Guidance for Honors in the De Jure Kingdom of Rwanda

In the event of a conflict between the different translations of this document, the version in English will prevail. This document is also retroactive to January 29, 1961, the day after Rwanda became a republic, in addition to being applicable to future grants. If an individualized Letters Patent differs from this official Guidance, the individual Letters Patent will triumph solely for persons in the individual Letters Patent alone. This official Guidance applies retroactively and in the future to all grants where any of the below aspects of a royal grant were or are not specifically defined in the Letters Patent.

Titles of Nobility

Titles of nobility in the Kingdom of Rwanda historically consisted of the rank of Chief and Sub-Chief, but this was expanded by His Most Christian Majesty King Mutara III Rudahigwa. H.M. King Mutara III was in the process of revamping the honors system of Rwanda prior to his untimely death in 1959. As the fons honorum of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda and an anointed King, His Most Christian Majesty King Kigeli V has the full legal right to create new traditions within his Kingdom and also finish the work previously began by his half-brother, Mutara III. Under this legal right as a fons honorum, His Most Christian Majesty declares the following:

Duc or Duchesse

New grants of titles of nobility of Duc and Duchesse are reserved only for members of the Royal family of Rwanda from the date of this Guidance. The Royal family is defined as the Head of the Royal Rwandan House and his siblings, the children and grandchildren of the Head of the Royal Rwandan House, the children of the siblings of the Head of the Royal Rwandan House, and the widows/surviving spouses of any of the same. The Royal family also extends to the great-grandchildren of the son in line to eventually succeed to the throne
as Head of the Royal Rwandan House. Historically, the equivalent of a ducal title in the Kingdom of Rwanda was a royal gift that translates as “120”. This referred to the 120 hand-made spears and lances that were received by the grantee from the Mwami. A historical example was the royal title of “120” granted to H.M. King Boudouin from H.M. King Mutara III in 1955. By tradition, there could never be more new grants of this title during the Mwami’s reign than the number of fingers on one of His Majesty’s hands. This is because this title and honor reflected being a metaphorical extension of His Majesty’s personal hands.

Article 1

**Style of the Duc/Duchesse**

The title and honor of Duc and Duchesse is entitled to the style of “Son Altesse Royale”. However, if a recipient of the title and honor is not a member of the Royal family of Rwanda as defined above (for example, a valid inheritor of the title but a few generations removed from the now current Head of the Royal Rwandan House), the Duc or Duchesse is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”.

Article 2

**Title and Address**

The title of Duc/Duchesse may be granted with or without a territorial designation. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Altesse Royale First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Duc de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Altesse Royale First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Duc Surname”. As seen in Article 1, a Duc or Duchesse that is no longer a member of the Royal family has the style instead of “Son Excellence”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.
Article 3
Definition of lawful spouse
A lawful spouse is a person who is legally wed to the Duc/Duchesse either prior to or after his/her rise to the title and honor. The wedding must be lawful in the place of residence of the title holder and confirmed by the Royal House if the Duc is royal. Only one lawful spouse may be alive at any time.

Article 4
Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children
The lawful spouse of a Duc is accorded the courtesy spousal title of Duchesse de Territorial Designation (if a territorial designation was granted) or Duchess de Surname if a territorial designation was not granted. The lawful spouse will have a style of “Son Altesse Royale” or “Son Excellence”. The lawful spouse is royal for as long as she is married to the Duc or is the widow of the same as long as the Duc was entitled to the style of “Son Altesse Royale”. If a widow of the Duc, the addition of “Douairière” is added to the courtesy title before Duchesse.

However, if the Duchesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, that is, it is not a courtesy spousal title but rather a granted title by the Head of the Rwandan Royal House, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title.

All bloodline children of the Duc/Duchesse are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the title and honor in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Duc/Duchesse are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the titles and honors of Duc/Duchesse. The courtesy style for children of the Duc/Duchesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Article 5
Passage of Title and Honor
The titles and honors of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. A grant of a substantive title of Duc or Duchesses to a person from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee
specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honor and title of Duc or Duchesse will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honor if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the Ducal title and honor) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honor in accordance with Article Six. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honor at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honor should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honor. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House of Ndahindurwa. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honor. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honor. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honor and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honor becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House of Ndahindurwa. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honor can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the Ducal title and honor all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honor of the Duc or Duchesse, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Duc or Duchesse.
In the event that an inheritor of the title and honor resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honors at the time of receiving the title, or a current Duc or Duchesse moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Duc or Duchesse all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honor. Put another way, the honorary title and honor are honorary in name only, but the title and honor still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the Ducal title and honor being honorary will exist until the current Duc or Duchesse moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honors, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honors, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honor. Under no circumstances is the title and honor of Duc or Duchesse considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

**Article 6**

**Renunciation of Title**

The title and honor may be renounced by the current Duc or Duchesse at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Duc or Duchesse. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Duc or Duchesse, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Duc or Duchesse will pass by the rules of Article Five as if the renouncing Duc or Duchesse died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honor does not dissolve it; the title and honor merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article Five or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article Five, only an extinction of the title and honor by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.
Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Duc or Duchess will be an Or coronet surmounted by four stylized Proper leaves of Nymphaea thermarum, called the pygmy Rwandan water lily, with four alternating balls of pearl Argent. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Ducal coronet will be:

Grantees and inheritors of the Ducal title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield, the Mwami’s crown as a helm, a Ducal coronet, and supporters. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, lion skin may be used as a manteau for royal Ducs. Leopard skin may be used as a manteau for non-royal Ducs. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.
A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:
Marquis or Marquise

The titles of nobility of Marquis and Marquise are rarely granted. Historically, the equivalent of a marquesal title in the Kingdom of Rwanda was a royal gift that translates as “63”. This referred to the 63 hand-made spears and lances that were received by the grantee from the Mwami. By tradition, there could never be more new grants of this title during the Mwami’s reign than the number of fingers on one of His Majesty’s hands. This is because this title and honor reflected being a metaphorical extension of His Majesty’s personal hands, similar to the ducal title. The title of nobility has the following characteristics:

Article 8
Style of the Marquis/Marquise
The title and honor of Marquis and Marquise is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”.

Article 9
Title and Address
The title of Marquis/Marquise may be granted with or without a territorial designation. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Marquis de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Marquise de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Marquise Surname”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.
Article 10
Definition of lawful spouse
A lawful spouse is a person who is legally wed to the Marquis/Marquise either prior to or after his/her rise to the title and honor. The wedding must be lawful in the place of residence of the title holder and confirmed by the Royal House. Only one lawful spouse may be alive at any time.

Article 11
Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children
The lawful spouse of a Marquis is accorded the courtesy spousal title of Marquise de Territorial Designation (if a territorial designation was granted) or Marquise de Surname if a territorial designation was not granted. The lawful spouse will have a style of “Son Altesse Royale”. The lawful spouse is noble for as long as she is married to the Marquis or is the widow of the same. If a widow of the Marquis, the addition of “Douairière” is added to the courtesy title before Marquise.

However, if the Marquise is a substantive title holder in her own right, that is, it is not a courtesy spousal title but rather a granted title by the Head of the Rwandan Royal House, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title.

All bloodline children of the Marquis/Marquise are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the title and honor in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Marquis/Marquise are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the titles and honors of Marquis/Marquise. The courtesy style for children of the Marquis/Marquise will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Article 12
Passage of Title and Honor
The titles and honors of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. A grant of a substantive title of Marquis or Marquise to a person from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the
Honor and title of Marquis or Marquise will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honor if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the Marquesal title and honor) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honor in accordance with Article 13. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honor at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honor should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honor. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House of Ndahindurwa. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honor. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honor. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honor and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honor becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House of Ndahindurwa. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honor can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the Marquesal title and honor all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honor of the Marquis or Marquise, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Marquis or Marquise.
In the event that an inheritor of the title and honor resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honors at the time of receiving the title, or a current Marquis or Marquise moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Marquis or Marquise all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honor. Put another way, the honorary title and honor are honorary in name only, but the title and honor still are substantive in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the Marquesal title and honor being honorary will exist until the current Marquis or Marquise moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honors, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honors, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honor. Under no circumstances is the title and honor of Marquis or Marquise considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda.

