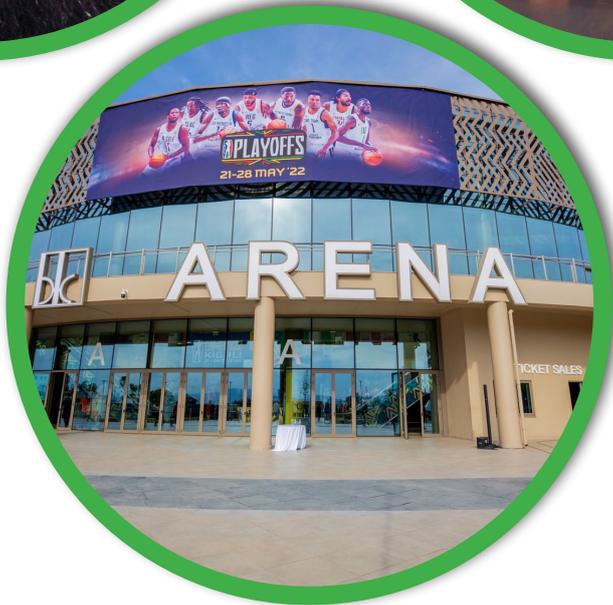




# RWANDA HIGH COMMISSION IN KENYA

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3 - OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2022



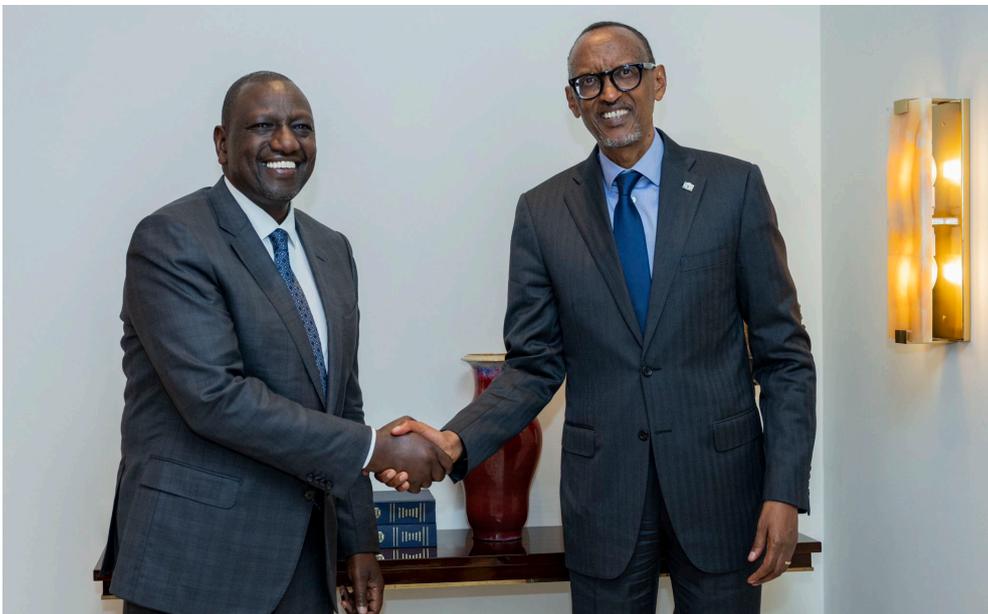
## FEATURING NEWS ON

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## Kagame meets Ruto, discuss bilateral ties



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# Foreword



Dear esteemed reader, on behalf of the High Commission of Rwanda in Kenya, it is my pleasure to share with you the third edition of our quarterly newsletter.

This issue covers the major activities and events that took place in Rwanda between the month of October and December this year, the latest developments in the Rwanda-Kenya bilateral relations, and Rwanda's engagements at multi-lateral level.

These activities include the meeting between President Paul Kagame and his Kenyan counterpart President William Ruto on the sidelines of COP27, the launch of \$100 million green fund to help address climate change, and the 145th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union that Rwanda hosted.

It also highlights the different activities by the High Commission, including different meetings that sought to strengthen the existing cordial ties between Rwanda and Kenya, especially in the trade sector.

It is my hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter.

On a different note, as we come to the end of this year, I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023 filled with prosperity and good health.

**- DR. RICHARD MASOZERA, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA IN KENYA**

# President Paul Kagame delivers National Statement at COP27

*On November 8, His Excellency President Paul Kagame delivered Rwanda's National Statement at the 27th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.*

## **Below is the statement:**

First, I express my appreciation to President Sisi, and the Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for hosting us in beautiful Sharm El Sheikh.

