



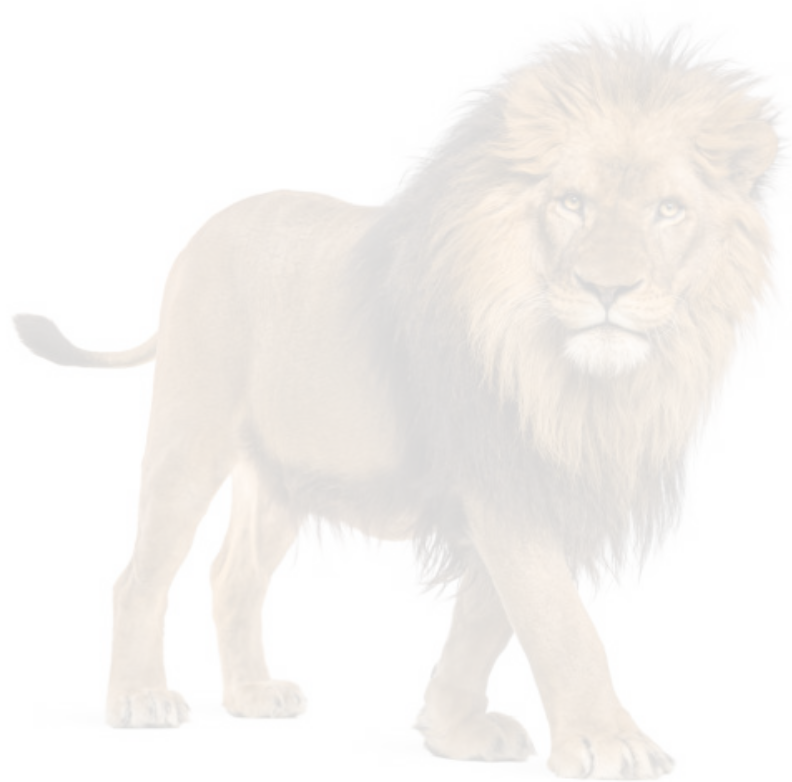
REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NTARE HOUSE

ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE 59th ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF BURUNDI



His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye

Bujumbura, on 1st July 2021





***Fellow Burundians,
Friends of Burundi,***

1. Before anything else, I would like to thank the Almighty God who has brought us to this momentous day in the history of our country in peace and security, as we continue to carry out projects that strengthen our Independence. Let God be praised for this.

Dear Compatriots,

2. UNDERSTANDING AND FULLY PLAYING YOUR ROLE AS A CITIZEN IN NATIONAL LIFE IS THE BASIS OF INDEPENDENCE.

On this 1st of July 2021, we commemorate and celebrate with joy the 59th anniversary of the recovery of Independence by our country.

The 1st July is a memorable date in the history of our country. Indeed, it reminds us of many things because we regained our Independence after being oppressed and burdened for more than 65 years that we spent under the colonial yoke.

When we regained our independence, those who knew the history of our country were already dead, leaving behind them people who were still searching for their identity in order to organise the country and prepare its future.

It is therefore for every Burundian citizen a day like no other; it is a day of meditation and remembrance, a moment to recall the role that Burundi's heroes played in the struggle for the restoration of our dignity so that we, the Burundians, can have the right to organise ourselves home affairs in the nation, in full freedom and autonomy.



3. While celebrating the 1st of July, we assess the progress made in our support for Independence, in the understanding of the concept of the Nation and in a patriotism that can push one to the supreme sacrifice if necessary, following the example of Prince RWAGASORE and his companions in struggle.

This is why we have decided to celebrate the 59th anniversary of our Independence under the theme: Understanding and fully playing your role as a citizen in the national life is the basis of independence.

***Fellow Burundians,
Friends of Burundi;***

4. The recovery of independence and the restoration of the dignity of the Burundian citizen was a self-liberation from the servitude of the dominator. We said no to the denigration and oppression of foreigners in our country. We demonstrated that the country belonged to us and that it was our duty to organise it in all circumstances for the good of every Burundian citizen.

5. But before appreciating our role in the life of the country, let us first analyse together the losses that the colonial administration made us suffer in the country.

