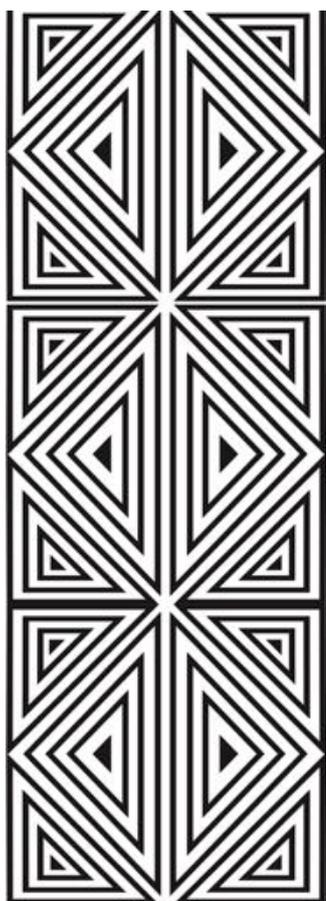


Rwandaful

Monthly Roundup of Rwanda's Stories



EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS



IN THIS ISSUE:



President Macron Acknowledged 'Heavy Responsibility' Of France In The Genocide Against The Tutsi

Pages 3, 4



Dutch Tourists Can Visit Rwanda Again

Page 10



Virtual Youth Conference in the Netherlands

Pages 11, 12

RwandaFul

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Content

MACRON ACKNOWLEDGED 'HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY' FRANCE IN GENOCIDE AGAINST TUTSI - PAGES 3, 4	
PRESIDENT KAGAME CHAIRS RPF EXTENDED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	PAGE 5
PRESIDENT KAGAME ADDRESSES CAF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING'	PAGE 5
PRESIDENT KAGAME MEETS WITH PATRIOTS BASKETBALL CLUB	PAGE 5
VISIT RWANDA & RWANDAIR JOIN BASKETBALL AFRICA LEAGUE AS OFFICIAL PARTNERS	PAGE 6
SPANIARD CRISTIAN RODRIGUEZ WINS TOUR DU RWANDA 2021	PAGE 7
RWANDAIR 1ST AFRICAN AIRLINE TO ACHIEVE DIAMOND STATUS IN HEALTH SAFETY AUDIT	PAGE 8
VISIT RWANDA WITH ARSENAL'S ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE, DANI CEBALLOS & NICOLAS PEPE	PAGE 8
AMBASSADOR NDUHUNGIREHE'S VISIT TO THE PEACE PALACE IN THE HAGUE	PAGE 9
KWIBUKA27 LECTURE AT LEIDEN UNIVERSITY - L.S.A. CUSTODIA	PAGE 9
DUTCH TOURISTS CAN VISIT RWANDA AGAIN	PAGE 10
VIRTUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE IN THE NETHERLANDS	PAGES 11, 12

President Macron Acknowledged 'Heavy Responsibility' Of France In The Genocide Against The Tutsi



French President Emmanuel Macron was in Rwanda on 27 & 28 May for an official visit to further strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation between Rwanda and France.

President Macron visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial site - the final resting place for more than 250,000 victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi - where he laid a wreath to pay tribute to the victims. In his address at the memorial, President Macron said that only survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi can forgive France for her historical and political responsibility in Rwanda. President Macron said: "As I stand with humility and respect at your side on this day, I come to recognize the magnitude of our responsibilities."

Furthermore, President Kagame alongside President Macron held a bilateral meeting and a joint press conference during which both Presidents observed the signing of two bilateral agreements that include a framework for bilateral cooperation and an agreement for sports and talent development.



In his remarks, President Kagame hailed the statement made by President Emmanuel Macron at the Kigali Genocide Memorial, by calling it a powerful speech, with special meaning, and which will resonate beyond Rwanda. “His words were something more valuable than an apology: they were the truth” President Kagame said, stressing that speaking the truth is risky. But you do it because it is right, even when it costs you something and even when it is unpopular. “Despite some loud noises and voices, President Macron took this step. Politically and morally, this was an act of tremendous courage.” President Kagame added.

President Macron underlined that the new opened page in the bilateral relations between Rwanda and France will amplify the partnerships that both countries have embarked on against several common challenges. He also stated that France will speed up the efforts to bring to justice genocide fugitives who live in safe havens in France.

President Macron took part in other functions that include, the inauguration of Francophone Cultural Centre of Rwanda, visiting IPRC Tumba where a Mechatronics Department will be set up through partnership with the French Development Agency, and a tour at the Gikondo Health Centre where he witnessed Rwanda’s efforts in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, and announced a donation of 117,600 doses of vaccine to Rwanda.



Click on the image to start the video of the joint press conference.

President Kagame Chairs RPF Extended National Executive Committee Meeting

Chairman Kagame: “What Rwanda wants is peace, and the freedom to carry forward the business of transforming our country. We do not want to stand in anyone’s way nor do we want anyone to stand in our way.”

Click on the image to start the video (in Kinyarwanda).



