



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 13 October 2003

International Bureau Circular

354

Rwanda – Illegal postage stamp issues

Dear Sir/Madam

The postal administration of **RWANDA** asks me to inform you of the following:

"This is to apprise Universal Postal Union member countries and the World Association for the Development of Philately of the piracy that is again being perpetrated against Rwanda Post through the issue and sale of illegal postage stamps bearing the word 'Rwanda'.

"Unidentified, unscrupulous individuals are seeking to discredit our country by circulating postage stamps which they claim have been issued by Rwanda.

"This situation is even more reprehensible since it reflects badly on Rwanda's moral and economic integrity.

"As the only body authorized to issue and disseminate postage stamps under Rwandan law, the National Post Office deplors this usurpation of its rights and condemns these shameful actions which undermine the reputation and tarnish the image of Rwandan philatelic products.

"We therefore ask the postal administrations of Union member countries and all their partners to support the efforts being made by the Rwandan postal administration to tackle this phenomenon which has a disastrous effect on our sector of activity.

/ "A non-exhaustive list of illegal postage stamps is annexed.

"We would like to take this opportunity to point out that philatelists wishing to receive information on Rwandan philatelic products should contact the National Post Office at the following address:

National Post Office

P.O. Box 4

KIGALI

RWANDA

Fax: (250) 514091

Tel: (250) 82703

(250) 516075

E-mail: iposita@rwanda1.com

The Rwandan Post does not have a philatelic representative outside its territory."

Yours faithfully,

K J S McKEOWN
Director of Markets

*Annex 1***Illegal postage stamp issues produced in the name of Rwanda**

19 October 2003: Beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Souvenir sheet of 2 postage stamps featuring an image of Pope Jean-Paul II on the stamp on the left, an image of Mother Teresa of Calcutta on the stamp on the right, and the effigy of Mother Teresa of Calcutta between the two stamps.

The values shown are 500 F.

The first day of issue is shown as 01.04.2003.

Fauna

One miniature sheet of 1 stamp featuring a snake.

The value shown is 500 F.

The first day of issue is shown as 01.04.2003.

The species name is shown on the stamp.

The sheet features the words "THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS" and a matching logo.

A souvenir sheet of 6 stamps featuring snakes.

The name of each species is featured on each stamp.

The first day of issue is shown as 01.04.2003.

The values shown are 100 F for the stamps on the left and 200 F for the stamps on the right.

The sheet features the words "THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS Protect Mother Earth".