

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND COOPERATION**

**COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE OCCASION OF RWANDA'S ENTRY INTO THE
COMMONWEALTH**

Today 28th November 2009, the Commonwealth Heads of State and Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago has officially and unanimously admitted the Republic of Rwanda into the Commonwealth as the 54th member.

You may recall that Rwanda first applied to join the Commonwealth in February 1996. And now that Rwanda is admitted, Rwandans are called upon to take advantage of this admission to exploit all available opportunities within the Commonwealth.

Rwanda's interest in joining the Commonwealth arose from its desire to gain and contribute to peace and prosperity in the region and the world.

The Government of Rwanda expresses sincere appreciation to the Commonwealth member countries for admitting Rwanda into the club of the Commonwealth of Nations at this historic moment when the organization celebrates its 60th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth.

We are pleased that the members of the commonwealth have recognized the great strides Rwanda has made in the last fifteen years to rebuild every aspect of our country and improve the lives of our citizens. We look forward to working with our new partner states to strengthen economic, trade, cultural and political ties for the benefit of over two billion people of the Commonwealth.

Rwandans are ready to make their humble contribution to this noble organization and to learn from the experiences of other countries of the Commonwealth in a bid to forward her development agenda.

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