

DEMOCRATIC GREEN PARTY OF RWANDA

POLITICAL PROGRAM-MANIFESTO 2024-2029

“For the public interest and a sustainable future”

This is the political program and manifesto for the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda [DGPR-Green Party] which the party will base on to carry out its political activities for the next five years [2024-2029]. It will also be used for the presidential and parliamentary elections campaigns to enable us to win the general elections due 7th July 2024. The original version is in Kinyarwanda language.

1. JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

CURRENT SITUATION

In terms of justice and respect for human rights, there is much that needs to be done to have a country that maintains the rule of law and respects international agreements that protect and promote human rights.

Issue number 1:

Until now, they are still people who are detained without prosecution files and others who are locked up in what is called “ Transit Centers” where they are illegally detained and kept in detention for a long time. They are detained without prosecution files holding them up, some are removed from streets and called vagrants or prostitutes, of recent even businesspeople and other adults are taken to these transit centers. Their families are not notified about their whereabouts or why they are detained.

What We Will Do:

We will enact a law that will scrap (get rid of) the illegal detention centers including those Transit Centers and ensure that all criminal suspects will be handed over to the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) and Police, in accordance with the Law.

Issue number 2:

There is still a problem of poor nutrition in prisons (correction centers) that causes various diseases (colic or malnutrition, stomachache or ulcers, stunting, intestinal worms, etc.).

What We Will Do:

We will establish a program to feed the inmates a balanced diet and provide them with a variety of meals comprising fruit, milk and meat.

Issue number 3:

There is still an indefinite 30-day provisional detention imprisonment, which is continually extended to a person without trial upon the request by the prosecution, always citing reasons that

they are still investigating the case, this can go on for more than 2 years. This threatens human rights, family and the country's economy. There is also a problem (issue) of people who are imprisoned for 30 days' provisional detention but have minor crimes that should have been resolved through mediation mechanism [Abunzi] or by their families.

There is also a problem (issue) of overcrowding in Rwanda's prisons, which causes the prisoners to live desperately and lack the basic rights provided for by the law.

What We Will Do:

We will increase the human and financial resources capacity of Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) and the Prosecution Authority, so that the suspect's case file be transferred from RIB and the prosecution office when fully investigated and documented. If there is no concrete evidence, the suspect will be released. For those who commit minor crimes, they will be given alternative sentences (community services) or fines.

We will eliminate the indefinite 30-day detention imprisonment sentence.

We will continue to streamline the program to release the elderly and other chronically ill inmates to reduce prison overcrowding.

There will be an inventory and screening based on the behavior of those who have been sentenced and have already repented (regretted) of their crime, so that they are released on parole and complete the suspended (deferred) sentence with their families.

Issue number 4:

There is also an issue of a few judges where one judge presides over court proceedings alone. This causes serious concern because one person may deliver unfair justice because of either emotions or temptations to corruption. The shortage of judges delays the delivery of justice due to delays in court hearings.

There is also another problem (issue) of a small number of prosecutors, which leads to delays in bringing cases to court or bringing cases with insufficient evidence.

What We Will Do :

We will also establish a 'law distance learning institute' with branches all over the country which will help in legal capacity building and bridge this gap.

We will establish a **law scholarship fund** to help those who would like to study law. We will increase the salaries and privileges for those working in the justice sector.

Issue number 5:

There is an issue of having no court responsible for protecting the Constitution and the observance of its basic principles. It is also necessary for this court to ensure that all laws enacted are in compliance with the constitution and international agreements. The supreme court which has been given the responsibility to act as a constitutional court when it suits so, is not the right mechanism.

What We Will Do:

We will establish the Constitutional Court charged with the protection of the constitution and its fundamental principles. This court will hear cases related to violations of the constitution, its fundamental principles and international law.

Issue number 6:

There are also issues with the Investigation Bureau and the Prosecution Authority, where we have until now, people (suspects) who are imprisoned beyond the **5 days** provided by the law. The investigation process is delayed so much that it threatens human rights and justice delivery (**justice delayed is justice denied**).

There is also still a problem of people who are imprisoned without sufficient evidence and finally acquitted after being **found innocent**. They don't receive any **compensation** for the suffering endured during the time they were imprisoned for nothing (improperly) or not being reinstated in their jobs when they were already employees.

What We Will Do:

We will strive for Rwanda to be a country that respects rule of law, human rights, judicial independence, international law and delivers fair justice for all.

We will establish a **justice compensation fund** for people who have been detained without sufficient evidence and released without sentence (with innocent verdict) and those who have been detained for more than thirty days on provisional detention without sentencing.

Issue number 7:

The fact that there are still people who have disappeared, and whose disappearance has not been monitored or followed up properly because the government has not ratified the international convention to prevent enforced disappearances (**ratification of the convention on enforced disappearance**).

What We Will Do:

We will ratify the international convention on enforced disappearance and ensure follow up of disappearance cases and prevent forced disappearances. We will, additionally, put in place measures and programs to comply with it.

2. DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

CURRENT SITUATION

There are still various actions that threaten democracy and good governance across the country.

Issue number 1:

There are still many surprising and abrupt decisions taken by authorities without citizens participation.

What We Will Do:

We will establish a policy that supports the culture of debate on all government programs, so that citizens can have an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process before they are adopted.

We will set up a technology-based platform where people can write their ideas (concerns) about governance, development and welfare so that if the ideas get up to five hundred signatures, then the government would have to consider that issue and find possible solutions.

We will establish a policy of educating and encouraging people to know the laws, their rights and how to advocate for themselves.

Issue number 2:

There are still reforms needed with the electoral system and the law establishing the National Electoral Commission. There is a need for change regarding the preparation and operation of the elections. We also need a shift from the paper-based process to electronic voting and the use of the latest technology to facilitate electoral operations.

What We Will Do

We will set up a dual system comprised of *an electronic voting system* and supported by a **paper-based system** so that the elections will be conducted in *a free and fair manner*.