**Article 13**

**Renunciation of Title**

The title and honor may be renounced by the current Marquis or Marquise at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Marquis or Marquise. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Marquis or Marquise, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Marquis or Marquise will pass by the rules of Article 12 as if the renouncing Marquis or Marquise died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honor does not dissolve it; the title and honor merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 12 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 12, only an extinction of the title and honor by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.
Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Marquis or Marquise will be an Or coronet surmounted by eight stylized Proper leaves of Nymphaea thermarum, called the pygmy Rwandan water lily. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Marquesal coronet will be:

Grantees and inheritors of the Marquesal title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, a Marquesal coronet, a helm, a crest, torse, a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.
A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:
The titles of nobility of Comte and Comtesse are occasionally granted. Historically, the equivalent of a comital title in the Kingdom of Rwanda was a royal gift that translates as “50”. This referred to the 50 hand-made spears and lances that were received by the grantee from the Mwami. These have the following characteristics:

**Article 15**

**Style of the Comte/Comtesse**

The title and honor of Comte and Comtesse is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”.

**Article 16**

**Title and Address**

The title of Comte/Comtesse may be granted with or without a territorial designation. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Comte de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Comtesse de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Comte Surname”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a female holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Comtesse Surname”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

**Article 17**

**Definition of lawful spouse**

A lawful spouse is a person who is legally wed to the Comte/Comtesse either prior to or after his/her rise to the title and honor. The wedding must be lawful in the place of
residence of the title holder and confirmed by the Royal House. Only one lawful spouse may be alive at any time.

Article 18

**Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children**

The lawful spouse of a Comte is accorded the courtesy spousal title of Comtesse de Territorial Designation (if a territorial designation was granted) or Comtesse de Surname if a territorial designation was not granted. The lawful spouse will have a style of “Son Excellence”. The lawful spouse is noble for as long as she is married to the Comte or is the widow of the same. If a widow of the Comte, the addition of “Douairière” is added to the courtesy title before Comtesse.

However, if the Comtesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, that is, it is not a courtesy spousal title but rather a granted title by the Head of the Rwandan Royal House, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title.

All bloodline children of the Comte/Comtesse are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the title and honor in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Comte/Comtesse are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the titles and honors of Comte/Comtesse. The courtesy style for children of the Comte/Comtesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Article 19

**Passage of Title and Honor**

The titles and honors of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. A grant of a substantive title of Comte or Comtesse to a person from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honor and title of Comte or Comtesse will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honor if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the Comital title and honor) upon the
death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honor in accordance with Article 20. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honor at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honor should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honor. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House of Ndashindurwa. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honor. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honor. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honor and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honor becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House of Ndashindurwa. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honor can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the Comital title and honor all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honor of the Comte or Comtesse, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Comte or Comtesse.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honor resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honors at the time of receiving the title, or a current Comte or Comtesse moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state
exists and accords the Comte or Comtesse all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honor. Put another way, the honorary title and honor are honorary in name only, but the title and honor still are substantive in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the Comital title and honor being honorary will exist until the current Comte or Comtesse moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honors, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honors, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honor. Under no circumstances is the title and honor of Comte or Comtesse considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda.

**Article 20**

**Renunciation of Title**

The title and honor may be renounced by the current Comte or Comtesse at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Comte or Comtesse. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Comte or Comtesse, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Comte or Comtesse will pass by the rules of Article 19 as if the renouncing Comte or Comtesse died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honor does not dissolve it; the title and honor merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 19 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 19, only an extinction of the title and honor by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

**Article 21**

**Armorial Achievement**

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Comte or Comtesse will be an Or coronet surmounted by 16 balls of pearl Argent. The band of the coronet will display white and
blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Comital coronet will be:

Grantees and inheritors of the Comital title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, a Comital coronet, a helm, a crest, torse, a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.
A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:
Vicomte or Vicomtesse

The titles of nobility of Vicomte and Vicomtesse are occasionally granted. Historically, the equivalent of a vicomital title in the Kingdom of Rwanda was a royal gift that translates as “30”. This referred to the 30 hand-made spears and lances that were received by the grantee from the Mwami. These have the following characteristics:

Article 22
Style of the Vicomte/Vicomtesse
The title and honor of Vicomte and Vicomtesse is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”.

Article 23
Title and Address
The title of Vicomte/Vicomtesse may be granted with or without a territorial designation. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Vicomte de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Vicomte Surname”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 24
Definition of lawful spouse
A lawful spouse is a person who is legally wed to the Vicomte/Vicomtesse either prior to or after his/her rise to the title and honor. The wedding must be lawful in the place of
residence of the title holder and confirmed by the Royal House. Only one lawful spouse may be alive at any time.

Article 25  

Courtesey Spousal Title and Courtesey Titles for Children  
The lawful spouse of a Vicomte is accorded the courtesy spousal title of Vicomtesse de Territorial Designation (if a territorial designation was granted) or Vicomtesse de Surname if a territorial designation was not granted. The lawful spouse will have a style of “Son Excellence”. The lawful spouse is noble for as long as she is married to the Vicomte or is the widow of the same. If a widow of the Vicomte, the addition of “Douairière” is added to the courtesy title before Vicomtesse.

However, if the Vicomtesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, that is, it is not a courtesy spousal title but rather a granted title by the Head of the Rwandan Royal House, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title.

All bloodline children of the Vicomte/Vicomtesse are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the title and honor in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Vicomte/Vicomtesse are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the titles and honors of Vicomte/Vicomtesse. The courtesy style for children of the Vicomte/Vicomtesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Article 26  

Passage of Title and Honor  
The titles and honors of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. A grant of a substantive title of Vicomte or Vicomtesse to a person from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honor and title of Vicomte or Vicomtesse will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honor if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the Vicomital title.
and honor) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honor in accordance with Article 27. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honor at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honor should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honor. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House of Ndadhindurwa. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honor. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honor. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honor and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honor becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House of Ndadhindurwa. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honor can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the Vicomital title and honor all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honor of the Vicomte or Vicomtesse, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Vicomte or Vicomtesse.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honor resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honors at the time of receiving the title, or a current Vicomte or Vicomtesse moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow
the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Vicomte or Vicomtesse all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honor. Put another way, the honorary title and honor are honorary in name only, but the title and honor still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the Vicomital title and honor being honorary will exist until the current Vicomte or Vicomtesse moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honors, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honor, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honor. Under no circumstances is the title and honor of Vicomte or Vicomtesse considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

**Article 27**

**Renunciation of Title**

The title and honor may be renounced by the current Vicomte or Vicomtesse at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Vicomte or Vicomtesse. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Vicomte or Vicomtesse, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Vicomte or Vicomtesse will pass by the rules of Article 26 as if the renouncing Vicomte or Vicomtesse died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honor does not dissolve it; the title and honor merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 26 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 26, only an extinction of the title and honor by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

**Article 28**

**Armorial Achievement**

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Vicomte or Vicomtesse will be an Or coronet.
surmounted by four tines with three balls of pearl Argent on each tine. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Vicomital coronet will be:

Grantees and inheritors of the Vicomital title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, a Vicomital coronet, a helm, a crest, torse, a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.
A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:
Baron or Baronne

The titles of nobility of Baron and Baronne are occasionally granted. Historically, the equivalent of a baronial title in the Kingdom of Rwanda was a royal gift that translates as “24”. This referred to the 24 hand-made spears and lances that were received by the grantee from the Mwami. These have the following characteristics:

Article 29
Style of the Baron/Baronne

The title and honor of Baron and Baronne is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”.

Article 30
Title and Address

The title of Baron/Baronne may be granted with or without a territorial designation. If a territorial designation is granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Baron de Territorial Designation”. If a territorial designation is not granted, the full name, title, and style of a male holder is “Son Excellence First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, [number of the honor, beginning with the 1st] Baron Surname”. If a territorial designation contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 31
Definition of lawful spouse

A lawful spouse is a person who is legally wed to the Baron/Baronne either prior to or after his/her rise to the title and honor. The wedding must be lawful in the place of residence of
the title holder and confirmed by the Royal House. Only one lawful spouse may be alive at any time.

**Article 32**

*Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children*

The lawful spouse of a Baron is accorded the courtesy spousal title of Baronne de Territorial Designation (if a territorial designation was granted) or Baronne de Surname if a territorial designation was not granted. The lawful spouse will have a style of “Son Excellence”. The lawful spouse is noble for as long as she is married to the Baron or is the widow of the same. If a widow of the Baron, the addition of “Douairière” is added to the courtesy title before Baronne.

However, if the Baronne is a substantive title holder in her own right, that is, it is not a courtesy spousal title but rather a granted title by the Head of the Rwandan Royal House, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title.

