

# PRESSE RELEASE

## Home Grown Solutions: What if Africans Rethink Development Keys in Mindset!

*Book Launch: Kigali Public Library, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> from 17.00 PM.*

The Kigali Public Library will host a book launch of a collective volume under the title: *Home Grown solutions. A legacy to Generations in Africa*. Written by 23 contributors under the coordination of Professor Tharcisse Gatwa, Journalist and theologian, and Professor Deogratias Sebahire Mbonyinkebe anthropologist, professor [retired], the University of Rwanda [UR] and the Free University of Kigali [ULK], the book is co-published by three institutions: the Protestant University of Rwanda [PIASS], GLOBETHICS.NET Foundations, Geneva [an online publishing company] and the Editions CLE, a panafrikan publishing House based in Yaoundé, Cameroun. The volume was prefaced by Professor Elisée Musemakweli, the Vice Chancellor of the Protestant University of Rwanda, and post prefaced by Professor Christoph Stueckelberger, Ethicist, Founder of the global company, GLOBETHICS which militates for the promotion of Ethics in Politics, in business and economics, in Education, etc.

Rwandan Home Grown Solutions which resulted in the social programs that are the backbone of the social and economic transformation of the post genocide Rwanda, were adopted by the government of national unity following the 1988-1999 national consultations on the Urugwiro Village. One of the major outcomes of these consultations was to rehabilitate traditional values so as to resourcing our reflections, practices and actions in the ways our ancestors used to resolve major crises. With this volume, major areas of these home grown solutions have been subject to a national academic critical reflection by teams of scholars and multidisciplinary experts, including anthropologists, lawyers, journalists, linguists, Political scientists, clinical psychology experts, theologians, economists, environmentalists, ethicists, among them university professors, researchers, Senator, judges. The articles include but not exclusively: cultural and social anthropological foundation of the Rwandan cultural heritages, including *Umuganda, imihigo, ubudehe, gacaca, abunzi, girinkamunyarwanda, agakiriro*; but also aspects of dealing with memory and reconciliation in the aftermath of a tragedy of the magnitude of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, the Kinyarwanda culture and languages in relation to development

Why such a mobilization for a book on Home Grown Solutions which has been subjected to various reports by public institutions, local and international agencies?. For the team of investigators, the Rwandan choices and the outcomes cannot be taken for granted. Huge criticisms from external “researchers” and “envoys” many with different purposes, and from different schools and ideologies have questioned the relevance of the Rwandan decision to exhumated practices, part of African indigenous knowledge systems [IKS]. Some condemned African cultural practices as odds, retrograde and anti-development. They propose to rather borrow approaches from other regions whose cultures are supposed to have “proved being powerful vehicles of knowledge, science, technology and development” [Axelle Kabou: 1988; Etounga Manguéle, 1991]. Similarly, most of Rwandan choices, like Gacaca, Abunzi, Umuganda, Imihigo, have been subject to many criticisms which miraculously disappeared when for example, in 2012 the Gacaca tribunals completed a huge work and presented

general reports of an immense tasks which disentangled more or less 2 million cases of crimes and offences committed during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

The researchers on this volume join in the conviction that the late Joseph Ki-Zerbo, one of the well known African scholar and historian and developmentalist actor was right when he stood against the copy paste model of development defended by Kabou, Etounga Manguéle and consorts. Ki-Zerbo firmly stated that “ African development will be indigenous, endogenous or would never happen; he sharply opposed the “development keys in hands” by an indigenous approach, “development keys in mindset”(développement clés en tête). In that regards, the researchers were guided by the quest for cultural heritages that are the matrix and foundations of the Banyarwanda identity, factors of their resilience. Consequently, they wanted to identify heritages that can be adapted and transmitted to the next generations in Africa to inspire their sense of creativity.

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