanda wanting to visit South Africa".

"We've decided to come together and work together and I am honoured to have been appointed Champion of AfCFTA and to have participated in this historic event on the Continent," noted Niger's president Mouhamadou Issoufou.

"The AfCFTA that we are to sign is a source of enormous opportunities for African citizens, investors, foreign trade partners to exploit the value chain and be able to export to global markets at competitive price,"

"AfCFTA will reduce brain drain and migration problems to the Continent and reduce cost of business and distribution as a result of removing non-tariff and tariff barriers," said Mouhamadou Issoufou

The Continental free trade area Treaty attracted twice as many as the minimum number of countries of 22 below which it would not go operational.

AU Commission Chief pushes for single African passport

BY GEORGE KALISA

AU commission Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat called on African leaders to ensure that Africans use a single passport to facilitate increased movement of people on the continent.

"I urge leaders on the continent to increase momentum in the pursuit of our vision to have a single African passport as this will help us attain free movement of people," Faki Mahamat has told Foreign Affairs ministers from about 36 African countries at the opening of the Executive Council on March 19 in the capital Kigali.

Mahamat called on African countries that have not removed non-tariff barriers and particularly visa requirements to remove them as soon as possible.

"Countries that have not removed non-tariff trade barriers and visa requirements on the continent should do it as fast as possible," he observed.

AU Commission Chairman said having the Africa Continental Free Trade Area [AfCFTA], a document the Executive Council reviewed before it was signed and ratified by the AU Extraordinary Summit on March 21, would help



Moussa Faki Mahamat

the Continent have a single voice and increase their bargaining power with trade partners of other continents.

"The AfCFTA is one of the major flagship projects of the agenda 2063, our long-term vision for Africa's socio-economic

continents as we defend our interests collectively,"

"Our competitors are waiting for us to fail and they laugh, I know we still have challenges pertaining to sovereignty of countries but the benefits we get as a united Africa should be above individual country's

I urge leaders on the continent to increase momentum in the pursuit of our vision to have a single African passport as this will help us attain free movement of people

transformation and development. It will help Africa aspire as a single voice to attain strong dialogue between Africa and other partners on other

interests," he added.

Faki Mahamat said the AfCFTA will benefit about 1.2 billion African people with increased possibility of attaining enormous trade.

He said after the AfCFTA goes into force, the volume of trade on the Continent will increase more than 52% and fetch an extra \$3000 billion for the Continent.

The Chairperson of the African Union Executive Council and Rwanda's Foreign Affairs minister, Louise Mushikiwabo said replacement of African Caribbean Pacific makes the future of better and that new arrangement be built on existing framework between Africa and Europe.

"On the future of African Caribbean Pacific, let me thank our Ambassadors in Addis Ababa, Brussels and Geneva who have worked tirelessly to develop a Common African Position for a new cooperation framework with the European Union replacing the ACP come 2020," Mushikiwabo said.

"The framework as rightly proposed should among others be all inclusive and Africa's engagement and negotiations should be based on clear continent priorities...built on the already existing framework between Africa and Europe," she added.

The issue of having an African passport has been lingering on the AU agenda since 2016 and has not yet to date been enforced by the Continent leaders.

Sahrawi demands for implementation of decolonization of African countries at AfCFTA

BY GEORGE KALISA

THE Envoy of Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic to Ethiopia and member of the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC), H.E. Lamine Baali Yahiaoui, told *The Light Magazine* during a sideline interview at the opening of African Union Extra Ordinary Summit on the African Continent Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) March 17 in the capital Kigali that decolonization issue that has been hanging on the agenda of the Africa Union to date is a major obstacle to the success of AfCFTA.

Yahiaoui who called on African leaders to stop pretending that there are no other problems on the Continent apart from silencing the gun by 2020 particularly attacked Morocco for the deliberate and continuous occupation of the territory of Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic despite of the recent ruling of the European Union Court of justice that said the territory of Western Sahara does not belong to Morocco.

"[...] the main issue is signing of the agreement. However, having said that I need to highlight this AfCFTA is connected with many things – political, economic, administrative, procedural et cetera. I have to say that if you like speedy integration of a united Africa, economic issues on trade, movement of people, a one African border requires a lot of things to do before hands.

"We cannot pretend that



Sahrawi President Brahim Ghali

there is no problem in Africa. We need to make sure that the root causes are addressed. To make a strong one voice developed Africa; we need also to tackle the conflict in particular the occupation of Morocco on part of Sahrawi territory-occupation extended to minerals, land and air."

The Envoy has said Morocco is misleading the international community on territorial issues.

"Because if Morocco tried

"...we cannot ignore it, we need to deal with it, we need to spell things with its own name, we cannot pretend there is no conflict in Africa; we need to tackle it for the smooth implementation of the AfCFTA"

to mislead the international companies to fly over Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic territory, they are misleading them in entering an area/air that does not belong to Morocco," said Yahiaoui.

"I need to remind of the continuous decision of the European Union Court of justice which pointed out very clearly that the territory of Western Sahara does not belong to Morocco, It is a separate territory and Morocco has no right to exploit its mineral wealth, or export anything on land or air," he added. H.E Yahiaoui said the AU still has a backlog of decolonization to ensure smooth integration of the continent.

"That means we need to be very clear on what way we are going, there is still a decolonization question of the agenda of the AU. We still have it in three areas in Africa; the biggest one is the Western Sahara. Then Digo Gracia [Mauritius] and the Islands Comoros," added Yahiaoui.

As to whether the

delegation of Sahrawi will bring out the issue of decolonization he said: "[...] the issue is connected to free movement, you cannot have free movement while there is a conflict, disputes among member states while you have borders closed, while one party of the country is occupied by another country. We need to clear the Continent of all these...making sure that the decolonization need to be sorted out once and for all because this is an issue that has been left on the Agenda from the past and it's hanging on we need to tackle its root cause.

As to whether pending problems affect the success of AfCFTA the diplomat says;

"Of course we cannot ignore it, we need to deal with it, we need to spell things with its own name, we cannot pretend there is no conflict in Africa; we need to tackle it for the smooth implementation of the AfCFTA.

"We need to point out where there are illnesses in order to give the right predicament [...] and the right predicament is to make sure decolonization is achieved in Western Sahara and in other areas of the Continent.

After the Chairperson of PRC, Hope Tumukunde Gasatura had officially launched forerunner activities to the ratification of the AfCFTA, PRC members proceeded with the technical and legal work on the document in a closed session.

Kagame calls on leaders to respect Nigeria's opinion on AfCFTA

BY GEORGE KALISA

Rwandan President Paul Kagame and the Chairman of the African Union (AU) was tasked during a press conference held late at end of the signing of the agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) March 21 in the capital Kigali to explain what was widely perceived as Nigeria's boycott of Africa's economic integration.

KAGAME who agreed that Nigeria is a big part of the integrated market urged African leaders and Africans to respect Nigeria's current position to stay out of the AfCFTA saying like many

other African nations Nigeria still has internal issues to address. "Clearly Nigeria is a very big part of the bigger market we've created under the AfCFTA – everyone wants Nigeria's part of the continental free trade area. Like I said

in the statements I made earlier, some countries may have some internal issues to address before going forward, not that they don't want to be part of the AfCFTA, but there're certain steps to be completed [...], said Kagame.

Kagame said that apart from the fact that Nigeria actively participated in the process, it had issued a statement in support of AfCFTA. "As you may be aware Nigeria has in fact issued a statement generally in supportive of the efforts to





create the AfCFTA not that they've been participants in the process and at some stages leaders in the process," added Kagame.

"So I think it is so much in order to respect their view, their position, I know they're with the rest of Africa and soon they be at the same level with the rest of us who have signed"

Kagame said it was a question of time and how fast they address some of the things they feel they should address before "they make full pronouncement as to what position they ultimately want vis-à-vis the AfCFTA".

He said that the large

number of countries that ratified the continental free trade treaty, which he said is larger than they had actually expected was a demonstration of desire.

the protocol to the Treaty of establishing the African Economic Community relating to free movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment,

“

So I think it is so much in order to respect their view, their position, I know they're with the rest of Africa and soon they be at the same level with the rest of us who have signed"

Forty four of the 55 African countries signed and ratified the Continental free trade area that was launched in Kigali. The other two legal instruments are

and the Kigali Declaration which were signed by 27 and 43 countries respectively.

Ghana expressed interest to host the AfCFTA Secretariat.

"The Ghanaian people and our government are fully committed to the success of the AfCFTA and indeed Ghana has already indicated the readiness to host the AfCFTA Secretariat, a request I hope will be considered by your Excellencies," said a Ghanaian diplomat during the closing ceremony.