The findings of the Sixth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change show that a more sustainable future remains within our reach.

Yet, despite growing evidence that the damage of global warming will soon become irreversible, there seems to be little sense of urgency.

Rwanda, like the rest of Africa, is ready to prioritise renewable energy. We do this, for our own future.

The point is not to generate carbon credits, so that others can continue using coal, even as Africa is discouraged from exploiting its fossil fuel resources.

The most valuable contribution that developed countries can make is to reduce their emissions faster, while investing with Africa to build sustainable green power.

Questioning whether Africa is ready to make use of climate finance should not be used as an excuse to justify



*President Paul Kagame delivering Rwanda's statement at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt*

inaction. We have seen the effects of this thinking during the pandemic.

Vulnerable nations cannot rely on external financing alone. We need public-private partnerships. This is why Rwanda has launched Ireme Invest, a new green investment facility, with over \$100 million from domestic and international partners.

I congratulate all countries that have ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montréal Protocol, most recently the

United States, and encourage others to do so. Instruments such as the Commonwealth's Blue Charter and Living Lands Charter are also valuable tools, especially for small island and developing states.

Rwanda remains committed to inclusive and transparent negotiations for a green and climate-resilient future.

I thank you for your kind attention.

# Kagame meets Ruto, discuss bilateral ties

President Paul Kagame on November 6, met his Kenyan counterpart, President William Ruto, on the sidelines of the 27th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The two leaders discussed the continued positive and fruitful bilateral relationship between Rwanda and Kenya.

“The Kenya-Rwanda friendship is a cornerstone of our shared prosperity and regional stability. We look forward to growing trade and expanding investments with Rwanda for the mutual benefit of the citizens of our two countries,” said President Ruto after the meeting.

Rwanda and Kenya enjoy long-established mutual interests and an enduring partnership in many areas including economic, education and security sectors.



*President Paul Kagame shaking hand with his Kenyan counterpart President William Ruto on the sidelines of COP27*

## President Kagame receives Kenyan Deputy President Gachagua



*President Paul Kagame and Kenya's Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua meeting at Village Urugwiro*

On October 13, President Paul Kagame received in his office Kenya's Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

According to the President's Office, Village Urugwiro, the meeting centred on “furthering the existing strong bilateral ties for the benefit of the people of Rwanda and Kenya.”

Deputy President Gachagua was in Rwanda to attend the fifth edition of Youth Connekt Africa Summit, where he was a keynote speaker. He was accompanied by 12 young Members of the Kenyan Parliament.

## Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mutua visits Rwanda



*State Minister Prof. Nshuti Manasseh and Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua after their bilateral meeting in Kigali*

Dr. Alfred Mutua, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, visited Rwanda.

During his visit, he paid a courtesy call on the Minister of State in charge of East African Community, Prof. Nshuti Manasseh, where they discussed strengthening existing bilateral relations between Kenya and Rwanda.

In an interview with The New Times, the Cabinet Secretary said the visit was a sign of how his country considers Rwanda as a very important partner.

“This is not my first visit as cabinet

secretary; I've been to other countries on duty with the President. But to come specifically on a one-on-one official visit, this is the first country I've chosen to come to and this sends a signal of what to expect as a country in terms of our relations,” he said.

He went on to say that “the current government of President William Ruto has a lot of respect and looks up to President Kagame's leadership. He has turned around this country and initiated developments, so we are in sync in terms of where we want Kenya to be and where Rwanda is.”

While in Rwanda, CS Mutua also met the community of Kenyans living in Rwanda.

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

## Rwanda hosts the 145th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)



President Paul Kagame, Duarte Pacheco (L), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), heads of parliaments and speakers that participated in the 145th IPU Assembly posing for a group photo

The 145th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was held in Kigali, convening more than 1,000 delegates including 60

speakers and deputy speakers of Parliaments from across the globe.

The six-day event that began on

October 11 was held under the theme ‘Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world’.

According to IPU, the event was an opportunity to exchange on good practices to make parliaments more gender-sensitive, as well as encouraging parliaments to pledge

transformative action.

Rwanda is the first country in the world with a female majority in parliament, with 61.3% in the Chamber of Deputies and 36% in the Senate. The country has been at the top of the IPU’s monthly ranking of women in national parliaments for years.

## Rwanda launches \$100 million facility to help address climate change

On the sidelines of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, the Rwanda Green Fund and the Development Bank of Rwanda launched Ireme Invest, a groundbreaking new green investment facility worth \$100 million, that will support Rwanda’s private sector to access green finance and increase the sector’s contribution to the country’s response to climate change.

