



Date: 7 April 2024

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED AFRICA ROYAL ASSEMBLY ON THE EVENT OF THE 30TH COMMEMORATION OF GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI

As we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Genocide Against the Tutsi, we stand in solidarity with the resilient people of Rwanda, acknowledging the immense tragedy they endured and the remarkable journey of healing and reconstruction they have undertaken since. Rwanda's transformation from the depths of genocide to a beacon of exemplary prosperity serves as a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the power of collective resilience.

As we honor the memory of those who perished, we are reminded of the critical role traditional leaders play in fostering peace and stability within their communities. The deliberate targeting and systematic elimination of traditional leaders during the Rwandan genocide highlights the vulnerability of those who hold positions of influence within their communities and highlights the insidious nature of violence aimed at destabilizing societal structures. It is deeply troubling that even today, the targeting of traditional leaders persists in ethno-religious conflicts and acts of terrorism that continue to plague our beloved continent.

As we reflect on Rwanda's journey, we are reminded of the enduring importance of empowering traditional leaders across our continent. By investing in their capacity, fortifying their security, and recognizing their indispensable contributions to peace and harmony, we can build a future where the horrors of genocide and violence are relegated to the annals of history. Let us pledge to honor the memory of those lost by embracing the lessons of Rwanda's resilience, and let us work tirelessly to create a continent where every community can thrive in peace and prosperity.

**HH PRINCE ESTIFANOS MATEWOS
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED AFRICA ROYAL ASSEMBLY**