All bloodline children of the Baron/Baronne are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the title and honor in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Baron/Baronne are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the titles and honors of Baron/Baronne. The courtesy style for children of the Baron/Baronne will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

**Article 33**

*Passage of Title and Honor*

The titles and honors of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. A grant of a substantive title of Baron or Baronne to a person from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honor and title of Baron or Baronne will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honor if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the Baronial title and honor) upon the
death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honor in accordance with Article 34. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honor at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honor should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honor. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House of Ndahindurwa. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honor. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honor. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honor and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honor becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House of Ndahindurwa. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honor can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the Baronial title and honor all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honor of the Baron or Baronne, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Baron or Baronne.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honor resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honors at the time of receiving the title, or a current Baron or Baronne moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state
exists and accords the Baron or Baronne all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honor. Put another way, the honorary title and honor are honorary in name only, but the title and honor still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the Baronial title and honor being honorary will exist until the current Baron or Baronne moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honors, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honors, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honor. Under no circumstances is the title and honor of Baron or Baronne considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

**Article 34**

**Renunciation of Title**

The title and honor may be renounced by the current Baron or Baronne at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Baron or Baronne. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Baron or Baronne, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Baron or Baronne will pass by the rules of Article 33 as if the renouncing Baron or Baronne died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honor does not dissolve it; the title and honor merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 33 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 33, only an extinction of the title and honor by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

**Article 35**

**Armorial Achievement**

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Baron or Baronne will be an Or coronet surmounted by 12 balls of pearl Argent. The band of the coronet will display white and
blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Baronial coronet will be:

Grantees and inheritors of the Baronial title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, a Baronial coronet, a helm, a crest, torse, a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.
A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:
The title of nobility of Chief has historically been given only to males, but, in the modern era, a female may also become a Chief. Since Chiefs have political responsibilities beyond the title and honor, His Majesty King Kigeli V has not appointed any Chiefs while in exile. Although the history is oral and cannot be confirmed in written form, the role of Chief in the Kingdom of Rwanda is believed to date back at least to 1350 AD. The title and honor of Chief has these following characteristics:

Article 36
Style of the Chief
The title and honor of Chief is entitled to the style of “Le Noble”.

Article 37
Title and Address
The full name, title, and style of a Chief is “Le Noble Chief First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname”. A territorial designation may be attached. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 38
Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children
There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a Chief. However, the lawful spouse of the Chief is noble for as long as the spouse is married to the Chief or is the widow/widower of the same.

All bloodline children of the Chief are noble, but this nobility ends with that generation, except if one of the children succeeds to the title and honor in the future. Said another way, the grandchildren of a current Chief are not noble unless one of their parents succeeds to the title and honor of Chief.
Article 39
Passage of Title and Honor

The titles and honors of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. A grant of the title of Chief to a person from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline male primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honor and title of Chief will only pass from a current Chief to his or her eldest male child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honor if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original Chief grantee) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honor in accordance with Article 40. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honor at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honor should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honor. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House of Ndahindurwa. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honor. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honor. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honor and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honor becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House of Ndahindurwa. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honor can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the Chief title and honor all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no male bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except
for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honor of Chief, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word male bloodline heir means all male issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Chief.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honor resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honors at the time of receiving the title, or a current Chief moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Chief all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honor. Put another way, the honorary title and honor are honorary in name only, but the title and honor still are substantive in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the Chief title and honor being honorary will exist until the current Chief moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honors, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honors, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honor. Under no circumstances is the title and honor of Chief considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 40

Renunciation of Title

The title and honor may be renounced by the current Chief at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Chief. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Chief, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Chief will pass by the rules of Article 39 as if the renouncing Chief died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honor does not dissolve it; the title and honor merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 39 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 39, only an extinction of the title and honor by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters
Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

**Article 41**

**Armorial Achievement**

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Chief will be an Or coronet surmounted by eight balls of pearl. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda and be wrapped in pearls. The heraldic representation for the Chieftain coronet will be:

Grantees and inheritors of the Chief title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield, a helm, Chieftain coronet, a crest of nine spear points radiating from the shield, and supporters or a combination of these. In accordance with the original vision
of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to their decorate battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.

A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:
The title of nobility of Sub-Chief has historically been given only to males, but, in the modern era, a female may also become a Sub-Chief. Since Sub-Chiefs have political responsibilities beyond the title and honor, His Majesty King Kigeli V has not appointed any Sub-Chiefs while in exile. Although the history is oral and cannot be confirmed in written form, the role of Sub-Chief in the Kingdom of Rwanda is believed to date back at least to 1350 AD. The title and honor of Sub-Chief has these following characteristics:

**Article 42**
*Style of the Sub-Chief*

The title and honor of Sub-Chief is entitled to the style of “L’honorable”.

**Article 43**
*Title and Address*

The full name, title, and style of a Sub-Chief is “L’honorable Sub-Chief First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname”. A territorial designation may be attached. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

**Article 44**
*Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children*

There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a Sub-Chief. However, the lawful spouse of the Sub-Chief is noble for as long as the spouse is married to the Sub-Chief or is the widow/widower of the same. Yet, the children of the Sub-Chief are not noble.

**Article 45**
*Passage of Title and Honor*

The title and honor of Sub-Chief is not hereditary. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda.
Article 46
Renunciation of Title
The title and honor may be renounced by the current Sub-Chief at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Sub-Chief. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Sub-Chief, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Sub-Chief ceases to exist.

Article 47
Armorial Achievement
Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. There is no coronet for the title and honor of Sub-Chief. Instead, the Sub-Chief is authorized to use a lion or crested crane on the shield of his or her armorial achievement as an indicator of service to the Head of the Rwandan Royal House.

Grantees of the Sub-Chief title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield, helm, a crest of seven spear points radiating from the shield, and supporters or a combination of these. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.

A sample leopard skin manteau image may be seen below:
Orders of the Royal House

The Orders of the Drum, Crown, Crested Crane, and Lion have been officially registered with the government of Vatican City in 2007. This does not mean that they have Papal recognition. Rather, it means that they were recorded there with an equivalency of notarization by the former President of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State. The registration was presided over by Cardinal Edmund Casimir Szoka and witnessed by Father Allen Duston on January 22, 2007. Previously, upon ascending the throne in 1959, H.M. King Kigeli V registered the existence of the Orders with the Vatican and sought the blessing of H.H. Pope John XXIII in doing so. Again, this was not Papal recognition but rather a registration of the Orders.

Royal Order of the Drum of Rwanda

The power of the Mwami (King) was symbolized by a large drum called the kalinga, which translates as “token of hope”. The kalinga was housed in a palace and protected at all times by a guard. It was thought that if the kalinga was ever lost or destroyed, the Rwandan nation would end. Only the nobles and royals of the Kingdom of Rwanda were allowed to touch the drum. Therefore, when His Majesty King Mutara III envisioned this Order in 1959, the drum was the most logical choice to represent the highest Order in the de jure Kingdom. H.M. King Kigeli V created the Order in 1959 and re-affirmed his right to grant this Order on the 3rd of January in 1998.

There are two ranks in the Royal Order of the Drum (Kalinga in the native Kinyawrwandan). The higher rank is split into two parts, Grand Collar and Grand Cross, and the lower rank is Commander. A recipient of the Grand Collar is treated as an honorary member of the royal House of Ndahindurwa, while recipients of the Grand Cross and Commander are not. The Order may be granted as a hereditary award or as a non-hereditary honor.
Article 48

**Style of the Chevalier/Dame**

A recipient at the rank of Grand Collar or Grand Cross is entitled to the style of “His/Her Excellency”. A recipient at the rank of Commander is entitled to the style of “The Honourable”.

Article 49

**Title and Address**

The title and honor of Chevalier is granted to all male members of the Order whether Grand Collar, Grand Cross, or Commander. Similarly, the title and honor of Dame is granted to all female members of the Order whether Grand Collar, Grand Cross, or Commander. This Order confers nobility upon the member. The post-nominal for a Grand Collar or Grand Cross recipient of the Order is “GCDR”. This stands for Grand Cross of the Drum of Rwanda or Grand Cross of the Drum of Rwanda. The post-nominal for a Commander recipient of the Order is “CDR”. This stands for Commander of the Drum of Rwanda. Therefore, the full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Grand Collar or Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCDR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CDR”. Similarly, the full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Collar or Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCDR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CDR”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 50

**Regalia of Order**

Recipients at the rank of Grand Collar are entitled to a collar of gold (Or) chain linking alternating gold (Or) Crowns of Rwanda with the stylized initial “K” (for Kigeli). The collar holds the insignia of the Order, which is a royal blue (Azure) enameled Maltese cross of eight points trimmed in gold (Or). In the center of the cross is a royal blue (Azure) roundel bearing a gold (Or) kalinga drum. The outer edge of this roundel is also trimmed in gold (Or). In the northwest corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) lion facing right
Kigeli V

(Dexter). In the northeast corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) crested crane facing left (Sinister). In the southwest corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) crested crane facing right (Dexter) inverted. In the southeast corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) lion facing left (Sinister) inverted. The whole is surmounted by a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda. The insignia is approximately 65 millimeters wide from left to right.