According to Teddy Mugabo, Chief



President Paul Kagame and other officials taking a group photo after the launch of a green investment facility worth \$100 million

Executive Officer of Rwanda Green Fund, the new facility will help the country realise its ambitious climate action agenda.

“Achieving Rwanda’s ambitious climate action goals requires significant financial resources and engagement from all stakeholders. We are delighted to bring together public and private funding to boost the country’s efforts to address climate change,” she said.

Rwanda has set an ambitious climate action agenda to build the country’s resilience and foster green growth. To achieve these goals, the country needs investments totaling \$11 billion.

## Youth Connekt Africa Summit: Rwanda passes the baton to Kenya



President Paul Kagame and Kenya’s Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua attending this year’s Youth Connekt Africa Summit, in Kigali

Rwanda hosted a successful Youth Connekt Africa Summit, bringing together 9,000 young people from across the continent of Africa. This year’s theme

was ‘Accelerating investments in youth: Resilient youth, resilient Africa’.

The three-day event that kicked-off on October 13 was an opportunity to discuss and chart a way forward on how to involve the youth in Africa’s trade, health, climate resilience and financing, technology, skilling for the future and other topics that are critical for a sustainable future.

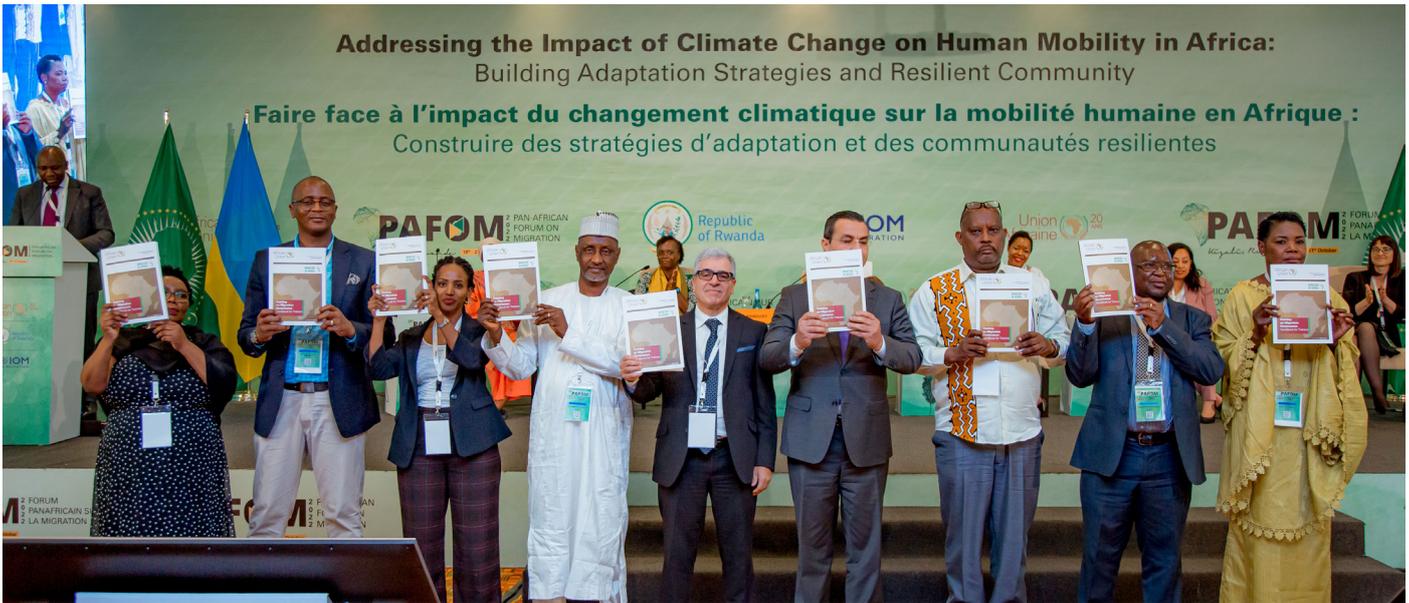
Among key note speakers at the event were President Paul Kagame and Kenya’s Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. Namibian President Hage Geingob and Senegalese

President who is also the chair of the African Union, Macky Sall, also virtually participated in the summit.

Kenya has been announced as the host country of the sixth edition of the continental flagship event, taking place in 2023.

