



RWANDA HIGH COMMISSION IN KENYA

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Foreword



H.E. Ernest Rwamucyo
*High Commissioner of the
Republic of Rwanda to Kenya*

Dear reader,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter, where we spotlight Rwanda's remarkable strides across diplomacy, governance, economic transformation, and sports during the month of September.

In this issue, you will find a collection of reports that reflect our nation's unwavering commitment to strengthening both bilateral and multilateral relations. We take pride in showcasing the advancements in good governance and innovation-driven growth that are shaping our future.

Highlights include President Kagame's recent diplomatic missions to Azerbaijan and Egypt, which have yielded significant cooperation agreements. These visits exemplify our forward-looking approach to sustainable development through partnerships.

Rwanda's leadership in hosting Africa's first electric air taxi flight demonstrates the nation's strategic approach towards the constantly evolving technological advancement.

Furthermore, our ascent in global governance indices, coupled with an expanding influence in sectors such as aviation, defense, and mining, underscores the effectiveness of our strategic vision and sound policy-making.

This edition also celebrates Rwanda's burgeoning reputation as a sporting hub. The successful hosting of the 2025 UCI Road World Championships and the establishment of the continent's first regional cycling training center are testaments to our dedication to promoting sports and fostering community engagement.

Together, these achievements reflect Rwanda's core pillars of excellence, resilience, and partnership, which are driving our national transformation journey.

We hope you find this edition both informative and inspiring.

Rwanda, Azerbaijan sign five key agreements to boost cooperation



In September, President Paul Kagame held a three-day official visit to Azerbaijan, where he was welcomed at the Zugulba Presidential Palace by President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan for a tête-à-tête meeting to discuss bilateral cooperation in key areas of mutual benefit.

The visit saw the two countries sign five agreements in areas of agriculture, education, air services, trade and public service delivery.

“We want to undertake continued efforts and gain momentum in making sure that these cooperation efforts are productive for all of us. Mr. President, just know that you have friends in Africa, in Rwanda, so we want to use this opportunity of our cooperation and friendship between you and myself, and the two countries, to move fast forward

in achievements of prosperity,” President Kagame said in a joint press conference with his Azerbaijani counterpart.

During the official visit, President Kagame also toured the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations (ASAN). The agency provides 28 service centers across the country to ensure the efficient and coordinated implementation of services provided by Azerbaijani state bodies and private organizations. Before concluding the visit, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and ASAN signed an implementation plan on cooperation in establishing advanced public service delivery mechanism.

While concluding his three-day official visit, President Kagame joined the Azerbaijan Grand Prix at the Baku Formula 1 street circuit.

Rwanda, Egypt sign new agreements



President Paul Kagame, who arrived in Cairo on September 23 for an official visit, has praised the ties between Rwanda and Egypt, describing the north African country as a strong partner with tangible and steadily expanding cooperation.

President Kagame was received by his host, President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, and the two leaders presided over the signing of agreements in key sectors, including investment promotion, water resource management, reciprocal land allocation, and urbanisation and housing development.

Speaking at a joint press conference after a private meeting and extended discussions between their delegations, President Kagame said the newly signed agreements represent another milestone in the partnership between the two na-

tions.

“Rwanda regards Egypt as a strong partner and our cooperation is tangible and steadily growing. The agreements signed today build on the strong foundation we have already established,” he noted.

Highlighting some of the impactful projects, President Kagame noted ongoing collaboration in health.

“Together, we are building a modern heart care centre in Kigali, a landmark facility that will significantly enhance specialised cardiac treatment in Rwanda and beyond. This collaboration is reinforced by education and workforce development. Egypt continues to provide advanced training for Rwandan medical professionals.”

Looking to the future, President Kagame expressed his

desire for continued cooperation between the two nations, emphasizing the importance of working ever more closely to address the many challenges they face together.

“We will continue building on this cooperation and good political understanding of the context in which our two countries live, not only on our continent but also on the whole world. Ultimately, what we both want is to create a system of development that is sustainable, pragmatic and brings prosperity to our people. Mr President, you have good momentum and I am confident that we will see even more tangible results very soon.”

