



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS IN KIRUNDI AND KINYARWANDA

September 28, 2016

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information in the Kirundi and Kinyarwanda languages to Rwanda and Burundi on July 15, 1996;

WHEREAS, Kirundi and Kinyarwanda also reach audiences in surrounding countries and the world on multiple media platforms, including radio, digital and mobile;

WHEREAS, Kirundi and Kinyarwanda comprise the languages of VOA's Central Africa Service, a leading international broadcaster in the Great Lakes region;

WHEREAS, VOA's Central Africa Service has featured some of the most respected journalists in Burundi and Rwanda covering conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda's post-genocide recovery, and the political power sharing that ended Burundi's civil war;

WHEREAS, VOA's Central Africa Service has played a key role in the national reconciliation and family reunification after the genocide in Rwanda;

WHEREAS, VOA's Central Africa Service has a bigger audience than any other international broadcaster and is one of the only international sources of news and information in Kirundi and Kinyarwanda for a Great Lakes region that faces contentious presidential elections after years of ethnic-based violence;

WHEREAS, Kirundi and Kinyarwanda broadcast local, regional, U.S. and international news, as well as an array of programming on health, entrepreneurship, entertainment, and youth;

WHEREAS, new short broadcasts and reprogrammed FM streams in Bujumbura and Kigali carry expanded call-in shows, broader reporting from the ground, and more drive-time newscasts; and

WHEREAS, VOA's Central Africa Service has seen steady growth on its digital social platforms, while garnering more than 400,000 page views each month.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Voice of America Central Africa Service's Kirundi and Kinyarwanda language broadcasts.