

- **Honourable Ministers**
- **Member of Aegis Trust here tonight,**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**
- **Good Evening.**

It is my pleasure to be here with you all this evening, for the first White Rose Gala Dinner in support of the Kigali Genocide Memorial, and its Peace Building Education Program for young people.

With its mission to build peace, the Kigali Genocide Memorial bridges the past, present, and the future – by uniting Rwandans and international visitors, in the remembrance of our sisters and brothers who perished during the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994.

As many of you know, Rwanda is a complex country of resilient people. In our history, a large proportion of young people took part directly or indirectly in committing genocide. We have today young survivors who have overcome extraordinary suffering and are

working everyday to make their lives and their communities and their country better. We also have the first generation of adults born after the genocide – those who turned 18 this year. These young people, under 35 years of age, constitute almost 80% of Rwanda's population.

It is therefore critical that youth today learn from, and embody the spirit and legacy, left by the children of Nyange who refused to be separated by those who believed in a divided Rwanda; and before them, the young people of the White Rose Society in Germany who opposed the forces of genocide in Europe. This is the surest way to build a safer and brighter future.

It is in this regard that I am happy to learn that the Kigali Genocide Memorial's Peace Building Education program has reached over 10,000 young people in the last four years, inspiring them to uphold the ideals of harmony and unity within their schools and communities.

This program is valuable and deserves to reach even more people. I was very pleased to learn that within the next five years, the Kigali Genocide Memorial will expand to become an African Centre for

genocide research and peace-building. This centre will provide a conducive space for youth from across the globe to learn more about the underlying causes of conflict in countries and ways in which such conflict can be prevented in the future.

The expansion of the Kigali Genocide Memorial is a noteworthy initiative. But, in order for us to attain this ambitious vision, all of us here tonight must carry the mantle of preserving the memory of the past and equipping our youth to become responsible leaders of integrity.

There is no doubt that the international community failed Rwanda, by betraying the promise of “Never Again”. And although today we live with the consequences, Rwanda is also a part of the international community. We therefore have a responsibility to share our tragic experience, as well as a role to play in extending peace building education to our region and beyond, in order to instil the value of life, of mutual respect and of productive partnerships.

Most unfortunately what happened is a part of our history – tragic as it was. But while we should strive to forgive, we can not forget

well knowing that the architects of that evil part of our history and ideology will always be there but we should forgive but not forget but strive to be the mirror of the failure of the global systems.

Let us continue to move and draw our lessons from what happened with hope and determination.

But charity begins at home. As Rwandans, we have the responsibility to teach our children the values of dignity and social harmony in order to build a stronger nation. We want our children's children to look back and reflect on our commitment and foresight in laying the foundation for Kigali Genocide Memorial. Only when we unite in spirit and a common vision, can we truly cope with the challenges we face and achieve a brighter, more hopeful and prosperous future.

Distinguished guests,

Allow me to extend my appreciation to Aegis Trust for bringing us together tonight in support of the expansion of Kigali Genocide Memorial and peace-building education for youth in Rwanda, Africa, and across the world.

Thank you and God bless you all