

*Visit to the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation  
Address by HSH the Prince*

Dear Tegla Loroupe,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

First of all I would like to say how very pleased I am to be here, for this wonderful event, for these acts of brotherhood and for these excellent races.

The real magic of sport lies in the fact that it produces the same emotions every time, regardless of what competition or what setting it is. From these high Kenyan plateaux, where racing could well have originated, to the modern stadiums of America and Europe, each event allows us to experience the same uncertainty, the same urge to excel oneself, the same fulfilment.

There is one thing however that today's races alone have provided: hope for a better world. Hope that is fuelled by the daily efforts of women and men, by their capacity to push themselves to the limit and to open up to others.

Such a hope is also a challenge: to prove that humanity is not condemned to conflict and violence, that hatred can give way to respect, that individuals can grow richer from confrontation. Provided that we all make personal efforts, channel our energy, and that we all have the opportunity to express ourselves. And above all that we have faith in women.

I know that you will meet this challenge, dear Tegla Loroupe, like all the others you have set yourself. Throughout your admirable career, you have set an example of unflinching determination, capable of overcoming any obstacle, not only in sport, naturally, but also politically, materially and morally. This is the same battle you are continuing today, in other fields, with other means. Your greatest victories are now the races of others: is there any finer symbol of trust in humanity?

This is why I wanted to come to commend your courage and the action of your Foundation. Being a lover of sport and a peace activist, I was eager to pay tribute to your admirable initiative, as I actively support the "Peace and sport" project of Monegasque origin, the goals of which in Africa and elsewhere, are driven by the same spirit as yours.

In this region, so often afflicted, you embody the only possible future: that of reconciliation in a brotherly environment.

Thank you.