We will enact a law that regulates the functioning of the National Electoral Commission (NEC), where every political party (formation) recognized by law of the land will have a representative among the Commissioners who are part of the National Electoral Commission and at each level of administration countrywide.

We will enact a law that allows journalists to publish (report) their findings on polling sites after being announced by electoral agents, as well as provide representatives of candidates or political parties (formations) with copies of the vote tallies and mandating that copies of the tallies be posted on polling sites for the public to see.

We will introduce a law that will reduce the **electoral threshold** into the Legislative Assembly (Parliament) for political parties (formations) from five percent (5%) to three percent (3%) and to two percent (2%) for an independent candidate.

We will enact a law that will determine the number of members of the Legislative Assembly, especially for the chamber of deputies, so that one deputy/MP represents one hundred thousand (100,000) citizens (populace). This will help to have a legislature which is proportionate to the Rwandan population.

Issue number 3:

There is still an issue of inter-institutional cooperation and collaboration that hinders good service delivery and solving people's problems promptly.

What We Will Do:

We will enact a law that punishes delayed and unequal service delivery to citizens, this will ensure that citizens are treated fairly and equally.

The ombudsman's office needs to be strengthened in solving the problems of the population and to improve the interaction and collaboration between the different institutions, ensuring good service delivery.

We will revise the law that establishes the Ombudsman's office so that it will be comprised of commissioners from all recognized political parties in Rwanda.

Issue number 4:

There is still an issue of power sharing based on the fundamental principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda.

What We Will Do

We will establish a better way to implement the power sharing principle in different government agencies and institutions based on the fundamental principles in the Rwandan Constitution and ensure distribution of power without monopoly or isolation of some political actors.

Issue number 5:

There is still a gap in the participation of the people in providing opinions that would result in bills that would be sent to the Legislative Assembly.

What We Will Do:

We will establish a center or agency to receive comments (ideas or concerns) on draft laws from citizens and non-governmental organizations. This agency will work with the Legislative Assembly-the Chamber of Deputies. An Internet technology-based platform will be created to publish the opinions from the populace, and those opinions will be polled on the Internet or platform and if they reach by up to a thousand (1000) people then the Legislative Assembly will study them and create a bill.

Issue number 6:

There are government programs and decisions that are taken without due diligence and cause much public uproar and anger.

What We Will Do:

We will establish a solid governance policy ensuring public consultations and feedback from the public about what is going to be done for them and to involve them before making decisions or formulating policies and sensitive laws.

Issue number 7:

There is still shortage of staff at the cell level (local level), wherein more services are provided at a level closer to the people.

What We Will Do:

We will put in place a concrete program that empowers the cells so that they will have enough workers in charge of key sectors, including agriculture, livestock, business, labor, etc.

Issue number 8:

There is still an issue of improper displacement of people from their property without proper compensation as provided for by the expropriation law.

What We Will Do:

We will put in place effective measures and strategies to comply with the expropriation law and ensure that victims receive fair and reasonable compensation in line with the current market prices before being evicted or relocated, so that they will receive proper compensation according to the law. This law will also be analyzed for possible revision as its standard basic value is outdated.

Issue number 9:

There is still an issue of Government officials who cause financial losses to the state and unnecessary legal disputes due to non-compliance with the laws of public personnel and financial management. Among the causes of such losses are illegal dismissal of workers, poor management of workers, non-payment of contractors or consultants on time and others.

What We Will Do

We will establish continuous measures and strategies aimed at educating and sensitizing Government officials to comply with the laws governing public employees and private contractors. We will also review and enact a law that will help in ensuring that the government recovers money from officials who cause losses to the State.

Issue number 10:

There is an issue of local government officials who are elected on individual merit [not from political parties] but end up becoming leaders (representatives) of political parties at each local administrative level they are elected by all citizens. This causes confusion or misperception because they are elected by all the people (the public) without mentioning their political affiliation and then after elections become leaders of a certain political party at that level. This brings another issue of conflict of interest as they end up prioritizing the interests or responsibilities of a certain political party or formation, they represent than the responsibilities of public administration. There is also a tendency for these leaders to conclude that all citizens belong to one political formation. This creates a problem of mixing or mingling the duties of an independently elected official and those of a political party they belong to.

What We Will Do:

We will introduce a law that prohibits an individual elected as a local leader on individual merit from being a leader or representing a political party at the elective administrative level. This, however, does not prevent a person from being a member of a political party of his/her choice.

We will introduce a law that will change the procedure for the elections of a mayor of the district or region, so that she/he will either be elected by all the people based on political merit or on individual merit, instead of being voted by an electoral college.

3. SECURITY, NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CURRENT SITUATION

When there is no security, there is no development because security is essential for the good governance of the country. International relations and cooperation are important for the development of a country's economy, good relations, sustainable security and protection of the environment and combatting climate change.

Issue number 1:

The fact that there is no National Security Council that connects the security institutions and the Civilian authorities, thus hindering constructive Civil-Military relations.

What We Will Do:

We will enact a law establishing the National Security Council (Conseil National de Sécurité). This Council will help civilian authorities and security agencies to cooperate in discussing, solving and preventing security problems. This will also help in increasing cooperation and collaboration between security agencies (organs) and civil authorities (*civil-military relations*) in an official manner.

Issue number 2:

The fact that we still have provocation on the borders of Rwanda and those who want to destabilize the security of the country. This threatens the good relations between Rwanda and the countries in the region, Regional Economic organizations and the international community.

What We Will Do

We will continue to strengthen the security of our country by resolving conflicts in peaceful means. However, we believe that when Rwanda is attacked, it has the right to self-defense to be able to defend the sovereignty of the country with the use of all possible means.

We will establish an advanced and appropriate way to strengthen the security of the country at the borders of Rwanda using the latest technology and experts in security and defense and acquiring the latest equipment or technology.

We will develop proper policies and strategies that promote good relations, cooperation, peace, economy, and as well resolve international problems such as climate change.

We will increase our efforts in developing good relations between Rwanda and other countries starting from neighboring countries so that the barriers (obstacles) to relationship building, communication and trade are removed.

