Rwandan Muslim leaders have urged Muslims devotees to distance themselves from actions that tarnish the image of Muslims and Islam.

Addressing thousands who turned up at Pelé Stadium for the annual prayers of Eid Al-Adha this Wednesday, the Mufti of Rwanda, Sheikh Salim Hitimana urged all Muslim devotees to keep a distance from actions that can cause disharmony, hatred and division.

Sheikh Hitmana said that in these times, the world loses freedom and security, especially Islam. This is because there are those who we have heard calling themselves, saying that they are doing things in the interests of Islam or in the place of Muslims. Here I am talking about “extremists.”

According to Mufti Hitimana, this is often misleading and distorts the image of Islam and Muslims.

Around the world, Muslims sacrifice livestock during Eid al-Adha, one of the two Islamic festivals, or “Eid”, which occurs every year.

Eid al-Adha takes place between the 10th and 12th of the Islamic month of Dhul Hijjah, which is the last month of the lunar calendar.

Eid al-Adha marks the completion of the Hajj pilgrimage and is a time of celebration for Muslims.

Meanwhile, 59 Muslim pilgrims from Rwanda failed to travel to Mecca for Hajj despite paying Rwf 7 million around US$6,300.

The Rwanda Muslim Community (RMC) planned to send 85 people, but only 28 travelled. There have been reports of two of these arriving in Dubai with fake visas.