Rwanda and Egypt enjoy long-standing bilateral relations, with cooperation spanning trade and investment, health, defence, infrastructure, and education.

Rwanda ranked second in Africa on 2025 Good Governance Index



Rwanda has been ranked second in Africa on the newly released 2025 Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), coming just behind Mauritius and ahead of Botswana, Morocco, South Africa, and Tanzania.

The index, which assesses the capability and effectiveness of governments across 120 countries worldwide, placed Mauritius at 51st globally, maintaining its position as Africa's top performer for the fifth year in a row. Rwanda followed at 59th, while Botswana secured 61st place.

The report noted that Rwanda scored particularly well in Financial Stewardship, Global Influence & Reputation, and Helping People Rise, placing

it ahead of most of its regional peers.

Other African countries that made the continent's top ten include Morocco (75th), South Africa (77th), Tanzania (78th), Egypt (81st), Senegal (83rd), Ghana (86th), and Algeria (90th).

The CGGI is designed not only to measure performance but also to provide practical benchmarks that governments can use to identify gaps and adopt good practices from peers.

The seven pillars assessed include Leadership and Foresight, Robust Laws and Policies, Strong Institutions, Financial Stewardship, Attractive Marketplace, Global Influence and Reputation, and Helping People Rise.

First direct Rwandan tungsten arrives in the United States



Rwanda has reached a historic milestone in its trade relations with the United States, with the first containers of tungsten from the Nyakabingo Mine arriving directly at Global Tungsten and Powders (GTP) in Towanda, Pennsylvania.

The direct Rwanda-US shipment of tungsten is an important step in strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries, and

highlights Rwanda's position as a trusted supplier of critical minerals.

The delivery follows a recent commercial agreement Trinity Metals secured with GTP, part of the Plansee Group, and its offtake partner Traxys.

The partnership aims to establish a reliable supply of high-grade tungsten from the Great

Lakes region of Africa to the U.S., supporting industries such as aerospace, defence, electronics, and electric vehicle manufacturing.

Trinity Metals, established in 2022 through the merger of the Nyakabingo Tungsten Mine, Rutongo Tin Mine, and Musha Tin and Tantalum Mine, is Rwanda's largest producer of these three critical minerals.

RwandAir to launch Kigali–Zanzibar–Mombasa route in December



RwandAir has announced that it will start operating its new Zanzibar and Mombasa route effective 1 December 2025, just ahead of the winter holidays.

The new service will connect Kigali, Rwanda, with two of East Africa's most sought-after coastal getaways, offering travelers access to stunning beaches, vibrant marine life and world-class leisure experiences.

Flights will operate four times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays using a Boeing B737. This route marks RwandAir's return to Mombasa,

where it last operated in 2019, while also adding Zanzibar as a brand-new destination.

"Returning to Mombasa and introducing Zanzibar is another step forward in our ambitious growth journey," said Yvonne Makolo, CEO of RwandAir. "By expanding our East African network, we are strengthening Kigali's position as a key hub, giving our customers more opportunities to explore the region, while also opening doors for trade, tourism and stronger ties across East Africa."

As the recent winner of Skytrax's Best African Regional Airline

award, the launch highlights RwandAir's ongoing commitment to strengthening regional connectivity and enhancing the customer travel experience.

With its convenient timings, the new route provides seamless travel options for both weekend escapes and extended vacations, ensuring travelers can enjoy the very best of East Africa's coastal charm.

Rwanda's national carrier RwandAir now operates a fleet of 13 aircraft and serves over 144 destinations through direct flights and codeshare partnerships.

Rwanda hosts Africa's first-ever electric air taxi flight



Rwanda marked a milestone in African aviation during the 9th edition of Aviation Africa Summit & Exhibition in September when it hosted the

continent's first public flight of a self-flying electric air taxi.

The development was a result of the partnership between

the Government of Rwanda and the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC). The partnership aims to reinforce Rwanda's position on the continent, at the forefront of implementing cutting-edge aviation technology, including the adoption of Advanced Air Mobility.

The EH216-S, an electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft developed by EHang in partnership with China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), took to the skies during a live demonstration in Kigali, witnessed by President Paul Kagame, government officials, industry stakeholders, and technology partners.