Once we have understood this, it will be easy for us to know what attitude to adopt in order to build a dignified and viable country, a country that earns the respect of other nations accross the world.

6. The first thing we are called to have the same understanding on is that when the colonizers arrived in Burundi, they had no other objective than stealing our country and its natural resources. That is why they showed excessive pride and violence when they



arrived in Burundi, and why they claimed for themselves the right to massacre thousands and thousands of Burundians. They succeeded in occupying Burundi in 1903 after 7 years of fighting, when King MWEZI GISABO finally gave in and handed over power to the Germans who, at the same time, imposed on him a fine of 424 cows; and forced labour on the Burundians. Since then, Burundians were reduced to slaves in their own country.

7. During the German attacks, you will know that the Germans committed war crimes against the Burundians in order to demoralise them, to traumatise them, so that no one would ever feel the urge to revolt against them or disobey the orders of the colonists.

This is how they made us miss many opportunities:

8. Firstly, they stole the country and its wealth from us and made it their private property. They sought a way to make us lose our citizenship in order to uproot us from our national base.

To achieve their mission, they changed our social identity by force: instead of seeing us as Burundians, they saw us as Bahutu, Batutsi and Batwa.

This is evidenced by the advent of the national identity card (Karangamuntu), for the sake of which they first measured your body organs. Instead of writing Burundian Nationality, they wrote that you are Muhutu, Mututsi or Mutwa.

They did all this in order to show that we Burundians have nothing in common with them, but rather that each of us has our own origin, that Burundians have nothing in common.



9. The consequence that this policy has produced in us was that we forgot our motherland. We hated our country and we even incited other peoples to hate it, to the point that even today, there are Burundians who still suffer from unpatriotic disease, even though there a small number of them.

Having denied and hated our own country, all that remained was to refuse to work for it, and to destroy it instead of building it.

10. The second opportunity that the colonisers made us miss was the sense of respect for institutions and authority. They emptied from our hearts the sense of respect for authority and institutions. We say in Kirundi that the absence of authority is always harmful. So, to destroy this nation of Burundians, knowing well our Achilles heel, they separated us from the Chief.

The King was sacred in Burundi because he was the intermediary between the people of Burundi and God, especially since in Burundi we had the same faith.

The King was the Father of the Nation and the Burundian people respected him a lot because, due to Burundian culture, they knew how to respect their superior, especially when it was a Father.

11. When the Whites settled in Burundi, they persecuted the King to the point that they almost killed him, had it not been for BIHOME, the Hero who sacrificed himself for him.

They mocked the King in front of his children, the Burundian people, with the aim of eroding the respect and trust that the Burundian people had for the Royal Authority.

12. With this policy, the colonisers eradicated from the consciousness of the Burundian citizen the fundamental principle of "IKIZIRA" - the sense of the forbidden, and everyone started to act independently, as people who have no prudence to observe. They have lost the entire human and cultural values specific to



Burundians, such as respect for a human being.

Burundians have known since ancient times that a human being is sacred, that he is God's creature they had to love and protect.

Thanks to the value of Ubuntu, they even respected small animals, and affirmed that anyone who mistreated them was sinning against human beings. Just imagine! They said that if you cut off the tail of a lizard, your mother would have her breasts cut off. All this was done to ensure that the children grow up respecting every living creature.

13. Because of the authoritarianism of foreigners who did not share our cultural values with us, we have lost our cultural values; we have lost the sense of the secret of the nation, while it is this secret that contributes to the construction of the country.

The example is not far away: no child could divulge family secrets; but now even husbands divulge the secrets of their wives at a time when they are supposed to be the heads of the families.

Burundians are asking for sanctions against their country as if they were foreigners who have no relatives in the country.

All these things are ill-consequences of the colonial regime.

14. Because of this regime, Burundians have lost their mind, and if this was not the loss of mind, it must be the loss of awareness.

Before the coming of the colonisers, Burundians had reached a very high level in the development of technologies. They made all the tools they needed from minerals, but as soon as the colonisers set foot in this country, this know-how disappeared; it seems that there are no longer curious people who care about searching and inventing things in Burundi.

