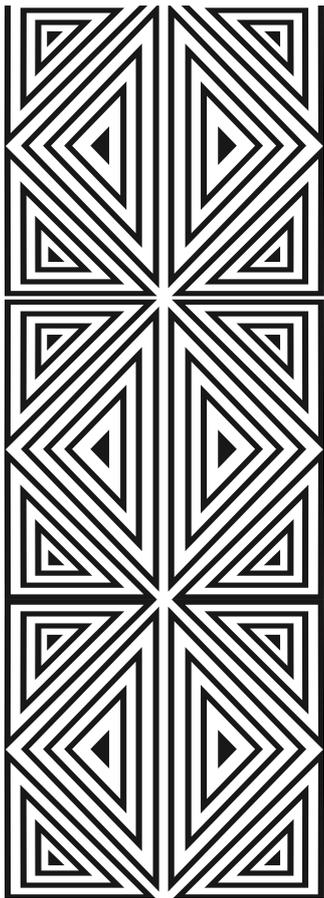


Rwandaful

Monthly Roundup of Rwanda's Stories



EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS



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**EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS**

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Rwanda Celebrates National Heroes' Day



On the 1st of February, President Paul Kagame paid a virtual tribute to Rwandan heroes who exemplified and defended the highest values of patriotism and sacrifice for the wellbeing of the country and its citizens.

“The selfless dedication to our country of the heroes we honor showed us what we can achieve,” Kagame said. Every year, Rwandans celebrate their heroes who portrayed values such as proven integrity, patriotism and bravery, setting a good example, truthfulness and love for others. “The nation we have is a result of their sacrifice. These are the values we must pass on to the next generations,” the head of state added.

Unlike previously, there was no laying of wreaths at the National Heroes’ Mausoleum. “This pandemic has shown us that we are all capable of heroic acts. As we continue the fight against COVID-19 we thank the front line health workers, the security services for their heroic sacrifice and call on every citizen to keep each other safe,” he said.

“Happy Heroes Day to every Rwandan,” Kagame said in a tweet as many Rwandans took to social media to honor fallen heroes.

Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa Elected As The 1st Female Deputy Chairperson Of The AU

President Kagame has on the 6th of February attended the 34th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly where the Heads of State and Government of the African Union elected Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa as the 1st female Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission. The election of the AU Commission Deputy Chairperson by the Assembly was conducted by secret ballot and a two-thirds majority of Member States eligible to vote.



The President also presented a report on the Institutional Reform of the African Union as well as an update on Domestic Health Financing. In his remarks, President Kagame took the opportunity to emphasize the importance of the domestic health financing agenda, particularly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. President Kagame stressed that without strong national health systems in every country, the African continent will remain vulnerable to pandemics. For full speech, [click here](#).

President Kagame Chairs EAC Heads Of State Summit

President Kagame has on 27 February chaired the 21st Ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State. The virtual summit appointed the new Secretary General of the Community; Dr. Peter Mutuku Mathuki and judges to the East African Court of Justice.



In his remarks, President Kagame noted that the positive examples of cooperation we have seen through the East African Community institutions has played a role in mitigating the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. He added that the regional focus now should be on rebuilding stronger than before, with closer regional cooperation as a pillar of our resilience and prosperity.

During the summit, President Kagame handed over the chairmanship of the East African Community to the new chairperson, President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya. For full speech, [click here](#).

President Kagame Joins Giants Club To Boost Investment In Wildlife Economy

President Kagame became the 6th African Head of State to join the Giants Club when he signed the forum's Declaration, further strengthening Rwanda's commitment to protect wildlife habitat while unlocking greater value from nature-based businesses.

The Giants Club is an initiative of the international conservation organization Space for Giants that connects leaders of African states with significant large mammal populations to financiers, conservationists, scientists, and well-known supporters. Together, these individuals combine their political muscle, extensive financial resources, pioneering scientific expertise, and global reach and influence to fulfill the Club's goal to protect Africa's remaining populations of large animals and their habitats.

Its primary path to achieving this is to support governments as they build their 'nature economies', linking them to renewed investment in conservation that boosts sustainable businesses and brings jobs as well as protects environments. [Read more.](#)



President Kagame Meets With Rwanda National Football Team

President Kagame has on Sunday 11 February met with the National Football team, Amavubi, that represented Rwanda and qualified up to the quarterfinals at the African Nations Championship – CHAN2020 in Cameroon. The President commended the performance of the athletes and underlined that everything requires a dose of discipline which enables people to do things professionally, to stick to their goal and to draw lessons from what they have done. For full speech, [click here.](#)



Fifa Relocates Regional Office For East Africa To Rwanda

The Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) unveiled its regional office for East Africa in Kigali, capital city of Rwanda, on Friday 19 February.