Youth Connekt Africa Summit was initiated in 2012 by the Government of Rwanda in partnership with the UNDP, and is a multifaceted youth empowerment model focused on leveraging youth employability, entrepreneurship and civic engagement through innovation.

## Rwanda hosts the 7th Pan African Forum on Migration



Participants of the 7th Pan African Forum on Migration launching the 'Common African Position (CAP) on the global impact for safe, orderly and regulatory migration' and the 'Migration for Development in Africa' documents

Over 200 people including ministers, senior officials, researchers and experts from 40 African Union member states and international organizations convened in Kigali for the 7th Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFOM7).

The four-day event that began on October 18 was held under the theme 'Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Human Mobility in Africa: Building Adaptation Strategies and Resilient Communities'.

While officially opening the Forum, Clementine Mukeka, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, underlined the need to help communities become more resilient to climate change effects.

PAFOM7 provided an opportunity for participants to deliberate on the necessary policy and operational guidance on mitigating climate-induced migration and displacements at national, regional and continental levels for socioeconomic development.

## Rwanda celebrates 60 years in the United Nations

*Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Vincent Biruta delivering remarks at the event of celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Rwanda's membership in the United Nations*



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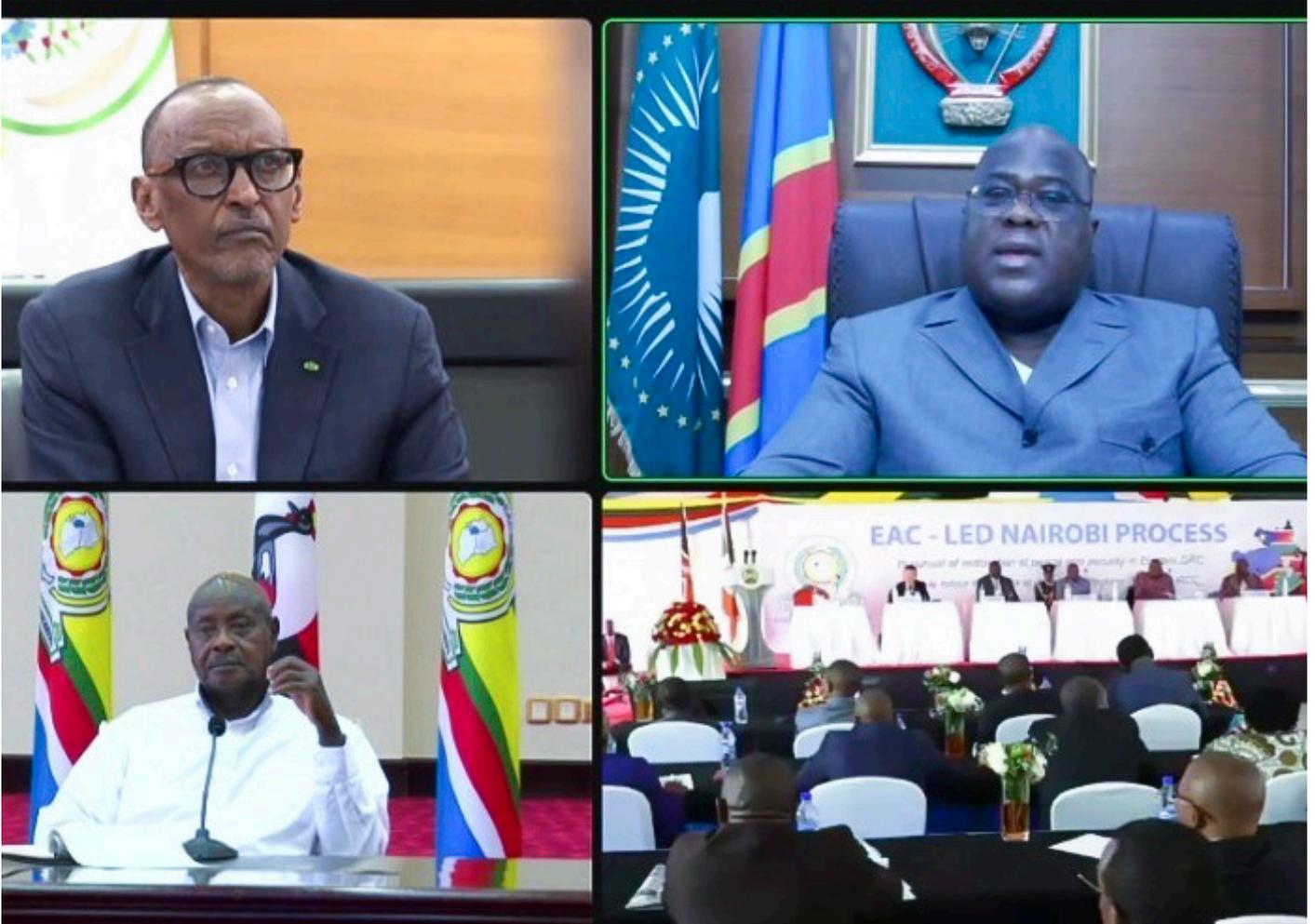
climate change.