Recipients at the rank of Grand Cross are entitled to a breast star approximately 90 millimeters wide that is an eight-pointed faceted star of gold (Or) radiating from a center enameled roundel of royal blue (Azure) bearing a gold (Or) kalinga drum. Encircling the center roundel is a band of white enamel (Argent) inscribed “ORDRE ROYAL DU TAMBOUR” in gold (Or). This band’s outer edge is trimmed in gold (Or). The Grand Cross recipient also is entitled to a sash of royal blue (Azure) trimmed in white (Argent). The sash is 100 millimeters wide for males, while females have an option of the 100 millimeter wide sash or else a 50 millimeter wide version. The sash is worn over the right shoulder and it rests on the left hip. The insignia of the Order for the sash is a royal blue (Azure) enameled Maltese cross of eight points trimmed in gold (Or). In the center of the cross is a royal blue (Azure) roundel bearing a gold (Or) kalinga drum. The outer edge of this roundel is also trimmed in gold (Or). In the northwest corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) lion facing right (Dexter). In the northeast corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) crested crane facing left (Sinister). In the southwest corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) crested crane facing right (Dexter) inverted. In the southeast corner of the Maltese cross is a gold (Or) lion facing left (Sinister) inverted. The whole is surmounted by a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda. The insignia is approximately 65 millimeters wide from left to right.

Recipients at the rank of Commander are entitled to a breast star 90 millimeters wide that is an eight-pointed faceted star of silver (Argent) radiating from a center enameled roundel of royal blue (Azure) bearing a silver (Argent) kalinga drum. Encircling the center roundel is a band of white enamel (Argent) inscribed “ORDRE ROYAL DU TAMBOUR” in silver (Argent). This band’s outer edge is trimmed in silver (Argent).
Article 51

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a member of the Order. However, the lawful spouse of a member of the Order is noble for as long as the spouse is married to the member or is the widow/widower of the same. Yet, the children of the member are not noble.

Article 52

Passage of Title and Honor

The titles and honors of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. If a grant of the Order is hereditary, the Letters Patent and it alone will state it. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honor and title of Chevalier or Dame will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honor if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the noble title and honor) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honor in accordance with Article 53. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honor at any time. The rank within the Order
will be retained by transmission. Said another way, a member of the rank of Grand Cross who passes the title and honor to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Grand Cross. Likewise, a member of the rank of Commander who passes the title and honor to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Commander.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honor should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honor. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House of Ndahindurwa. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honor. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honor. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honor and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honor becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House of Ndahindurwa. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honor can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the noble title and honor all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honor, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Chevalier or Dame.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honor resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honors at the time of receiving the title, or a current Chevalier or Dame moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow
the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Chevalier or Dame all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honor. Put another way, the honorary title and honor are honorary in name only, but the title and honor still are substantive in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the noble title and honor being honorary will exist until the current Chevalier or Dame moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honors, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honors, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honor. Under no circumstances is the title and honor of a hereditary Chevalier or Dame considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 53
Renunciation of Title
The title and honor may be renounced by the current Chevalier or Dame at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Chevalier or Dame. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Chevalier or Dame, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Chevalier or Dame will pass by the rules of Article 52 as if the renouncing Chevalier or Dame died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honor does not dissolve it; the title and honor merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 52 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 52, only an extinction of the title and honor by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 54
Armorial Achievement
Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Chevalier or Dame will be an Or coronet
surmounted by eight balls of pearl. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Chevalier or Dame coro
te will be:

Grantees and inheritors of the noble title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, the above coronet, a helm, a torse, mantling or a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. Recipients of the Order at any rank may, but are not required to, also display the kalinya drum on his or her escutcheon, but the design may not directly mimic the heraldry of His Majesty King Kigeli V or other future Heads of the Royal House. This prevention of mimicking the design of the Head of the Royal House ensures that the armiger is not accidentally mistaken for His Majesty the Mwami. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as a manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.
Royal Order of the Crown of Rwanda

The Order of the Crown, the second-highest Order in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda, is the inheritor of the tradition of the Gucana Uruti, the burning of the javelin. This was a Rwandan ceremony where the greatest warrior, a true national hero, was honored for having killed twenty-one enemies in combat under specific guidelines. Historically, the ceremony was held on the highest mountain near where the warrior lived.

This distinction granted the honoree the right to be treated as a member of the family of the reigning king. The decorated hero that had undergone Gucana Uruti was allowed to wear the crown of the Mwami (King) when the Mwami was not using it.

The Royal Order of the Crown (Ikamba in the native Kinyarwandan) was envisioned by H.M. King Mutara III in 1950, and it was formally instituted by his successor, Kigeli V, in 1959. In 1950, King Mutara III had his staff weave a miniature of the Crown of Rwanda as a gift for a state visit from another royal. This gift was a physical precedent for the Order, and it was also a prelude to its official introduction years later.

There are three ranks in the Order. The highest is Grand Collar, followed by Grand Cross, and the lowest rank is Commander. The Order may be granted as a hereditary award or as a non-hereditary honor.

Article 55
Style of the Chevalier/Dame
A recipient at the ranks of Grand Collar or Grand Cross is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”. A recipient at the rank of Commander is entitled to the style of “L’honorable”.

Article 56
Title and Address
The title and honor of Chevalier is granted to all male members of the Order whether Grand Collar, Grand Cross, or Commander. Similarly, the title and honor of Dame is granted to all female members of the Order whether Grand Collar, Grand Cross, or Commander. This Order confers nobility upon the member. The post-nominal for both Grand Collar and Grand Cross recipients of the Order is “GCCR”. This stands for
Grand Collar of the Crown of Rwanda or Grand Cross of the Crown of Rwanda. The post-nominal for a Commander recipient of the Order is “CCR”. This stands for Commander of the Crown of Rwanda. Therefore, the full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Grand Collar or Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCCR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CCR”. Similarly, the full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Collar or Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCCR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CCR”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 57
Regalia of Order

Recipients at the rank of Grand Collar are entitled to a collar of gold (Or) chain linking alternating gold (Or) Crowns of Rwanda with the stylized initial ‘K’ (for Kigeli) with a badge of a Maltese cross enameled pale blue (Azure) edged in white (Argent). Stylized gold (Or) letters of the letter ‘K’ are positioned in the principal angles. In the middle of the Maltese cross is a roundel enameled white (Argent) trimmed in gold (Or) bearing a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda. The badge is pendant from a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda.

Recipients at the rank of Grand Cross are entitled to a breast star 85 millimeters wide that is an eight-pointed star of plain silver (Argent) rays with a center roundel enameled white (Argent) bearing a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda. The center roundel is also trimmed in gold (Or). The Grand Cross recipient is also entitled to a sash of pale blue (Azure) with a broad strip of white (Argent) near each edge. The sash is 100 millimeters wide for males, while females have an option of the 100 millimeter wide sash or else a 50 millimeter wide version. The sash is worn over the right shoulder and it rests on the left hip. The insignia of the Order for the sash is a Maltese cross enameled pale blue (Azure) edged in white (Argent). Stylized gold (Or) letters of the letter ‘K’ are positioned in the principal angles. In the middle of the Maltese cross is a roundel enameled white (Argent) trimmed in gold (Or) bearing a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda. The whole is surmounted by a gold (Or)
Crown of Rwanda. The insignia measures approximately 60 millimeters wide from left to right.

Recipients at the rank of Commander are entitled to a breast star 85 millimeters wide that is an eight-pointed star of plain silver (Argent) rays with a center roundel enameled white (Argent) bearing a silver (Argent) Crown of Rwanda. The center roundel is also trimmed in silver (Argent).

Article 58
Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children
There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a member of the Order. However, the lawful spouse of a member of the Order is noble for as long as the spouse is married to the member or is the widow/widower of the same. Yet, the children of the member are not noble.

