

RWANDA HIGH COMMISSION IN KENYA

1ST EDITION NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2021

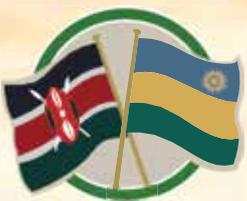
FEATURING

**RWANDA MARKS 27 YEARS OF
LIBERATION #KWIBOHORA27**

**EAC CHAIRMANSHIP HANDED
OVER TO KENYA FROM RWANDA**

BAL PREMIERES IN RWANDA

VISIT & INVEST IN RWANDA





HIGH COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Rwanda High Commission to Kenya's, first newsletter. This inaugural issue will cover key activity engagements with different stakeholders in Rwanda as well as events held by the High Commission in Kenya.

Rwanda and Kenya enjoy excellent cooperation and longstanding historical ties. These relations continue to grow from strength to strength and have transformed into a multifaceted and mutually beneficial partnership. Kenya has been and will continue to be a strong ally and strategic partner of Rwanda.

In the framework of the East African Community, Rwanda and Kenya cooperate closely in the pillars of regional integration. These include: The Customs Union Protocol, Common Market, Monetary Union & Political Federation.

The Rwanda High Commission's main objective is to further enhance and strengthen the existing bilateral relations between our two nations as well as continue to contribute to deepening and widening of the EAC integration process.

In this first edition, we will highlight some of the key events that have occurred in the first half of 2021. As we continue the fight against COVID 19, we will outline some of the innovative work Rwanda has done in the continued fight against this pandemic.

It is our hope that you will find this Newsletter useful and informative as we at the High Commission are committed and focused to fulfilling our mandate as well as enhancing service delivery in our mission.

I urge you all to continue to follow the health advisories of the WHO and CDC Africa. Please do continue to stay safe.

Murakoze,
High Commissioner Dr. Richard Masozera



H.E Paul Kagame – President of the Republic of Rwanda

2021 marks 27 years of Rwanda's liberation journey. During the annual #Kwibohora remarks, President Paul Kagame opened his statement reminding Rwandans that, liberation was achieved through working together. The Liberation led to the rebirth of Rwanda as a nation built on strong values of good governance, patriotism, unity, dignity, and accountability, which have come to define Rwanda's successful journey from the destruction of 1994.

While Rwanda's classification as "Africa's Unicorn Country" may hold true for some, the reality is that Rwanda continues to sustain her gains through the ongoing value addition spearheaded by the liberation struggle. Rwanda has harnessed its potential across multiple sectors. "Our work for Rwanda's economic and social transformation must continue & accelerate" President Kagame stated.

Even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact and stress socio-economic development, President Kagame urged all Rwandans to collaborate and be responsive in the containment measures of COVID 19. Rwanda's goal of self-reliance is being applied to the continued fight against COVID 19 with efforts being put into place to build capabilities of vaccine manufacturing.

As Rwandans the World over celebrate 27 years of liberation, we owe an eternal debt of gratitude to His Excellency President Paul Kagame for his visionary leadership that led to the defeat of the forces of evil at a time when the international community had turned a blind eye on the genocide against the Tutsis that had unfolded before its eyes. The Liberation Day is a strong reminder that the sacrifices made gave us a new lease of life, and we do not have the luxury of taking the current peace and security for granted.

RWANDANS IN KENYA CELEBRATE 27 YEARS OF LIBERATION



The Rwandan High Commission in Kenya celebrated [#Kwibohora27](#) - on July 16th. Owing to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, a small gathering of invited guests attended a ceremony at the High Commission that was also broadcast live on zoom.

Amb. Galma, M. Boru, the Director General Bilateral and Political Affairs in The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kenya graced the occasion virtually as the Chief Guest.

The High Commissioner of Rwanda to Kenya's, remarks began by welcoming the virtual Chief Guest, Ambassador Galma Boru, H.E Beyene Russom the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, & the rest of the members of the Diplomatic Corps that joined virtually as well as Rwandans in Kenya that logged on from Nakuru, Mombasa, Eldoret and Kisumu.