However, this must be understood. Indeed, just as the Philistines forbade the Israelites to make spears and swords in order to weaken their army (read 1 Sam 13:19), so after seven years of confrontation between the Germans and the Burundians, the



Germans had no choice but to destroy the war industry of Burundi.

15. Apart from that, colonisation took everything from us because even the knowledge of living together as brothers and sisters was lost for good. In the old days, we used to say that the neighbour is part of the family, or that common interests are better than kinship relations; all this to cement the love that one must show to everyone except the rascals and the lazy. And to prevent misfortunes that disrupt peaceful cohabitation between people in the community, the Burundians used to say: 'Do good to everyone, you don't know who will repay you first', don't trust just one person, trust everyone instead. In these same traditional communities, they knew how to understand each other by saying: living in a community inevitably leads to conflicts. This was to insinuate that we need to understand that perfection is not of this world; and that in case of a dispute, we should know how to forgive and reconcile, because living in a community means being able to forget offences. Burundians also knew how to resolve conflicts that arose between themselves because they understood perfectly what village elders represented.

When a dispute arose between individuals or among people in the community, the wise village elders were quick to resolve it peacefully; they used to say that 'where there are village elders, conflict does not degenerate into crisis'. They also said that 'he who resists the advice of the wise men cannot accede to the throne' in order to respect the decisions of the village elders, the 'bagabo'.

When a Burundian disagreed with the verdict of the wise village elders, he would say: 'I do not question the integrity of the village elder men but I do not agree with the judgement made'. And in difficult moments, one would urge someone to stand firm as a brave man.



16. I am summarising to make you all understand how colonisation has destroyed our country until we forgot it. We have changed so much that we have become like stateless people. There were even times when Burundians did not know which way to take, and we were destroyed to the core, making Burundians a unique people. It is in this uprooting that we find the origin of the loss of Ubuntu and the loss of citizenship in Burundians.

***Fellow Burundians,
Friends of Burundi,***

17. So, what is missing today for us to turn the situation to our advantage?

First of all, we all say that these colonisers are no longer there to oppress us; it is the very meaning of this Independence Day that we are celebrating. Are we really aware that we have regained our independence to the point that we have the stature of a nation-state within the family of Nations? What you need to know is that, as our ancestors used to say, "honour is earned", "sovereignty is earned". And it is the heart of the person that determines who they are.

18. Now is the time to turn the situation to our advantage, to know who we are and to know our role in influencing Burundi's future. Let us also keep in mind that, as our Supreme Guide of Patriotism Pierre NKURUNZIZA kept saying, no one will come and build Burundi on our behalf, it is us and only us who will do it. Indeed, the one we would assume could build it on our behalf already has their own country to build. It is high time we understood this.

19. That is why the first step we have to take is to believe that our citizenship does not consist in being Muhutu, Mututsi or Mutwa, we are Burundian citizens, and we are Burundians. Our social



belonging comes after our belonging to the country. Once this is understood, the next step will be to evaluate and analyse our role in the construction of our country. Living in accordance with our citizenship status will determine our identity in the family of Nations, because if people look at your behaviour everywhere you go, people say: If we observe this person, he certainly is a Burundian.

20. Secondly, we are not afraid to say it and let us accept it as a fact because it is the truth: Burundi is a Promised Land that God has offered to Burundians. Every Burundian must understand that it is his land, his country; no one has the right to take it away from them, whether it is their fellow Burundian or a foreigner. It is sad to see that a Burundian is being taught citizenship and patriotism, but everything has its time. We have not yet had time to understand this because the one who sowed hatred between Burundians has remained at the entrance of our country, fomenting and stirring up hatred, in order to seize whoever loses his mind first. Actually, and I am not afraid to say this, he has even maintained this hatred, so that this plague between brothers and sisters is transmitted from generation to generation, when the one who is contaminated by it transmits it in turn to the family, the community etc.

21. Therefore, the times in which we live are a favourable moment, the moment to know how to distinguish good from evil.

Let us train each other so that the independence we have regained does not become a dead letter. Each Burundian must be a cornerstone in building their native country.