Foreign policy will be based on a culture of dialogue and peace, as well as good relations with neighboring countries, regional economic organizations; African Union, United Nations and members of the International Community. We will support agreements that promote good cooperation between Rwanda and international organizations.

We will support good cooperation with international organizations which protect and promote human rights but do not interfere in the governance of the country. We will strive to advocate for Africa and other developing countries to have a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council.

Issue number 3:

There is still a shortage of police officers at the local level.

What We Will Do:

We will increase the number of Police officers at local administrative levels, to better protect the people and their property.

Issue number 4:

There is still an issue of inadequate salaries and benefits for national security personnel (soldiers, police and others).

What We Will Do:

We will increase the budget for security agencies and increase the salaries of their members (security personnel). We will even provide them with decent accommodation and other facilities to help them have a good working life.

Issue number 5:

There is still an issue of not getting enough results or benefits from the international organizations that Rwanda is affiliated to.

What We Will Do

We will establish policies that will help the people or citizenry to benefit from the international organizations in which we belong to and play an important role in establishing other international organizations.

We will support the implementation of the measures (programs or protocols) included in the agreement at the level of the African Union (AU) and East African Community (EAC) as well as United Nations, in terms of poverty reduction, democracy building, environmental protection and social welfare enhancement.

We will support agreements that remove trade barriers in developing countries so that their trade policies are based on mutual respect or interests.

We will strengthen strategic partnership and cooperation between Rwanda and other countries to develop our economy and solve various problems.

4. ECONOMY

CURRENT SITUATION

The country's economy was severely affected by Covid 19, the war between Ukraine and Russia, insecurity and conflicts in the region, and climate change. All this has continued to cause the increase in prices on the market, the insufficiency of foreign exchange for importing goods, high unemployment, trade or business delays, agriculture and livestock low produce, and an increase in extreme poverty among Rwandans.

Issue number 1:

The tax policy in Rwanda is still facing serious issues, including the increase in taxes on business, agricultural and livestock products, domestic revenue, value added tax (18% VAT) and others.

What We Will Do:

We will introduce policies that reduce taxes, increase the number of taxpayers who do not evade taxes, make people more willing to pay taxes because taxes will not break them. We will reduce the value added tax (VAT) from eighteen percent (18%) to fourteen percent (14%).

Issue number 2:

There is still a problem of underutilization and value addition of the country's natural resources before they are exported. We also do not yet know exactly how many and what types of minerals or metals we have in the ground.

What We Will Do:

We will create better strategies to distribute the country's resources, value addition to our products and natural resources before they are exported, reduce extreme poverty and increase capacity building of citizens.

We will carry out extensive research or mineral exploration to reveal the quantity of the natural resources we have and their locations, for example: Gas, and various minerals and metals for production (extraction) and use.

Issue number 3:

In the provision of services, there is still a problem of insufficient knowledge and capacity in the production and delivery of these services, especially in the private sector.

What We Will Do:

We will create a program to increase knowledge and skills of the private sector workers and reward those who perform better than other. This will help with motivation and multiplication of best services and good service delivery.

Issue number 4:

There is still a sharp price increase of petroleum products. We also have a few manufacturing plants and insufficient capacity to process the products or produce to the required needs of Rwandans. There is also a frequent increase in food prices in the country.

What We Will Do:

We will put in place a policy that will facilitate the establishment of industries and factories that will produce and process the products or produce needed in the country in order to increase the value of products produced in the country and be able to export some abroad.

We will increase domestic production and improve international trade, intra-trade and competitiveness, starting with neighboring countries in order to reduce inflation.

We will promote international trade with the aim of increasing the economy of our country, by removing taxes on imported agricultural products.

Issue number 5:

There is still the issue of monopolizing markets by some people and companies.

What We Will Do:

We will develop effective policies and measures to eliminate market monopolies, promote market sharing based on the bidder's capacity.

Issue number 6:

There are still high prices for electricity and water that threaten the economic development of the communities and country. This issue is related to the inappropriate and insufficient infrastructure of water and electricity which do not deliver the needed services to the people.

What We Will Do:

We will increase the appropriate and sufficient infrastructure of electricity and water across the country and have a strong focus on renewable energy such as solar energy, etc., as this will help to reduce the high costs for families, industries, hospitals, schools and other sectors.

Issue number 7:

There is a problem of high interest rates on loans given by financial institutions (banks) that delay and hinder investment and cause high property auctions and severe losses among the citizens.

What We Will Do

We will reduce the interest on loans provided by financial institutions (banks) so that the interest rate does not exceed 12%. This will help to reduce the number of auctions that are already high and cause huge losses in the community.

Issue number 8:

There is still low produce for a variety of cash crops, and we are largely focusing on coffee and tea farming, yet we need to diversify.

What We Will Do:

We will create programs or measures to increase the variety of cash crops according to the country's conditions and geography.

5. ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

CURRENT SITUATION

There is still a lack of compliance with laws, regulations, programs and measures (strategies) related to environmental protection, land management and climate change. *Land tax is also still a problem for the population.* Several international agreements related to environmental protection are not properly enforced. We still witness serious environmental degradation repercussions such as soil erosion, landslides, floods, water pollution, scarcity of potable water and so on which have a negative impact on people's health and well-being.

Issue number 1:

We still have issues concerning illegal and inappropriate mining practices carried out in disorder without respecting rules and laws in some parts of the country. This threatens environment sustainability as they dump mining waste (the sand, mud and soil and mineral waste) into water flows (rivers), causing serious consequences such as reduction of water flow, leading to disruption of electricity production due to insufficient water flow, and malfunctioning of hydroelectric power stations. For example, a power station built in Ngororero district ran out of water supply due to erosion caused by miners in the surrounding hills.

There is also the issue of issuing permits to incompetent mining companies and others without discretion which causes mining accidents, deaths and epidemics among miners.

What We Will Do

We will review and revise the law that regulates the issuance of mining permits. At the time of issuance, a transparent inspection must be conducted to ensure close monitoring and attention to the laws governing the mining of quarries and minerals to avoid negative consequences on hillsides, mountains, wetlands, and rivers.