The High Commissioner highlighted the key milestones of the liberation journey. He paid tribute to the bravery of the RPF/A.

“The RPF/RPA ended years of persecution and massacres by a tyrannical regime that had unleashed terror on its citizens, promoted division along ethnic lines and kept the population ignorant and in perpetual poverty.” he said.

High Commissioner Masozera spoke on the necessity of continuity of the liberation spirit and the collaborative effort that Rwandans have continued in this journey.



LIBERATION 27 MINI CONFERENCE

On July 24th the High Commission in Kenya, hosted a #Kwibohora27 Ikiganiro (mini conference). Once again, the event was held both virtually as well as a small COVID compliant gathering at the High Commission in Kenya. The session was moderated by Mr. Aloys Batsinduka and Ms. Yvonne Kabagire both members of the Rwandan community in Kenya.

The virtual guest speaker, Dr Alphonse Muleefu- Acting Principal, School of Social Sciences, University of Rwanda introduced this year's Ikiganiro Liberation27 theme, titled: "Rwanda's liberation journey, values that informed the liberation & how they can remain relevant to Rwanda's journey of self-reliance". Dr Alphonse remarks were received by 70 members of the Rwandans in the Kenyan diaspora who logged on to the conversations from different parts of the Country and beyond.

He commenced by giving a brief history of the liberation struggle,

before diving into an invigorating conversation around, the values that informed the liberation struggle, the journey to self-reliance, the brave sacrifice of the RPA in stopping the Genocide against the Tutsi, stressing on the aspect of strong leadership and accountability.

In line with the theme, Dr Muleefu called on Rwandans in the diaspora and more so the youth in continuing this liberation spirit that our leadership had nurtured and set as a benchmark.

The High Commissioner closed the mini conference by reiterating Dr Muleefu's keen points and urging the need to keep liberation memories alive. He indicated that the youth should understand that where Rwanda is today; a country where every citizen regardless of their background, religion or region of origin all, have equal rights and this did not come by accident but was a result of those who paid a huge price to liberate the Country



RWANDA PROFESSIONAL NETWORK LAUNCHED IN KENYA

Rwandan Professionals Network in Kenya (RPN-K) was officially launched on Saturday the 24th of July. RPN-K's main objective is to capitalize on skills and expertise of members to empower the Rwandan Diaspora in Kenya, with particular focus on Rwandan youth. RPN-K together with Rwandan Diaspora in Kenya will create awareness of national developmental priorities; promoting cooperation and vibrant interactions between Rwandan Community members in Kenya. The Network will also work towards the advancement of the Rwandan culture, reconciliation in the community and unity by advocating against any ideology of divisionism among Rwandans as well as encourage and promote collective efforts in the rebuilding of Rwanda.

The elected members of the Rwandan Professionals Network in Kenya committed themselves to contribute to the mandate set by the Rwandan leadership.



RWANDA HANDS OVER THE EAC CHAIRMANSHIP TO KENYA



President Paul Kagame of Rwanda hosted the 21st Ordinary EAC Summit virtually.



Earlier this year, President Uhuru Kenyatta took over the EAC Chairmanship from President Paul Kagame of Rwanda.

During Rwanda's tenure at the helm of the EAC, some key achievements were reached within the framework of the integration pillars. These included:

- The Customs Union saw a 77% resolution to nontariff barriers (NTB) thus bringing about a 7% increment on intra EAC trade performance.
- The Common market pillar recorded the implementation of the East African passport following the commencement of issuance of EA - Rwanda travel document in July of 2019.
- The 38th EAC Council of Ministers approved the EAC domestic tax harmonization policy bringing the region closer to the reduction of harmful tax competition and better cross border trade and investment options.
- A verification exercise to admit The Republic of Somalia into the EAC was put into place, ready for execution and hopeful to expand regional camaraderie.

President Kenyatta addressed the 21st Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State virtually due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic.

President Kenyatta committed to ensure a more united and prosperous East African Community as he took up the mantle of the Regional Bloc. The President assured that he will spare no effort towards the realization of the shared aspirations that gave birth to the community 20 years ago.

