



# 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,

As we welcome the dawn of 2026, I wish to extend my warmest greetings, filled with wishes for a year characterized by happiness, health, and prosperity. May this year serve as a beacon of renewed hope, fortified partnerships, and collective progress in our shared aspirations.

It is my distinct honor to present the 15th edition of our newsletter, a comprehensive chronicle of Rwanda's steadfast engagement across regional, continental, and global spheres. This engagement is underpinned by an unwavering commitment to the principles of peace, cooperation, and sustainable development. Within the narratives contained herein, one

can discern a tapestry woven from a period marked by meaningful diplomatic endeavors and noteworthy national advancements. Through constructive dialogue and principled engagement, Rwanda continues to advance shared priorities that epitomize the ideals of peace, stability, and mutual prosperity.

This edition further elucidates Rwanda's commendable economic trajectory and reform agenda, as evidenced by the World Bank's B-READY 2025 report. This esteemed report acknowledges Rwanda's exemplary leadership in regulatory quality and operational efficiency, reflecting a commitment to sustained policy consistency, institutional effectiveness, and the cultivation of a business-friendly environment. Such an environment not only attracts investment but also assures inclusive growth, fostering an ecosystem where all can thrive.

Equally significant is Rwanda's steadfast commitment to multilateralism and global environmental governance. Our active participation at UNEA7 in Nairobi underscores Rwanda's role as a proactive champion of collective action in confronting the pressing issues of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution—challenges that transcend national boundaries and necessitate a unified global response.

Moreover, our expanding connectivity through RwandAir symbolizes Rwanda's broader ambition to strengthen people-to-people ties, enhance trade, promote tourism, and facilitate cultural exchange across the continent and beyond. This initiative is not merely a strategic endeavor; it is a concerted effort to build bridges that foster mutual understanding among diverse cultures and communities.

As you peruse the contents of this edition, I invite you to reflect upon Rwanda's remarkable journey—one characterized by resilience, partnership, and a visionary approach to sustainable development. We remain dedicated to collaborating with our esteemed partners and allies to advance our shared objectives and to construct a future that is peaceful, prosperous, and resilient for all.

With profound respect and warm regards,

# President Kagame commends President Trump's pragmatic mediation approach



**P**resident Paul Kagame and his Congolese counterpart, Felix Tshisekedi, on December 4, signed the peace accord in Washington DC, witnessed by US President Donald Trump. This agreement, officially known as the Washington Accords, is a result of more than eight months of US-brokered negotiations between Rwanda and DR Congo.

In his remarks, President Kagame thanked President Trump's mediation approach.

"This conflict has lasted for thirty years. We have seen countless

mediation efforts, but none succeeded in resolving the underlying issues. President Trump introduced a new and effective dynamism that created the space for breakthroughs," he said.

"His approach is even-handed, never taking sides. More importantly, President Trump's approach is pragmatic. The process has not become an end in itself," he added.

President Kagame went on to say that it is now up to Africa, working with our partners, to consolidate

and expand the peace, noting that Rwanda remains committed to the path of peace.

"There will be ups and downs on the road ahead, there is no doubt about it. Rwanda will not be found wanting. I assure you of that. Our only objective is, and has always been, for our country to be safe and secure, after having endured so much tragedy," he said.

We now only want to look forward, he added, in confident expectation of a prosperous and stable future.

## President Kagame meets President Ruto



On the sidelines of the signing of the Washington Accord for Peace and Prosperity, President Kagame met with his Kenyan counterpart President William Samoei Ruto who is also the Chair of the

East African Community.

Kenya is a strong ally and strategic partner of Rwanda. In the framework of the East African Community (EAC), Rwanda and Kenya cooperate closely in many of the areas of inte-

gration such as the Customs Union and Common Market.

Rwanda and Kenya also enjoy cordial bilateral cooperation in areas such as education, health, security, agriculture, and many others.

