

# REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



## OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Speech of The RT. Hon. Prime Minister,  
Dr. Edouard Ngirente

**At the “TOUR DU RWANDA 2017 RECEPTION”**

**Kigali Convention Centre, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

- **Honourable Ministers,**
- **President of the Rwanda Cycling Federation,**
- **Teams, Delegations and Sponsors to the 2017 Tour du Rwanda,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

## **Good evening to you all!**

**1.** I am pleased and honoured to attend, on behalf of His Excellency Paul Kagame, The President of the Republic of Rwanda, this reception that was organised by the Government of Rwanda, to celebrate the successful completion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the “Tour du Rwanda”

**2.** I would like to start by conveying to Organisers, Teams, Delegations and Sponsors of the 2017 “Tour du Rwanda”, warm greetings and best wishes from His Excellency Paul Kagame. He sincerely thanks you for a well done job. He reiterates his continued support to the development of cycling in Rwanda with the aim of positioning Rwanda as a top cycling destination.

**3.** This is in line with the Seven Year Program of the Government of Rwanda (2017-2024) that seeks to make Rwanda as a world class and high end ecotourism destination.

**4.** As mentioned, this year’s “Tour du Rwanda” attracted participation of 15 teams numbering a total of 73 riders from 18 nations. This is yet another confirmation that the annual “Tour du Rwanda”, one of the key features on international cycling calendar, has already started to make Rwanda as a top cycling destination.

**5.** We have no doubt that with the recent decision of the Government of Rwanda of giving a 30-day visa upon arrival to all travellers from across the world, as of January 1, 2018, the number of teams will even increase.

- **Excellencies,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**6.** Rwanda has been honored to host, during these last nine years, the “Tour du Rwanda”, the most watched and followed sports event in Rwanda. As we aim to see the “Tour du Rwanda” upgraded from its current 2.2 status to the 2.1 status, Rwanda re-affirms its unconditional support to cycling in particular and to other sports in general.

**7.** A reception like this is a good opportunity to celebrate the performance of all of riders and their coaches who did their best, from November 12<sup>th</sup> to today November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. You have made sacrifices in touring the thousand hills of Rwanda.

**8.** You have proven that for any team to succeed and reach a common goal, its members have to work together. This is a good lesson to all of us. Cooperating well with others, helping each other, and taking responsibility for actions, for the better of the whole team, is also necessary in life outside of sports.

**9.** Our own fellow Rwandan ARERUYA Joseph, who won this year’s Tour du Rwanda is a witness of the importance of team work. Special thanks go to you ARERUYA and all Rwandan riders. Rwandans are proud of you. Keep this momentum and inspire as many Rwandan cyclists as possible.

**10.** Today is a day of celebrations and not for long speeches. I would therefore wish to conclude by here. Rwanda is looking forward to hosting upcoming cycling events and once again welcomes all of you here present to those events.

**11.** With these remarks, on behalf of His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic, I congratulate once again all organizers, riders, team officials, sponsors, and Rwandans who turned in a big number to watch the 2017 “Tour du Rwanda”.

**Thank you for your kind attention**