According to Teddy Mugabo, Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Green Fund, the new facility will help the country realise its ambitious climate action agenda.

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## President Kagame pledges Rwanda's full support toward a lasting solution to the conflict in Eastern DRC



While virtually addressing the EAC-led Nairobi Process for restoration of peace and security in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on November 28, President Paul Kagame assured Rwanda's full support toward a lasting and permanent solution in Eastern DRC.

He said that for almost three decades now, the problem of insecurity and instability in Eastern DRC has festered and remained unresolved, negatively affecting the entire region.

"We welcome the region's swift response, and the robust mechanisms being established to save lives in Eastern DRC, and address the dangerous escalations that threaten neighbouring countries, including Rwanda," he said.

President Kagame also noted that, more than ever, there is need for "political will to implement the ongoing regional initiatives, particularly the East African Community-led Nairobi Peace Process and the AU Mediation by President Lourenco of Angola."

## HC Masozera addresses the COMESA Conference on Children and Armed Conflict



*High Commissioner Dr. Richard Masozera delivering Rwanda's Statement at the Conference on the Protection of Children Affected by Armed Conflict, in Nairobi*

On November 30, High Commissioner Dr. Richard Masozera delivered Rwanda's Statement at the Conference on the

Protection of Children Affected by Armed Conflict.

Held in Nairobi, Kenya, the conference was organized by the Common Market for

Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and had brought together government officials, diplomats, and civil society representatives from

COMESA member states.

In his address, the High Commissioner emphasised how the Government of Rwanda has over the last 28 years demonstrated strong commitment towards promoting children's rights, by establishing relevant and effective institutions, programs, policies, and legislations.

The Government of Rwanda has ratified and adhered to the international and regional conventions and declarations including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child among others.

## Rwanda High Commission delegation visits Mombasa

A delegation from the Rwanda High Commission in Kenya, led by High Commissioner Dr. Richard Masozera, went on a three-day work visit to Mombasa County, where they met several officials.

The delegation visited the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA), and met Omae Nyarandi, the Executive Secretary of NCTTCA, and the staff.

During the meeting, they discussed NCTTCA's commendable work of facilitating the movement of goods in the region, and ways to address remaining challenges. The High



*High Commissioner Dr. Richard Masozera, Arthur Sewe (R), Edward Mudibo (L), delegates from the Rwanda High Commission in Kenya, and EATTA staff pose for a group photo after fruitful discussions*

Commissioner reassured that Rwanda, as the Chair of NCTTCA Council of Ministers, will continue to support the institution's mandate.

The delegation also paid a courtesy call on Amb. John Mwangemi, Acting Managing Director of Kenya Ports Authority. Their

discussion was on matters of mutual interest, mainly value chain efficiency of cargo moving between Mombasa Port and Rwanda.

They visited the East Africa Tea Trade Association (EATTA) and the Mombasa Tea Auction as well, where Rwandan tea is among those offered and ranks among top

performing offerings.

Before concluding the working visit, the delegation met the Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) team, and commended RRA's continued efforts to ensure fast and smooth movement of transit cargo from Mombasa to Rwanda, under the Single Customs Territory.

On November 13, High Commissioner Dr. Richard Masozera and Defence Attaché Lt Col Ephraim Ngoga joined other diplomats, Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) senior officers, and Defence Attachés in Kenya to observe Remembrance Day.

The event was hosted by the Canada High Commission in Kenya, and was held at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Nairobi.

Remembrance Day is observed annually in Commonwealth member countries, to pay tribute to men and women who have served in military and paid the ultimate sacrifice for the wellbeing of their countries.