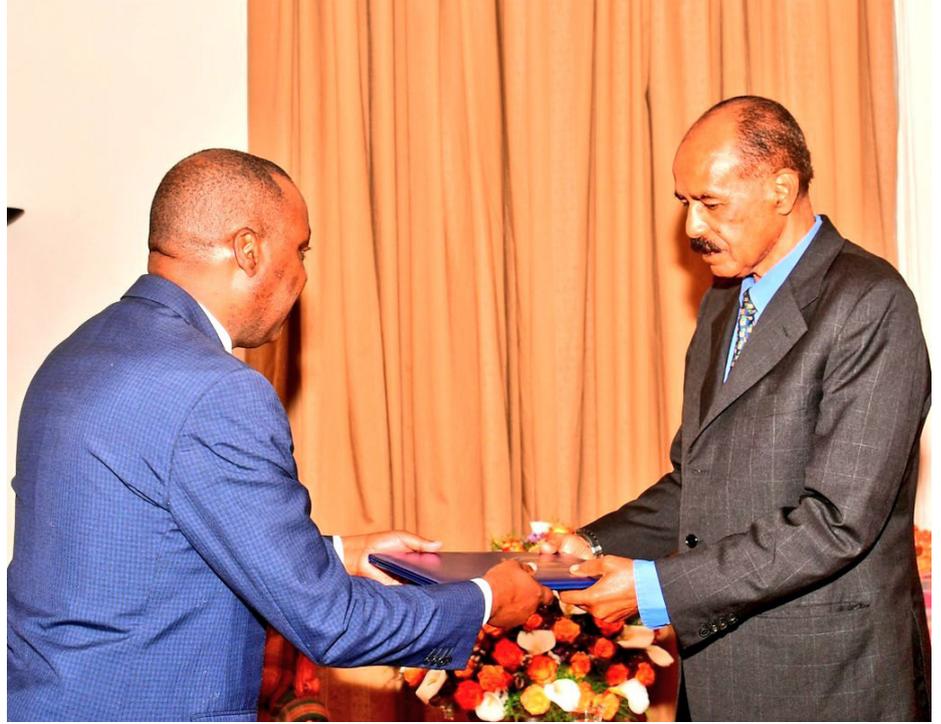
On December 4, Amb. Ernest Rwamucyo presented Letters of Credence to H.E. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea, at State House, Asmara, accrediting him as Ambassador of Rwanda to the State of Eritrea, with residence in Nairobi.

During the ceremony, Amb. Rwamucyo conveyed to H.E. Isaias Afwerki Rwanda's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation with the State of Eritrea for the benefit of both countries.

He also underscored the historic ties between Rwanda and Eritrea, reaffirming his commitment to strengthening cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

President Afwerki congratulated Amb. Rwamucyo and assured him of his country's support during his tenure.

## Amb. Rwamucyo presents credentials to President Afwerki



# Rwanda's economy registers 11.8% growth in Q3 2025



**R**wanda's economy accelerated in the third quarter of 2025, growing by 11.8%. According to the latest data from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), this represents a significant increase from the 7.8% growth recorded in the second quarter and the 6.5% posted in the first quarter of the year.

The expansion was broadly based, with strong performances recorded across the services, industrial, and agricultural sectors.

Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Yusuf Murangwa, welcomed the figures, stating, "The 11.8% growth is encouraging. We are on track to meet our 7% annual projection, bolstered by strong growth in the service and industrial sectors."

In nominal terms, the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current market prices was estimated at Frw 5,525 billion for the quarter, a significant rise from the Frw 4,659 billion recorded in the same period last year.

The services sector continued to be the dominant pillar of the economy, accounting for 57% of GDP, followed by industry at 22% and agriculture at 15%, with net direct taxes contributing the remaining 6%.

A detailed look at the sectoral performance reveals the engines of this growth. The agricultural sector grew by 10%, anchored by a 4% rise in food crop production. Export crop production saw a remarkable 35% surge, powered by a 32% increase in coffee output and a 100% increase in tea production.

The fishing industry also registered a 34% growth.