Speaking at the Summit, President Kagame underlined the need for achieving one sky and free movement on the African continent.

"Since its inception, the Aviation Africa Summit has been pivotal in showing how much growth Africa's aviation industry has experienced in a very short time. Unfortunately, our continent continues to face high operational costs and infrastructure gaps. This makes the movement of people and cargo more expensive than it should be. Travel should not only be for the rich," he noted.

He added: "We all need to work more closely with our continental institutions, notably the African Union and ASECNA [Agency for Aerial Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar]. It is important to strengthen these institutions and ensure they are fit for purpose, to play a central role in achieving the vision of one sky and free movement on our continent."

Rwanda and Senegal Sign Bilateral Air Services Agreement

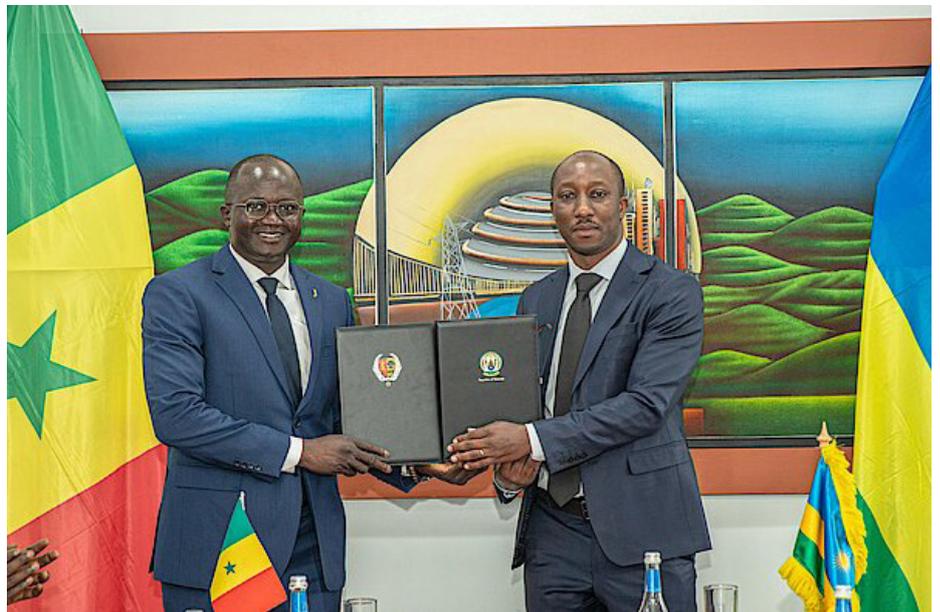
The Governments of Rwanda and Senegal have signed a Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) in Kigali, marking a historic step towards enhancing air transport connectivity and deepening cooperation in the aviation sector between the two countries.

The agreement, aligned with the Yamoussoukro Declaration on the Liberalization of Air Transport in Africa, provides a framework that allows airlines from both Rwanda and Senegal to operate passenger, cargo, and mail services between and beyond the two nations.

Speaking at the official signing ceremony, Dr. Jimmy Gasore, Rwanda's Minister of Infrastructure, emphasized the significance of this milestone in strengthening bilateral relations.

"This Bilateral Air Services Agreement establishes a framework enabling the airlines of both countries to operate air transport services — the fastest mode of transport — to facilitate the movement of our people, the transportation of goods and mail, with the aim of strengthening our commercial ties," he said.

The Minister further noted that the agreement is the outcome of close consultations between the civil aviation authorities of both countries, supported by their respective diplomatic services, reflecting the dynamism and shared determination of Rwanda and Senegal to strengthen cooperation.



Beyond connectivity, the BASA is expected to open and connect markets between Rwanda and Senegal, facilitate trade and investment opportunities, enhance people-to-people exchanges, and support regional integration by linking both countries into wider supply

chains.

The signing of the agreement reaffirms Rwanda's vision of positioning aviation as a critical enabler of connectivity, economic transformation, and continental integration, in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Zipline drones to begin home deliveries in Kigali next year



Starting next year, Rwandans in urban areas, especially in Kigali, could begin receiving their purchases – ranging from food and pharmacy items to e-commerce packages – delivered directly to their homes by drone within minutes.