We will establish a program to create new maps that show the location of the minerals and the types of stones/metals available so that people can avoid quarrying and mining in confusion.

Issue number 2:

There is still the problem of soil erosion, loss of fertile soil, reduction of wetlands, forests, etc and mass displacement and settlement on top of land tax that burdens the people.

What We Will Do:

We will establish plans and measures that will determine the appropriate management and use of the wetlands for crop production which does not cause environmental damage. We will also preserve forests, parks and natural resources in general and sensitize Rwandans to comply with the regulations and measures governing their use.

We will completely abolish the **land tax** because even though it has been reduced it is still a burden to many people.

We will establish a technology-based system for the preservation of the environment and biodiversity (ecosystem) and establish a better management mechanism of wetlands to generate tourism-gearred production (**ecological tourism: eco-parks**).

We will establish a consistent program of planting trees mixed with crops (agroforestry) as well as edible fruit trees .

We will establish a plan to plant edible fruit trees in the cities and towns to improve their cleanliness and beauty.

Issue number 3:

Many people have not yet understood the importance of rainwater harvesting, whereas lakes, rivers and wetlands are drying up due to soil erosion and waste disposal and water pollution.

What We Will Do:

We will establish sustainable measures for rainwater harvesting and management, soil erosion control, using various terracing techniques and planting trees on all hilly slopes (sloppy landscapes). This will help us conserve or protect lakes, rivers and wetlands.

Issue number 4:

Most Rwandans still do not understand the importance of protecting the environment, dealing with climate change and making the most of natural resources (sun, water, plants).

What We Will Do

We will establish a technology-based system to highlight the imminent disasters (**disaster early warning system**).

We will establish sustainable measures that will help to raise awareness among the public about the importance of protecting/preserving the environment and combating climate change.

We will increase the capacity of Rwanda Meteorological Agency (METEO RWANDA) to provide timely and reliable information.

We will establish sustainable programs to educate/sensitize Rwandans the latest skills in the use or exploitation of natural resources including sun, water and plants.

Issue number 5:

There is still an issue of tree cutting trees (deforestation) for firewood or charcoal in schools, prisons and other public places and for building or construction and there are no other alternative fuels to replace wood.

What We Will Do:

We will develop proper strategies to find alternatives to wood and charcoal usage, by promoting biogas, LPG gas and other sustainable fuels.

We will also introduce a program to reduce the cost of solar energy equipment on the market and make them affordable. We will build a solar energy equipment factory (plant or Industry) in Rwanda.

Issue number 6:

There is still the problem that in Rwanda, we do not have a special environmental court that punishes those who destroy the environment (environment related crimes), which leads to the destruction of the environment.

What We Will Do:

We will enact a law establishing an environmental court responsible for prosecuting crimes related to the destruction of the environment and natural resources in general.

Issue number 7:

We still do not have a central sewage system in cities and towns.

What We Will Do:

We will establish central sewage systems in different cities and towns and set up measures to collect all liquid waste from homes, industries and other public places and take it to one place and be recycled.

We will set up a solid waste management system for collecting solid waste from homes, industries and other public places and set up a system to pay those who properly separate the bio-gradable and non-bio-gradable waste. All this will help us create a better system in all cities to collect and process solid waste in one place

Issue number 8:

The fact that Rwanda has approved the law, and the international agreement related to the construction of a **nuclear energy center** and the use of this energy. This threatens people's lives and the environment because it is non-renewable energy and the waste from the factory or center is highly toxic and non-disposable, all detrimental (harmful) to groundwater and biological diversity (biodiversity).

What We Will Do:

We will establish a law prohibiting the use of nuclear energy in Rwanda. We will increase efforts to promote **renewable energy** technology.

Issue number 9:

There is an issue of poor housing and settlement whereby houses are built on a big surface area and still don't solve housing challenges. Many houses are affected by floods because some are built on very steep hills and swamps. This inappropriate construction leads to several damages including, killing people's lives and destroying their property.

What We Will Do

We will reform the housing policy in the rural areas so that the houses will be built going up and built more in large numbers (storied buildings) but on proper ground.

We will encourage people to build on small surface areas in order to build higher storied buildings, especially in cities so that people moving to cities can live comfortably on small land areas and in large numbers.

We will create a sustainable, appropriate housing program that is environmentally friendly and that also takes care of the land and wetlands.

Issue number 10:

There is still a problem of non-compliance with land use masterplan whereby agricultural land has become less because it has been converted to residential land (house construction). This will end up causing food shortages and environmental degradation.

What We Will Do:

We will put in place better measures and strategies to comply with the land use masterplan for agriculture use and housing construction.

Issue number 11:

There is a problem with factories emitting pollutants and dumping waste into wetlands and rivers.

What We Will Do:

We will establish a new law determining the advanced way of building an industry or factories that can reduce and filter the harmful gases that will be released into the atmosphere so that it is no longer a problem for the environment and manage the waste that comes from them.

Issue number 12:

The fact that the city of Kigali and other parts of the country do not have **landfills**, and they are accumulating waste in scattered open places (dump sites), causing various diseases and harming the environment. There is also no way to recycle the waste on these sites.

What We Will Do:

We will establish a sustainable program related to the protection of the environment to collect waste in a modern way and put it in place a modern landfill. The waste will be produced into electricity, cooking gas, automobile gas, fertilizer, etc. This will also help prevent diseases from landfills and prevent contamination (pollution) of ground water, wetlands and ecosystems.

6. AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

CURRENT SITUATION

Agriculture and animal husbandry are the backbone of the country's economy, they employ about ninety percent (90%) of Rwandan population. However, this sector is done in a non-professional manner and causes the country to be insufficient in food production. This food insecurity leads us to import most of the popular foods such as: rice, corn, soybeans, seeds and others from far countries like Asia. All these issues and others need to be addressed in the short- and medium-term period.