The industrial sector was a standout, expanding by 17%. This was underpinned by a 14% growth in mining and quarrying, where export volumes of processed cassiterite soared by 115%, coltan rose by 8%, and raw cassiterite increased by 4.3%, though wolfram exports saw an 8% decline.

The construction sector grew by 20%, while manufacturing increased by 14%. Within manufacturing, demand for construction materials drove notable increases: the production of non-metallic minerals like cement rose by 44%, metal products by 28%, and chemicals such as paints and soaps by 25%. Food processing also saw a solid 12% increase.

The services sector, the largest contributor to the economy, grew by 10% overall. This growth was led by a 20% expansion in wholesale and retail trade. Transport activities increased by 9%, driven by a 10% rise in land transport, while air transport remained stable. The information and communication sector grew by 17%, financial services by 10%, and professional and administrative services by 19%.

However, not all segments shared in the growth; the hotels and restaurants sub-sector contracted by 3%. Public administration services grew by 7% and education by 5%, but health services recorded a notable decrease of 16%.

This comprehensive performance across primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors illustrates the broad-based momentum behind Rwanda's latest economic acceleration.

# Rwanda tops Africa in World Bank's 2025 Business Ready Report



**R**wanda has once again affirmed its position as Africa's leading business-friendly economy, according to the World Bank's Business Ready (B-READY) 2025 Report, which recognises the country for effectively translating reforms into real-world business efficiency.

The latest edition of the report ranks Rwanda as Africa's top-performing economy overall, highlighting its strong regulatory framework, high operational efficiency, and steady progress in public service delivery.

B-READY 2025 places Rwanda first in Africa for its regulatory framework, reflecting the strength, clarity, and consistency of laws governing business activity.

The report assesses how well

regulations are designed to support business entry, competition, trade, taxation, and dispute resolution.

Rwanda's regulatory environment is credited with reducing uncertainty for investors and entrepreneurs, enabling businesses to start, operate, and expand with greater confidence.

One of Rwanda's most notable achievements is its performance in operational efficiency, where it is ranked 12th globally, making it the only Sub-Saharan African economy to reach this level in the B-READY 2025 assessment.

Operational efficiency measures how easily businesses comply with regulations and access public services in practice.

Rwanda's high ranking reflects streamlined procedures, in-

creased digitalisation of government services, and reduced administrative bottlenecks.

Rwanda is also ranked third in Africa in public services, an area where many economies struggle to match strong regulations with effective delivery. Public services in the B-READY framework cover digital platforms, licensing systems, tax administration, and infrastructure that support regulatory compliance.

As the World Bank continues its three-year roll-out of the B-READY initiative, Rwanda's performance positions it as a benchmark for reform-minded economies in Africa and beyond, demonstrating that sustained political commitment and institutional efficiency can deliver tangible results for the private sector.

# Latest Demographic and Health Survey reveals decline in stunting



Rwanda has recorded a reduction in child undernutrition, with stunting declining from 33 per cent in 2020 to 27 per cent in 2025, according to the (2021-2025) Demographic and Health Survey (DHS).

Carried out by the National Institute of Statistics, the DHS is designed to provide data for monitoring the population and health situation in Rwanda.

The 2025 edition of the study showed that the burden of stunting has reduced both in scale and geographic spread.

In 2020, stunting prevalence exceeded 30 per cent in 20 districts, but by 2025 the number reduced to 11 districts, reflecting the impact of sustained nutrition and health interventions over the past five years, according to officials.

Wasting, an indicator of acute malnutrition, declined from 8 per cent to 6 per cent, pointing to im-

proved early detection and treatment, while the proportion of underweight children remained unchanged over the period.

Speaking at the launch, the Minister of Health, Sabin Nsanzimana, said stunting cannot be addressed in isolation, noting that it is closely linked to other problems including teenage pregnancy (which increased from 5 per cent to 8 per cent, over the same timeframe), and neonatal mortality (decreased from 19 per cent to 17 per cent).

While acknowledging the progress made, the minister stressed that the current rate of decline falls short of government targets.