## High Commissioner Masozera, DA Ngoga pay tribute to Commonwealth fallen soldiers



*High Commissioner Dr. Richard Masozera and Defence Attaché Lt Col Ephraim Ngoga paying tribute to fallen soldiers*

## Rwandans in Kenya elect new leadership



*High Commissioner Dr. Richard Masozera, Dr. Innocent Butare (L), Chairperson of the Rwandan Community in Kenya, and members of the new and former leadership committee posing for a group photo after elections*

The Rwandan Community living in Kenya on November 5 elected a new leadership committee that will serve for the next two years. The event

was attended by about 300 Rwandans living in Kenya.

Dr. Innocent Butare was elected Chairperson of the committee, replacing Eric Ndirabika. Hermogene Nsengimana was also replaced by Nadine Umutoni on the position of Vice Chairperson.

In his remarks, Dr Richard Masozera, High Commissioner of Rwanda to Kenya, applauded the work done by the outgoing committee in supporting different programs by the Government of Rwanda, urging the new committee to continue from where their predecessors stopped.

## Rwandan travel companies participate in Kenya's renowned expo

A total of 14 travel and tourism companies including Rwanda's national carrier RwandAir participated in this year's Magical Kenya Travel Expo, to market Rwanda as a go-to tourist destination.

Held at the Bomas of Kenya, Nairobi, the three-day travel and tourism

flagship event provided an opportunity for African countries to showcase the beauty and opportunities in their travel and tourism sectors.

On October 6, High Commissioner Dr. Richard Masozera visited and interacted with Rwandan exhibitors that were participating in the expo.



*Rwandan exhibitors explaining their services to people visiting the Rwandan booth at this year's Magical Kenya Travel Expo*

## Rwanda achieves first US safety assessment rating

The United States Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced that Rwanda has achieved an International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) Category 1 rating, and is in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards.

The FAA IASA program focuses on a country's ability to adhere to international aviation safety standards and recommended practices. The standards are set by ICAO, the United Nations' technical agency for aviation.

The announcement followed a



thorough review of Rwanda's progress in improving its safety oversight processes. Under a Category 1 rating, carriers are permitted to serve the United States and enter into code-share agreements with U.S. carriers without properly authorized Rwandan air limitation.

In November, the National carrier RwandAir launched direct flights to London Heathrow, as the airline looks to cater for its growing demand.

RwandAir said that there will be four direct flights a week, an increase from the airline's indirect three times a week service.

From its amazing hub at the Kigali International Airport, RwandAir is renowned for its excellent on-time performance, customer service and safety. The airline, currently serving 28 destinations, was recently awarded its second-in-a-row 'Best Airline Staff in Africa.'

## RwandAir launches direct flights to The UK



*Maiden RwandAir flight taking off from Kigali to London*

## RwandAir expands its fleet with a dedicated freighter



*Boeing 737-800 SF, RwandAir's first dedicated cargo aircraft*

On November 24, RwandAir took delivery of its first dedicated cargo aircraft.

The Boeing 737-800 SF will allow the Rwandan carrier to further expand its cargo operation, which

has been on the rise.

RwandAir will operate the new freighter to a number of key destinations in Africa and the Middle East, including Johannesburg, Nairobi, and the United Arab Emirates.

## SPORTS

## Rwandan Mukansanga becomes first African woman referee to officiate at a men's World Cup

*Rwandan referee Salma Mukansanga officiating as the fourth referee at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar*



Rwandan referee Salma Mukansanga made history in Qatar as she became the first African woman to officiate a men's World Cup match when defending champions France beat Australia 4-1 on November 22, at Al Janoub Stadium in Al-Wakrah, in Qatar.

Mukansanga, 34, was the fourth referee of the game which was handled by South Africa's Victor Gomes, the center referee.

Mukansanga broke the record exactly 10 months after achieving a similar feat at the Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon.

## Rwanda Under 20 National Handball team scoops the IHF Trophy

*Rwanda's Under-20 handball team celebrating after winning the International Handball Federation (IHF) Trophy Africa Zone Five*



Rwanda's Under-20 handball team won the International Handball Federation (IHF) Trophy Africa Zone Five, held in Nairobi, Kenya.

The national team celebrated the win after a 39-37 victory against Uganda,

becoming its third time to win this competition after being crowned champion in 2016 and 2018.

As the champion, Rwanda secured a ticket to represent the region at the continental stage in games scheduled

for December this year.

The IHF Zone Five games were also attended by the national under-18 handball team, which became the first Runner-Up in the Youth Category.

- 📌 **Rwanda High Commission to Kenya**
- 🐦 **@RwandaInKenya**
- 📷 **@rwandainkenya**
- 🌐 **rwandainkenya.gov.rw**
- ✉️ **ambanairobi@minaffet.gov.rw**