The Kigali office, which was relocated from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, coordinates all FIFA related activities in the region, covering Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. It is also mandated to provide strategic guidance to regional member associations and provide recommendations to the FIFA headquarters for development support in the region.

The office will also be tasked to implement the FIFA forward development program, support the FIFA administration in all development activities, and inform the headquarters about any anticipated governance or compliance issues.

Rwanda is an ideal place for the development of children's football talents, FIFA President Gianni Infantino said at the opening event, adding that the opening of the Regional Development Office in Rwanda is a major step forward for the development of football in Eastern Africa in particular and Africa in general.

The move will promote the development of Rwandan football and that of the entire region and the FIFA regional office is an asset to Rwanda's football development and talent growth, Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Vincent Biruta said at the event.



Rwanda Will Host CHOGM In Safe Environment

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Vincent Biruta has issued assurance on the country's readiness to host the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of State Summit (CHOGM) under a safe environment. In an article he wrote in the latest edition of Commonwealth voices magazine published this month, the Minister said that as the world looks ahead with optimism that the global health situation will improve over the next few months, Rwanda is looking forward to welcoming fellow member states to the CHOGM summit. Rwanda will be hosting the summit in its capital city Kigali from June 25 to 26, after it was rescheduled from mid-2020 because of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)



Rwanda Development Board Registers \$ 1.3 Billion Worth Of Investments In 2020

The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) registered investments worth US\$ 1.3 billion in 2020, a decrease of 47.1% from the previous year. In 2019, RDB registered investments worth \$ 2.46 billion. The decline in investments was attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic that affected the global economy.

Real estate and construction and manufacturing accounted for 68% of all investments registered at 48% and 20% respectively. Other sectors that attracted significant investments include agriculture, ICT, energy, mining and financial services. [Read more.](#)

UN Tribunal Joins Campaign To Denounce Genocide Against Tutsi Deniers

The United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (UNIRMCT) has condemned in the strongest terms any denial of the Genocide against the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi.

The United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (UNIRMCT) has condemned in the strongest terms any denial of the Genocide against the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi. A message posted on twitter, by Judge Carmel Agius, the president of UNIRMCT said: “The international criminal tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) unequivocally concluded that this Genocide was a fact of public notoriety and that its historical truth could not be denied.” Agius statement comes in the wake of an ongoing social media campaign against denial of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda.

The campaign with a hashtag dubbed #TwiyaMyeAbapfobya (#HaltToDeniers) was initiated a few weeks ago after several statements of genocide denial were posted on YouTube by Yvonne Idamange, a Rwandan woman who has since been arrested for inciting public disorder, violence and insurrection. Other cited cases of denying genocide in writing include articles by Judi Rever and Benedict Moran published in the Mail & Guardian of 30 November 2020 and The Continent of 28 November 2020 respectively.

Rwanda’s National Commission for the Fight against Genocide (CNLG) said that the story in Mail & Guardian are old allegations that are fundamentally false and based largely on the anonymous contributions of a single source, and “corroborated” with testimonials of defeated former Rwandan army soldiers involved in the Genocide against the Tutsis.

CNLG said that such documents amount to a dangerous denial and trivialization of genocide reopens old wounds on the basis of rejected evidence and it also gives credence to the views of



those who seek to distort the historical record of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

This has stimulated the Halt Genocide deniers campaign that has been taken on by many Rwandans in the country and Diaspora, genocide survivors, heads of organisations and embassies, friends of Rwanda, in all walks of life whose social media posts rebuke any or such intensions to deny the fact that genocide happened.

Ambassador Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe posted: “Denial and minimization of the genocide against the Tutsi are an attempt to erase part of the history of humanity, to absolve perpetrators, to torment victims, to hinder unity and reconciliation and to bring back genocide to Rwanda.”

The trend has gone to friends of Rwanda, who have either been in the country for business or pleasure, who have used their first-hand experience to join the campaign.

Page 9 and 10 of this newsletter include the #TwiyaMyeAbapfobya (#HaltToDeniers) tweets by Ambassador Nduhungirehe and members of the Rwandan community and Friends of Rwanda in the Netherlands.

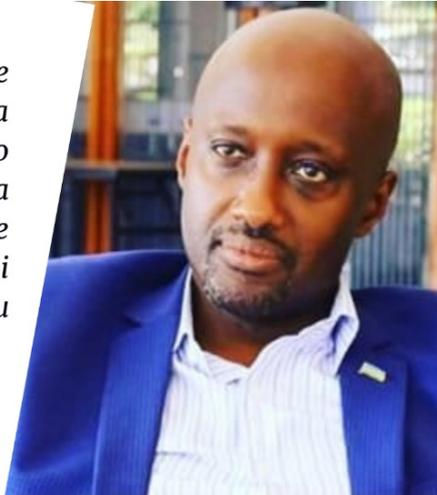
#TwiyaMyeAbapfobya (#HaltToDeniers)

“

Guhakana no gupfobya jenoside yakorewe Abatutsi ni ukugerageza gusiba amateka y'isi, guhanaguraho icyaha abayikoze, gushinyagurira abayirokotse, kubangamira ubumwe n'ubwiyunge no gutiza umurindi abifuzza kugarura jenoside mu Rwanda.