Notably, apart from Nigeria, Burundi and Eritrea also boycotted the launch of the AfCFTA.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, one of the Continent's longest serving Presidents, who has led his country since 1986, shocked most delegates at the AU Summit when he absented himself after he had confirmed his attendance. His Foreign Affairs minister, Sam Kuteesa and Ex-President of the UN General Assembly who represented Uganda said that the launch of AfCFTA was a clear message to the world that Africa was ready for business.

"I am therefore pleased that we're on the verge of realizing our long held aspiration for the economic integration of Africa and East African Community is supportive," Kuteesa said.

The AfCFTA according to Kuteesa will be the world's largest free single market by number of countries with a GDP of \$3.4 trillion.

Most member states, however, observed that non-tariff and tariff barriers aggravated by individual sovereignty interests are currently potential challenges to the success of the AfCFTA.

Kagame roots for ownership of football rights

BY OUR REPORTER

RWANDAN President and Chairman of the African Union (AU), Paul Kagame on March 15 called on African leaders to move fast and empower African broadcasters in order to liberate the Continent from enslavement by American and European companies which currently exclusively enjoy the monopoly of sports broadcasting rights.

Kagame was addressing delegates from 46 countries at the 11 ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB) in the capital, Kigali.

The President blamed the difficulties in obtaining rights to football on structural impediments in the industry and called on African nations to consider making financial contributions to address the situation.

“Our broadcasters have difficulties in obtaining rights to football or other sports because of how the industry is structured. It’s a problem we need to confront” and he stressed [...] “countries are paying for broadcasting rights. So money really isn’t Africa’s problem. Why don’t we use that money for what is right for us and actually reduce the cost?” President Kagame observed.

He added: “We want an AU that can deliver. It is an embarrassment for example that the rights of Africans playing football in Africa is managed by people outside. There is nothing



to be proud of in such a situation. For how long can we continue this way?”

The President said it was a misconception to think that the Continent could defend its interests when it lacks the platform and stressed that the outstanding delay to shift from analogue does not mean the Continent has given up the issue.

“To speak for yourself you need your own mouth.

migration is delayed but we have not forgotten it. I am happy to push for this as chair of the Smart Africa initiative, and include relevant partners”

Kagame, thus, called on African leaders to increase sensitisation of African citizens on the greater benefits of the digital technologies.

“We have to encourage analog to digital migration. People are less driven

problems we have? We can’t keep lamenting over our problems. We know what we need to do for ourselves”

He said Africans have to get rid of the fear that is apparently an obstacle to achieving their vision and goals rather than continue lamenting over their problems.

“There is a vacuum we have created that we have to fill. We need to occupy our space otherwise someone else will occupy it for us. If Africans find ways of dealing with the fear then the Continental Free Trade Area when adopted will be the best thing to ever happen to our continent. The benefits will be enormous. Broadcasters need to be out there explaining this to our citizens”

“In Africa doesn’t know the problems we have? We can’t keep lamenting over our problems. We know what we need to do for ourselves,” he added.

“There is a vacuum we have created that we have to fill. We need to occupy our space otherwise someone else will occupy it for us.”

You can’t give someone else a signal to speak for you. We need our own content and our own way of transmitting it, not only to Africans but outsiders as well - Analog to digital

by deadlines than by the benefits they will get. We can help each other to understand that the switch-over is beneficial for our continent [...] who in Africa doesn’t know the

Rwanda calls for cooperation in bringing Genocide fugitives to book

The Gacaca courts that started work in 2002 had tried 1,958,634 by 2012 when they officially closed. The Executive Secretary of National Commission for the fight against genocide, Dr. Jean Damascène Bizimana told George Kalisa in an exclusive interview that most African countries have not been cooperative in regard to implementing the 2017 AU resolution and UN Conventions related to genocide crimes and have not yet tried genocide fugitives of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. He said that 18 genocide fugitives have so far been extradited, deported or transferred to Rwanda and just between 2013 and 2017 about 4,682 convicts that were tried and earned sentence in prison by the Gacaca courts had appealed to the normal courts.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN RWANDA AND COUNTRIES HARBOURING THE 1994 GENOCIDE FUGITIVES STILL ON THE RUN REGARDING THEIR ARREST AND EXTRADITION?

A: Thank you the National Commission for the fight against genocide [CNLG] works closely with other institutions and law enforcement organs in Rwanda and outside the country to pursue and bring to book genocide suspects. We still have suspects of 1994 Genocide in the country that have evaded the prison sentences they had received. They were



Dr. Jean Damascène Bizimana

sentenced by Gacaca courts but are still on the run. There are about 2,500 and the number could even be bigger. The files we have, prove that they had been sentenced but they keep on moving from one district to another and changing the jobs they do to foil their identity.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THOSE LIVING OVERSEAS?

A: Then, those who live overseas. There're two important things to note. First, it is incumbent upon and under the mandate of the justice system

to gather and produce evidence backed by the testimonies of witnesses and then scrutinize the files to establish where and when the suspects committed the crimes from.

What CNLG does is to follow the files of Gacaca and depending on tip-offs from the communities, we give a report to Rwandan courts. We try to identify where they currently live in collaboration with IBUKA and Diaspora communities in different countries. There is IBUKA in Belgium, Italy, Holland, Switzerland to whom we share information after identifying the country where the genocide perpetrators live.

We, also, utilize the diplomatic channels between other nations and Rwanda to bring these genocide fugitives to book. There're mainly two options – those nations may decide to prosecute them using their justice systems, this particularly applies to suspects that hold the nationalities of the countries where they live because there're countries that cannot extradite their citizens. Alternatively, they may extradite them and be tried in Rwanda where they committed the genocide crimes.

Q: WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

A: According to United Nations Conventions that provide for the prevention

of genocide and punishment of genocide crimes there are two options. One, a genocide suspect can be tried in the country of his current residence. Two, they can be extradited to the countries where they committed the crime, in this case Rwanda. Some countries have, indeed, complied with the UN convention on this matter.

However, before trial they first carry out investigations where CNLG cooperates with judges and prosecutors from different countries. We facilitate them to access evidence, witnesses and/or files and ruling that are obtainable at the Gacaca courts. We cooperate with Holland, France, Belgium, Denmark, Canada, Finland and Sweden.

The problem is still with the African countries in general. They've not cooperated as expected or according to the UN Conventions on genocide as regards the pursuance and arrest of the genocide criminal in their countries to face justice.

But, a few of them have cooperated during the two years or so. Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia are good example. We trust that other nations will follow suit because in April 2017 the AU adopted a resolution which obliges all AU member states to arrest and try the genocide suspects of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi – which obliges them to put in place laws that punish for genocide denial



of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. What is in the pipeline are the discussions with those countries that they implement the resolutions as soon as possible.

Q: HOW MANY GENOCIDE CASES DID THE GACACA COURTS HANDLE AND WHEN DID THEY OFFICIALLY CLOSE?

A: Gacaca courts tried 1,958, 634 with 10 years. They started in 2002 and closed in June 2012.

Q: WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT THE GENOCIDE IDEOLOGY IS UPROOTED FROM THE RWANDAN SOCIETY?

A: We've have many strategies of fighting genocide ideology. We do sensitization and teaching about the history of 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi especially among the youth. We do outreaches in High

schools, Universities and in prisons mostly because the youth don't know the history of the genocide. We, also, meet Rwandans of different walks in Itorero ry'Igihugu. We invest a lot in sensitization.

Secondly, we teach the different manifestations of genocide ideology because there many who don't know for sure what is meant by genocide ideology. There's a law that was enacted in 2013, which deeply explains the genocide ideology, its manifestations and nature of punishments. We explain this law so that people can know not only the consequences but also what it involves to commit the crime related to genocide ideology.

We utilize the first week of commemoration every year from April 7-13 by organising discussions and public talks everyday on different issues related to the genocide – including explaining the dangers of genocide



ideology, strategies and responsibility of fighting it, ways of punishing offenders, and we remind them that the law on genocide ideology is enshrined in the Constitution of 2003 and other laws and national policy.

Then, the crime of genocide ideology is committed because there're no laws punishing offenders, so we're in the process of discussions with the UN to put laws punishing those who deny the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi and they are many outside still denying it. We want all genocides that have been recognized by the UN to be accorded the same status. Remember, those who deny the Jewish genocide are prosecuted and punished. Therefore, the argument we are presenting is that all people who deny genocide against the Tutsi be equally punished in accordance with the genocide



conventions of December 9, 1948 that prevent and provide punishment for genocide criminals.

Q: HOW MANY GENOCIDE CONVICTS HAVE SO FAR APPEALED TO THE NORMAL COURTS AFTER THEY ALLEGED THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE GACACA COURTS?