Article 59
Passage of Title and Honor
The titles and honors of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. If a grant of the Order is hereditary, the Letters Patent and it alone will state it.
Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honor and title of Chevalier or Dame will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honor if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the noble title and honor) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honor in accordance with Article 60. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honor at any time. The rank within the Order will be retained by transmission. Said another way, a member of the rank of Grand Collar who passes the title and honor to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Grand Collar. Likewise, a member of the rank of Grand Cross who passes the title and honor to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Grand Cross. Similarly, a member of the rank of Commander who passes the title and honor to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Commander.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honor should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honor. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House of Ndadhindurwa. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honor. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honor. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honor and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honor becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House of Ndadhindurwa. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honor can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the noble title and honor all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100
years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honor, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Chevalier or Dame.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honor resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honors at the time of receiving the title, or a current Chevalier or Dame moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Chevalier or Dame all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honor. Put another way, the honorary title and honor are honorary in name only, but the title and honor still are substantive in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the noble title and honor being honorary will exist until the current Chevalier or Dame moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honors, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honors, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honor. Under no circumstances is the title and honor of a hereditary Chevalier or Dame considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 60
Renunciation of Title
The title and honor may be renounced by the current Chevalier or Dame at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Chevalier or Dame. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Chevalier or Dame, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Chevalier or Dame will pass by the rules of Article 59 as if the renouncing Chevalier or Dame died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honor does not dissolve it; the title and honor merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article
59 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 59, only an extinction of the title and honor by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 61
Armorial Achievement
Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Chevalier or Dame will be an Or coronet surmounted by eight balls of pearl. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Chevalier or Dame coronet will be:
Grantees and inheritors of the noble title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, the above coronet, a helm, a torse, mantling or a manteau, and supporters or a combination of these. Recipients of the Order at any rank may, but are not required to, also display the Crown of the Mwami on his or her escutcheon, but it may not be used as a helm. This prevention of the Crown as a helm ensures that the armiger is not accidentally mistaken for His Majesty the Mwami. In accordance with the original vision of H.M. King Mutara III, leopard skin may be used as manteau. Grantees and inheritors also had the right, beginning with H.M. King Mutara III, to decorate their battle shields, and this is akin to a heraldic system.

**Royal Order of the Crested Crane of Rwanda**

The Order of the Crested Crane (*Usumbere* in the native Kinyarwandian), the third-highest Order in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda, is the inheritor of the Rwandan tradition called the *Impotore*, the torse bracelet. After a warrior killed his 14th enemy in combat, he was awarded this honor on the following conditions: the 14 kills had to be foreign adversaries killed in an authorized battle by the *Mwami*, and the deaths must occur on the field of war. The honor consisted of a bracelet formed from a leaf of iron and a leaf of brass. These were rolled together to form the twisted design of the torse. The torse bracelet was historically housed in a separate location and could not be placed on the ground as a sign of reverence. The torse bracelet could not be worn by a warrior concurrently with the necklace of the seventh, and the two items were required to be housed in different locations.

The Royal Order of the Crested Crane was created by H.M. King Mutara III as a continuation of the *Impotore* tradition. In the Kingdom of Rwanda, the award was granted with a feathered cap, which was a form of coronet. The Order was re-affirmed by H.M. King Kigeli V on the 3rd of January in 1998, and it is inspired by the national bird of Rwanda, the crested crane. The bird also serves as a supporter in His Majesty King Kigeli V’s heraldry.

There are two ranks in the Order. The higher rank is Grand Cross, and the lower rank is Commander. The Order may be granted as a hereditary award or as a non-hereditary honor, although it is generally issued as a hereditary honor.
Article 62
Style of the Chevalier/Dame

A recipient at the rank of Grand Cross is entitled to the style of “Son Excellency”. A recipient at the rank of Commander is entitled to the style of “L’honorable”.

Article 63
Title and Address

The title and honor of Chevalier is granted to all male members of the Order whether Grand Cross or Commander. Similarly, the title and honor of Dame is granted to all female members of the Order whether Grand Cross or Commander. This Order does not confer nobility upon the member. The post-nominal for Grand Cross recipients of the Order is “GCCCR”. This stands for [G]rand [C]ross of the [C]rested [C]rane of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for a Commander recipient of the Order is “CCCR”. This stands for [C]ommander of the [C]rested [C]rane of [R]wanda. Therefore, the full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCCCR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CCCR”. Similarly, the full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCCCR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Commander rank is “L’honorable Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, CCCR”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

Article 64
Regalia of Order

Recipients at the rank of Grand Cross are entitled to a breast star approximately 85 millimeters wide that is a circular star of curved silver (Argent) rays. On an eight-pointed gold (Or) star with fusils enameled green (Vert) with gold (Or) ball finials surmounting the silver (Argent) rays, stylized gold (Or) letters “K” (for Kigeli) are positioned in the angles of the eight-pointed star. In the center of the star is a roundel enameled white (Argent) charged with a crested crane proper facing sinister with two five-pointed gold (Or) stars on the left of the crane and one five-pointed gold (Or) star on the right. The roundel is edged
with a band of red (Gules) enamel inscribed “ORDER OF THE CRESTED CRANE” and “RWANDA” in gold (Or) lettering. The band is edged in gold (Or). Individuals at the Grand Cross rank are also entitled to a sash of the Order. The sash is 100 millimeters wide for males, while females have an option of the 100 millimeter wide sash or else a 50 millimeter wide version. The sash is worn over the right shoulder and it rests on the left hip. The sash of the Order is yellow (Or) with a broad blue (Azure) stripe near each edge. Each blue (Azure) stripe is flanked by two red (Gules) stripes. The sash has an insignia of the Order. This insignia is an eight-pointed gold (Or) star with fusils enamelled green (Vert) with gold (Or) ball finials. Stylized gold (Or) letters “K” (for Kigeli) are positioned in the angles of the eight-pointed star. In the center of the star is a roundel enamelled white (Argent) charged with a crested crane proper facing sinister with two five-pointed gold (Or) stars on the left of the crane and one five-pointed gold (Or) star on the right. The roundel is edged with a band of red (Gules) enamel inscribed “ORDER OF THE CRESTED CRANE” and “RWANDA” in gold (Or) lettering. The band is edged in gold (Or). The whole star is suspended by the Crown of Rwanda proper. The insignia is 80 millimeters wide from left to right.

Recipients at the rank of Commander are entitled to a breast star approximately 85 millimeters wide that is a circular star of curved silver (Argent) rays. On an eight-pointed gold (Or) star with fusils enamelled green (Vert) with gold (Or) ball finials surmounting the silver (Argent) rays, stylized gold (Or) letters “K” (for Kigeli) are positioned in the angles of the eight-pointed star. In the center of the star is a roundel enamelled white (Argent) charged with a crested crane proper facing sinister with two five-pointed gold (Or) stars on the left of the crane and one five-pointed gold (Or) star on the right. The roundel is edged with a band of red (Gules) enamel inscribed “ORDER OF THE CRESTED CRANE” and “RWANDA” in gold (Or) lettering. The band is edged in gold (Or).
Article 65

Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children

There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a member of the Order. Neither is the grantee, the lawful spouse, or children of the same noble. This Order does not bestow nobility.

Article 66

Passage of Title and Honor

The titles and honors of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. If a grant of the Order is hereditary, the Letters Patent and it alone will state it. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honor and title of Chevalier or Dame will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honor if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the noble title and honor) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honor in accordance with Article 67. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honor at any time. The rank within the Order
will be retained by transmission. Said another way, a member of the rank of Grand Cross who passes the title and honor to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Grand Cross. Similarly, a member of the rank of Commander who passes the title and honor to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Commander.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honor should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honor. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House of Ndahindurwa. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honor. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honor. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honor and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honor becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House of Ndahindurwa. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honor can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the noble title and honor all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honor, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Chevalier or Dame.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honor resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honors at the time of receiving the title, or a current Chevalier or Dame moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow
the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Chevalier or Dame all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honor. Put another way, the honorary title and honor are honorary in name only, but the title and honor still are substantive in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the noble title and honor being honorary will exist until the current Chevalier or Dame moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honors, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honors, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honor. Under no circumstances is the title and honor of a hereditary Chevalier or Dame considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda.

**Article 67**

**Renunciation of Title**

The title and honor may be renounced by the current Chevalier or Dame at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Chevalier or Dame. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Chevalier or Dame, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Chevalier or Dame will pass by the rules of Article 66 as if the renouncing Chevalier or Dame died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honor does not dissolve it; the title and honor merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 66 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 66, only an extinction of the title and honor by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

**Article 68**

**Armoirial Achievement**

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Chevalier or Dame will be an Or coronet.
Grantees and inheritors of the title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, the above coronet, a helm, a torse, mantling, and supporters or a combination of these. Recipients of the Order at any rank may, but are not required to, also display a crested crane on his or her escutcheon or crest. A crested crane may also be used as a heraldic supporter.