Dr Peter Mutuku Mathuki of Kenya was sworn in as the new EAC Secretary General taking over from Burundi's Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko. Dr Mathuki's tenure began on April 25th and will run for a nonrenewable term of five years. Dr Mathuki, has long been at the helm of the East African Business Council as its Executive Director. He emerged as the top candidate for EAC Secretary General receiving nominations from a number of corporate bodies.

In his handover address, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda congratulated the new heads of the EAC and assured them of his support during their leadership occupancy.



THE BASKETBALL AFRICAN LEAGUE PREMIERES IN RWANDA

The Basketball African League was founded in February 2019, with its first season kicking off at the Kigali Arena in Rwanda this past May of 2021. The inaugural season that was to be held in Senegal on March of 2020, was postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The Basketball African League is the first professional league of its kind to be run by the NBA outside North America and brings together 12 teams from 12 countries across Africa. This unique league that is a joint effort between the NBA and FIBA was brought on board as a platform designed not only to grow the entire ecosystem of basketball but to also create an industry that will use basketball as an economic growth engine.

WHAT DOES HOSTING BAL MEAN FOR RWANDA

Rwanda has fast established itself as a Meeting, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibition (MICE) destination. As part of Rwanda's ongoing economic development plan, hosting sporting events and promoting the sporting industry has been identified as playing a significant role in furthering socio-economic development.



State of the Art – Kigali Arena.



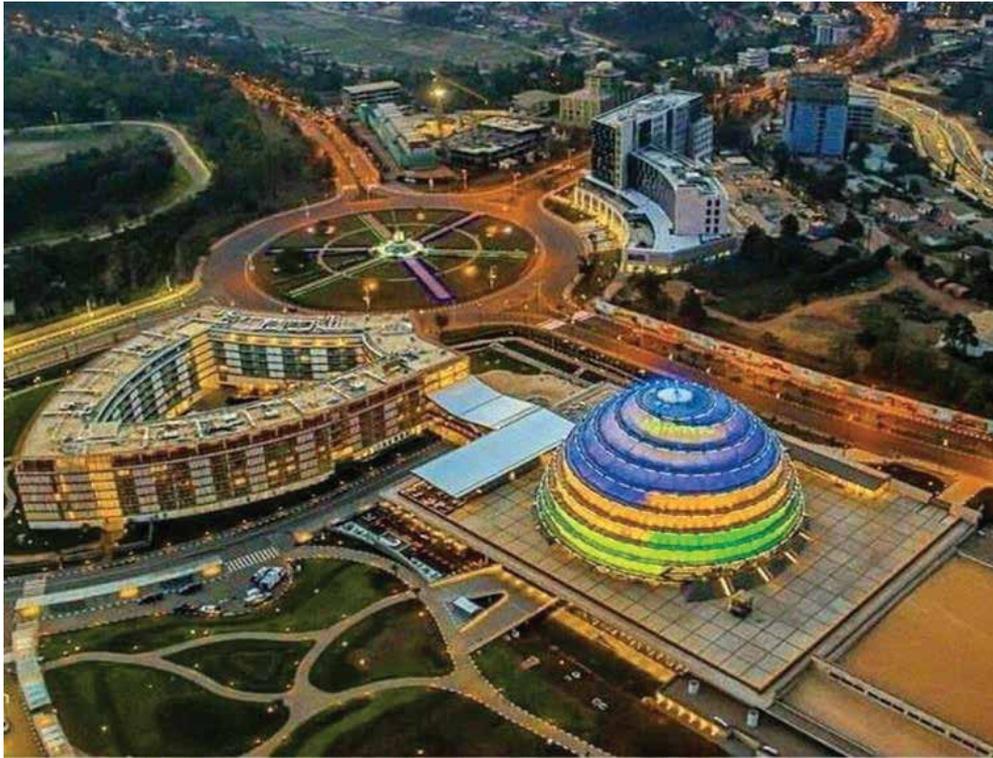
President Paul Kagame attending the games alongside BAL officials & guests.



BAL inaugural winners – Egypt's, Zamalek raise their winning trophy.



