

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE RWANDA
DEVELOPMENT BOARD, FRANCIS GATARE AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE WORLD
EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Kigali, 17 September 2014

I would like to congratulate all of you upon the successful conclusion of the WEDF/WVEF 2014. For the last 2.5 days, various actors from both private and public sector, coming from 70 countries have exchanged ideas, held lively and engaging debate and discussed concrete next steps and future priorities.

I would like to particularly note and appreciate the WVEF events; it is critical that we continue to center efforts and discussions on women in business, as the SME's which they predominantly own are the backbone of our economies.

I hope that lasting business partnerships have been initiated as the conference presented multiple and focused networking opportunities such as the B2B's. I encourage both individuals and companies to follow up on discussions held, in order to ensure materialization of ideas, deals and partnerships forged during this forum.

The sessions held touched on issues pertinent to Rwanda's vision and priorities, achievement of which is RDB's mandate.

This forum has been a very valuable opportunity for our local businesses to interact with their counterparts and forge international partnerships, which we are confident will translate into increased production and actual exports.

The government of Rwanda is determined to continue to build capacity of the private sector producers and to make operations easier for our SMEs. And beyond reforms and easing business, we continue to create a more favorable investment climate and to double our efforts in export promotion. We are rising to the challenge and taking competition positively to inspire improvements in the quality and quantities of our exports.

Hopefully, all participants in the forum are leaving with a wider business network, many potential partnerships under consideration and inspired to innovate, produce more and export. WEDF 2014 is a success if over the last 2 days SMEs present have been linked to or started the journey towards international markets and finance opportunities.

Appreciation:

ITC: for the organization and choosing Rwanda as the host of their inaugural event in Africa and their 50th anniversary. Thank you for acknowledging Rwanda's ability to pull off an event of this caliber.

Panelists: for sharing their experiences and expertise, answering questions and formulating bankable ideas.

Participants: for travelling to Rwanda, attending the sessions and engaging in discussions.

Rwanda is honored to have hosted all of you: we hope you have experienced the best of our hospitality, and especially enjoyed the cultural dinner last night. We wish you safe journeys back home.