A: About 4,682 convicts

have appealed as follows. Between 2013 and 2014 814 and 702 convicts appealed while in 2015, 2016 and 2017 records show 1197, 1154 and 815 respectively.

Q: ANY MESSAGE TO RWANDANS AS THEY REMEMBER THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI FOR THE 24TH TIME?

A: I call upon everyone to

reflect on the bad history that Rwanda went through , remembering that the country is on the right track of development but the country has come from far. We shall remember under the theme "Renew, Remember, Unite". It was the government and top leaders in the government that masterminded, prepared and executed the genocide. That is why there people who became victims of the genocide be it the young or elderly – who deserve to be respected. Rwandans were killed because they were Tutsi, yet no one chooses to be born the way he/she is. It was the bad government and leaders who sensitized others to kill Rwandans because of their identity. This is a lesson Rwandans must always remember and bury the genocide ideology.

I urge Rwandans to stand with our leader and testify about the development the leaders have started and implement especially at the time when enemies of the state want to reinvent the history of the country and accuse the leaders who stopped the genocide and preside over the steady fast social and economic transformation.

The discussions and topics of this year will base on the theme, the uniqueness of the genocide, genocide ideology and its manifestations and strategies to fight it.

IBUKA fears Genocide survivors might live with trauma much longer

BY STEVEN NSAMAZA

Even after 24 year since the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi happened in Rwanda revelations by IBUKA [an umbrella association for Genocide survivors] show that survivors still suffer from a cross-section of its consequences and their impact on the society is not about to end.

The Executive Secretary of IBUKA, Naphtal Ahishakiye says that the prevalence of trauma is still high and unveiled research findings that show that some children born after 1994 have been found with signs of trauma.

"The consequences of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi have not ceded even after twenty-four years in spite of the unflinching government support survivors receive," said Ahishakiye during a recent exclusive interview with this reporter.

Ahishakiye said that the challenges range from Genocide ideology, unfinished cases, Genocide fugitives to trauma. He adds that some of the effects to the survivors may last a life time.

IBUKA as a body says has to keep on pushing through increased advocacy, remember and rebuild to overcome the various adverse effects of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

The 24th Genocide



The Executive Secretary of IBUKA, Naphtal Ahishakiye.

commemoration activities will continue to improve the different programmes that have been put in place to reinforce commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

At the national level commemoration starts April 7 at the Kigali Genocide Memorial, Gisozi while Rwandans will hold week-long commemoration activities at the village level. But, IBUKA's

commemoration activities as usual take place for 100 days which stretch from April 7 to July 4.

During the commemoration period different activities are conducted countrywide including discussions on different themes. IBUKA Executive Secretary notes that each year the activities are improved to suit other programmes for instance this year new guidelines have been issued that will ensure that commemoration activities last for a short time. A prayer has replaced a Mass and long sermons that used to make commemoration activities take long.

Other preparations for Kwibuka24 have been put in place, on the health front 3,500 counsellors of people emotional and trauma related cases that arise

during the commemoration period.

Remains of the victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi that are currently in bad conditions will be relocated and accorded a decent burial in areas like Gisagara, Ruhango, Karongi, Nyamasheke, Rusizi and the City of Kigali.

Apart from the discussions organised at the village level, IBUKA will hold a vigil on April 11 in remembrance of victims of 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi at Nyanza in Kicukiro, Kiziguro and Ndera, all to be held on the same day.

Ahishakiye observes that though Rwanda has made remarkable progress in rebuilding society, fostering peace and reconciliation challenges persist. He emphatically notes that the manifestations of genocide ideology and targeting of Genocide survivors after 24 years since the Genocide was stopped should attract concern.

He urges courts to speed up cases that have lingered on for years, especially on reparations awarded to survivors.

Genocide fugitives also still pose major challenge, IBUKA has been advocating so that the perpetrators are brought to book mostly those still wondering in other countries. Combined with those that have escaped punishment pose more harm to the next generation and a hindrance to unity and reconciliation.

”

New guidelines have been issued that will ensure that commemoration activities last for a short time”

GAERG identifies 7,797 wiped families so far

We demonstrate need to remember 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, we have so far identified 34,823 individual from 7,797 families that perished in 17 districts.

BY DANIEL TUYIZERE

RWANDAN graduates that are bought together under GAERG say some of the activities they do to reinforce memory of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi include keeping record and honouring the families that were completely exterminated, which they identify after profound research. GAERG is a French acronym for the association of survivors of 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi who have completed University education. It was founded in 2003.

Every year GAERG pays homage to families that were wiped. This year they have planned to pay tribute to such families in Ngoma and Kirehe Districts especially at Nyarubuye Genocide Memorial site, which is known for its history of a big number of Tutsis who were killed there.

When they go to a place they hold prayers, discussions and have presentations on different topics that reinforce commemoration. Other



Fidel Nsengiyaremye

activities include showing documentary films showing families that were wiped during the genocide and commemoration songs in which names of members of the perished families are recited.

Since 2009, the families had been remembered under the theme, "You Will Never Be Forgotten While I Am Still Alive".

GAERG has so far

identified 7,797 families and 34,823 individual family members in 17 districts. They told The Light Magazine that their target is to have their activities roll out in all the 30 districts of Rwanda.

Fidel Nsengiyaremye, the Executive Secretary of this organisation, whose core mission is to sustain memory of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi

they invest enormous efforts in sensitising Rwandans and the entire international community to remember it. They among others explain why communities need to get rid of the genocide ideology through clear understanding of the adverse impact on the unity of Rwandans in particular.

They passionately teach about its power in dividing the Rwanda people as well as the merits of having a seamless and united Rwandan society in social and economic transformation.

"We teach Rwandans at the grassroots level the danger of genocide ideology and our mission is to have every citizen understand the danger of genocide ideology to the unity and progress of the Rwanda society, that is why we emphasize on remembering the painful memories and effects of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi," observed Nsengiyaremye.

To preserve the memory of the Rwandan genocide members of GAERG do profound research and publish findings alongside writing books on the 1994 Genocide to avoid genocide denials reinvent the history of Rwanda and a repeat of the same. Being members subscribing to the world of

the academia, their books carry memorable and moving testimonies of the 1994 Genocide survivors, families that were wiped and how the genocide was masterminded and executed by the genocide regimes.

In their works we find practical experiences of how the survivors' resilience has been crucial in their struggle to transform their livelihoods and how they aim at a better living against all odds.

"Much as we appreciate that it is a painful experience and quite challenging for most of our members to catch up with the sad consequences of the genocide we promote remembering of the dear families which were exterminated and the more we do it the more we cultivate clear understanding of the dangers of genocide to the Rwandan society and the world in general," observed Nsengiyaremye.

The commemoration of 1994 Genocide provides an opportunity for survivors to appreciate the social dent that was created by the heinous history. Hence, this richly facilitates to the fact that every Rwanda must be committed to the never again philosophy beyond words.

The members of this association are organised in families and every family has a father, a mother and children. These simulated families were created on realization that



many child survivors were suffering from loneliness and had lived in seclusion a situation that had denied them a chance to reintegrate into the Rwandan society and cope with a horde of social and economic challenges. .

"These families have been a source of comfort and a sense of belongingness to many of us and people do not go away and feel alone since people feel they belong to a family

where they have brothers, sisters and parents to care for them," added Nsengiyaremye.

The meetings have a healing effect to the survivors who could experience doldrums of trauma, depression and all kinds of bad moods following the tough times they had gone through. Thus, GAERG members have grown to appreciate how to help one another in order to minimise the effects

different challenges and consequences traced to 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

This is a good time for us as intellectuals to preserve the memory of the genocide even though it is not only our role as a genocide survivors' association, all in order to help the future generations understand the atrocities that the country had faced.

As the last stage of genocide is denial where the perpetrators try to cover up the evidence and intimidate the witnesses through many ways like destroying the mass graves, burn the remains of the victims, deny that they committed any crimes, and often blame what happened on the victims, the Rwandan graduate Genocide survivors put much emphasis on eradicating genocide ideology by teaching the





truth about the genocide against Tutsis through telling real stories.

To fight against such attacks, they intervene in public talks around the globe in order to fight against perpetrators and their supporters who always publish false information and spread lies in order to hide their role in genocide.

“we were very young by the time the genocide happened but today we are able to tell our own stories and show the world what exactly happened in our country during the genocide against Tutsi in 1994,” notes Nsengiyaremye.

Sometimes when a person went throughout tragedies like the genocide perpetrated against Tutsis, always is somehow scared and is afraid that it could happen again; but as the country supports genocide

survivors, comforts them so as to increase their hope for a better life. Members of GAERG are comfortable and working hard to develop themselves as well as their country.