President Kagame Addresses CAF Executive Committee Meeting



“We have a duty to football but we have a duty to Africa as well and to Africans. So to what do we aspire in delivering our mission as representatives, as leaders in football as a sport? Africa has enormous talent, probably more and better than known in the world. But we only excel when we are elsewhere not here. It must be a question we should really get a hold of and find answers to.” - President Kagame.

Click on the image to start the video.

President Kagame Meets With Patriots Basketball Club

“Winning and losing are part of life. In life, in everything, you win some, you lose some. It doesn’t matter who you are, it doesn’t matter where you come from, there is always winning and losing. But the best way to look at it is that there is winning in losing. When you lose, don’t waste that loss. Because that loss brings you lessons to learn. What can I do better? What did I not do so well? And why? Then in answering those questions, you make yourself better. And I think that is winning. If there’s a process that makes you better, that is winning.” - President Kagame



Click on the image to start the video.

Visit Rwanda And Rwandair Join Basketball Africa League As Official Partners

The Basketball Africa League (BAL) and the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) announced a multiyear partnership that makes “Visit Rwanda” – the country’s marketing and tourism initiative – a Founding and Host Partner of the inaugural BAL season that took place on May 16-30 in Kigali.

The partnership showcased Rwanda as a world-class tourism and investment destination and highlight Africa’s growing sports industry. Games were played at the Kigali Arena, and the Kigali Convention Centre served as the practice facility for all 12 BAL teams. Visit Rwanda was showcased on BAL team uniforms and the BAL and RDB will collaborate on youth development and social responsibility initiatives in Kigali during the season.

In addition, RwandAir, the country’s national carrier, was the league’s Official Airline for the inaugural season and facilitated travel to and from Kigali for select BAL teams and staff. RwandAir operates one of the youngest state-of-the-art fleets out of its Kigali hub. Earlier this year, RwandAir became the first African airline to vaccinate all staff and crew against COVID-19.

“As we set to tip off our league and make basketball history, teaming up with RDB and RwandAir reflects our belief that sports, and basketball in particular, can be an economic growth engine for the continent,” said BAL President Amadou Gallo Fall. “Rwanda is leading the way for tourism in Africa, and this partnership will highlight an African continent that is creative, vibrant and ready to tell its story.”

“We are thrilled to partner with the BAL as it gives us an invaluable opportunity to showcase the wonders of Rwanda,” said Rwanda Development Board CEO Clare Akamanzi. “As a Founding and Host Partner, we will reach millions of basketball fans from all around the world and promote Rwanda’s natural beauty,



budding sports tourism, and conducive investment and business environment. Hosting the BAL in Rwanda is also a testament to Rwanda’s successful handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are pleased to welcome all the players and visitors to Rwanda for a safe and seamless experience.”

“As Rwanda’s national carrier, we’re honoured to be the official airline partner of the BAL,” said RwandAir CEO Yvonne Manzi Makolo. “We’re excited to play such a pivotal role in uniting teams across Africa for the inaugural season. In addition to vaccinating all RwandAir employees, we’ve implemented stringent health and safety protocols on board and at the airport. These measures mean that players and staff will have the highest level of reassurance and peace of mind on their journey to and from Kigali.”

Twelve teams from across the continent competed in the inaugural BAL season. The Kigali Arena hosted all 26 games of the competition.

Spaniard Cristian Rodriguez Wins Tour Du Rwanda 2021

Spanish cyclist, Rodríguez Martin Cristian of Team Total Direct Energie has become the first European rider to win 2.1 category Tour du Rwanda.

It was truly a successful tour, raced under difficult circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic with limited cycling fans by the roadside compared to what we know of the Rwandan cycling fans, but the organizing team and Rwanda Government authorities ensured a safe race for everyone involved.

Tour du Rwanda is the highlight of Africa's professional cycling calendar. This year, the 13th edition of the UCI 2.1 Level Tour du Rwanda was held from 2-9 May. The race was organized by the Rwanda Cycling Federation, the Ministry of Sports and partners. [Visit Rwanda](#) is proud to be the Official Sponsor of the Yellow Jersey for the 13th Tour du Rwanda.

Africa's Leading Cycling Race

- 8 days of racing • 7 cities and stages
- 4 provinces crossed with final stage in the heart of the capital, Kigali • 16 teams
- 128 riders representing five continents, including world class professional teams.

Since 2017, [Rwanda Tea](#) has been partnering with the Rwanda Cycling Federation (FERWACY) as a top sponsor, considering the fact that Tour du Rwanda is an important platform through which the Rwanda Tea brand can be seen and recognized by the world's tea consumers.

Over the past four editions, tea consumers, especially cycling spectators were able to get a first-hand experience of Rwanda Tea, sampling different brands and varieties at every starting and finishing point of the 8-stage tour which attracts some of the most competitive cyclists in the world.



Rwandair First African Airline To Achieve Diamond Status In Apex Health Safety Audit

APEX Health Safety sets the industry benchmark for customer-centric COVID-19 certification. It provides a scientifically-based validation system to encourage airlines to reach the highest possible standards for health and hygiene, and help restore customer confidence to fly, following the devastating impact of travel restrictions on aviation. [Read more.](#)



Visit Rwanda With Arsenal's Alexandre Lacazette, Dani Ceballos And Nicolas Pepe



Click on the image to start the video.

