

**REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
P.O. BOX 160 KIGALI**

**SPEECH AT THE EAST AFRICA LAW SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

**KIGALI CONVENTION CENTRE**

**08<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

**Your Excellency the President of the Republic  
Honourable Members of Cabinet  
The President of the International Bar Association  
The President of the East Africa Law Society  
Colleagues Lawyers  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
All Protocol observed**

Good morning!

Permit me Your Excellency to thank the East Africa Law Society for choosing Rwanda as the venue for this annual General Assembly. It isn't a single day. They have been here since Sunday, doing one or two activities each day, and they are here presumably till Sunday because there are more activities ahead.

Thank you East Africa Law Society, when you are our guests we become better hosts for your next visit.

This 24<sup>th</sup> East Africa Law Society Conference is aptly themed to celebrate the East African Community integration efforts for 20 years. It provides us with opportunity to reflect on our common destiny as members of the East African Community; to take a hard look at challenges we have gone through while also celebrating the milestones we have attained. We are aware that the East Africa Law Society has been working hand-in-hand with EAC institutions, and the presence of the huge representation from across the East African Community is a testament to this good work.

Your Excellency the whole East African Community region is here represented: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, South Sudan and Uganda.

Rwanda is currently holding the chairmanship of the East African Community. Your Excellency, the efforts and energy you, and like minded Heads of States are putting in the integration of the region and continent are not just being noticed, they are inspiring us all professionals, youth, women, private sector, foreign investors and the signs that Africa is rising are all over they can't be missed.

The East African Lawyers face challenges while conducting their activities across borders including lack of harmonization and proper regulation. We will continue to offer every support to resolve this.

I invite you to enjoy the hospitality of Rwanda and take time to learn a new thing and make friends in this beautiful country.

May I take this opportunity to welcome our guest of honour, His Excellency the President of the Republic to officially open the conference.

I thank you.