“Today, we are not scared about our lives since we have a good government that loves and cares about us; but as survivors and perpetrators live together in the same community, sometimes it is not easy

but with the good vision of the country that is led by a visionary leader, we try our best to live in harmony with one focus - which is to develop our country without divisionism and genocide ideology”.

GENOCIDE SURVIVORS SEE A BETTER FUTURE

Last year, during the 23rd commemoration, President Kagame assured

the survivors that they have lost their families but had never lost their country.

“To remember is a must. And in remembering, I would like to tell genocide survivors that they are not alone. They lost family. But, there’s one family they didn’t lose—their country. Rwanda is the family of survivors. It’s the family of every Rwandan” President Kagame said.

Hence, the survivors struggle every passing day to make their future brighter by working harder to create different projects that can help them be self-reliant besides contributing to national development. Today, many of them are employed in private, public and civil societies.

Concerning the 24th commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, GAERG urges all Rwandans to take part in commemoration activities and understand that they are not only meant for survivors, but also the entire community. They, also, call on Rwandans and the entire international community to direct more commitment to the “Never Again” stance through fighting genocide ideology and ensuring justice is done.

“We request the genocide survivors to be strong enough and participate actively in different commemoration activities so that we sustain the memory of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi”.



Rwanda's Sr Helene Nayituliki saved 100 girls during 100 days of 1994 Genocide

BY GEORGE KALISA

Churches, faith-based schools and stadiums had been turned into slaughter houses and the hunted Tutsis who by God's Grace survived say forests were much safer than the temples during the 100 days of 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Yet, the wild beasts were much friendlier than the people they had related with as brothers, sisters, and neighbours and with whom they share a common history, language and culture. An estimated one million Tutsis lost life during the Genocide.

The morning I met Sr. Hellen Nayituliki, popularly known by her students and mentors as Sr. Helene was cold and the Sun was not about to show up. In my warm black warm jacket I patiently waited in the Secretary's office. The waiting was much shorter than I had expected because she is a busy nun and sincerely I had had no appointment with her.

I constrained my tears several times because I never wanted to break the interview into many sessions but emotional narration of her experience could not

allow it. So, we could stop at some intervals and we endlessly gazed at each other in dead silence as my human sense based on values of human rights and humble Christian background could hardly comprehend her heart-rending memories of the inhuman and barbaric acts executed on the Tutsi by the Habyarimana

MRND government backed interahamwe militias.

The men and women of God in cassocks and veils with

demonstrated the highest degree of human betrayal through their alleged complicity in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Unfathomable and incomprehensible, indeed, was the situation. Where the helpless minority and toothless Tutsi flocked for refuge were places where they met their cruel death.

Previously, Pope Francis begged for forgiveness for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the Rwanda Genocide.

Witnesses say that the clerics either

handed victims over to the interahamwe militias who were armed to the tooth with machetes, clubs and guns or deserted them or killed them at will. Though very few clerics, still unknown, stood their ground and resisted the genocide, their reward will hopefully be in Heaven.

Amidst such great injustices, crimes against humanity and horrific scenarios was Sr. Hellen Nayituliki, a Hutu according to the identity specifications of the genocide regimes, now the Headteacher of Lycee Notre Dame de Citeaux, a girls' High school situated right in the heart of the capital, Kigali, whose conviction that murder is sin transcended into courage that ultimately saved 100 girls that were under her care at Rwamagana school of Nursing and midwifery in the present day Rwamagana District in Rwanda's Eastern Province.

In 2007 she received a medal from President Paul Kagame for her rare courage to denounce the genocide and saving lives.

Her sight of dead bodies studded and stewed in a pool of blood all over the



area made her believe beyond reasonable doubt that a single girl would be prey to the marauding killers that were prowling and hovering all over in search of innocent lives of the Tutsi.

Asked to share with this reporter her experience of the Genocide, the highly humble, composed and soft-spoken Sister says;

"I followed my conscious which was in congruence with morality and obligation of a parent to protect the students and staff entrusted to me," reminisces Nayituliki.

She recalls a long and tough encounter with the killers as they were fleeing to Butare as they demanded that she delivers the widow to Dereva whom she was riding in the same vehicle.

"I frankly told them that if you want to kill her kill me first. But, forget all about her life we're heading to a safer area. We haggled for hours until we were let to continue. Little did we know that Bugesera the area we had planned to go through had already been turned into a slaughter area," She breaks down for a while, silence ensued.

Back to the school what happened in the bloody days?

"I followed my conscious which was in congruence with the Christian principle of love, peace, justice, morality and obligation of a parent to protect the students and staff entrusted to me," reminisces Nayituliki.

A LIFE-SAVING BRIBE AT A ROADBLOCK

Sr. Nayituliki recalls

that she had some stock of food and when the genocide started she ordered all her students subscribing to both ethnic groups to stay indoors and maintain maximum silence and order.

"The worst moment was on April 6, 1994 when the plane aboard Ex-President Juvenal Habyarimana was shot down and his death. The Interahamwe militias that had camped at Rwamagana where they killed Tutsis in large numbers frequently stormed my school demanding for the occupants in there. There insatiable and undying resolute of the Interahamwe and the local leaders to kill my students

were busy fighting the French backed Rwandan government forces and tensions were at the highest.

"Because some were not my students I made school uniforms and identity cards for all of them and here we were ready to flee. So, I mobilized trucks and told my students to get on and the journey started with a convent in Butare via Bugesera in mind," she revealed.

A dreadful incident between life and death ensued at Kareba a few hours to Zaza Catholic Parish. The armed-to-the-tooth Interahamwe militias that were manning a roadblock and

to eventually order us to go back to Rwamagana as the only option," she says.

Both the Hutu and Tutsi students were apparently submerged in dreadful terror as no one among the killers knew their ethnic background which prompted all of them to equally await for their death and looked at the nun and God for their fate every passing minute, a survivor recalls.

On April 18 while they were within the school premises awaiting their death as it had been scheduled and communicated by the killers every moment was dedicated to faithful prayers. The waiting entered the second day as fighting between the liberators tightened.

On April 19, just like a dove appeared to the Biblical Noah's Ark to declare the floods over, some of Kagame's RPA fighters approached the school community and suggested evacuating them to Gahini Hospital in the present day Kayonza District, an area that had been overrun by RPA fighters and thus declared safe.

"My Nursing students and the rest, then, relocated to Gahini Hospital where they offered first aid healthcare services to wounded Tutsi survivors while some were transferred to Byumba Hospital and parts of Gicumbi District as I learnt later for them to help in providing healthcare services," Sr. Nayituliki recalls.

Kagame's RPA liberators entered Rwanda through the north which borders with neighbouring Uganda.

I followed my conscious which was in congruence with the Christian principle of love, peace, justice, morality and obligation of a parent to protect the students and staff entrusted to me

and staff compelled me to move from the convent which was outside the school premises to the stay with the students in the dormitories throughout the Genocide," the nun recalls.

"I had fifty inside who were joined by other youths but I was determined to save all and my determination was above ethnicity," she adds.

When the worse came to the worst Sr. Nayituliki mobilized trucks to relocate the students to a region she had thought was relatively safer. This time, RPF-Inkotanyi liberators

had barricaded the road intercepted the convoy of the student packed trucks, Nayituliki recalls. Their resolute to kill them could vividly be read in their faces and the words they hurled at the occupants on the trucks made them say their last prayer.

"We witnessed the Interahamwe militias kill the Tutsis at this spot. Dragging one by one into an open area that was at the time a market place for livestock..., I pleaded for mercy to the killers for hours and bribing them with some money was the last option that made them change their mind

I hopelessly waited for my death at Kabgayi – Kampororo

BY STEVEN NSAMAZA

WHEN Assoumpta Kampororo first heard news of the death of President Habyarimana on the morning of April 7, 1994, it was received with mixed feelings from her siblings but her mother cautioned the family that horror would follow.

In the small village of Samuduha, former commune of Mushubati in the southern Rwanda on this fateful morning life was a bit slow people attending to their work sluggishly, Kampororo who was in her fifth year at a nearby Secondary school was encouraged by her brother to go school but her mother advised against it until they could have an inkling of the situation.

The following days were to change her life completely. The news of the demise of the president would mark the start of genocide against Tutsi that would wipe out over a million lives in a span of 100 days.

Growing in well-off family, Kampororo's father was a local magistrate but had died from an accident prior to events leading up to the Genocide against the Tutsi and her brother was a director of a local school. The success of this family was the envy of



Assoumpta Kampororo.

some in this village and the magistrate never wielded any influence or power to repulse harassment and intimidation.