At the Aviation Africa Summit 2025 held at the Kigali Convention Centre in September, Zipline unveiled its latest drone model it calls Platform

2 (P2) — a next-generation autonomous aircraft designed specifically for urban delivery.

“Hopefully, in 2026, we should be able to present something to the general public in Kigali where we can do home deliveries. So, we are really excited to complete the test phase and stabilising it as much as possible before we can launch and operate,” explained Pierre Kayitana, General Manager at Zipline Rwanda.

The drone was first launched in Dallas, Texas, in April 2025, where it is already being used for e-commerce and food deliveries. The company plans to finalise testing in the U.S. before officially launching in Rwanda, targeting 2026 for public rollout.

As of now, Kayitana said, each drone can carry up to 4 to 5 kilograms, roughly enough food for eight to 10 people, and cover a delivery radius of 20 to 25 kilometres on a single charge.

“The design will continue to improve so we can carry more weight in terms of payload and then can also afford to go to a longer range. So, that’s what our engineering team is working on,” he said.

Regarding drone speed, he said that it varies depending on wind conditions, with potential to reach up to 100 km per hour on a good day when it is not windy, adding that the drones can reach any point across Kigali in about 15 minutes, given the capital its size.

About a decade ago, Zipline began working closely with Rwanda to use drones for the delivery of urgent blood supplies to health facilities across the country. The technology does not only save time, it also saves lives.

The company is now looking to expand its footprint into densely populated urban areas like the capital Kigali, and secondary cities such as Musanze, and Rubavu.

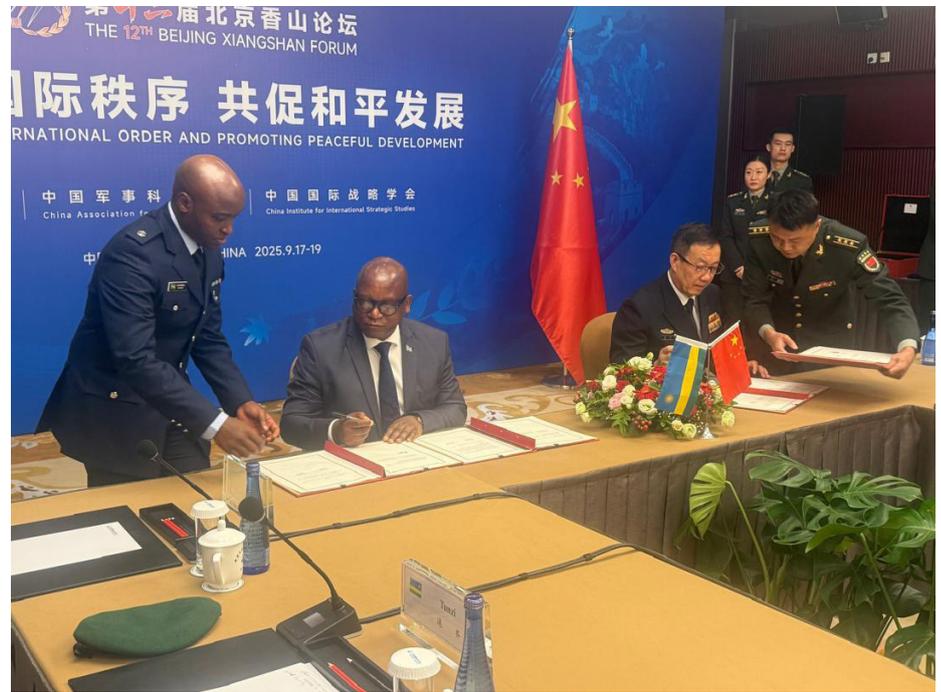
In September, Rwanda and China signed an agreement on defence cooperation, which is aimed at strengthening bilateral military ties between the two countries.

The signing took place during a bilateral meeting between Rwanda's Minister of Defence, Juvenal Marizamunda, and Admiral Dong Jun, China's Minister of National Defence, on the sidelines of the 12th Beijing Xiangshan Forum.

The major international conference on security brings together defence officials and representatives from over 100 countries, regions, and international organisations to discuss global peace and security.