22. You have certainly heard people complaining that even though the colonisers have gone home, they have kept a foot in Africa.

Let me tell you this: When someone deceives you the first time,



and you let him do, it is his fault. And when they deceive you a second time, you make up a lie and the fault will fall on the one who deceived you. But when you allow yourself to be deceived a third time, it is your fault. That is why every citizen has an incomparable role to play in achieving true independence. For it is the citizen himself who builds his country and who is its foundation's stone.

23. In fact, in all sectors of national life, the citizen plays an immeasurable role in maximising the possibilities of development, be it in the political, economic or social sphere, etc. Any initiative that is not motivated by the citizen is not only unnecessary but it is also a failure. Any initiative that is not motivated by the needs of the citizen would be useless and doomed to failure as it would be based on quicksand.

24. If we take the example of laws, we realise that they are based on the citizen, who defines national policy. In the area of economy and development, it is the citizen who makes sure that laws are put in place, in order to develop themselves and the country. We have witnessed this in Burundi: "THE CITIZEN AS THE STARTING POINT AND ARRIVAL POINT OF DEVELOPMENT". Those who have grown maize have seen the first example. Let us therefore try to understand that it is the citizen who is at the base of everything because even the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi confirms this by saying: "The people are the source of the power and authority of the Government". If you allow yourself to be led by the fundamental principles of a foreigner, nothing prevents him from taking you wherever he wants.

25. True Independence is therefore characterised by the fact that there are no barriers that prevent a citizen from feeling at home in his own country. He is a child in the family, and even when he sins, everything is settled in the family; in Kirundi we say 'Igito gitabwa iwabo', 'Dirty linen is washed in the family'. We have no other



home elsewhere in the world than in Burundi.

26. Another sign of true Independence is that the political leadership understands the necessity to give priority to the good of the citizen, so that they can make their contribution in making the decisions that concern them. That is why at this stage of development, after putting in place by ourselves a Constitution that governs the country's institutions and defining how they function without foreign interference, we have called the whole institutions a "Responsible Government", "Reta-Mvyeyi".

In turn, the leaders are required to strictly adhere to the principles of the Responsible Government they represent. An envoy is required to carry the message of their leader and do what they have recommended. Knowing that the Government is only responsible for the welfare of the citizens, they must scrupulously adhere to this principle.

27. Independence is also accepting to build oneself, and to understand that the habits of one family cannot contribute to the building of another family. It is necessary to understand that one should not always depend on the outside for everything. None of this is possible if each citizen has not yet understood that he or she must do something to produce, earn a living, sell the surplus on the market and thus have the means to support themselves and pay the taxes that will allow the Government to carry out large-scale projects of common interest.

28. Once a citizen becomes aware of their role in the country, including the leaders, we can then rejoice by saying: "We are Independent", and thus celebrate in a meaningful way because Independence is in our hands as Burundians. We will remember that we have won it dearly and that it came at a time when we were on the brink of collapse. If we understand this, then we will



jealously keep this Independence, knowing that we can lose it at the slightest negligence, because a country is always delicious, especially Burundi where there is everything.

29. Independence does not mean closing in on oneself, not at all. It means having esteem in the family of nations while refusing contempt.

It means opening up to others so that they can get to know us, our history, and our interest in them, because we complement each other. Indeed, it is said that strength lies in numbers and that the good you do at the valley will be returned to you at the mountain. This is the kind of international relationship we want, but not the kind of relations that exploits us and makes us inferior or play off the ones against the other among friends.

***Burundians,
Friends of Burundi,***

30. We regained our independence after we had been enslaved in our own country, where we were constantly humiliated, mistreated and saddened without knowing who to turn to; in actual fact, there was no justice or respect for human rights.

31. This is what we should learn from, to make every Burundian aware, so that we can come out of the world of darkness, get into the light, and be proud of our country. Always remember that God gave us a country flowing with milk and honey. That is why even now, if we are not careful, they will continue to fan the fire of hatred and distract and surprise us where we least expect them.