**Royal Order of the Lion of Rwanda**

The Order of the Lion (Intare in the native Kinyarwandan language) is the lowest Order in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. It is the inheritor of the Rwandan *Umudende* ceremony,
Kigeli V

the necklace of the seventh. This was a Rwandan custom where a warrior was honored for having killed his seventh enemy in combat. The rules were similar to the aforementioned Impotore.

The historical distinction of the Umudende granted the recipient a necklace of iron that held small bells in an even number: two, four, or six bells were displayed at chest height. The necklace was historically protected in a separate house and could not be placed on the ground. Pre-conversion to Catholicism, the bells were regarded as a religious talisman that warded off evils spirits. The recipient was also awarded a lion’s pelt, and the investiture ceremony literally clothed the recipient in the pelt. This ritual demonstrated that the bravery of the grantee was akin to the lion, the king of beasts. The recipient was also expected to have a superior social status within the kingdom that would now be described as a noble class, and an annual tribute to the King was required with the regular sacrifice of a young bull. However, a decision of H.M. Kigeli Kigeli IV Rwabugili (a predecessor to the current King) removed some of the earlier obligations of Umudende recipients to allow the honor to be accessible to heroes of modest fortune. Under precise rules regarding the conquest or liberation of other kingdoms, a King could also be decorated in this way. Historical recipients include King Ruganzu II Ndoli (1510 – 1543 A.D.), King Mutara I Semugeshi (1543 – 1576), King Kigeli II Nyamuheshera (1576 – 1609), King Kigeli III Ndabrasa (1708 – 1741), King Kigeli IV Rwabugili (1853 – 1895), and King Yuhi V (IV) Musinga (1896 – 1931). King Yuhi V (IV) removed the killing requirements for the honor after Catholic missionaries and German colonists began their work, and this honor was granted to some of them.

The spirit of the Umudende ceremony was retained by the reverence granted to recipients of the Order of the Lion. The Order was founded in 1946 by King Mutara III Rudahigwa, the first Catholic King of Rwanda. It was created as a Royal State Order of the Kingdom of Rwanda, registered with the Vatican State in 1947 (through the Foreign Missions Office in Paris), and it has been awarded to such distinguished international figures as H.H. Pope Pius XII (1950), H.I.M. Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia (1957), H.M. King Baudouin of Belgium (1955), and H.G. Don Francisco Borbon y Escasany, 5th Duke of Seville and Grandee of Spain (2005), among others. The design for the insignia of the Order dates to 1955 when it was drafted by artisan company Arthus-Bertrand. The grant to H.H. Pope Pius XII also contained the traditional lion’s pelt, and His Holiness received the first Letters Patent of the Order. Shortly before, H.H. Pope Pius XII had granted King Mutara
III and future Catholic Rwandan kings the title of “Most Christian King of the Rwandans”, which is similar to a previous style used for the historic kings of France. The lion also serves as a supporter in His Majesty King Kigeli V’s heraldry. Its creation as a Royal State Order makes it unique from the other Rwandan honor since they were created as royal House dynastic honors. The Republic of Rwanda did not retain the Order of the Lion, and H.M. King Kigeli V continues to grant the Order in his right as a de jure head of state.

There are five ranks in the Order. The highest rank is Grand Cross, which is followed by the Grand Officer rank. The third-highest rank is Knight Commander or Dame Commander, which is followed by the Officer rank. The lowest rank is the Knight or Dame rank. The Order may be granted as a hereditary award or as a non-hereditary honor.

**Article 69**

**Style of the Chevalier/Dame**

A recipient at the rank of Grand Cross is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”. A recipient at the rank of Grand Officer is entitled to the style of “L’honorable”. No other ranks in the Order are entitled to a style.

**Article 70**

**Title and Address**

The title and honor of Chevalier is granted to all male members of the Order regardless of rank. Similarly, the title and honor of Dame is granted to all female members of the Order regardless of rank. This Order does not confer nobility upon the member. The post-nominal for Grand Cross recipients of the Order is “GCLR”. This stands for [G]rand [C]ross of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for a Grand Officer recipient of the Order is “GOLR”. This stands for [G]rand [O]fficer of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for male Commander recipients of the Order is “KCLR”. This stands for [K]night [C]ommander of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for female Commander recipients of the Order is “DCLR”. This stands for [D]ame [C]ommander of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for an Officer recipient of the Order is “OLR”. This stands for [O]fficer of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for male Knight recipients of the Order is “KLR”. This stands for [K]night of the [L]ion of [R]wanda. The post-nominal for female Dame recipients is “DLR”. This stands for [D]ame of the [L]ion of...
[R]wanda. Therefore, the full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCLR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Grand Officer rank is “L’honorable Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GOLR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Knight Commander rank is “Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, KCLR”. The full name, title, and style of a male holder of the Officer rank is “Chevalier First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, OLR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCLR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Officer rank is “L’honorable Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GOLR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Dame Commander rank is “Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, DCLR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Officer rank is “Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, OLR”. Similarly, the full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Cross rank is “Son Excellence Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GCLR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Grand Officer rank is “L’honorable Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, GOLR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Dame Commander rank is “Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, DCLR”. The full name, title, and style of a female holder of the Officer rank is “Dame First Name Middle Name Second Middle Name [if any] Surname, OLR”. If the Letters Patent for a particular recipient contains a different style, title, and address than the above, the Letters Patent will triumph only for that particular recipient.

**Article 71**

**Regalia of Order**

Recipients at the rank of Grand Cross are entitled to a breast star 85 millimeters wide that is a circular star of wavy gold (Or) rays. In the center of the star is a red enamel cartouche charged with a gold (Or) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of gold (Or). Individuals at the rank of Grand Cross rank are also entitled to a sash of the Order. The sash of the Order is red (Gules) and edged with purple (Purpure). The sash is 100 millimeters wide for males, while females have an option of the 100 millimeter wide sash or else a 50 millimeter wide version. The sash is worn over the right shoulder and it rests on the left hip. The sash has an insignia. The insignia is 65 millimeters wide from left to right, and it is a gold (Or) cross. The arms of the cross are conjoined wavy gold (Or) rays. Three silver (Argent) rays are positioned in the principal angles. In the center of the insignia is a red enamel cartouche charged with a
Recipients at the rank of Grand Officer are entitled to a breast star 85 millimeters wide that is a circular star of wavy silver (Argent) rays. In the center of the star is a red (Gules) enamel cartouche charged with a silver (Argent) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of silver (Argent). Individuals at the rank of Grand Officer are also entitled to a neck riband of the Order. The neck riband for the Grand Officer is 50 millimeters wide and is red (Gules) and edged with purple (Purpure). Suspended from the riband is the insignia of the Order. The insignia is 65 millimeters wide from left to right, and it is a silver (Argent) cross. The arms of the cross are conjoined wavy silver (Argent) rays. Three silver (Argent) rays are positioned in the principal angles. In the center of the insignia is a red (Gules) enamel cartouche charged with a silver (Argent) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of silver (Argent). The insignia is surmounted by a silver (Argent) Crown of Rwanda.

Recipients at the rank of Knight Commander or Dame Commander are entitled to a neck riband of the Order. The neck riband for the Commander is 50 millimeters wide and is red (Gules) and edged with purple (Purpure). Suspended from the riband is the insignia of the Order. The insignia is 65 millimeters wide from left to right, and it is a silver (Argent) cross. The arms of the cross are conjoined wavy silver (Argent) rays. Three silver (Argent) rays are positioned in the principal angles. In the center of the insignia is a red (Gules) enamel cartouche charged with a silver (Argent) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of silver (Argent). The insignia is surmounted by a silver (Argent) Crown of Rwanda.

Recipients at the rank of Officer are entitled to a breast ribbon. The ribbon is 40 millimeters from left to right, and it is red (Gules) edged in purple (Purpure). A red (Gules) and purple (Purpure) rosette is on the ribbon. Suspended from the ribbon is an insignia. The insignia is approximately 45 millimeters from left to right, and it is a gold (Or) cross. The arms of the cross are conjoined wavy gold (Or) rays. Three silver (Argent) rays are positioned in the principal angles. In the center of the insignia is a red (Gules) enamel cartouche charged with a gold (Or) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of gold (Or). The insignia is surmounted by a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda.
Kigeli V

(Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of gold (Or). The insignia is surmounted by a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda.