Issue number 1:

The fact that the country is not self-sufficient in food crops (**food insecurity**), which leads to hunger and sometimes to internal environmental migration. It also causes an increase in food prices on the market as well as poor quality food products leading to lack of food safety.

There is a gap in training farmers and breeders, not providing them with subsidies, lack of transparency of local leaders who are supposed to help them, youths not interested in the profession of agriculture and livestock, selling substandard seeds and receiving substandard irrigation machines, etc.

What We Will Do

We will develop policies and strategies to promote professional agriculture.

We will establish new measures and strategies to increase agricultural production, especially various cash crops and domestic or subsistence crops that will help bring in foreign exchange to the country at an attractive rate by using modern methods which also protect the environment and deal with disasters caused by climate change.

We will connect local farmers with international markets and international organizations that provide international standards.

We will set up **agricultural and livestock processing industries** for each administrative Sector in the country, this will also help increase employment opportunities, especially for the youth (Agro-Processing Industries), this will be in line with what is produced or done locally.

We will encourage people to plant fruit trees in conjunction with other crops to increase production.

We will increase the number of storage facilities (granaries) and drying facilities for the produce, fruits and vegetables and use better and more modern harvesting technology to increase the value of production in each district.

We will establish adequate animal and fish feed processing plants in each district. We will create a system to teach farmers how to make their own organic manure.

We will launch technology-based system that will speed up the availability of sperm for artificial insemination, veterinary drugs and establish a sustainable way to store them. We will increase the number of chickens' hatcheries and for fish, etc.

We will set up seed storage and seed processing centers based on the soil conditions of each District.

We will establish a permanent irrigation system in the mountainous and hilly areas and in the marshlands to help us deal with rainfall shortage during the dry season.

We will create a program to facilitate and support private companies that conduct agricultural and animal husbandry research.

We will establish a stable livestock breeding program for small livestock such as goats, pigs, sheep etc. and ensure that each household has at least one of them.

We will ensure that each administrative Cell has a staff member in charge of agriculture and animal husbandry, where he will visit farmers in their fields and give them practical advice. This will help in improving agricultural and animal production.

We will establish a special fund known as **Rwanda agriculture development support fund** to help and provide support and loans at a low interest rate of less than two percent (2%) to farmers.

7. EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

CURRENT SITUATION

Education is the pillar of the country's development and economy, but there are still several issues that need to be addressed to have high quality graduates.

Issue number 1:

We still have schools without laboratories, sufficient teaching materials, electricity, enough classrooms and teachers' accommodation units. Teachers also need to increase their skills and capacity in different fields.

What We Will Do:

We will introduce a stable and sound policy to improve the quality of education by increasing academic research efforts and the welfare of teachers, including increasing the salary of university and college teachers (those in tertiary education).

We will establish a better system which will ensure that each school has research capacity and laboratories, and encourage neighboring schools to share amongst themselves what they miss.

Plans and measures will be put in place to determine effective learning and teaching so that the student and the teacher know that failure is a great loss for the country.

We will establish a program that provides teachers with adequate accommodation which meets all the requirements for a healthy living.

We will continue the program to increase the knowledge and skills of all teachers in different categories, salaries and other benefits so that teaching becomes a desired profession by experts in the country.

We will establish Research Centers in each District depending on the situation and what is being done or produced in that District.

Issue number 2:

There is a problem with the quality of the food that is fed to pupils and students at schools, the quantity is also not enough. In many schools they don't have a dining hall, they eat from classrooms. There is another challenge of massive use of firewood in food preparation, leading to massive deforestation.

What We Will Do:

We will increase the government budget in the school feeding program, so that pupils and students receive a healthy and adequate diet (stimulating or energizing, nourishing and preventing diseases foods).

We will increase the budget for schools so that students can have dining halls and stop eating from classrooms. We will ensure that schools have admirable kitchens and adequate materials (**adequate materials and infrastructure**).

In the schools feeding program, we will ensure cooking of food is done using LPG gas, biogas and if possible solar cookers instead of relying on firewood and charcoal because they are harmful to the environment and people's health.

Issue number 3:

There is still an issue of driving licenses that are not permanent and expire after 10 years, yet in the same way they are called permanent driving licenses. It's a contradiction as other qualifications documents (diploma/license) do not require to be extended.

What We Will Do:

We will introduce a law that will allow the driver's license to be permanent because even other qualifications documents do not lose their validity.

We will include traffic laws lessons in the curriculum of primary schools and secondary schools, so that everyone has basic knowledge about the use of the roads.

Issue number 4:

The fact that Vocational Schools are under-equipped. There are also graduates of vocational and technical schools who do not have the capital to help them develop further and become self-employed.

What We Will Do:

Vocational schools will get extra funding and developed so that learning materials for students are consistent and up to date.

We will establish a **polytechnic entrepreneurship fund** which will help TVET students and graduates to secure capital for innovations and self-employment.

Issue number 5:

There is still a serious issue of the Kinyarwanda language being left behind in schools, service centers and government agencies. Also, graduates are not able to use foreign languages effectively.

What We Will Do:

We will ensure balancing the value of teaching in French, English and Kinyarwanda and have students graduating from high school able to speak and write these three languages.

We will establish a plan to improve the use of the Kinyarwanda language in primary, secondary and university schools, in public and private sectors. National documents and posters must be in all the three languages of the constitution. Job Interviews will be given to someone according to one's choice of language (based on the language they want to work in).

We will encourage parents to support and monitor their children's education.

We will increase schools and institutions that teach traditional arts, traditional songs and dances, arts and crafts of Rwandan culture.

8. HEALTH SECTOR

Issue number 1:

In the health sector there are still various issues including: insufficient health centers, hospitals, modern equipment, medical practitioners, doctors and medicine.

What We Will Do:

We will increase the health sector budget so that there are sufficient health centers, hospitals, modern equipment, medicine and increase in the number of medical practitioners as well as doctors.

Issue number 2:

The community-based health insurance (mutuelle de santé) does not help patients get medicines from private pharmacies and even medicine is not readily available in public health facilities.