VISIT AND INVEST IN RWANDA



Kigali Convention Centre



Rwanda has more recently been hailed as Africa's unicorn country, thanks to its outstanding performance on various indicators, from embracing innovation, technology, to doing business and preserving the environment. Rwanda is also hailed as a corruption free country and one that has stamped absolute intolerance to abuse of Government resources. The rise from the ashes of the 1994 Genocide, has seen Rwanda rise steadily and is an ongoing journey to further improving the quality of life for all her citizens.

In the past years Rwanda has continued to record substantial growth in various sectors - with Tourism contributing 15.1% to annual GDP while Industry, Construction, Services, and Agriculture cumulatively growing the Country's gross domestic product by a whopping 9 percent in 2019. As expected, the COVID 19 pandemic has negatively affected economic growth and development and as citizens observe 27 years of liberation, President Kagame's call to action blends the values of liberation to be instilled in the continued fight against COVID 19.

The Rwanda Development Board in partnership with the European Union recently signed a 3.6 billion RWF agreement which is key in enhancing Rwanda's attractiveness for investments in vaccine manufacturing. Clare Akamanzi, CEO of Rwanda Development Board stated "Access to vaccines is critical, especially to Africa where 1% of vaccines are manufactured on the continent. This agreement boosts Rwanda's efforts to build a vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing ecosystem to contribute to the health and security of our region and continent".





Untapped Investment Opportunities

Potential opportunities for investment abound, particularly in the following sectors:

- **Infrastructure:** Opportunities in rail, air transportation to further develop Rwanda as an EAC hub
- **Agriculture:** Backbone of economy. Potential for growth through productivity and value addition
- **Energy:** Power generation, off grid generation and significant methane gas, hydro, and other opportunities
- **Tourism:** Unique assets creating booming sector, growth potential in birding and business/conference tourism
- **Information and communication Technology:** Priority sector for Vision 2050, new ICT park to be developed.

Other attractive sectors include **Real estate and construction, financial services, and mining.**



Robust Governance

- 1st for government transparency in Africa



Business friendly & modern

- 2nd for doing business in Africa
- Most Women in Parliament & gender balanced Cabinet.



Low Risk

- 5th safest country to walk at night worldwide
- lowest debt ratio in region & stable credit ratings
- stable currency



A regional platform & access to markets

- highly connected African airline
- 2nd MICE ranking in Africa; gained 19 ranks in a 4-year period
- Growing bilingual educated workforce
- Market of over 10 million people with a rapidly growing middle class
- A hub for rapidly integrating East Africa: located centrally bordering 3 countries in East Africa, part of EAC Common Market and Customers Union with market potential of over 125 million people



Fast Growing

- 2nd fastest growing economy in Africa (7.5% p.a since 2007)
- Most improved nation in human development in the World
- Young and growing population (70% of population under 30)



Sustained High Economic growth

- 8.16% average year-on-year real GDP growth rate from 2007-2011, stable inflation and exchange rate
- 3-year GDP growth rate one of the highest among African economies and neighboring countries.



IT ready

- 1st in the EAC for network readiness
- 5th in Africa
- 95% 4G LTE network coverage; 7000km fibre



ARTS & CULTURE

RWANDA REMEMBER THIS – LIBERATION DAY POEM BY NATASHA MUHOZA

In times like no other,
Strength is best seen in
Those who -
Rise to the occasion
Like no other
Those who dare to believe
That change is possible Life is
possible
That tides can change direction and
stories can be re-written.

Sons & daughters of the land of a
thousand hills
We remember, how you chose
Nation & dignity
We remember, how you chose to
take back what was yours. We
remember, how you chose the
ultimate sacrifice.