The Interahamwe militias in her village were weaker which explained the sluggishness in this village and unmediated start of killings. Relatives from Kibuye in the west started arriving at Kampororo's home on April 8 with stories of massacres that were

taking place elsewhere, the local authorities came to warn them not to harbour any refugees to which they adamantly refused and the men went on to install defences to protect against Interahamwe.

Two weeks after, the fighting with Interahamwe intensified and self-protection defence at their home was broken on the April 20 after the Interahamwe had mobilised support from other militias from the neighbouring villages and prison guards who were armed with guns and attacked every Tutsi home. Everyone flee after this attack but Kampororo failed to convince her mother to come with them and had to carry her young nephew and hide at neighbour who was said to be mentally unstable.

"The Interahamwe ransacked our home and what they could not take they destroyed, my mother hid out near my home, while she could not go further from home she was later killed," Kampororo narrates. She also kept near the home because of her mother who had refused to flee and could not leave her that way.

As Kampororo recalls, her voice starts to crack. News of her mother's death reached her in her hide out and she wanted at least to



give her a proper burial. "I went back home and found my mother's body, her chest severely shattered with bullets, I tied her body together and she was later buried and thereafter I realised that I had to run before the same fate could befall me."

"I was sheltered by some orphans who were living nearby and they helped me, my nephew and an old woman until I heard that my uncle Michel who could not also flee because of an accident he had sustained had been killed which forced me to flee to Kabgayi where I heard people were taking refugee."

A man named Rugero who used to help those who wanted to go to Kabgayi, came in the night to escort Kampororo and they used back roads through bushes and swamps, arriving at Kabgayi at around 3am. They got there safely but the suffering they found at Kabgayi was too much, the first camp they got to was more like a swamp that her nephew could not survive and sought



support to relocate inside the compound of St Joseph where refugees could at least shelter in the classrooms.

"I relieved and surprised to find a lot of people I knew at Kabgayi previously thought to be dead, I even found my brother still alive but was taken the next morning by his former schoolmate and we never heard about him again."

Kabgayi Roman Catholic Church centre with the oldest cathedral in the country, seminaries, schools and a hospital was a living hell during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. The courage of a few priests saved lives at this place while some powerful clergy ordered the felling of Tutsis from Kabgayi to be killed.

Kampororo arrived at Kabgayi sometime in May, as she considers herself lucky to have never visibly seen any physical killing until this time it was here that she saw a man hacked to death at Kabgayi hospital entrance where she had taken her seriously ill

nephew, a life and death decision she took because the hospital was then used by the military. Coming back from the hospital that day she was stopped at a road block which she had not left there and spent hours hopelessly waiting to be killed but was yet to survive that day.

I went back home and found my mother's body, her chest severely shattered with bullets, I tied her body together and she was later buried and thereafter I realised that I had to run before the same fate could befall me

Everyday people were taken by the Interahamwe to be killed, everyone who could stand, women, and girls were raped and those who barely walk died from disease. Thousands of Tutsis who had taken refuge lived in crowded conditions with little food or water, many suffering diseases due to these

poor conditions and died horribly.

Telling her story means reliving the dreadful experience, Kampororo breaks at the thought of Kabgayi, she takes a moment to wipe tears and cracking voice, but the Kabgayi dreadful events in May twenty-four years ago you cannot tell it all, she says.

Relief came on June 2 when RPA liberated them. The first signs were continuous sound of gunfire which many thought was finally their end. The refugees in Kabgayi could not bulge out until people in another camp who had been liberated by RPA soldiers told them that they were safe.

Finally, safe from the hands of the killers, many especially old women could barely stand on their feet but the soldiers helped them provided medicine, food and stated trekking all to areas they had captured.

Clutching to her 5-year old nephew, Kampororo could only wonder how she

was still alive, the young boy could not talk but she managed to carry him and walked slowly with others from Muhanga to Ruhango then Bugesera and finally to Kigali. The journey was slow but they were aided by the RPA soldiers.

At this point of her story, Kampororo shares it with a mixture of laughs and sorrow. "The Inkotanyi helped us, they saved us and during this journey I finally saw my long lost brother who had left home many years to join the RPA."

After reuniting with her brother, she was told that her other brother, who was said to have died before the start of the genocide was still alive and living in Kigali.

Kampororo, 46, is now married mother of three, she works with SEVOTA, a local NGO known from its French abbreviation meaning Solidarity for Blossoming of Widows and Orphans aimed at Self-Promotion and Work.

SEVOTA which was established shortly after 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, supports women victims of rape. Kampororo joined the organisation in 2005 and SEVOTA was very instrumental in helping her and her son born in 1995 to restore her relations with her family and society.

She now heads the organisation's Muhanga District programme, as SEVOTA was born out of the need to restore the destroyed human relations during the Genocide against the Tutsi, Kampororo currently works with SEVOTA and passionately supports women and orphans who were raped and children born out of rape.

SEVOTA scoops international award

Godelieve Mukasarasi, the coordinator and founder of SEVOTA earned a prestigious award for her distinguished role in encountering the challenges in the aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Born out of the need to restore the destroyed human relations SEVOTA has reached out about 300 genocide rape victims and more than 2,000 youth and children.

IN December 1994, after witnessing suffering in the worst genocide of modern history Godelieve Mukasarasi established a non-profit organisation, SEVOTA [French acronym for Solidarity for Blossoming of Widows and Orphans] with an aim to restore human, social, and economic relations destroyed during the Genocide against the Tutsi.

Through hard work and times, SEVOTA has reached out to over 300 genocide rape victims and more than 2,000 youth and children. The organisation has helped them to reintegrate socially and economically into communities from Taba in Kamonyi District, Southern Province where it was first launched before its activities rolled out across eleven districts of the country.

"When I survived with some of my family, I made a promise to support others," says Mukasarasi. She started with a few women giving them hope and socially reintegrating.

The selfless acts and courage of a few women at SEVOTA attracted the annual International Women of Courage



[IWOC] Awards at the U.S. Department of State, where the First Lady of the United States, Melania Trump presented an award to Mukasarasi as among the 10 extraordinary women from around the world.

The award is among the many for SEVOTA's dedicated altruistic work, the Award recognises women around the globe who have demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment, often at great personal risk and sacrifice.

"This award was indeed to the courageous women

under the leadership of Godelieve Mukasarasi who advocated for international adoption of rape as a crime against humanity," said Philomene Mutsobekazi, the Legal Representative of SEVOTA at the welcome reception of Mukasarasi from Washington DC, where she received the award said.

Mutsobekazi lauded the different organisations that have stood with SEVOTA in restoring women dignity and recognition of their rights.

"Through our work we restored hope and built confidence of genocide rape victims and children born as a result of rape

during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi," she observed.

While in the United States, Mukasarasi also received the Global Innovator Award from Texas Christian University [TCU].

Mutsobekazi announced that, they are dedicating the awards to the youth and children. IWOC award was accompanied with a cash price of \$5,000 while the award from TCU had a \$25,000 cash price to which both will support different youth activities.

SEVOTA'S WORK

During the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi women and girls were raped consequently leading to the birth of about 2,000 to 5,000 fatherless children. Women victims of rape were affected by trauma and stress resulting from sexual violence and their born children became the "unwanted children", often rejected by their mothers or relatives because they were identified or considered belonging to their father's origin as the killers.

To improve this situation, SEVOTA dedicated to work towards rebuilding the human relationships and works across Rwanda focusing on widows and orphans and has helped to contribute to the improvement of the situation and living conditions of vulnerable households.

SEVOTA envisions a society where human



dignity is valued and where men, women, and children support each other for their personal development. SEVOTA has the mission of contributing to an improvement of the moral, social, political, cultural, and economic living conditions of its beneficiaries.

Mukasarasi says. "We help our beneficiaries to organise themselves in order to evaluate their own problems and those of the community and to find suitable solutions."

The organisation has the overall objective of promoting activities relating to peace, reconciliation, and the promotion of human rights, specifically women's rights and the policies concerning vulnerable children and youth, through the creation of a platform for dialogue and capacity-building.

Through support to social groups, community mobilisation, information, education, communication and participatory research and lobbying, SEVOTA empowers those social groups in different activities like farming, handicraft, capacity building, income-generating projects and post-traumatic counselling.

They mobilise communities towards a culture of peace, active non-violence, and the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Through re-instigating the positive

values of Rwandan culture based on solidarity, mutual assistance and quality education for the young generation.

The improvement of care and education of orphans, vulnerable children and the youth born of rape is among the main goals of the organisation. Sustainable programs like building capacity and organising activities that encourage personal development and mutual support among traumatised women and victims of violence is also among the top targets.