Recipients at the rank of Knight or Dame are entitled to a breast ribbon. The ribbon is 40 millimeters wide from left to right, and it is red (Gules) edged in purple (Purpure). Suspended from the ribbon is an insignia. The insignia is 45 millimeters wide from left to right, and it is a gold (Or) cross. The arms of the cross are conjoined wavy gold (Or) rays. Three silver (Argent) rays are positioned in the principal angles. In the center of the insignia is a red (Gules) enamel cartouche charged with a gold (Or) lion rampant guardant with the body facing left (Dexter). The cartouche is edged with two bands of gold (Or). The insignia is surmounted by a gold (Or) Crown of Rwanda.

Article 72

**Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children**

There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a member of the Order. Neither is the grantee, the lawful spouse, or children of the same noble. This Order does not bestow nobility.

Article 73

**Passage of Title and Honor**

The titles and honors of the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. If a grant of the Order is hereditary, the Letters Patent and it alone will state it. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honor and title of Chevalier or
Dame will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honor if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the noble title and honor) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honor in accordance with Article 74. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honor at any time. The rank within the Order will be retained by transmission. Said another way, a member of the rank of Grand Cross who passes the title and honor to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Grand Cross. Similarly, a member of the rank of Commander who passes the title and honor to an heir will have the heir also be at the rank of Commander.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honor should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honor. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House of Ndahindurwa. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honor. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honor. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honor and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honor becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House of Ndahindurwa. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honor can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the noble title and honor all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honor, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note,
for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Chevalier or Dame.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honor resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honors at the time of receiving the title, or a current Chevalier or Dame moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Chevalier or Dame all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honor. Put another way, the honorary title and honor are honorary in name only, but the title and honor still are substantive in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the noble title and honor being honorary will exist until the current Chevalier or Dame moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honors, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honors, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honor. Under no circumstances is the title and honor of a hereditary Chevalier or Dame considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda.

Article 74
Renunciation of Title

The title and honor may be renounced by the current Chevalier or Dame at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Chevalier or Dame. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Chevalier or Dame, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Chevalier or Dame will pass by the rules of Article 73 as if the renouncing Chevalier or Dame died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honor does not dissolve it; the title and honor merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 73 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 73, only an extinction of the title and honor by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the
specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

**Article 75**

**Armoirial Achievement**

Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Chevalier or Dame will be an Or coronet surmounted by eight balls of pearl. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Chevalier or Dame coronet will be:

Grantees and inheritors of the title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, the above coronet, a helm, a torse, mantling, and supporters or a combination of these. Recipients of the Order at any rank may, but are not
required to, also display a lion on his or her escutcheon or crest. A lion may also be used as a heraldic supporter.

**Royal Guard**

The Royal Guard is a historical continuation of a ceremonial guard that provides protection and service to H.M. the Mwami. Within the modern context of a title and honor, a grantee into the Royal Guard receives a hereditary knighthood or dameship, but the recipient does not belong to an Order. The Royal Guard is junior to all the official Orders of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda.

**Article 76**

**Style of the Chevalier/Dame**

A member of the Royal Guard is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”.

**Article 77**

**Title and Address**

The title and honor of Chevalier is granted to all male members of the Royal Guard. Similarly, the title and honor of Dame is granted to all female members of the Royal Guard. This honor does not confer nobility upon the member. There is no post-nominal that signifies membership in the Royal Guard, but a member may officially describe himself/herself as a “Member of the Royal Guard of H.M. the Mwami of Rwanda”.

**Article 78**

**Regalia of Order**

There is no regalia associated with membership in the Royal Guard.

**Article 79**

**Courtesy Spousal Title and Courtesy Titles for Children**

There is no courtesy title for the lawful spouse or children of a member of the Royal Guard. Neither is the grantee, the lawful spouse, or children of the same noble. Membership in the Royal Guard does not bestow nobility.
Article 80

Passage of Title and Honor

The titles and honors of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda may only pass to another person in strict accordance with this document. They cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise altered. Membership in the Royal Guard is hereditary. Unless the Letters Patent for a particular grantee specifically stipulates another method of transmission, the default method of transmission is bloodline absolute primogeniture springing solely from the original grantee. That is, the honor and title of Chevalier or Dame will only pass from a current substantive title-holder to the eldest child of the title-holder (or the next in line to the title and honor if there are no living descendants of the current title-holder but there are living collateral descendants elsewhere who spring from the original grantee of the noble title and honor) upon the death of the current title-holder, unless the current title-holder renounces the honor in accordance with Article 81. There may only be one inheritor of the title and honor at any time.

Written notice of each transfer of the title and honor should be made to the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House so that good record-keeping is maintained and registration occurs of the new holder of the title and honor. A small registration fee might be necessary to record this transfer. However, title passage will occur without the need for official blessing by a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House of Ndahindurwa. For example, if a title holder dies, his heir according to either the individualized Letters Patent or this document immediately becomes the next holder of the title and honor. This ensures the smooth and immediate transmission of the title and honor. But notification to the Royal House is required after transmission so that proper record keeping can be maintained. If more than 100 years passes after a legitimate transfer of a title and honor and the Royal Rwandan House has not received notification and recorded the transmission, the title and honor becomes extinct and reverts back to the Royal Rwandan House of Ndahindurwa. Only if the Head of the Royal Rwandan House then regrants the title and honor can it be restored after 100 years of lack of registration after it legitimately transfers.

In the event that the descendant lines of the original grantee of the noble title and honor all fail – that is, that each line eventually has no bloodline heirs left – the title will become extinct, as all possible heirs have died out. Similarly, the title becomes dormant if no person has claimed the title or no claim has been satisfactorily proven. A period of 100 years of dormancy results in the dissolution of the title with no restoration possible except
for an explicit new grant from the Head of the Rwandan Royal House. In the event of a dispute regarding who is the true inheritor of the title and honor, the current Head of the Rwandan Royal House has ultimate jurisdiction as to the rightful holder of the title. Note, for purposes of this document, the word bloodline heir means all issue (descendants), not just the immediate children of the original Chevalier or Dame.

In the event that an inheritor of the title and honor resides in a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that prohibits the use of titles and honors at the time of receiving the title, or a current Chevalier or Dame moves into such a domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence, the title becomes honorary solely to allow the grantee to not violate the law in the place of residence. However, this honorary state exists and accords the Chevalier or Dame all rights accorded a non-honorary substantive title and honor. Put another way, the honorary title and honor are honorary in name only, but the title and honor still are substantive in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda. This state of the noble title and honor being honorary will exist until the current Chevalier or Dame moves into another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence that recognizes titles and honors, the domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence changes its stance on titles and honors, or a new inheritor, residing in another domicile/jurisdiction/state/country of residence has a claim to the title through the previous title-holder dying or renouncing the honor. Under no circumstances is the title and honor of a hereditary Chevalier or Dame considered extinct until all possible heirs to it have died out. A foreign government cannot extinguish this title and honor as the title falls under the legal jurisdiction and protection of the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda.

**Article 81**

**Renunciation of Title**

The title and honor may be renounced by the current Chevalier or Dame at any time and for any cause. The renunciation must be in writing and witnessed by two individuals not related to the current Chevalier or Dame. Both witnesses should sign and date the renunciation along with the renouncing Chevalier or Dame, and the document should be delivered to the current Head of the Royal House of Ndahindurwa of Rwanda. Upon signing, the title and honor of Chevalier or Dame will pass by the rules of Article 80 as if the renouncing Chevalier or Dame died. Thus, a renunciation of the title and honor does not dissolve it; the title and honor merely passes to the next lawful recipient under Article 80 or the Letters Patent of the original grantee. Per Article 80, only an extinction of the
title and honor by the death or renunciation of all bloodline descendants springing from the original grantee, or all eligible recipients outlined in a specific Letters Patent if the specific Letters Patent outlines a different mode of title transmission, can effectively end its existence.

Article 82
Armorial Achievement
Heraldry is not a significant part of the historic cultural tradition of Rwanda, but there are some precedents. For example, His Majesty King Kigeli V has a heraldic achievement with a Bantu-style shield. The coronet for a Chevalier or Dame will be an Or coronet surmounted by eight balls of pearl. The band of the coronet will display white and blue beading similar to the Crown of Rwanda. The heraldic representation for the Chevalier or Dame coronet will be:
Grantees and inheritors of the title and honor may display their heraldry with a Bantu-style shield or else a heater-style shield, the above coronet, a helm, a torse, mantling, and supporters or a combination of these. Members of the Royal Guard may, but are not required to, display a gold (Or) spear on his or her escutcheon or crest. This golden spear reflects the weapon of choice for historic guards of H.M. the Mwami.