What We Will Do:

We will create a solid system that allows a patient with community-based health insurance to buy medicines from independent or private pharmacies at the same rate as other health insurance providers.

We will increase the variety of medicines provided in public medical facilities so that those with community-based health insurance can be able to have access to that medicine.

Issue number 3:

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and infectious diseases continue to kill many Rwandans and the program for their prevention and treatment is not well developed. There is also an increase in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as HIV-AIDS especially among the youth, which is also a cause for serious concern in the country.

What We Will Do:

We will improve programs and measures for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and sexually transmitted diseases.

Issue number 4:

There is still a problem of stunting due to malnutrition among children across the country and malnutrition among adults which causes various diseases.

What We Will Do:

We will establish programs and strategies to combat stunting in children and malnutrition in adults with a focus on encouraging them to eat a balanced diet that includes body building, energy generating and disease prevention meals.

Issue number 5:

There is still a problem of mothers dying during childbirth (maternal mortality rate) and children dying during birth (newborn mortality) due to the ineffectiveness and to some extent unprofessionalism among health practitioners.

What We Will Do

We will put in place better measures and strategies to prevent an increase in maternal mortality and child mortality rates.

Issue number 6:

There is still a problem of low salaries for doctors, nurses, midwives and others working in medical or healthcare services.

What We Will Do

We will increase the salaries and privileges for doctors, nurses, midwives and others who work in medical services. We will improve the system of providing them with other assistance (facilitatory benefits) in work and social life, including a lumpsum amount to enable them to get a car depending on the different categories they are in, build houses for them to live in, etc. This will

help doctors continue to do their job and reduce high turn-over rates or those who decide not to come back from abroad after completing their studies.

Issue number 7:

There is still a shortage of research institutes in the health sector.

What We Will Do:

We will promote research in the field of medicine (healthcare) by setting up competitions and prizes for those who succeed or perform better.

We will establish a permanent channel to communicate the results of medical research (**a vibrant and well-equipped medical journal**) which will publish research findings and later be published in international medical journals.

Issue number 8:

There is a problem of diplomas for nurses and midwives which are taxed every year and have been replaced by annual licences.

What We Will Do

We will scrap the annual tax on diplomas for Nurses and Midwives and restore those qualifications to their permanent tax-free status as all other qualifications in the country which are not taxed or subjected to annual examinations and licenses.

Issue number 9:

Currently in our curriculum, there is no health law module for medical school students. We also do not have Post graduate studies in health law at universities. This results in a serious issue of medical professionals finding themselves in breach of the laws of their profession because they have not studied them, resulting in fines, imprisonment and dismissal from the medical profession.

What We Will Do:

We will establish a health law department at the third- academic level in universities which will teach laws related to the medical profession and award **a master's degree in health law and post graduate studies in health law**. On top of that, we will include in medical school's curriculum, the first and second cycle of universities (diploma and bachelor's level) a **health law module**.

9. UNITY, RECONCILIATION AND FIGHT AGAINST GENOCIDE IDEOLOGY

CURRENT SITUATION

Unity and reconciliation of Rwandans was destroyed by the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis. Much has been done to help Rwandans unify and reconcile, but there is still a lot more that needs to be done.

Issue number 1:

The fact that there are still some Rwandans who still have genocide ideology and are threatening the unity and reconciliation of Rwandans is a problem that worries the country.

What We Will Do:

We will continue to maintain and implement programs and policies that promote unity and reconciliation of Rwandans, eliminate the genocide ideology, promoting policies of unity and reconciliation, elimination of genocide ideology, encourage tolerance, dialogue and sustainable peace .

Efforts will be made to encourage and institute various institutions and organizations to fight against genocide ideology by giving lectures and conferences, additional books on the true history of Rwanda that teach civic education will be introduced.

Issue number 2:

The fact that there is no fund that provides compensation to survivors whose relatives or loved ones were killed by the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis.

There is also the issue of unpaid compensation for the cases tried by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha (ICTR), for the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

What We Will Do:

We will request the United Nations (UN) to establish a genocide compensation fund for Rwanda for the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis (**UN-Genocide Reparation Fund for Rwanda**).

10. MEDIA**CURRENT SITUATION**

The media is one of the important pillars of the country, helping different government agencies to convey their message to the people and the people to give their opinions. Even though, their value is well known, the media in Rwanda has limitations and challenges related to financial resources and operations that prevent it from fully implementing their obligations or be fully operational.

Issue number 1:

The Independent media in Rwanda is under resourced, and various independent media outlets have closed their doors due to lack of financial capacity.

There is also an issue of the public broadcaster [RBA] which has monopoly on almost all advertising markets in the country. This causes independent media outlets to run out of business and even close due to lack of sufficient resources.

What We Will Do

We will establish a new legislation providing a permanent separate budget for the Rwanda Broadcasting Agency [RBA], which will be independent of the annual national budget. It will come from the contributions of every Rwandan resident and from other sources. This will help the RBA to get out of the advertising business so that the independent media can be able to survive financially. It will also help RBA to become fully a public broadcaster independent from political interference.

We will establish a law that will set up a fund that supports the independent media (**Rwanda media development fund**), so that they can get soft loans at low interest rates and help them to develop themselves.

Issue number 2:

There is still a problem of insufficient telecommunications towers whereby some Rwandans do not listen to different radio stations, and some do not even watch TV.

What We Will Do:

We will add telecommunications towers around the country so that every Rwandan can listen to different radio stations and watch different TV channels.

Issue number 3:

There is no Ministry of Information and Communications to specifically monitor issues or regulate media performance. Currently, the media and communication role are in many different government agencies.

What We Will Do

We will ensure the establishment of the Ministry of Information which will be in charge of a media and communication policy. It will also specifically monitor policies and programs related to media development, practice and performance.

11. INFRASTRUCTURE

Issue number 1:

We still have a serious issue of insufficient potable water, what is available is not safe for drinking. Available water taps haven't had water for a long time in rural areas, while in towns and cities, water distribution is so challenging, several homes get it once a week. Water prices are also higher for schools, clinics and other public places.