RECOGNITION

When SEVOTA had just started work, they were approached by different researchers and activists who wanted to know what women had passed through during the difficult situation in Rwanda and how they could help.

In 1996, to prosecute the former Mayor of Taba Jean-Paul Akayesu for

his role in the Genocide, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) approached SEVOTA, through difficult conditions and circumstances these women overcome intimidation and testified.

Rape had never been prosecuted as a war crime until the conviction of Akayesu and it was Mukasarasi and her colleagues who gave women a voice and achieved justice for their acts at the ICTR.

SEVOTA has been applauded by different stakeholders and recognised by His Excellency, President Paul Kagame and the First Lady who met members of SEVOTA during the launch of a documentary film 'The Uncondemned' produced by Michele Mitchell and Nick Louvel. The documentary is about the first time rape was prosecuted as a crime of war since 1919 when it was labelled as one but until 1997 when a group of prosecutors, activists and

investigators went after the first conviction at the ICTR.

Among other awards, Mukasarasi received the John Humphrey Freedom Award by Law & Democracy (2004); the Outstanding Achievement Award for Rural Women's Creativity Award from the World Women's Summit Foundation in Geneva (1996); and, SEVOTA was honoured with the Award for Human Rights for its contribution to the promotion of the rights of vulnerable women by Human Rights International (2011). In October 1996, she was given the Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life from the Women's World Summit Foundation.

From local to national level, Mukasarasi has been bestowed as the 'Umurinzzi w'igihango' from her home district of Kamonyi for her exceptional work in rebuilding the Rwandan society and was also awarded the Nzambazamariya Vénéranda Award, a Rwandan prize for an individual promoting a positive image for women.

As Rwandans prepare for the 24th commemoration of Genocide against the Tutsi, SEVOTA calls on the International Community and the UN Security Council in particular to adopt a resolution on Children born of rapes committed in war and conflict-torn regions, which shall determine the roles of all actors, including governments in the protection of their rights.

SEVOTA is supported by Medica Mondiale, a Germany non-profit making organisation to promote programmes aimed at ensuring psychological, physical, and socio-economic integration of households of women and young girls who were victims of sexual violence in conflict-torn zones, and other vulnerable households faced with gender-based violence.



Sebeya Band itching to rebrand its music

BY DANIEL TUYIZERE

The inward looking economic strategy popularly known as Made in Rwanda is becoming more infectious in the country to the extent that many sectors are fast realizing the social and

economic merits that accrue to import substitution. This partly explains the revolution happening in Rwanda's music industry spearheaded by the Sebeya Band - Rwanda's first and only music band founded by professional artistes.

Professionalism accounts for the difference between other Rwandan music bands and the 10-member Sebeya Band, which traces its roots to Rwanda's only school of Art and Music and was named after River Sebeya, a major physical feature that is part of the unique and breath-taking environ in the education institution's location.

Apart from boasting of a national image and several performances in the region and overseas the ten pioneer artistes of Sebeya Band polished their talents through formal training and share a lot in common since they are products of the same institution.

Such factors separate it from other music bands like Sauti Band, Kesho Band and Neptunez Band which



might have profit motive and talent as main reasons behind their existence. Too, these three and many out there still struggling to be known are based in Kigali and perform exclusively for the high end citizens in upscale hotels and drinking

joints.

But, basically all the Rwandan music bands have one similarity – they suffer from identity crisis in their music an impetus behind Sebeya Band's initiatives to rebrand its music to "Made in Rwanda" music.

SEBEYA BAND BOASTS OF NATIONAL AND GLOBAL IMAGE

Though it is one of the youngest music bands in the country launched in 2014 it has left many scratching their heads over

its fast pace in winning national and global fame.

Erasme Kamayirese the CEO of Sebeya Band unveiled the secrets behind its growing fame during an exclusive interview with The Light Magazine reporter.

Kamayirese contends that they started from a low point as a music band at the school level, adding they came to the limelight after staging a moving performance as students of Nyundo School of Music in Canada at the Axis Mundi Harvest, Canada's legendary music festival shortly before the group was baptized Sebeya Band in 2017, their year of graduation.

Sebeya Band brings together talented artistes like Kamayirese Erasme [percussion], Nshimiyimana Yves [Solo Guitar], Uwikunda Joel [Base Guitar], Mabano Igor [Drummer], Muzungu Deogratias [Pianist], Iradukunda Albert [Pianist], Mutuzo Courage J. Luc [Acoustic guitar], Niyonshuti Eric [vocalist], Umutesi Neema Rehema [vocalist] and Hoziana Peace [vocalist].

Kamayirese further observes that Sebeya Band being a pool of different talents prompted them to embrace various music genres from all over the globe. But, he quickly adds that their action was total deviation from the mission of Rwanda's school of

Art and Music which is to produce indigenous Rwandan music.

"The government of Rwanda established the school of music with a view of helping young talents produce music with Rwandan identity and roots and thus our stance to rebrand our music is incumbent upon this mission to have music branded as Rwandan and

gain independence from Western culture and values imported through music at the expense of our own," observes Kamayirese.

SEBEYA BAND'S UNEQUALLED EXPOSURE

Along its journey to fame Sebeya Band has thrilled both local and international audiences through its exciting

performances that account for the growing list of its fans.

Locally, it has performed in Primus Guma Guma Super Star, East African Parties, 2015 Airtel Rwanda Tera Stori Promotional concert and 2017 Airtel Rwanda Tunga Campaign Concert Tour and several music galas.

On the international scene, Sebeya Band performed during the Rwanda Day in San Francisco in the United States, Festival of Francophony which was an opportunity to take their music to Tanzania and the DR Congo's Kinshasa.

During the Airtel campaign concert tours Sebeya Band played for US based Rwandan singers, Benjamin Mugisha popularly known as The Ben and RnB and Pop artiste Meddy.

SIGNIFICANCE OF MUSIC INDUSTRY

As long as music is branded Rwandan can effectively complement other efforts like tourism and ICT Rwanda has adopted to reposition itself globally.

South Africa, DR Congo England, Jamaica to mention but a few have branded themselves through music. People, the world over talk of Congolese music, English music et cetera.



Pros and cons of currency devaluation



BY PROF. VINCE SININING

Following a currency devaluation, inflation is likely to occur. What is inflation? Investopedia defines it as the rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising and, consequently, the purchasing power of currency is falling. Central banks attempt to limit inflation, and avoid deflation, in order to keep the economy running smoothly. As a result of inflation, the purchasing power of a unit of currency falls. For example, if the inflation rate is 6.23%, then a kilogram of sugar that costs RWF 900 in a given year will cost RWF 956.07 the next year. As goods and services require more money to purchase, the implicit value of that money falls. Inflation Rate in Rwanda averaged 6.23 percent from 1997 until 2018, reaching an all-time high of 28.10 per cent in February of 1998 and a record low of -15.80 percent in February of 1999. Trading Economics reported that consumer

Continued from Issue 12

prices in Rwanda edged up 0.1% year-on year in January of 2018, recovering from a 0.2% fall in the previous month. On a monthly basis, consumer prices were flat, compared to a 1.9 percent drop in December 2017. When it comes to minimum wage in Rwanda, the government has a mandated minimum wage rates ranging from 500 to 1000 Rwandan Francs per day [\$0.83- in the tea industry and 1500 to 5000 Francs a day [\$2.50 to \$8.30] in the construction industry. Rwanda's yearly minimum wage is \$496.00 in International Currency [this data was based on the 2009 currency exchange rate]. It is not a surprise therefore that when RWF is devalued, many Rwandans earning a minimum wage are affected with the rising cost of living.

Inflation occurs when imports are more expensive.

With exports becoming cheaper, manufacturers may have less incentive to cut costs and become more efficient. Therefore over time, costs may increase. Economists suggest that sound monetary policies in the long term can prevent depreciation of currency. Borrowing and loans should be kept to a minimum by the government. Export-oriented development policies can create a higher demand for the currency on the global markets.

A devaluation also causes falling real wages as a result of inflation. In a situation where the rate of inflation is higher than wage increase, real wages will fall. Real wages are defined as wage in current money adjusted for the price level.

Experts in finance and economics argue that the strength and stability of a nation's finances are strongly correlated to the rising and falling of a nation's currency value. Investopedia reiterated

that the current and future perceived prosperity of a country impacts the value of that country's currency. The more people want that country's money today and believe they will want that country's currency in the future drives the value of that currency in comparison to other currencies. Researches have shown that progressing towards stable and strong fiscal policies help increase values of currencies.