Rwanda,
Today we pause & reflect
On the road we have travelled from
that glorious day Liberation
Of our land
Of our nation's soul
Today, we pause to celebrate The
power of resilience
In the face
Of insurmountable odds

As we are faced
With a new mountain
COVID-19
We know we will overcome Among
our heroes are those Who have stood
at the frontlines of this battle
In the face of uncertainty and
unexplainable loss Among our
heroes are those Doing all they
can
To end this viral spread
As we have always found ways

Where there seemed to be none We
must choose, again,
To put hearts & minds together In
solidarity
Against a common enemy

These 27 years of growth, Are
the fruit
Of a rare perseverance A
unique inspiration
To rise from the pits of destruction To
redefine our story
To redirect our trajectory

Rwanda
Remember this,
Now & always
There are no heights you cannot reach

Rwanda
Remember this,
You are made from resolve
Don't forget how far you have come to
stay alive,
To live & laugh & learn in
peace & dignity
Don't forget how the 600
Saw the challenge & still believed! Do
not forget
That you too, are capable beyond
belief!

Rwanda
Remember this,
Now & always
There are no heights you cannot
reach!

~NM



UMUGANURA



“Umuganura” means 'first-fruits festival' and can be dated back over a thousand years. It is one of the most important festivals and holidays in Rwanda celebrated every year during the first Friday of August.

The importance of a good harvest in Rwanda cannot be overstated with 80% of workers employed in agricultural activities and agriculture accounting for nearly 40% of Gross Domestic Product. Tea and coffee make up nearly 80% of Rwanda's agricultural exports.

Despite its long history, Umuganura has only been a public holiday since August 2011. Its celebration was suppressed during Rwanda's colonial period.

The focus of the traditional Umuganura was to give the harvest the blessing of the ancestors. This would happen first at a family level focused on that family's ancestors, then the community would come together to have a wider celebration.

Nowadays, while the festival is still seen as having a focus on the harvest - giving thanks for the current year and a time to think about how to improve future harvests, it is also an opportunity for a yearly celebration of achievements from all sectors that contribute to the development of the country.



The main objectives of Umuganura are:

- To create an opportunity for reflection on the positive values of Rwandan culture that are a cornerstone to strengthening, unity and reconciliation of Rwandans.
- To preserve Rwandan Culture by educating the young generation on the importance of safeguarding our cultural heritage.
- To raise awareness among Rwandans, friends of Rwanda and policy makers on how “Umuganura” celebration played a very significant role in uniting Rwandans.
- To recognize the achievements in various sectors of the economy, recognize the efforts of those involved and strategize for increased harvest in the subsequent seasons.



NEWS



RWANDA RAISES \$620 MILLION THROUGH A EURO BOND

The proceeds of the bond according to the Finance Ministry will be used partly to refinance Rwanda's existing Eurobond which is due in May 2023 to maintain the country's debt management strategy. This, the ministry said, will serve to proactively address the upcoming debt burden.

Part of the proceeds will also go into funding priority projects that will support recovery following the slowdown triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as strategic investments in health and agriculture to enable export growth.

Other considerations Government said, include safeguarding environmental protection and mitigate adverse effects of climate change. Officials say that the bond's issuance was oversubscribed receiving orders of over 1.6 billion USD.

Oversubscription of a bond implies that there was higher demand than going beyond the amount sought. This can be considered a positive stance especially with the global economic recession and slowdown which has left investors uncertain of markets.

To Read More: www.newtimes.co.rw





RWANDAIR & QATAR JOIN FORCES

RwandAir & Qatar Airways have joined forces to connect customers to over 160 destinations in their combined networks. This interlines agreement will provide travelers of both airlines seamless travel experience and heightened customer service generating from both hubs in Kigali and Doha.

To Read More visit: www.rwandair.com/media-center/

RWANDA TO HOST HEADQUARTERS OF AU BACKED E-COMMERCE PLATFORM

Rwanda will host the continental headquarters of Sokokuu, an e-commerce platform aimed at enhancing the role of Africa's small and medium enterprises in inter and intra-African trade. This emerged following a meeting of President Paul Kagame and former Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, who is the Patron for The Africa Electronic Trade Group and Muluaem Syoum, the Group's CEO & Board Chair.

The Africa Electronic Trade Group is developing a comprehensive e-commerce platform, Sokokuu, to enhance the role of Africa's small and medium enterprises in inter and intra-African trade. Rwanda will host the Group's continental headquarters working closely with regional offices.

SOKOKUU loosely translates to Common Market or Central Market.

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