What We Will Do:

We will increase the budget for constant distribution of clean water throughout the country and ensure that water is always available in public tanks [reservoirs], so that the people can get clean and inexpensive water.

We will review and update water prices in general but especially for schools, hospitals, health centers and other public places.

We will make it easier for the private sector to invest in water distribution infrastructure by establishing a better public private partnership (PPP) system.

We will establish a policy that ensures that every Rwanda could at least get 5 jerrycans of water [100 Liters] daily at no cost. This is in our line of generational human rights, especially the right to water and clean the environment.

Issue number 2:

Roads, electricity and related infrastructure are inadequate in the country.

What We Will Do:

We will increase electricity infrastructure throughout the country and make it affordable.

We will create a sustainable plan to increase the number of good tarmac and feeder roads throughout the country.

We will establish a policy that promotes and distributes renewable energy (**renewable energy generation, transmission and distribution**), including solar energy in the whole country. We plan to establish a factory producing solar energy equipment.

Issue number 3:

We still have inadequate low-cost housing and expensive accommodation.

What We Will Do:

We will establish a better partnership between the government and the private sector to build high-rise houses on small plots of land in villages and cities across the country to solve the problem of inadequate housing situation and poor land use.

Issue number 4:

There is still a problem of insufficient telecommunication infrastructure, towers, and internet costs are still high.

What We Will Do:

We will establish strategies and programs to increase telecommunication infrastructure and towers. This will help in reducing the cost of the Internet and increasing the number of people listening to Radio and watching Television channels.

12. TRANSPORTATION

CURRENT SITUATION

The transportation sector still has insufficient investment and limited participation of the private sector. The transport policy still faces many challenges including:

Issue number 1:

The fact that there are inadequate tarmac roads and those available are not repaired very well. More to that, almost all roads do not have pedestrian and bicycle lanes. Normal feeder roads are not very effective and are without drainage channels, thus always damaged by water-runoff.

What We Will Do:

We will create a special fund for the development of transport infrastructure, which will have a sufficient budget to repair and create new roads that meet international standards, with pedestrian and bicycle lanes. This applies to both tarmac and feeder roads across the country.

We will put in place effective measures or strategies to facilitate investors and entrepreneurs in the country who wish to invest in the transportation sector.

We will repair roads and bridges across the country in order to promote regional (district and provincial) development, trade and competitiveness.

We will build aerial highways, connecting the mountains and hills with each other in order to reduce traffic jams and promote trade and tourism.

We will set up electric vehicles factories and electric-vehicle-repair garages that will repair or service them when they have mechanical faults.

Issue number 2:

There are insufficient water transport systems.

What We Will Do

We will formulate a policy to promote water transport. We will create strategies to distribute small and large modern boats in the big and small lakes around the country.

Schools will be established to train boaters/sailors to reduce water accidents at lakes and accelerate the development of this profession. Graduates from these schools will be awarded licenses which are recognized on international standards.

Issue number 3:

We still do not have a railway transportation system in Rwanda.

What We Will Do:

We will continue plans to build railway lines connecting Rwanda with neighboring countries. We will introduce in cities **monorail and tramways** that are connected to existing roads that will help reduce traffic jams and reduce air pollution.

Issue number 4:

Vehicle and motorcycle insurance is still very expensive in Rwanda.

What We Will Do:

We will create a new policy that lowers the cost of vehicle and motorcycle insurance because it is apparently very high.

Issue number 5:

The fact that we do not have internationally recognized domestic airports.

What We Will Do

We will establish a plan to renovate and increase the operational capacity of regional or domestic airports and request them to be recognized at the international level.

13. TRADE AND BUSINESS

CURRENT SITUATION

There are various problems that hinder trade and its development, some of which come from the policies and nature of the country, while others come from outside of the country.

Issue number 1:

There are still various business issues arising from lack of **access to capital**, expensive loans, high electricity and water costs, shortage of skilled workers, high taxes, transportation costs due to landlocked nature and more.

What We Will Do:

We will introduce trade policies and sustainable trade relations between our country and neighboring countries. Trade relations should not be based on the current political atmosphere in different countries but on people's historical relations, therefore, borders should never be closed in case of political disagreements between countries. This program will be based on the interests of the people in the region

We will establish a law that will create, develop, and regulate small and large industries that do not pollute the environment (green and clean industries).

We will reduce the high electricity and water prices for all industries to help reduce the cost of goods in the market and the cost of doing business.

We will establish a policy that will help commercial banks get cheap loans in the country and abroad.

We will implement various measures or strategies to increase the skills of the workers needed in the labor market.

We will put in place measures to improve what is produced in the country (Made in Rwanda) by focusing on increasing its value, reducing its high prices, reducing the need for outside commodities and replacing them with domestic products. This will help to bridge our balance of trade deficit.

Issue number 2:

We still face problems of monopolies in some businesses, where a certain company or a few companies being always given tenders in the public sector, yet there are others who qualify and would provide the same services.

What We Will Do

We will establish a policy that prevents monopolization of tenders in the public sector.

We will also create a mechanism that will remove various barriers and facilitate the participation of small and medium sized entrepreneurs in public tenders.

Issue number 3:

There is still the issue of private contractors being paid late in public procurement contracts causing them losses and throwing them into conflicts with the people they have employed or sub-contracted are not paid on time.

What We Will Do

We will put in place a policy ensuring that private contractors get paid on time as agreed upon in the contracts signed. Public officials who fail to fulfil their obligations and lead Government to Courts for defaulting on signed contracts will be held accountable.

14. EMPLOYMENT AND SALARIES**CURRENT SITUATION**

The policy of creating more employment opportunities has not achieved enough results for Rwandans because there is still high unemployment rate, which stands at fifteen percent (15%) in 2023 in general and twenty-three percent (23%) in 2023 among young people.

Issue number 1:

There is a serious issue of unemployment for both the educated and the uneducated, especially among the youth, which results in bad behaviors (demeanors) such as taking drugs, engaging in prostitution, etc. due to the loss of confidence in their future.

