

**OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF
THE MUSHISHITO – RUKARARA V HYDROPOWER PLANT**

SPEECH

BY

**HON PRAVIND KUMAR JUGNAUTH
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2022 AT 1400 HRS

VENUE: NYAGAMABE, RWANDA

**His Excellency Dr the Hon Prime Minister of the
Republic of Rwanda,**

**Her Excellency Dr the Hon Minister of
Infrastructure,**

**The Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Economic
Board,**

The Chairperson of Omnihydro,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

I am very pleased to join you for the inauguration ceremony of this magnificent Mushishito - Rukarara V Hydropower Plant here in Nyagamabe.

Allow me to reiterate, through you, Hon Prime Minister, our profound thanks to His Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and the friendly people of Rwanda for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Mauritius Delegation since our arrival. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and friendship.

We highly value the brotherly ties between our two countries and we are committed to continue working

closely with Rwanda on bilateral issues and in international fora.

Rwanda, with growing influence after two decades of uninterrupted development gains, has been playing an ever increasing role in the regional and African affairs as well as on major global issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and food security.

Since our arrival, we have had an on-the-ground experience of the admirable success story of this **“Land of a Thousand Hills.”**

I would like to commend His Excellency President Paul Kagame for his inspiring

leadership in driving a transformational agenda which has won the admiration of everyone.

At the same time, I would like to applaud the great resiliency of Rwanda, a nation that will continue to rise above all obstacles.

Your success story epitomizes a proud, confident, forward-looking, and rising Africa as the next frontier of global development.

I am happy that Mauritius and Rwanda share the same vision of a people-centred development, the hallmark of a caring government.

This auspicious event, just after a very fruitful Summit of the Commonwealth family of nations in your beautiful capital city Kigali, is a very pleasant coincidence.

Indeed, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting focussed on many issues of prime importance to both Mauritius and Rwanda. Key among them were climate change, and clean and sustainable energy.

We believe that energy transition holds the key to the global energy and climate issues. High fossil fuel prices, energy security concerns, and the urgency of

climate change underscore the pressing need to move faster to cleaner.

Commonwealth Leaders called on Governments to fast-track energy transition for more energy security, resilience, and affordable energy for all.

Our rallying call has been that climate finance and knowledge transfer would have to increase. An energy transition which complies with climate change development goals requires the highest level of international cooperation and a seamless flow of international finance and innovative technology.

We also maintain that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and universal access to modern

energy by 2030 must remain a vital pillar of a just and inclusive energy transition.

We must continue to focus on the climate crisis confronting us and keep sustainability at the core of everything we do. We must continue to mitigate climate change through many ways, including by adopting clean energy solutions and improving energy efficiency.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mauritius and Rwanda share the same commitment and we are both determined to facilitate and deliver access to clean, safe, reliable, and affordable energy for our people, including sustainable

electricity through both traditional and creative methods.

African countries need to meet fast-growing energy demands and extend modern energy services to more communities while also improving people's health and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Experts believe that our continent could meet nearly a quarter of its energy needs through the use of indigenous, clean and renewable energy by 2030.

I am pleased to learn that, like Mauritius, Rwanda has set an ambitious goal to increase access for its citizens to reliable electricity through an integrated

model that includes both on-grid and off-grid components.

The private sector has a key role to play in this model which is delivering results with respect to bringing sustainable, climate-friendly hydro-electricity to Rwanda.

I am also happy to note that around 55% of Rwanda's energy generation mix is from renewable sources, the main one being, by far, hydropower.

I am, therefore, very proud of the contribution of a Mauritian company - OMNICANE, through its sister firm OMNIHYDRO, over the past few years to

complete the Mushishito - Rukarara V Hydropower Plant and reach full commercial operation.

I am glad to learn that this hydropower plant has impacted positively on the livelihood of the local community. It will no doubt contribute in promoting the social and economic development of Rwanda and its reputation as a hub for sustainability innovation.

It is gratifying too that the small dam constructed on the Mushishito and Rukarara rivers protect communities against floods and droughts.

I warmly congratulate OMNICANE for this remarkable feat of engineering which will expand the existing electrical generation capacity of a brother country.

I would like here to place on record the positive contribution of OMNICANE in the socio-economic development of our country.

OMNICANE, a flagship company of Mauritius has over the years played a key role in the diversification of the sugar sector and the Mauritian economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Mushishito - Rukarara V Hydro Powerplant is one of the biggest projects contracted by

Mauritian companies in Africa. Its successful completion and operation is another major milestone of the mutually-beneficial cooperation between Mauritius and Rwanda.

Through this energy project, OMNICANE has paved the way for future projects which can deliver impact investments to communities to meet immediate energy needs.

The Mauritius-Rwanda cooperative relationship sets an example of Intra-African cooperation in full consonance with **Agenda 2063**, Africa's blueprint for transforming the Continent into the global powerhouse of the future.

I look forward to seeing even more Mauritian companies work hand-in-hand with our Rwandan partners to continue developing innovative projects to improve the quality of life of the people of Rwanda.

Long live the Mauritius-Rwanda friendship!

Thank you for your attention.