The impact of a devaluation may take time to influence the economy. One of the most common criticisms of currency devaluation is that it causes disproportionate suffering among the poor. Dr. Nicholas W. Minot wrote a paper entitled "Devaluation and Household Welfare in Rwanda" where he examined the distributional impact of price changes associated with devaluation in Rwanda using a simplified household-firm model based on household budget data.

The results of his study indicated that price changes associated with devaluation have a proportionately greater negative impact on the real income of urban households than rural, and within each sector a greater impact on high income households than low-income.

The main reason for this pattern is that rural and low-income households tend to be insulated from price changes by being less integrated in the cash economy.

End.



Dr. Vince Sinining is the Co-founder/Executive Director of AIM Foundation in Lilongwe, Malawi (www.aimfoundationmalawi.org) and Co-founder/Principal of AIM College.

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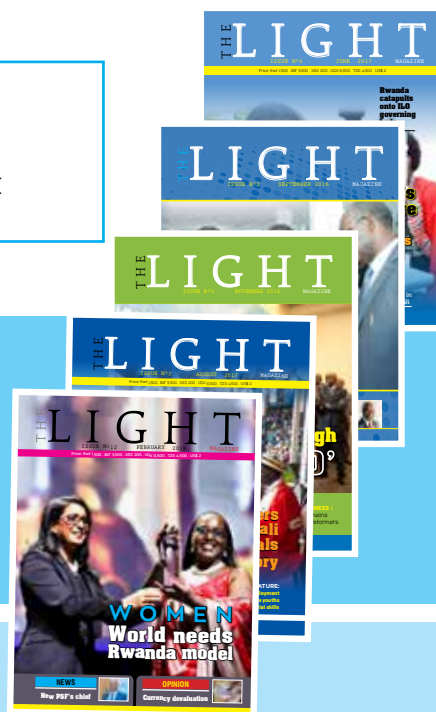


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BY OUR REPORTER

Rwanda's director of refugee affairs at the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDMAR), Jean Claude Rwahama, confirmed to The Light Magazine that about 2,579 Burundian refugees had entered Rwanda mid-March fleeing from escalating insecurity in neighbouring eastern Democratic Republic of Congo region (DRC).

"We have not got reliable figures yet but refugee leaders have said that at least 2579 of them came," said Jean Claude Rwahama.

The refugees fled from Kamanyola refugee camp in DRC where about 40 Burundian refugees were reportedly killed and over 100 injured last year during clashes with DRC forces. The refugees had alleged that DRC authorities had a clandestine plan to repatriate them to Burundi by force.

Rwanda is home to about 50, 000 Burundian refugees in Mahama refugee camp in its Eastern Province out of over 173,000 hosted by neighbouring countries including Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and DR Congo.

Over 2,500 Burundian refugees enter Rwanda



Rwahama further said that Burundian refugees who had been temporarily sheltered at Bugarama were to relocate to Nyarushishi Transit Camp.

President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a disputed third term in April

2015 election sparked off violence in Burundi and murder of opposition politicians. Since then, thousands of Burundians have been fleeing from violence and hunger from a country they call home to neighbouring Tanzania, DRC and Rwanda.

Cooperatives showcase landmarks

THE first edition of Cooperatives Expo in Rwanda was held from 28 to 29 March 2018 at the Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village with the aim of creating a unique platform for networking and sharing experiences, information and ideas for cooperatives, suppliers and

policy makers in Rwanda.

The Expo that attracted over 500 delegates from different federations was organised by Apex Media and Promotions Ltd, the National Cooperatives Confederation of Rwanda (NCCR) and the Rwanda Cooperative Agency.

Augustin Katabarwa,

Chairman NCCR observed that the timing of the exhibition was very important. "We had to first lay the foundations for cooperatives by allowing them to produce and add value. Today, cooperatives have reached the level we like, which is why we want their products to be

brought to light."

NCCR expects the expo to provide a platform to share best practices, ideas, experiences and information to create market linkages.

Rwanda has more than 8,800 registered cooperatives with over three million members.

Rwanda decided not to revenge

BY GEORGE KALISA

Rwanda's Foreign Affairs Minister and government spokesperson, Louise Mushikiwabo has during a recent press conference in the capital, Kigali threw more light on the diplomatic relations with its neighbouring Uganda stressing that Rwanda will not mistreat Ugandans in revenge though the recent violations of the rights of Rwandans were unacceptable and painful to her country.

Recently 45 Rwandans were detained in Uganda over terrorism charges amid growing accusations of the Kampala regime of torture and extrajudicial arrests against the Rwandan nationals there.

"We share a lot in common with Ugandans. We share the same blood. Rwandans cannot hurt Ugandans," said Mushikiwabo.

"Much as Rwanda was saddened by such behaviour from our neighbour we have instead, engaged Uganda in high level discussions to address many issues rather than taking revenge on the Ugandans in Rwanda"

The diplomatic relations



Hon. Louise Mushikiwabo

between Uganda and Rwanda started severing last year following the arbitrary and extrajudicial arrests, detentions and torture of Rwandans by Uganda's intelligence operatives.

Mushikiwabo's message pointed much to a recovering relationship of the two nations that had for decades enjoyed excellent diplomatic relations.

Uganda was accusing Rwanda of working with its Police to repatriate Rwandan refugees by force. Yet, Rwanda has allegedly and repeatedly accused Uganda of assisting to train Rwanda National

Congress (RNC) rebels led by Gen. Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa that allegedly want to remove the Kigali regime.

Early this year Rwanda expressed its growing dissatisfaction with neighbouring Uganda to media following the detention of 45 Rwandan nationals in Uganda who were charged with terrorism and widespread reports of many Rwandans accusing Ugandan authorities of inflicting torture on them.

In January 2018, Ugandan intelligence operatives dumped had dumped six Rwandans at the Rwanda-Uganda border claiming

having been tortured.

The Ugandan Police spokesperson, Emilian Kayima told the local media that on December 11 they had arrested 43 Rwandan suspects of terrorism at the Tanzania-Uganda border and two others after investigations bringing the total to 45.

Rwanda reacted to these tortures on December 12, 2017 by writing a protest letter to Uganda's foreign ministry that was hinting on pressing concerns about the torture and extra-judicial detentions of its nationals

"...the Republic of Rwanda wishes to call the highest attention by Ugandan authorities, and request remedy without delay to the following," the note reads in part.

"Multiple unjustified arrests, failure to notify the Diplomatic representation of Rwanda in Uganda and mistreatment of Rwandan citizens in Uganda in the last several months..." the added statement.

Recently Uganda's Foreign Affairs Minister Sam Kuteesa met President Paul Kagame in Kigali in a meeting that was rated crucial in the mending of the relations.

VW appoints Rwandan to head a plant

MICHAELLA Rugwizangoga, a Rwandan national has been appointed CEO of Volkswagen [VW] Mobility Solutions in Rwanda to lead the local assembling plant of VW. The company in January announced intentions of investing a staggering \$20 million this coming May.

Rugwizangoga is a chemical engineer by profession and a former Rwanda Excellence Scholar. She holds a Master degree in Food & Drug Control

and Environmental Toxicology from Kaiserslautern Technical University [Germany], with experience in strategic planning, project management and product development.

She is fluent in French, English, German and has good command of Spanish and Kinyarwanda. At the end of her studies, she worked for the Rwanda Development Board [RDB], Village Group and Imbuto Foundation.

She is part of the Global Shapers

community of the World Economic Forum. She is "Innovation Accelerator" for the Kigali Hub and also an award-winning writer.

The local plant of Volkswagen will begin with several hundred vehicles mid this year and gradually expand capacity to 5,000 vehicles a year. It is planned to initially build the Volkswagen Polo and Passat models. The plant will create at least 1,000 new jobs in its first phase of investment.

Close to 2,000 Burundian refugees leave Rwanda in two days

BY OUR REPORTER

The Spokesperson for ministry of disaster management and refugees (MIDIMAR), Jean Claude Tuyishime said on April 2 that 1604 Burundian refugees left on April 1 for their homeland, Burundi through Nemba border post.

"yesterday 1604 went back passing by Nemba border post for today I will tell after," Tuyishime said.

Tuyishime said that they returned voluntarily after failing to meet the

requirements stipulated by the refugee status grant.

"They chose to go back home voluntarily after failing the mentioned requirements for Refugee status grant. They made a list of those who want to go back home.

An official at UNHCR in Rwanda who requested not to be named has confirmed to The Light Magazine that 1,604 Burundian refugees left for Burundi on Easter Sunday and 390 would leave later on April 2.

"Not deported, they have decided to voluntary

return to Burundi. Today 390 hosted in Nyarushishi Refugee camp will also join their families in Burundi. But... Don't quote me if you're working on a news piece," said UNHCR official.

Last week, Rwandan police arrested 33 ringleaders in Burundian refugee camps for inciting others to boycott "the physical identification exercise which was done March 28.