“The reduction from 33 per cent to 27 per cent represents about a one per cent drop each year, which is not different from what we have seen over the last 10 years. Our ambition, however, is to reduce stunting by three per-

centage points annually. That means we must increase our efforts threefold compared to what we are doing now,” he said.

## Fertility rate falls

The survey indicated that the total fertility rate among women aged 15 to 49 has decreased to 3.7 children, down from 4.1 in 2019-2020. Meanwhile, 64 per cent of married women now utilize modern family planning methods, an increase from 58 per cent previously.

DHS7 also showed that access to health services stands at 98 per cent. The health minister welcomed the progress, but noted that improving service quality is the next challenge.

“Access is about geography. Now we must focus on service delivery, standards, time spent at facilities, and patient experience,” he said.

He also called for real-time health data systems through the recently launched Health Intelligence Centre, explaining that timely information is essential for saving lives and guiding interventions.

UN Resident Coordinator Ozonnia Ojielo commended Rwanda’s successful completion of DHS-7 as a demonstration of the country’s commitment to accountability and evidence-based policymaking.

The survey’s findings are expected to inform innovation and home-grown solutions, guide efficient allocation of resources toward high-impact interventions and strengthen collaboration with partners to improve overall population health outcomes.

# UNEA-7: Rwanda reaffirms commitment to global environmental action



Rwanda has reaffirmed its commitment to global environmental action and multilateral cooperation during the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) held in Nairobi, Kenya, in December.

Addressing delegates, Rwanda's Minister of Environment, Dr. Bernadette Arakwiye, described UNEA as the world's premier platform for environmental governance — a forum where nations not only assess progress, but collectively shape solutions for a healthier and more resilient planet.

Dr. Arakwiye underscored that climate change and biodiversity loss are no longer distant threats, but realities already affecting communities across the world, including in Rwanda. She noted that extreme weather events, ecosystem degradation, and biodiversity decline are increasingly impacting livelihoods, food systems, and economic stability.

Despite these challenges, she emphasized that the global community still has a critical opportunity to advance sustainable solutions that strengthen resilience while

safeguarding human well-being and natural ecosystems.

## Resilience at the core of Rwanda's national agenda

The Minister highlighted that Rwanda has placed resilience at the centre of its national development agenda, supported by concrete policy frameworks and measurable targets.

Among these is Rwanda's new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which includes 22 targets aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Rwanda has also revised its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, increasing its ambition to achieve a 53 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035.

"These frameworks reflect our national commitments," Dr. Arakwiye said, while stressing that no country can build resilience in isolation. "The challenges we face are global in nature and require global

cooperation."

Rwanda reiterated its strong belief in multilateralism, noting that the country is a Party to 18 Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). These agreements, the Minister said, serve as essential tools for protecting ecosystems, reducing pollution, addressing climate change, and strengthening resilience for both people and the planet.

Looking ahead, Rwanda expressed its support for an ambitious ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-9), emphasizing the need to scale up resources to match the urgency of global environmental challenges.

Minister Arakwiye also welcomed Member States to the 38th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol slated for November 2026 in Kigali. The gathering will coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Kigali Amendment, a landmark agreement aimed at phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) to protect the ozone layer and combat climate change.

# RwandAir resumes flights to Mombasa



**R**wandAir on December 1 launched its first-ever flights to Zanzibar and resumed services to Mombasa, Kenya.

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.

According to a statement from

the national carrier, the two routes are in line with the airline's plans to scale operations in East Africa.

"Today, we proudly launch our first-ever flight to Zanzibar and resume our service to Mombasa, unlocking two iconic coastal escapes in one historic moment," read a statement posted on RwandAir's X page.

The national carrier's CEO Yvonne Makolo recently said that the development is in line with "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."

RwandAir currently operates a fleet of 16 aircraft and plans to grow to 21 by 2029. According to Rwanda's Transport Sector Strategic Plan 2024-2029, RwandAir's destinations are projected to increase from 23 in 2023/24 to 29 in 2028/29.

Under the same strategic plan, the number of passengers is expected to more than double from slightly over 1 million in 2023/24 to 2.1 million by 2028/29.



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