**Article 83**

**Future Changes**

As an anointed King, only another future anointed King of Rwanda who rules or reigns may unilaterally change this document and its application in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda. However, if a future Head of the Rwandan Royal House who is not an anointed King wishes to change this document, he must have written consensus to do so by a majority of royal dynasts within the House of Ndahindurwa. This appropriately recognizes the authority of an anointed King within the House over a royal Head who is not anointed.

**Closure**

Our Royal Seal and Signature affixed to these letters patent on the 21st of April of the year 2016 at Oakton, Virginia, United States of America.

Signature altered for identity protection

Kigeli V

Signature altered for identity protection

Boniface Benzinge, Chancellor
Appendix and Commentary

Titles of Nobility

Titles of nobility have been granted to non-Rwandans in the Kingdom of Rwanda historically. Evidence may be seen from The Guardian, a publication of the diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, United States of America. The below was published on July 4, 1947, on page 5.
African King
Gets Papal Honor
From Vatican

Kabgayi, Ruanda, Africa, 00—King Charles Leo Peter Mutara
Rudahigwa of Ruanda, on whom
the honor of Grand Officer of the
Order of St. Gregory the Great
had been conferred, at the express
will of the Holy Father received
the insignia of his honor, here
from the hands of Archbishop
John Delpepiane, Apostolic Dele-
gate to the Belgian Congo.

Some 50 native chiefs, the
Queen, the Queen Mother and the
neighboring King of Urundi were
among the 20,000 who attended the
ceremony in the city stadium.
The presence of King Mambutsa
of Urundi was of particular inter-
est because he is not a Catholic.
However, he has shown himself
most friendly to the Catholic mis-
sionaries, encouraged their work
in his region and recently declar-
ed that he would soon enter the
Church.

King Charles Leo Peter Mutara
Rudahigwa expressed his grati-
tude to the Holy Father for the
honor conferred on him and de-
clared that he will continue his
efforts to raise the spiritual level
of his people in the light of
Christian civilization. The King
proclaimed Archbishop Delpepiane
a citizen of Ruanda and granted
him a title of nobility in the Bas-
india dynasty.

Ruanda-Urundi, which has a
population of 5,000,000, is a form-
er German possession entrusted to
the care of Belgium after World
War I.

Drive To Rebuild
School Opens

Elmira, N.Y. 00—A $400,000
building program for St. Anthony's
Church and School, almost com-
pletely destroyed by fire last Feb-
bruary, is being planned here. A
fund of $164,000 is already estab-
lished, the result of an oversub-
scribed campaign launched im-
mediately after the fire by St. An-
thony's parishioners and sympa-
thetic Elmians.
The above picture was kindly provided by the International Academy for Genealogical and Heraldic Studies.

**Duc or Duchesse**

While these titles have had different characteristics in the past, should they be granted in the future, the titles will have the above characteristics.

**Article 4**

If a Duchesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title. This custom has been followed by many European countries for many generations. If the lawful spouse of a Duchesse was accorded a courtesy title, it would be confusing to others as to which spouse was the actual title holder and which one held just the courtesy title when both are announced at the same time. This tradition removes that confusion.

In Belgium, immediate children of a noble are called in French Écuyers, which roughly translates as “Young Lords”, although it is sometimes translated into English as a style of “The Honourable”. However, to distinguish children in the *de jure* Kingdom of Rwanda, the courtesy style for children of the Duc/Duchesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

**Article 11**

If a Marquise is a substantive title holder in her own right, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title. This custom has been followed by many European countries for many generations. If the lawful spouse of a Marquise was accorded a courtesy title, it would be confusing to others as to which spouse was the actual title holder and which one held just the courtesy title when both are announced at the same time. This tradition removes that confusion.
In Belgium, immediate children of a noble are called in French Écuyers, which roughly translates as “Young Lords”, although it is sometimes translated into English as a style of “The Honourable”. However, to distinguish children in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda, the courtesy style for children of the Marquis/Marquise will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Article 18
If a Comtesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title. This custom has been followed by many European countries for many generations. If the lawful spouse of a Comtesse was accorded a courtesy title, it would be confusing to others as to which spouse was the actual title holder and which one held just the courtesy title when both are announced at the same time. This tradition removes that confusion.

In Belgium, immediate children of a noble are called in French Écuyers, which roughly translates as “Young Lords”, although it is sometimes translated into English as a style of “The Honourable”. However, to distinguish children in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda, the courtesy style for children of the Comte/Comtesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

Article 25
If the Vicomtesse is a substantive title holder in her own right, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title. This custom has been followed by many European countries for many generations. If the lawful spouse of a Vicomtesse was accorded a courtesy title, it would be confusing to others as to which spouse was the actual title holder and which one held just the courtesy title when both are announced at the same time. This tradition removes that confusion.
In Belgium, immediate children of a noble are called in French Écuyers, which roughly translates as “Young Lords”, although it is sometimes translated into English as a style of “The Honourable”. However, to distinguish children in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda, the courtesy style for children of the Vicomte/Vicomtesse will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.

**Article 32**

If the Baronne is a substantive title holder in her own right, the lawful spouse receives no courtesy title. This custom has been followed by many European countries for many generations. If the lawful spouse of a Baronne was accorded a courtesy title, it would be confusing to others as to which spouse was the actual title holder and which one held just the courtesy title when both are announced at the same time. This tradition removes that confusion.

In Belgium, immediate children of a noble are called in French Écuyers, which roughly translates as “Young Lords”, although it is sometimes translated into English as a style of “The Honourable”. However, to distinguish children in the de jure Kingdom of Rwanda, the courtesy style for children of the Baron/Baronne will be “Le Noble” as a prefix to the name for the entirety of the lives of these children. In Kinyarwanda, this is “Imfura”.
Orders of the Royal House

Royal Order of the Crown of Rwanda
The distinction given a grantee of the Order to be treated as a member of the family of the reigning king is not unlike the noble rank of duke in European traditions.

The physical precedent for the Order dates from a state visit between H.M. King Mutara III and H.M. King Baudouin of the Belgians in 1950. King Mutara III had a sculptor make a weaver of the Crown of Rwanda by hand to give King Baudouin during the visit. This gift was a physical precedent for the Order, and it was also a prelude to its official introduction years later.

An important recipient of the Order of the Crown at the rank of Grand Collar was H.R.H. Dom Duarte Pio, Duke of Braganza, who is the heir to the throne of Portugal.

Royal Order of the Lion of Rwanda
In the Prester John Institute Royal and Imperial Council of Nobility Anuarium Volume II 2006 – 2009 Book B, published in 2009, it lists that Grand Cross members receive personal nobility, but it is not hereditary. This information is largely incorrect on this point. While the Order of the Lion can and has been granted both as hereditary and non-hereditary award, it does not grant nobility. If a historical case exists, although none is currently known, where a grantee was given nobility based on a grant of the Order of the Lion alone, the nobility is specific to that grantee alone.

A picture from a papal meeting with H.H. Pope Pius XII and H.M. King Mutara III of Rwanda, taken from The Guardian, a publication of the diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, United States from November 18, 1955, may be seen below:
King Charles Mutara Rudahigwam, sovereign of Ruanda Urundi, in the Belgian Congo, (at left) was received in private audience with his consort, Queen Rosalia, by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. "It was the most moving day in our lives," King Charles commented afterwards. The 44-year old king is almost seven feet tall, belonging to a race of tall people known as Vatussi. In Ruanda, however, there are also Bantu and pygmy tribes. Photo shows left to right, King Charles, The Pope, Queen Rosalia, the King's daughter, and a Belgian Embassy chaplain in the Holy See. (NC Photos)
The above picture was kindly provided by the International Academy for Genealogical and Heraldic Studies.

Although the below is NOT a picture of the Umudende Necklace of the Seventh, these show generally what the bells looked like on the Necklace of the Seventh.

Article 69

Style of the Chevalier/Dame

In the Prester John Institute Royal and Imperial Council of Nobility Anuarium Volume II 2006 – 2009 Book B, published in 2009, it lists that Grand Cross recipients are only entitled to the style of “L’honorable” and no other rank is entitled to a style. However, this is in contradiction to grants made from His Majesty prior to 2009. Thus, the information from the Prester John Institute book is slightly in error. For ease of clarification, a recipient at the rank of Grand Cross is entitled to the style of “Son Excellence”. A recipient at the rank of Grand Officer is entitled to the style of “L’honorable”. No other ranks in the Order are entitled to a style.

http://music.africamuseum.be/instruments/pic/rwanda/umudende-detail.jpg