Dear Compatriots;

32. The virus that made us hate our country and that made us hate each other even despite the fact that we are brothers and sisters is still around, there are Burundians who are not yet cured even now. Even today, there are Burundians who, after singing the



National Anthem "Burundi bwacu, Burundi buhire, Shinga icumu mu mashinga,...", start asking for sanctions against their country just a few moments later. And if you meet them immediately after, they sing saying: "Rwagasore is a Hero, a Hero in battle; he fought with courage and determination and defeated the enemy".

Who is this enemy if by your behaviour you give him reason and an opportunity to harm? You mean that those who are still suffering from the colonial disease have become like mentally ill and hypocrites who have put themselves in the service of the neo-colons.

33. There are still others whom you will never hear criticising their countries but who adopt a colonial behaviour. These are the ones who give priority to divisions based on ethnicity, regions, political parties and all those things that divide people. What you should know is that all kinds of divisions work on the basis of colonial principles because during colonisation they used every trick in the book to divide the citizens in order to take their property in full view of everyone.

34. The other category of people who are still animated by the colonial spirit are Burundians who fight for political positions instead of fighting for work, those who fight to seize the property of citizens. It is indeed during the colonial period that the country's goods were embezzled under the helpless eyes of the population because it was a total dictatorship. You could even give away your family's wealth, just to save your skin. The expression: "Bring the eggs, bring the butter" was introduced by the colonisers.

Even today, an average citizen has not yet realised that he has the right to eat his chicken, he sometimes thinks that chicken is always for the whites. At the moment, every Burundian should know that whoever is given a political position becomes a servant of the



citizens, a person in charge of taking care of the citizens' property.

35. The third category of people who still walk according to the colonial spirit are the lazy. You all know that a person who is not able to feed himself cannot manage his own life, and you cannot argue with the person who takes care of you. A hungry man does not examine the sauce. How can you have dignity if you are begging? "Honour is not honour if there is nothing to eat". Whoever wants to get out of the grievances of the neo-colons works, produces and feeds himself! I would like to inform you that, as long as Burundi asks for aid, this colonial rope will remain tied around our neck. So let's introspect, let's ask ourselves if we have a handicap that prevents us from rolling up our sleeves and working as the populations of developed countries have done.

Burundians
Friends of Burundi

36. Even if we continue to give advice and teach today, there is still a long way to go before some Burundians manage to free themselves from the spirit of colonialism. There is a tendency to cross our arms and believe that foreigners will do everything for us, there are still people who tarnish the image of Burundi so that the international community will conclude that Burundians are not capable of managing their own affairs; and there are even those who still want to persecute Burundians. However, what must be kept in mind is that it is time to set ourselves free from the contempt of foreigners.

37. Firstly, it must be demonstrated that Burundians have many capabilities. We have capabilities, and as proof, when a Burundian arrives abroad, he is technically appreciated for his contribution to improving the quality of life of these foreigners whether in the field



of public health, industry, infrastructure and other areas that drive development. This diligence used to promote the development of foreigners, because they have given him money, while refusing to use it in his native country, is what shows that the colonists have instilled in us an unpatriotic spirit; we love wealth more than our motherland.

It is the feeling of ingratitude towards the one who made you grow up that develops and sometimes leads people to commit crimes against their relatives; and it is this same feeling that leads to savage behaviour and that in the end makes us mercenaries in our own country rather than sacrificing ourselves for it.

38. This lack of appreciation for the country that educated us to adulthood has led those who did not go to develop foreign countries to become mercenaries in their own countries, seeking remuneration without working. They should think about the origin of their salaries. Some of them ask the Government to solicit external aid, just because they do not meditate on the country, to understand what the country is really about; they forget that aid comes from the work of the taxpaying citizens of developed countries.

That is why we urge this category of Burundians to have pity on these citizens of foreign countries who are as intelligent as Burundians, but who spend sleepless nights working to earn their living and help Burundians.

39. Others sabotage the country's activities to show the international community that Burundi is not yet independent to carry out its development projects. They should know that by underestimating Burundians, they underestimate themselves.

40. Let us therefore be vigilant. Let us examine the obstacles that



would be raised against the Independence of Burundi and remove them before it is too late, and let us not let the traitors deceive our vigilance. If we do not act today, tomorrow will be too late, and we will remember to take action when the irreparable happens. Let us all participate together in our common fight for development, and let us make sure that every citizen makes his or her contribution; that is true Independence.

