

**Acceptance speech for the award of Best Minister of Development
Cooperation in Africa, 2024 Prize, Port Louis, Mauritius, February 8,
2024**

Excellences Ministers and colleagues,

Excellences special Guests,

Excellence CEO and members of business Executive group,

Ladies and gentlemen, all protocol respected, good evening,

- 1) **At the outset**, allow me to thank the government and the people of Mauritius for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to me and my delegation since our arrival to this beautiful city of Port Louis. I wish to express my thanks to the organizers for the excellent organization of this very important event “Africa Governance conference and Award 2024”.
- 2) It is a great honor to be standing here today to receive this outstanding award of the **Best Minister for development cooperation in Africa**. Frankly speaking, there is no words can express enough how deeply I am grateful for this award . Thank you to everyone for making it possible.
- 3) **Excellencies, dear friends**, this award gives me confidence in myself and motivates me to work even harder alongside other actors to positively impact governance in Africa and restore our continent to its

rightful place in the concert of Nations. The Africa that we want through its vision 2063, must be an Africa in peace and security, prosperous, integrated and politically united, an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and shared ethics, an Africa whose development is focused on people, an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, and finally an Africa that is strong, united, respected and listened to in multilateral negotiations.

4) This special moment is a significant milestone achievement in my life. Your consideration of me as a potential winner of this award makes me feel happy and honored. This award will improve my self-belief and give me more duties to improve my work as diplomat. I want to thank the members of the jury for having selected me from a long list of names. Thank you all for your support.

5) **Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen**, on this gracious occasion, it is indeed a complete honor to be standing here and speaking to this wonderful and lovely audience.

6) It would be unfair to not thank each and every one behind my success. Without their guidance, love and support, I would have never been able to accomplish this important achievement. As you know, it is very easy for anyone to try different things and start a new journey, but only a few of us are committed to work hardly towards our goals until the end of our journey. Whenever I felt tired and had to give up, it was them who motivated me during challenging times.

7) Excellencies, dear friends, before I become who I am today, I have experienced so many difficult moments, First, I lost my dad when I was a baby and then I grew up in a small city with a single mom who took care of me for all basic needs including education, health care, food. As a young nurse, she did everything she could to make me who I am today. Then, like other Burundians, I went through hard times during the cyclical wars that my country Burundi experienced in the past and sometimes experienced death within a few millimeters. Today, for having gone through all these challenges of life which are added to those that I do not tell you for lack of time, I would like to thank God the Almighty who kept me alive, gave me the strength, resilience and intelligence to get through these nightmarish situations of life.

8) Excellencies, dear friends, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks, from the bottom of my heart, to all the people who supported. The dream of receiving this award came into reality only because of the motivation and support I received from our president H.E Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, my family, my staff and the great people of Burundi. The other reason why I thank them is because fundamentally they are the ones who brought me in shape, gave me strength, love and energy. Today, I really want to dedicate this wonderful award to them.

9) Finally, this is a special moment for me. This Award will always be dear to my heart. It will remind me that hard work always pays. Furthermore, whenever I look at this award it will motivate me to achieve more success in my life.

Thank you so much for this unique opportunity!