UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, DURING THE JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED TO MARK THE 25TH COMMEMORATION OF THE 1994 GENOCIDE HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2019 IN TAIFA AT 10.00 A.M.
• H.E High Commissioner of the Republic of Rwanda
• Invited guests
• Other members of staff
• Ladies and gentlemen
Good morning,

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to this Conference that was organized to mark the 25th Commemoration of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. I am happy that this year’s commemoration under the theme, *Remember-Unite-Renew*, places weight on the legacy of strength, resilience, honour and unity that our new generation is called upon to sustain.
Twenty-five years ago, Rwanda- also known as ‘The Land of a Thousand Hills’- suffered a hundred days of horror. It was its darkest moment in history that was characterized by the mass slaughter of Tutsi and moderate Hutus during the Rwandan Civil War. More than one million Rwandese perished and about 2 million were displaced and became refugees.
The blood-spattered history of Hutu and Tutsi conflict stained the 20th century. It was among the most dreadful civil wars in post-Cold War history.

After these happenings, Rwanda, a landlocked country situated in East Africa, was thought to never regain its lost life, consciousness and strength. The world was convinced that it was the end and written it off.
But today, in many remarkable ways, Rwanda has faced its challenges and continues to thrive unshaken. Considerable progress has been made towards the direction of reconciliation and the Rwandese are focusing on economic development. As we speak, Rwanda is one of the most desirable African countries to live and invest in.
Its life expectancy has doubled in the past decade and the economy has grown at a superbly high.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This commemoration, also referred to as *Kwibuka* in Kinyarwanda, presents an opportunity for the world to pay homage to the victims. It is an occasion to learn from Rwanda’s transformational journey.
I call upon everyone to use this chance to get informed on why it happened, and how it changed the world.

I am optimistic that the conversations during this conference will enlighten us especially the continent of Africa, to re-write the new history of continent.
As we show solidarity with the survivors, let this be an opportunity to further strengthen our unity and steadfastness in safeguarding against such atrocities anywhere in the world.

Welcome!

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AND
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