***Burundians,
Friends of Burundi***

41. We are delighted to celebrate Independence, at a time when the population is going about its daily activities; the country is calm and is regaining its honour and dignity in the family of nations. We also celebrate this day when agro-pastoral production has been good and the farmers' and herders' cooperatives are growing day by day. In a word, we celebrate it with the hope that we will achieve the goal of Responsible and Hardworking Government (Reta-Mvyeyi, Reta-Nkozi): "Every mouth should have food and every pocket should have money". Without procrastination, we celebrate this day with the hope that we will consolidate our sovereignty through our ability to take charge of ourselves.

42. However, even so, all is not rosy, for we celebrate it while we are still fighting the Coronavirus pandemic, but also at a time when we are dealing with climate change which has caused adverse effects especially in the Imbo plain where many people are in desolation.

43. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Burundian people for the fraternity they have shown in hosting the victims of the disaster and lending a helping hand to the victims of these calamities.



This is an eloquent sign that Burundians are returning to the good practices of solidarity and mutual aid, in times of joy or misfortune, which has always characterised Burundians. I thank all those who have helped these displaced people to continue to live; we can mention both international organisations and local organisations who have given themselves body and soul to provide assistance in these circumstances. All these people are setting an example of solidarity in the world, which has nothing to do with oppression.

***Burundians,
Friends of Burundi,***

44. I cannot end without pointing out the obvious indicators of true independence, so that everyone knows how to behave wherever they are in their daily lives.

- The first indicator is to have a government and an administration of the country that is respected and capable of taking decisions. Indeed, a household without a leader has no consideration. This is why we insist on the security of the country and its citizens and why we are also strengthening the justice system in the country so that there are no outlaws who infringe on the freedom of others.

- The second sign is good governance, because it is good governance that makes every citizen feel at ease in their country. From this perspective, as far as the annual state budget is concerned, priority will be given to major projects and emergency actions so that they are well planned, and new technologies for good management and monitoring will be introduced to see whether the planned activities are being carried out correctly, with few resources, so that we can show the results or concrete actions that demonstrate that the execution of programmes has been done in line with good planning.

- The third indicator is the unity and peaceful cohabitation of



the population. This is why the government is there to ensure and strengthen the unity of the entire population.

- The fourth indicator is sovereignty and economic independence without relying on the outside world.

- The fifth indicator is having a name, a place in the concert of nations, and being able to express oneself freely. This stems from the behaviour of each citizen towards foreigners. The image of the country of origin can be read through an average citizen, because we recognise a tree by its fruits.

45. I therefore hope that every Burundian will reflect on their role in the life of the country and assume it fully, because this is the foundation of independence. It is in this perspective that I am stimulating all leaders of all categories to become patriotic, to make people love the country and to promote good governance. Here I call on all leaders to visit the population, and let them serve as a good example really and thus Burundi will shine in the world as a country that has understood very well how to lead the citizens for their good.

46. Furthermore, within the Government, we are implementing the National Development Plan 2018-2027, which aims at nothing else than the well-being of every Burundian, his prosperity, his happiness and that of his family and in his property.

47. We are in the process of helping Burundians to be reconciled, after the misfortunes that have plagued Burundi as a result of the effects of colonisation. Since the truth that is being revealed is frightening and painful, I ask every Burundian to remain serene. We are called upon to comfort each other in the hope that these atrocities will never happen again in our country; because it is a disgrace for an administration.



48. As far as I am concerned personally, I reassure Burundians that what happened was an attack on our honour, but that, as long as democracy reigns in Burundi, this barbarity will never happen again. May God be my witness.

I tell you this from the bottom of my heart, such atrocities cannot happen where there is true good governance, unless all men have become wild animals.

49. Let no one, therefore, feel anxious that it will happen again, and let no one fear that he will be the next victim. No one is allowed to take revenge, for even the word of God which guides us formally forbids it in these terms: "You shall not take revenge or bear a grudge against the children of your people. You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Leviticus 19-18).