Rwanda and China military relations have grown steadily over the past years, marked by high-level visits, training exchanges, and scholarships for Rwandan military personnel.

Rwanda, China sign defence cooperation agreement



Rwandan peacekeepers provide free medical care to over 200 CAR residents



Rwandan peacekeepers from RWABG VII and RWAMED X teams carried out a medical outreach at Sam-Ouandja Hospital in the Central African Republic on September 15, offering free consultations and treatment to more than 200 residents.

The services provided included treatment for malaria, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal, respiratory, pediatric, and gynecological conditions, as well as

chronic disease screenings and health education.

Mr. Omar Ramadhan, the local community representative, expressed gratitude to the Rwandan peacekeepers and appealed for continued support.

This initiative underscores the commitment of MINUSCA and Rwandan peacekeepers in particular to improving public health and strengthening Civil-Military Cooperation in their area of responsibility.

The outreach followed a March 2025 exercise in which the RWAMED X team provided free medical treatment to more than 400 people in Mingala Commune, Central African Republic, for various illnesses, including malaria.

During the same outreach, residents were also screened for non-communicable diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

The initiative aimed to help communities better understand their health status and adopt practices that promote well-being and disease prevention.

Rwanda hosts training for Eastern African military commanders



In September, Rwanda hosted a course for battlegroup commanders in peace support operations, which was held at the Rwanda Peace Academy in Musanze District, bringing together senior military officers from six Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) member states.

The two-week training of trainers course was organized by EASF Secretariat and Rwanda Peace Academy, along with African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). 17 officers from Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, along with EASF Headquarters

staff, participated in it.

Speaking at the opening of the training, Brig Gen Ronald Rwivanga, the Head of Defence Public Affairs Department and Defense Spokesperson for Rwanda Defence Force (RDF), underscored the significance of the initiative in building capacity for sustainable peacekeeping.

"This course marks a critical milestone in our collective efforts to strengthen the operational readiness and interoperability of our forces," Rwivanga said, noting that modern security challenges require com-

manders capable of leading in complex environments.

"The role of battlegroup commanders in planning, commanding, and coordinating multidimensional operations is vital, especially in today's security environment, which is increasingly characterised by asymmetrical threats, transnational challenges, and fragile political landscapes," he added.

He stressed that the training of trainers model was designed not only to build individual expertise but also to enhance institutional resilience.

The cycling family has fallen in love with Rwanda- UCI president



Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) President David Lappartient declared Rwanda the heart of global cycling, telling guests at the Road World Championships gala dinner that “the cycling family has fallen in love with Rwanda.”

Addressing President Paul Kagame, His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, and international delegates, Lappartient said the 2025 edition in Kigali had exceeded all expectations.

“This week in Kigali has not just met our expectations. It has, of course, done more than that. It has taken our breath away,” he said. “In love with its countryside, in love with its people, in love with its beauty, in love with its vitality — we will never forget your country’s welcome.”

The UCI President hailed the historic significance of this year’s championships, the first to be hosted in Africa. He highlighted two milestones: the debut of dedicated women’s under-23 races and the crowning of 12 world champions.

“Quite simply, we have never experienced an event like this before,” he said.

In recognition of Rwanda’s role, Lappartient presented President Kagame with a framed rainbow jersey and the UCI Order, the federation’s highest distinction.

“This is the highest award given to people who make an outstanding impact on the sport of cycling,” he said.

President Kagame, in his own remarks, welcomed

the honour and congratulated Lappartient on his election as UCI President. He also emphasised the unifying power of sport and its role in inspiring Africa’s youth.

“The chants, the crowds, and the smiles are a true testament to the unifying power of sports,” he said. “For our young and talented people, this is an inspiration for them to follow their own dreams with a spirit of sacrifice and endurance, like true champions,” he added.

The President also underlined that investment in sports across the continent is part of investing in Africa’s future.

“Investing in sports on the continent, is also about investing in what Africa’s youth needs, which is access to the right opportunities and training. It all comes down to giving everyone a fair chance, not out of sympathy, but because everyone has something good to give back, and because the sport is stronger for it,” he said.

“Today, we stand here, because the leadership at UCI put their trust in our country and our people, to provide you with the best possible experience. Rwanda is proud to be contributing to such an important moment in cycling history, and we are happy to be sharing it with you all, as one team,” he added.