AMB. OLIVIER JP NDUHUNGIREHE

Ambassador of Rwanda to the Netherlands



#TwiyaMyeAbapfobya

“

Namaganye nivuye inyuma umuntu wese uko yaba ameze kose, upfobya jenoside yakorewe Abatutsi. Bareke gukomeretsa abayirokotse barimo kwiyubaka. Muze turwanye ingengabitekerezo ya Jenoside yakorewe Abatutsi

CHRISTINE SAFARI

IBUKA HOLLANDE



#TwiyaMyeAbapfobya

“

Let's condemn strongly these deniers who want to dehumanise survivors and victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi through their attempt to weaken Rwandans effort to fight Genocide ideology.

CLAUDE NDABARASA

Chairman RCA-NL



#HaltTodeniers

#TwiyaMyeAbapfobya (#HaltToDeniers)

“

Gupfobya no guhakana Jenocide yakorewe Abatutsi muw'1994, Ni ukudusubiza muri Jenocide no gutoneka ibikomere by'abayirokotse, Ni uguhakana uwo ndiwe, ko narakotse, ko ndiho, ko ndi umunyarwanda. Reka ubugome n'agashinyaguro, Tuzarage abato Rwanda Nziza. Ngwino tuyane dusige inabi dusange ineza n'ubumuntu.

GAKIRE DIEUDONNÉ

IBUKA Hollande



“

Ontkenning en minimalisatie van genocide tegen de Tutsi is niet alleen een strafbaar feit, maar ook een duidelijk teken van gebrek aan menselijkheid en bewustzijn. Het neemt de waardigheid van de doden weg en tast de overlevenden aan. Het is triest dat er mensen zijn die vandaag na 27 jaar nog steeds in de genocide-ideologie geloven.

SANDRA UWASE

Diaspora Hollande



#TwiyaMyeAbapfobya

“

La contestation du génocide perpétré contre les Tutsi n' est pas une opinion. C' est un acte négationniste Pour protéger la dignité des victimes et des rescapés du génocide perpétré contre les Tutsi disons "STOP" au négationnisme sous toutes ses formes.

EMMA GAKUBA

Rescapée du génocide



“

Kukataa Mauaji ya Kimbari dhidi ya Watutsi hadi leo sio ubinadamu. Uhamasishaji, kwamba Mauaji ya Kimbari yametokea ni muhimu sana ili kuhakikisha kwamba hayatokei tena! Kwa pamoja tupinge mawazo potofu dhidi ya mauaji ya kimbari.

LILIAN ANDREW

RCA-NL Member



#TwiyaMyeAbapfobya

“

Denying the genocide against the Tutsi to this day is inhumane. Awareness, that the genocide has taken place is extremely important to ensure, that it never happens again! It is indescribable to have experienced this as a person and as a survivor.

MARION VAN DE VOORT

Friend of Rwanda



“

Although there is a global tendency for alternative facts, we can not allow people to deny the Genocide against Tutsi. The facts and grief are too strong.

HILDA KAMALI

RCA-NL Committee Member



#HaltTodeniers

“

As a genocide survivor and a mother, I am deeply offended by genocide denial and minimization. Not only is my 1994 ordeal trivialized or questioned but my efforts to heal and reconcile are impeded. Like all mothers, my only wish is to ensure that my children live in a country where memory is not assassinated and unity is preserved.

VIRGINIE INGABIRE

Genocide survivor



“

For the people who deny the genocide against the Tutsi in 1994 I have a question: Why have I no parents now? Why did I have to run for my life as a little girl? Stop harassing and poisoning our past. Let's teach our children our history because we do live with it every single day. The perpetrators of the genocide against the Tutsi and those who want to erase the facts, shall and will be brought to justice.

ROSE UMUGANWA

Genocide Survivor



#HaltTodeniers

#HaltTodeniers

#HaltTodeniers

FONERWA At Forefront Of Green Investment In Rwanda

The Government of Rwanda has shown strong efforts in protecting the environment, mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects, and tremendous achievements have been recorded in this regard in the last 26 years. The establishment of the Rwanda Green Fund-FONERWA in 2012 with a mandate to mobilize financial resources to invest in green projects has been a great milestone to ensure the country builds a strong climate resilient and green economy.

In the past eight years since its initiation, the Rwanda Green Fund has significantly been contributing to the national resource mobilization efforts as per the national climate ambitions (NDCs). Different green projects supported by the Fund have created more than 144,000 green jobs with thousands of other green jobs created by other green investments over the past eight years.