Moreover, the Government is showing that Burundi is internationally respected and important in the family of nations by contributing to the restoration of security where it has been disturbed and in the fight against international terrorism.

50. On the part of other Burundian citizens, it is visible that the population has already started to show the spirit of patriotism, whether from inside or outside the country. I am very grateful to the Burundians who are improving the image of the country by what they do, whether they are researchers or those who participate in various competitions.

51. I am also pleased with the impressive number of returning refugees and I make a strong appeal to those who are still in doubt, reminding them that those who return do not need to ask for permission beforehand, as it is their absolute right. Be like children who joyfully return home, and us residents await you with love and impatience.

Burundians,



Friends of Burundi,

52. Before closing this message, I would like to remind the international community about the misdeeds of colonisation and the painful consequences incurred by those who were victims of it, so that we can have a common understanding and then take the same direction in the view of solving the problems we have. Colonisation is a crime against humanity among many others.

53. Just like in Africa and in other parts of the world, Burundi became chaotic at the advent of colonization whereas it used to be an organised, developed country, whether in agriculture, livestock farming or in trade and industry. If we had not encountered these difficulties, Burundi would now be a very developed country, but it was paralysed by colonisation. Moreover, colonisation has not only weakened us, it has bruised us in all sectors of the country's life because it has divided us into ethnic groups, and people have been killed or driven into exile, to the point where we have not been able to stand still on our own feet until now.

54. Today, it is time, if not too late, for us in Burundi to have a slight improvement, to get rid of this grief that is eating away inside us, while other countries are recovering and taking off.

I invite the International Community to understand us and to stop supporting Burundians who hide behind those who are at the origin of these misfortunes in Burundi. Now that we are in the process of rebuilding our social fabric and getting back on our feet, the international community should accompany us in this process until we are compensated. If this is not the case, it would be making fun of us.

55. I ask the United Nations to remember that when Belgium sowed the virus of division among Burundians, it did so with a UN



mandate. Just as they did in Berlin by agreeing to share and appropriate the least developed countries, let them come together and agree to support our development efforts instead of putting us down, let them come and rebuild with us what has been destroyed because of these divisions.

I call on Germany to also remember its role. Indeed, it was Germany that dragged Burundi into the first war. In addition, it also plundered our wealth, including our livestock.

To all of them, we ask for support, because if it were not for colonisation, many signs show that Burundi would be an advanced country, because even at that time, it was a viable country.

56. I call on the countries of the international community to support us at the stage of development we are. We cannot forget to thank them for opening our eyes, when they imposed sanctions on us in 2015, enabling us to take charge of ourselves, which inspired us to organise the elections without foreign aid, an electoral process that was very successful.

But we welcome all delegations coming to support us on this important day and we cannot thank enough the World Bank for its involvement in our country's National Development Plan.

57. We are satisfied with the progress of the dialogue between Burundi and the European Union. We find that EU countries are showing a clear willingness to resume diplomatic relations with us. We ask them not to give in to reluctance, which would further complicate the process.

58. In the last six years that Burundi has spent organising its own affairs, it is evident that our development partners have come back to find us at a more advanced stage of managing national affairs,

while we have fought hunger significantly through an ongoing struggle.

59. With regard to Covid19, we have no doubt that we are among the first countries in the world that have been able to deal with this pandemic, both in prevention and in mitigation of transmission. All this shows the significant step taken by Burundi in managing its affairs. We ask the international community to lend us a helping hand, so that we can take further steps together, because you cannot carry out a project together if you do not have the same objective.

We don't want to tire you out by asking you to tow us, let's rather walk hand in hand as friends, showing you what we are doing to help us.

We ask you to be together as brothers, to promote together peace and sustainable development of human beings, whether in Burundi or in other countries

60. To conclude, I would like to inform Burundians that the value of man is deserved; we are called upon to set an example of patriotism, so that even foreigners will respect us on the basis of the respect that we have for ourselves.

Let us therefore strengthen our solidarity, let us work together to build our country as true citizens and not as mercenaries.

***Long live Burundi and the Burundians,
Long live the independence of our country,
May God bless you.***



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