

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Rwanda High Commission to the United Republic of Tanzania

PRESS RELEASE

On Sunday, April 18, 2021, the Rwanda High Commission in Tanzania joined Rwandans living in the country to commemorate the 27th anniversary of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The ceremony was presided over by the High Commissioner of Rwanda to the United Republic of Tanzania Major General Charles KARAMBA.

The Rwanda High Commission had also invited Mr. Tom NDAHIRO, a Genocide Researcher as the main discussant during the event and discussion zeroed on the topic: **"UNDERSTANDING HOW GENOCIDE DENIAL AND TRIVIALIZATION IS DONE"**

In his keynote address, the High Commissioner appreciated the participants for turning up in big number and informed them that the 27th commemoration was organized in conjunction with the leadership of the Rwandese Diaspora in Tanzania in the wake of the Corona Virus pandemic, and that it was important to take precautionary measures including maintaining social distance between people in order to curb the spread of the pandemic.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, as well as on behalf of the staff of the Rwanda High Commission in Tanzania, the High Commissioner thanked all the Rwandans living in Tanzania for their continued solidarity with other Rwandans in these difficult times of commemorating the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, and for joining forces in the process of rebuilding Rwanda at all levels', said the High Commissioner.

He further said that Rwandans are in the third week after April 7, the day when His Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Paul KAGAME presided over the opening ceremony of the week of mourning marking the 27th commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. The commemoration will last for a hundred days until 3rd July as lasted the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

The High Commissioner explained that during this time, Rwandans will continue to remember and pay tribute to the victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi as they reflect on the process of building the nation, under the theme: **"Remember-Unite-Renew"**.

The High Commissioner Maj. Gen. Charles Karamba said the Genocide suspects still at large include educated masterminds of the most heinous crimes currently enjoying protection in all continents but mostly in Africa, Europe and the Americas.

He added that, a big number of these fugitives are on African Continent, and several of them continue to hide in the EAC region.

The government of Rwanda indeed calls on governments especially in the East African sub region and great Lakes to:

- Cooperate and bring to book any genocide suspect and deniers of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi within their jurisdiction.
- Pass laws that punish Genocide perpetrators to ensure that Rwandans suspected of committing any crimes against Humanity are brought to justice.
- Respond to the indictments shared by extraditing Genocide suspects to Rwanda or face justice in the host countries.

The High Commissioner Maj. Gen. Charles Karamba insisted that ***“The denial trend is going to be there for long and it is the calling for all of us to fight it with all the means available. It hurts the survivors; it targets our government,***

However, he added that ***“The good thing is that survivors understand that fighting genocide denial is part of surviving even though that is not where our energy should be going instead of focusing on our development, but it is a war imposed on us by the same group which perpetrated the genocide and later defeated. We need to work together and defeat this phase of Genocide.”***

During his presentation, Mr. Tom NDAHIRO, enumerated the history of divisionism in Rwanda even before 1994, stating that the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi did not begin in 1994, but that the massacre of Tutsis dates far back in 1959, 1963, 1973, 1992 and then culminated into a big spillover in 1994 when the evil plot to exterminate the Tutsis was realized.

The presenter said that the denial of genocide begins with the perpetrators giving hateful speeches, dehumanizing people by calling them animals, insects, snakes and many other evils; they used to say that the Tutsis are not human beings!

He added that in the present day 2021, there are people who deny that there was genocide in Rwanda some saying it was just a war, others denigrating that it was genocide against the Hutus as well or that talking too much about genocide is an exaggeration or a tool for making money.

Reiterating President Kagame’s Speech of 7th April, 2021, Mr. Tom NDAHIRO challenged participants that if those who deny the genocide against the Tutsis are doing so without fear and shame, what would make one afraid to stand up against the genocide and its ideology using every possible effort/means!

After the presentation, the participants were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions, and here the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Mr. Martin Ngoga gave his complements, saying that during the past three years there have been extraordinary incidents of trivializing the Genocide against the Tutsi and it is done in a very organized way, whereby the deniers are mostly the descendants of the perpetrators of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, the superpowers who have come together to

humiliate our efforts/attempt to erase our history and the journalists who publish lies about Rwanda; asserting that all these need to be confronted in an equally organized manner.

Other participating Rwandans living in Tanzania expressed their different views on how to fight the genocide ideology and denial of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi including enforcing the existing anti-discrimination strategies, as well as providing feedback on strategies to be taken by everyone to combat/dismiss the genocidal ideology and denial rhetoric posted on social media platforms.

In his closing remarks the High Commissioner of Rwanda to the United Republic of Tanzania thanked participants and Mr. Tom NDAHIRO for the good presentation that clearly explained the genesis of the Genocide against the Tutsi and how its denial and trivialization is taking shape. He called upon members of the Rwanda Community to brace and stand up against genocide denial to defeat the perpetrators of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi and to continue supporting the survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Meanwhile, on April 7th, 2021 there was Commemoration of the 1994 against the Tutsi which took place in Arusha, Tanzania whereby in adherence to the “Kwibuka 27” guidelines from the Government of Rwanda and Covid-19 containment measures by the East African Community (EAC), a new commemoration mode was devised like last year where a group of few representatives from International Organizations and other partners in Arusha met in a social-distanced manner and laid wreaths of flowers at the Genocide Monument plaqued at the EAC Headquarters.

The event was presided over by the Arusha Regional Commissioner, Hon. Iddi Hassan Kimanta and present was the UN IRMCT Registrar, Mr. Aboubacar Tambadou, Justice Ore Sylvain, the President of ACPHR, representative of EALA Speaker, Rwanda High Commission, the Rwanda Diaspora Chairperson among other dignitaries.



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Dar es Salaam

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