

## **PRESS COMMUNIQUE**

### **RWANDA RECEIVES THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN SOCIAL SECURITY AT THE WORLD SOCIAL SECURITY FORUM**

Rwanda has been recognized by the International Social Security Association (ISSA) for its success in improving the social security of its population at the World Social Security Forum in Brussels.

The award established to recognize a country's commitments and achievements in the field of social security recognized Rwanda for the exceptional achievements made in such a short time and most especially for its community based health insurance scheme that has enabled universal access to affordable healthcare.

“Rwanda's achievements in extending health insurance to more than 90% of the population in such a short time frame are exceptional from a global perspective, and this success has been made possible by the unwavering commitment of the government of Rwanda. The community based health insurance program brings together a number of innovative elements that can inform efforts in other countries, and has had an impressive positive impact on key health indicators and poverty reduction,” Marcelo Abi-Ramia Caetano the Secretary General of ISSA said regarding Rwanda's social security achievements.

Explaining the rationale of the Award to Rwanda and to the development of Social Security globally the ISSA SG added, “By recognizing your achievements, the ISSA Award will further encourage Governments around the World to take note of the Rwandan experience and to consider adopting similar programs to the benefit of their populations. Importantly, the positive impacts of your efforts will thereby not be limited to Rwanda, but also extend to populations in other countries in need of social security and health protection”.

Receiving the Award on behalf of the Government of Rwanda, the Deputy DG of the Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB) Dr. HAKIBA Solange indicated that investing in the social security of the Rwandan people remains a Government priority informed by the knowledge that the country's most important resource is her people.

“Rwanda attributes its current successes to the exceptional sacrifices and commitment of its people from all walks of life who have worked hard to defy its dark past. Investing in a social security regime which guarantees social protection was and remains a natural priority that the Government of Rwanda is committed to advancing. We are humbled by the International Social Security Association's recognition of these efforts by the Government and people of Rwanda and pledge to work together with you and all other member organisations in advancing the cause of attaining social security for all the world's inhabitants.”

In addition to the community based health insurance scheme, RSSB as the Government's department for social security administration operates other schemes including maternity leave benefits insurance which ensures three months of fully paid maternity leave for women, a pension scheme, occupational hazards insurance, and medical insurance for professionals.

Rwanda becomes the third country to receive the Outstanding Achievements in Social Security Award after Brazil and the People's Republic of China, which received similar recognition in 2013 and 2016 respectively.

### **About ISSA**

The International Social Security Association is an international organization bringing together national social security administrations and agencies created under the auspices of the International Labor Organization. Founded in 1927, the ISSA has more than 330 member organizations from 157 countries.

The Global Social Security Forum is ISSA's flagship gathering organized every three years to discuss matters of importance to the advancement of social security for the world's population. The Forum in Brussels brought together over 1,000 policy makers and professionals in the sector.

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