Click on the link www.fonerwa.org/investments to read more on the green projects which were supported by FONERWA.

Rwanda's Flower Exports Triple, Buoyed By Valentine's Week

Rwanda exported 43,237 kilograms of flowers, earning \$467,544 in the week ending February 7, according to data from the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB). The figures reflect a sharp rise in exports when compared to the previous week when the country exported 19,235 kilograms of flowers, which fetched \$126,131. The data imply that flower export volumes increased by more than 200 per cent while revenues rose by over 300 per cent.

NAEB attributed the rise to the increase in demand ahead of the February 14 Valentine's Day. The surge in demand fueled increased production by local floriculturists. Valentine's Day preparation worldwide has led to more demand for the product," said Pie Ntwari, the NAEB Communication Specialist.



Dutch NGO Boosts Strawberry Farming In 5 Rwandan Districts

Agriterra, a Dutch non-government organisation has partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources to expand the 'Bravura strawberry variety' trials in Rwanda. Agriterra through HortInvest project introduced two Dutch strawberry varieties namely Bravura and Furore in Rwanda in 2020.

Last year, the Ministry of Agriculture visited the first trial fields operated by KOABUNYA cooperative in Rutsiro district and CODFM cooperative in Muhanga district and requested the NGO to help expand the strawberry trials in the country. [Read more.](#)



RwandAir Becomes First African Airline To Trial IATA Travel Pass

RwandAir becomes the first African airline to trial the IATA Travel Pass to ensure safe and seamless International connectivity, beginning a three-week trial plan in April for customers traveling between Kigali, Rwanda and Nairobi, Kenya.



IATA Travel Pass is a digital application with the sole purpose to help passengers verify they comply with COVID-19 test or vaccine travel requirements securely and in turn help in giving governments the confidence to reopen borders.

Developed by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the trade association for the world's airlines, the platform is designed to be incorporated into airlines' apps, so flyers easily understand what they need before they fly.

[Read more.](#)

From Silverbacks To Sips Of Tea – The Ultimate 10-Day Rwandan Adventure

Rwanda's rhythm is palpable. Whether you are walking in the footsteps of giant silverback gorillas in Volcanoes National Park, exploring the wetlands in Akagera or shaking your hips to an African beat in a nightclub in the capital Kigali, you feel it. The underlying pulse of love, community, and connection is infectious and quickly connects you to the people and the place. On this 10-day adventure you can trace the country's incredible history from its royal roots through its four national parks and into its 21st century cosmopolitan center. [Read more.](#)



£2 Million In Climate Funding Awarded To African Parks To Secure Ecosystems



People's Postcode Lottery has made a significant £2 million commitment to conservation non-profit African Parks as part of its £24 million Climate Challenge Fund. The funds will help to conserve four major protected areas which are under the management of African Parks in partnership with Governments in Africa, contributing to climate change mitigation and building climate resilience in their landscapes. Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda is one of the beneficiary parks, following a partnership recently announced to ensure its long-term protection. [Read more.](#)

Save The Date: 13 March 2021

Virtual Conference International Women's Day

« The Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda to the Netherlands has the pleasure to invite all members of the Rwandan Community in The Netherlands (RCA-NL) and Friends of Rwanda to a virtual conference to celebrate the **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY** »



Mrs. Marina Diboma
Deputy Managing Director
Netherlands Africa Business Council (NABC)



Mrs. Jackline KAMANZI
Executive Secretary of
Rwanda National Women's Council



Mrs. Christella MUKAMANA
RCA-NL Member at the frontline
in fighting COVID-19



Olivier Jean Patrick NDUHUNGIREHE
Ambassador



Sandra UWASE
Moderator

**Women in leadership: Achieving an
equal future in a COVID-19 world.**

The talk will be live on WebEx

**On 13 March 2021
From 15:00 to 17:00**



Embassy of the Republic of
Rwanda in The Netherlands

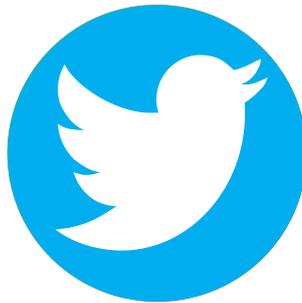
To register yourself, please click on this link: <http://bit.ly/2021-IWD-NL>

Follow The Embassy On Social Media

We invite our followers on social media to like & share our posts, react to them and post relevant items on our social media pages. This way, you will help spread the emerging great story of Rwanda to those who do not yet know. Murakoze!



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NEWSLETTER
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You are receiving this newsletter because you have been previously in contact with the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in the Netherlands. If you don't wish to receive this newsletter anymore or if you have any remarks or suggestions for this newsletter please inform us at ambalahaye@minaffet.gov.rw

