

THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Rwandans' Seventeenth Liberation: Shaping our Destiny

“The driving force behind the struggle for liberation was the determination to restore dignity, full rights and hope to all Rwandans”, the Minister of Local Government has said.

For Rwandans, the 4th of July marks the end of decades of oppression, division, violence and stagnation; while celebrating nation building with a common vision and a forward looking mindset of inclusivity, participation, non-discrimination and shared values. Seventeen years after liberation, Rwanda is a unified country firmly on the path to development and prosperity.

Rwanda's home-grown solutions have led Rwandans to achieve significant results in the areas of justice, unity and reconciliation, social development, economic growth, good governance and partnerships with the global community. Through these achievements, we are building our capacity and repositioning ourselves to deal with the World in a fair, dignified and equitable manner.

On July 4th 2011, Rwandans are celebrating the momentum that we, Rwandans, can see throughout Rwanda to uphold Rwanda's dignity, own our future and shape our destiny.

In order to consolidate Rwandans' achievements and clearly shape our future, the Ministry of Local Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry for Cabinet Affairs and other national stakeholders are organizing an **International conference that will be held on 3rd July at Kigali Serena Hotel from 13h30 until 18h30**, to share the essence of 4th July.

The Conference will be attended by Government Officials, Members of Parliament, Mayors, Governors, Diplomats accredited to Rwanda, Country Representatives of International Organizations, Heads of Commissions and National Bodies, Representatives of Security Organs (Army, Police and National Security Services), the Private Sector, Rectors, Church Leaders and Heads of Civil Society organizations. In addition, media are invited to cover the conference, which will be open to them.

The conference will be facilitated by national and international speakers together with national policy makers. Topics that will be discussed will be on "Liberation: foundation for Rwanda's destiny, sovereignty and development" and "Peace keeping: an obligation for all nations to fulfill the 'Responsibility to protect': The case of Rwanda".

Speakers to the conference include, among others, the Secretary General of East African Community (Dr Richard SEZIBERA), the Joint African Union and United Nations Special Representative, UNAMID Darfur (Ibrahim Gambari), Dr Gerald CAPLAN, a leading Canadian authority on genocide and genocide prevention, together with Lieutenant General Patrick NYAMVUMBA, the UNAMID Force Commander in Darfur.

The Conference has the following objectives:

1. To reflect and share on Rwanda liberation experience;
2. To safeguard the achievements of the liberation: National Security, Social-Economic Development and Good Governance;
3. To highlight the obligation of nations in peacekeeping and Rwanda's humble contribution.

The organizers also anticipate the following outcomes:

1. Increased awareness of the Rwanda liberation experience;
2. A shared vision of a continuous liberation; and
3. Heightened value of peacekeeping missions.

“Rwandans have proven beyond doubt that, they are capable to build their nation. The conference is intended to help them consolidate the existing achievements, shaping their future, while preserving their dignity”, Minister James MUSONI said.