Regional cycling centre opens in Rwanda

Israel Premier Tech cycling team, in collaboration with the Gasore Serge Foundation and Bugesera District, officially opened the Home of Dreams, a multi-level youth cycling center located within the Field of Dreams bike facility.

The new hub is the first of its kind in Africa, featuring both a race track and a pump track. It has been officially recognized by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) as a Regional Training Center.

The inauguration event was attended by Rwanda's Minister of Sports Nelly Mukazayire, Israel Ambassador to Rwanda, Einat Weiss, World Cycling Center Director Jacques Landry and Bugesera Mayor Richard Mutabazi among other dignitaries, as students from the Gasore Serge Foundation showcased their skills on the new track.



Mukazayire commended the establishment of the Home of Dreams as a meaningful investment in the country's future cyclists, aligning with Rwanda's national vision to become a global sporting hub.

"Everything we're doing here is for the next generation, they are the dream — the future of today and tomorrow. By combining world-class cycling in-

frastructure with education and life skills at this facility, we're building more than athletes; we're shaping resilient, empowered citizens," she said.

The Minister highlighted the Field of Dreams as a model project that touches on all three pillars of Rwanda's sports strategy: talent development, infrastructure building, and sports business.

High Commissioner hosts Rayon Sports WFC players



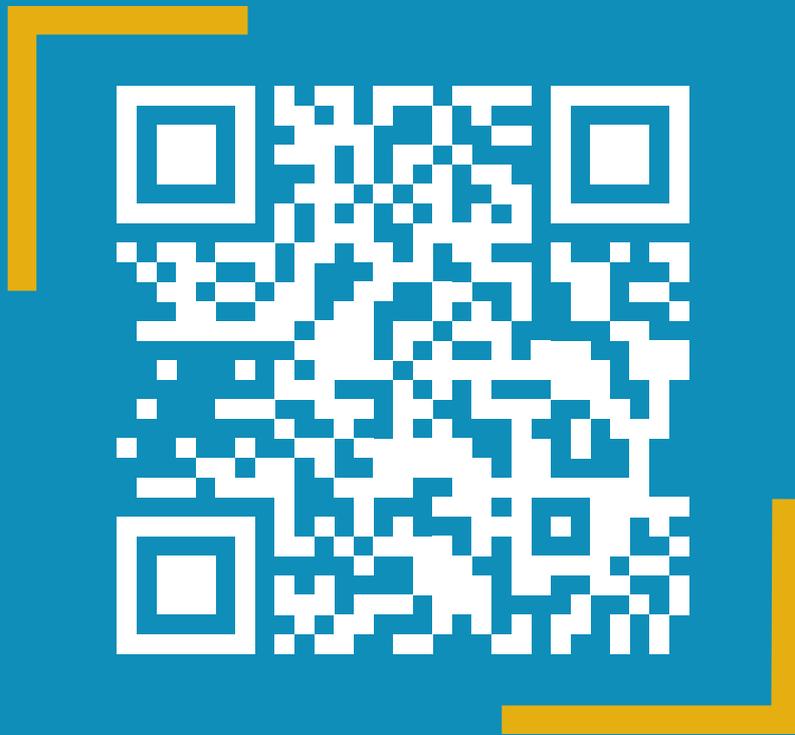
In September, High Commissioner Ernest Rwamucyo hosted players of Rayon Sports Women Football Club at the Rwanda High Commission in Nairobi. The players participated in the 2025 CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Qualifiers

held in Nairobi.

The High Commissioner, who attended the final match played at the Moi International Sports Complex, Kasarani, that pitted the Rayon Sports team against the Tanzanian military team expressed pride in Rayon Sports' efforts, emphasizing the importance of resilience and teamwork that saw them reach the finals of the prestigious regional tournament.

During their interaction with the High Commissioner, diplomats and staff of the Rwanda High Commission in Kenya, the players shared their experiences and reflections on the tournament.

High Commissioner Rwamucyo expressed pride in the player's achievement and assured that although they did not emerge as the tournament's champions, they should view the experience as a stepping stone towards future successes and urged them to continue striving for excellence.



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