What We Will Do:

We will establish an effective national employment policy; we will create at least 500,000 new jobs per year throughout the whole country.

We will focus on developing an economy based on protecting the environment (green economy-green jobs).

We will create a sustainable system so that in each administrative sector, we will have an Agro-processing industry or factory, processing agricultural and livestock products. This will produce more jobs for the youth and will help curb down rural-urban migration.

We will establish a solid plan to develop technical and vocational training schools at the sector level, which will deal with the specific needs of that sector.

We will establish a **National Employment Agency (Rwanda Employment Agency)** which will connect job seekers [the unemployed] with employers all over the country. The Agency will have an office at every Sector.

Issue number 2: .

In Rwanda, there is still an absence of a **minimum wage-SMIG** as well as severe wage inequality.

There is also still an issue of current wages and salaries which are not competitive with current market prices, which are constantly rising while wages remain the same for a long time.

What We Will Do:

We will publish a law establishing the **minimum wage** for different categories of work across the country.

We will establish effective measures to help the country's economy grow so that market prices are in line with the purchasing power of the people.

15. SOCIAL SECURITY

CURRENT SITUATION

The Social Security policy has not achieved its goals because there are many issues that have not yet been addressed. These include pension payments to the elderly which are so low and not updated in line with current market prices. The retirement age is 65 years, and many are not able to enjoy their retirement remaining years.

Issue number 1:

The fact that the retirement age is still very high at sixty-five years (65 years), many who start taking their retirement benefits at 65 have little time left to live as the average life expectancy for Rwanda stands at 67 years. This also hinders young people who want to find a job because those who have them keep them for a long period, thus leading to high youth employment rate.

What We Will Do

We will revise the law establishing the retirement age and reduce it from sixty-five (65) years to sixty (60) years and allow those at fifty-five (55) to take early retirement, if they so wish .

We will revise the law that determines the age a person must have worked to be able to receive a pension from fifteen (15) years to ten (10) years.

We will revise the law and ensure that Members of Parliament, who are elected for two terms (10 years) can be allowed to take a pension at forty-five years (45 years), since it's hard for them to find new employment after Parliament.

We will establish a law that will determine the benefits or interests that will be given to pension contributors when their pension funds are invested in several profit-making projects by the Social Security Board.

We will enact legislation that will reform Social Security benefits for seniors, so that they reflect the current market prices to ease the cost of living.

16. SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

CURRENT SITUATION

Sports and entertainment are very essential in making people happy and healthy. Currently, many Rwandans have not grasped the importance of sports and entertainment. More to that, we still have a shortage of sports and recreational facilities.

Issue number 1:

The sports and entertainment national policy still has a lot to be desired and needs to be revised considering those living in rural and urban areas.

What We Will Do:

We will create a new and effective sports and entertainment policy that provides solutions to the problems that still exist both in rural and urban areas.

Issue number 2:

There is a challenge that the culture of doing sports has not yet taken root in rural areas and in primary and secondary schools.

What We Will Do:

We will put in place concrete measures and strategies to encourage Rwandans to do sports from their villages, primary schools, secondary schools, universities, public institutions and private institutions.

Issue number 3:

There is a problem of insufficient budget allocated for sports and entertainment which hinders the national teams from preparing professionally. There is also an inadequacy of sports and recreational facilities stadiums (sports arenas) which would have the capacity to host national and international events.

What We Will Do:

We will ensure an adequate budget for sports and entertainment throughout the whole country, and for the construction of different sports and recreational facilities which will host both national and international events.

Issue number 4:

There is a shortage of sports and entertainment schools as well as those for professional coaches.

What We Will Do

We will establish in every province and the City of Kigali a special school for teaching sports and entertainment. We will encourage sports and entertainment associations to work with schools and local authorities.

Issue number 5:

The private sector is still not sufficiently involved in investing in and supporting sports and recreation activities.

What We Will Do:

We will encourage and provide incentives for the private sector and sports organizations so that they can invest in the sports and entertainment industry and the infrastructure needed in the country.

Issue number 6:

There is a lack of sports and entertainment facilities across the country, including various sports and recreational facilities.

What We Will Do:

We will create a consistent program so that every village and school have a playground and a recreational facility.

17. TOURISM

Issue number 1:

We still have insufficient infrastructure and investment in the tourism sector, a lot is still desired.

What We Will Do:

We will create a policy aimed at increasing tourism infrastructure and promoting tourism in general and will also be based on particularities of each district and culture.

We will put in place measures to make it easier for the private sector to get capital at low interest rates and tax breaks to invest in the tourism sector.

We will establish a special fund to support graduates from tourism colleges who wish to invest in tourism and the hospitality sector.

Issue number 2:

Some citizens are less interested in visiting Rwanda's tourist attraction centers due to high costs and inadequate marketing strategies.

What We Will Do:

We will put in place measures and strategies to reduce the cost of tourism so that Rwandans can also visit the beauty of the country.

Issue number 3:

The absence of local tourism based on the beauty and culture of different districts since they are not listed as tourist destinations. Listing of local tourist destinations would bring the country more revenue and develop these districts.

The absence of an artificial lake in the city of Kigali which would allow people to relax and have fun without having to travel long distances upcountry.

The fact that there aren't several small forests and **botanical gardens** in the city of Kigali for relaxation and providing fresh air. More to that, we do not have a well-managed wild animal **Zoos** in the City or its surrounding which would help people especially children and students to visit without going to national parks.

What We Will Do:

We will establish an eco-tourism policy that promotes tourism that respects the protection of the environment.

We will establish and create tourism attraction centers around the country, and especially in the city of Kigali and other cities.

We will create artificial lakes in the city and establish small forests and bushes (botanical gardens), and well-managed **zoos**, where some of the wild animals and different birds will be found. This will help people find places to go out to and relax in so doing promoting local tourism.

We will initiate a program of holding some international meetings or conferences in the provinces and install modern infrastructure to host these them. We will include a tourism package for such meetings.

END