

**Her Excellency Mrs Jeannette Kagame Remarks,
Unity Club Breakfast,
CHOGM side event
22 June 2022**

Honorable Commonwealth Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland QC,

Dear Sisters - First Ladies of Commonwealth Nations

Honorable Dignitaries, Proud Torchbearers,

Dear Friends,

Good morning.

This morning has truly been food for the soul, so I am certain that this enriching breakfast came at a right time!

I believe that you share my position, **Distinguished Guests.**

These are indeed difficult times for the world. Between climate change, wars and diseases, we are still on the grueling climb to the development, stability, and optimal social welfare that we all desire as Commonwealth Nations.

Admittedly, progress remains tough. Political polarization, extremism, and individualism all threaten the unity of populations all over the world. As history, from the very country we are in can attest, a breakdown in unity leads to,

at the very best, compromised welfare, and at the very worst, unthinkable loss.

But, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, we are not helpless to this mounting uncertainty.

We have real solutions, which have proven themselves effective to counter the threat of division, regardless of how deeply-rooted the latter may seem.

This, **Honorable Dignitaries, Commonwealth Friends**, is what we have been blessed to see our Unity Club embody.

Unity Club Intwararumuri (torchbearers) remains for us, 25 years since its inception, a beacon of hope that indeed every wound can heal. It is a mirror to the values of the nation we love, which, reborn in the warmth and confidence of harmony, will never allow perceived difference, to hurt its citizens, ever again.

Distinguished Guests,

To give you a word of wisdom, after having heard so much of it, from those at the forefront of this mission for peace and progress, is quite the challenge. But I am happy to try, as I have been deeply inspired by my unity club sisters.

Honorable Secretary General, Mrs Scotland,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our story with you.

It is true. The therapeutic benefits of sharing, in sadness as in healing, in challenge as in progress, are plenty.

As I seat with you, and friends from all over the Commonwealth, who I am honoured to see rooting for Rwanda through their presence here today –

I am humbled.

I am humbled that this country, that found the sheer strength, to pull itself from darkness and emerge into a

bright, and hopeful new reality, is one I can call home, and one I can witness you all, experience differently today.

I am thankful, that I can let you in on a beautiful secret, that all Rwandans got to discover, for motivating secrets, like a pleasant breakfast or an inspiring victory story, should be shared among friends.

Commonwealth Friends,

- Everything, that this country is happy to offer you, for your stay this CHOGM,
- Everything that this country has seen sprout from its soil to nourish, shelter, support, heal, protect, and connect its citizens, since our Liberation in 1994,

Everything that we can see, and that we are so determined to protect, was built upon the premise of unity.

- Under the buildings that we hope to expand,
- under the roads that we will always strive to improve,
- under the hotels that allow us to welcome friends from all over the world,
- under this very ground that we are currently standing and sitting on,

unity, reconciliation, and a strong sense of identity as Rwandans first and foremost, run as deep as the foundation's cement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I shall never tire of celebrating this: Unity rebuilt our country.

And the members of our Unity Club Intwararumuri (torchbearers), which it has been my honour, my joy, my blessing to chair, are the custodians of a quarter of a century of determined progress.

I thank you all for your commitment, and I thank you for joining us today.

Never doubt the miraculous powers of unity. From all I can see around me, and all I believe will come, the powers of unity are truly infinite.

Good day to you all!