On March 30, MIDIMAR released a statement.

"2523 Burundian asylum seekers are currently hosted

in Bugesera, Nyanza, and Nyarushishi Transit centers. They have refused to abide by laws and obligations regulating refugees, citing religious beliefs. Today they have been informed on basic conditions they have to fulfill if they want to be granted refugee status in Rwanda " a statement reads in part.

At the center of the conflict is vaccination of children under the age of five, which a religious cult in the Burundian refugee camps was opposed to.

Miguna Miguna: Kenya opposition figure deported again

Kenyan opposition figure Miguna Miguna has again been deported from the country amid an ongoing row over his citizenship status.

THE deportation is in defiance of multiple court rulings in his favour.

Earlier on Wednesday a court held top officials in contempt of court for failing to obey orders to release him.

Lawyers for Mr Miguna

confirmed he had left the country on an Emirates flight from Nairobi airport, where he had been detained since Monday.

He is understood to be on a flight to Dubai. The vocal opposition figure and lawyer was detained after attempting to re-enter the country from Canada, to

which he was deported last month.

Kenyan High Court judge George Odunga had said the country's interior minister, the head of police and head of immigration would be in contempt of court if they failed to release him from custody. Kenyan officials

had previously deported him following his role in the mock swearing-in of opposition leader Raila Odinga as "the people's president".

They said that Mr Miguna did not hold Kenyan citizenship but only Canadian nationality.

Mr Odinga lost an election vote in August last year, which was later annulled over "irregularities".

He then boycotted the re-run ballot, saying it would be rigged in favour of President Uhuru Kenyatta. Earlier this month the two political leaders appeared in a surprise television address together where they promised to begin a process of reconciliation following the bitter vote and aftermath.

Mr Miguna told the BBC's Focus on Africa earlier on Tuesday that he was being held in a toilet, and his family had been denied access to see him.

BBC

Vicky Momberg: South African estate agent jailed for racist abuse

A former estate agent in South Africa has been jailed for racist abuse in what has been called a landmark ruling.

A court jailed Vicky Momberg for three years, with one year suspended, for using a derogatory word against a black police officer 48 times.

Her lawyer said she was not in a normal state at the time, as she had just been the victim of a smash-and-grab robbery.

Racism remains a major issue in South Africa, almost 24 years after white minority rule ended.

Momberg was convicted of four counts of crimen injuria after her racist rant was caught on video, and went viral on social media.

She hurled insults at black officers trying to assist her after she was robbed on the outskirts of the main city, Johannesburg, in 2016,



and complained about the "calibre of blacks in Johannesburg compared to black people in Durban", where she was based.

Handing down her ruling, magistrate Pravina

Raghoonandan said some may think the sentence was harsh but it was intended to signal that racism will not be tolerated in South Africa.

Previous prosecutions

had not prevented racist incidents, and therefore imposing a direct prison sentence without the option of a fine would send a strong message, she added.

BBC

MTN launches MoMo products

MTN Rwanda launched Mobile Money (MoMo) pay platform for its subscribers to pay for goods and services using Mobile Money at no cost.

The company's chief business officer, Norman Munyampundu said that

the service is in line with the government effort to create a cashless economy. The system which started with traders in Kigali City Market will be rolled country wide. MTN targets over 1.5 million

of its Mobile Money subscribers to use the system.

To use the service, one must buy a MoMo pay-enabled SIM card and should also have a TIN number. After registering on the platform, traders

are given a code to use in the payment process. To effect payment, a customer should dial star 182 star 3 hash and press 'Yes' then follow prompts, including entering the code of the trader and the price of the product.

The neglected solution to the TB crisis



BY JOANNE LIU AND PAUL FARMER

IN an age of rapid technological innovation, it is shameful that almost two million people will die from tuberculosis this year because they are too poor to afford treatment. Indeed, the reason why TB continues to take lives is simple: indifference.

This indifference stems from the deadly delusion that TB is a disease of the past – a delusion that has

persisted, even as 10.4 million people contracted TB in 2016. TB patients are generally powerless to demand the world's attention. Though the disease can strike anyone, it disproportionately afflicts marginalized and vulnerable populations in places like refugee camps, slums, and prisons.

Another delusion is that we have ample treatments to fight TB, even as it continues to mutate. But multidrug-resistant TB is a serious threat. It is sometimes called “Ebola with wings”: while the two pathogens have similar death rates, MDR-TB is airborne and spreads more easily. The current treatment for MDR-TB includes a regimen of toxic drugs – some requiring painful, daily injections – that can last for up to two years.

The treatment options for

TB have scarcely evolved in decades. Whereas the research and development pipelines for HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C continue to deliver results, the R&D pipeline for TB lags far behind.

But that's not the whole story. In the last four years, TB care should have been revolutionized. After 50 years without a single new TB drug being developed, two – bedaquiline and delamanid – were approved in quick succession. This should have been an historic moment in the fight against TB, especially for drug-resistant patients.

One would have expected a broad coalition of health authorities, health-care providers, standard-setting bodies, insurers, and manufacturers to rush to the aid of the patients most in need of these new drugs. But no such response emerged.



Instead, the new medicines have mostly gathered dust on warehouse shelves. Since they were approved for use, a paltry 5% of patients in need have benefited from them. The latest figures for delamanid, in particular, are appalling: after four years, a mere 1,247 patients worldwide have been treated with the drug.

We would know, because many of these patients were treated in our programs, and in countries where Médecins Sans Frontières and Partners in Health have been pushing

for the registration and uptake of new medicines. With support from Unitaid – which channels funding from a painless airline tax toward addressing neglected health problems afflicting the poor – we launched the endTB initiative to accelerate use of the new drugs in 17 countries facing TB epidemics.

It is a sorry situation when nongovernmental organizations, rather than governments, academic institutions, and drug companies, must push for the use of available

new drugs. We took action because cash-strapped national TB programs tend to be conservative about adopting new treatments, and because pharmaceutical manufacturers have little incentive to bring their drugs to market in poorer countries.

The evidence we have gathered so far indicates that when the new drugs are used, hard-to-treat TB patients are likelier to recover, and often do so more quickly. Given the scale of the global TB crisis, endTB's work is a drop in the ocean. Yet it offers a glimpse into the failing response at large: an appalling lack of political will, imagination, and urgency that leaves millions to die on our generation's watch.

This September, the United Nations will host its first high-level meeting on the TB crisis. UN member states should use the occasion to pledge a radical increase in funding for TB programs around the world, and to overhaul an R&D model that has proved unfit for purpose. Otherwise, the event will be remembered as yet another meaningless gathering – one that left tens of millions to suffer in the clutches of the world's deadliest infection.

Specifically, what we need are simpler, quicker, and cheaper ways to test and treat TB, especially in remote and impoverished settings. We need better tools to prevent infections in the first place, and to kill latent infections before

they kill us. And, of course, we need a robust pipeline of drugs to ward off TB and its resistant forms.

In the meantime, the governments of TB-stricken countries must use the tools they already have – for example, by doing more to ensure that new treatments like bedaquiline and delamanid are made available to those who need them.

A UN meeting is a golden opportunity to make progress. Although it will not solve the TB crisis overnight, it is a chance finally to elevate TB to the World Health Organization-designated status of a “public health emergency of international concern,” as was done in wake of the Ebola and Zika outbreaks.

The urgency of the TB crisis is well known to medical experts, and certainly to patients and their families. Standard treatments are failing as we speak, and millions of people are silently being infected and falling ill. In the twenty-first century, that should be a source of deep shame for us all.

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Pinarello Dogma F10

Cycling in Rwanda has attracted people's attention; the love for this sport is growing bigger day by day as Rwandan cyclists continue mastering the sport by winning international competitions at home and around the world.

To have a competitive edge, Team Rwanda riders race with the latest technological designs. Some of these include the Pinarello Dogma model bicycles donated by President Paul Kagame in 2015. Dogma F8 were worth about

\$14,000 (approx. Rwf12 million) then and are the company's most successful bike ever with over 90 professional wins to its name.

The Pinarello Dogma is the most successful race bike of recent years, winning five of the last six editions of the most popular competition, Tour de France.

Pinarello Dogma F10, the latest in the long line with key feature of the Dogma's asymmetric design has four main improved properties:

to maintain handling, increase stiffness, improve aerodynamic performance and reduce weight.

The F10 is lighter with a claimed weight of 820g for a size 53cm frame, stiffer and reduced drag of every aspect of the frame and fork from previous models. It has an updated Flat Back downtube profile aimed to better smooth airflow around the water bottle positioned lower and the Di2 junction box with its own port on the down tube.



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