

Kenyan lawyer and governance expert Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba on Wednesday praised Rwanda's recovery from the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, describing it as a model for Africa and a blueprint for unity across the continent.

Speaking at a symposium held in Nairobi on April 22, Lumumba commended Rwanda for what he called a remarkable transformation after one of the darkest chapters in its history. He said the country has rebuilt itself with a clear vision and renewed hope.

The event, organized by the Rwandan Embassy in Kenya in partnership with several institutions, focused on the history of the genocide and Rwanda's journey of recovery. It was part of activities marking the 32nd anniversary of the 1994 killings, in which more than 1 million people, mainly Tutsi, were killed.

Held under the theme "From Ashes to Ambition: Rwanda's Journey of Renewal and the Quest for a United Africa," the symposium aimed to reflect on Rwanda's rebuilding process and share lessons with other African nations.

Lumumba said Rwanda stands out as an example of how a country can rebuild after devastation, pointing to progress across multiple sectors. He credited the country's leadership, particularly President Paul Kagame, for prioritizing unity and development.

"Visionary leadership that places unity and development at the center has enabled Rwanda to achieve tangible results in a relatively short time," Lumumba said.

He cited the capital, Kigali, as a symbol of that progress, highlighting its cleanliness, modern infrastructure and advances in technology.

Lumumba also condemned efforts to deny or distort the history of the genocide, saying those who attempt to minimize it "will never overcome the truth." He stressed that remembrance and truth-telling are essential to building a better future and preventing similar atrocities.

He called for resilience and unity across Africa, saying the continent has the capacity to overcome its challenges. Unity grounded in shared values and truth, he said, is key to preventing future crimes against humanity.

The symposium also highlighted the importance of learning from history and supporting efforts toward justice, reconciliation and sustainable development.