Rwanda is now open and we are excited to welcome visitors for safe and seamless experiences. We've teamed up with Arsenal's Alexandre Lacazette, Dani Ceballos and Nicolas Pepe to show you how to travel to Rwanda.

All tourism activities have now resumed with enhanced COVID-19 prevention measures. The well-being of all travellers is Rwanda's top priority and the country has put in place robust health and safety guidelines. Learn more about Rwanda reopening for tourism at www.visitrwanda.com

Ambassador Nduhungirehe's Visit To The Peace Palace In The Hague

Ambassador Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe was welcomed to the Peace Palace in The Hague by Mr. Erik de Baedts, General Director of the Carnegie Foundation-Peace Palace and Treasurer of the Hague Academy of International Law since 2015.

“I met H.E. Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda the day after I laid a wreath at the monument opposite the Peace Palace to commemorate the victims of the Second World War. I learnt a lot from the dynamics that have taken place in Rwanda over the past decades. We share an interest to prevent dynamics of exclusion and persecution of minorities from taking place” – Mr. de Baedts said. [Read more.](#)



Kwibuka27 Lecture At Leiden University – L.S.A. Custodia



On 11 May, Ambassador Nduhungirehe gave a lecture at the Leiden University - Campus The Hague, which was attended online & offline by students from L.S.A. Custodia. This is a study association for the bachelor Security Studies and the master Crisis and Security Management and has the goal to provide students of these programs with opportunities for a deeper and more engaging university experience

During his lecture the Ambassador explained how the pre-established Genocide plan had evolved over time and touched on the role of the international community that failed to prevent the Genocide against the Tutsi from happening.



Ambassador Nduhungirehe also talked about how the Genocide deniers and revisionists try to hide the truth with the aim of spreading a new narrative whilst downplaying the responsibility of the perpetrators.

Dutch Tourists Can Visit Rwanda Again

On 15 May 2021, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs lifted travel restrictions for a limited number of countries, including Rwanda. Rwanda is the only country in Africa with a “yellow” advice, which allows Dutch tourists and travellers to visit our country again.

This is great news for wildlife enthusiasts and tourists interested in a lifetime experience at the heart of Africa. After all, the “country of a thousand hills” is a unique destination on the African continent, due to its breathtaking landscape, its national parks, volcanoes and rainforests, its wildlife population, as well as its historical and cultural sites.

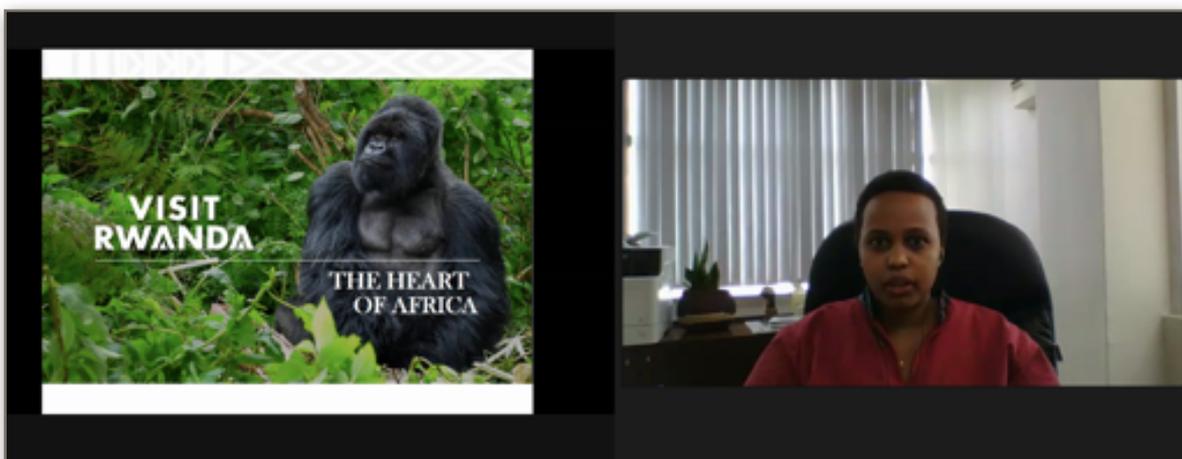


On 27 May, the Embassy of Rwanda in The Hague and the Rwanda Development Board organized a media briefing for about 30 Dutch key media & journalists on Rwanda's effective Covid-19 response that enabled the country to reopen for safe and seamless tourism. Ambassador Nduhungirehe and RDB's Head of Tourism Mrs Ariella Kageruka presented on the health and safety measures for visiting Rwanda.



"Rwanda was the only country in Africa to have a code yellow, which makes it easier for tourists to travel to Rwanda because the travel advisory is positive. We are ready to receive tourists from around the world including the Netherlands," Ambassador Nduhungirehe said.

Dutch celebrity Humberto Tan was the third speaker and he inspired the audience with his experiences when he visited Rwanda in January 2020.



Virtual Youth Conference in the Netherlands

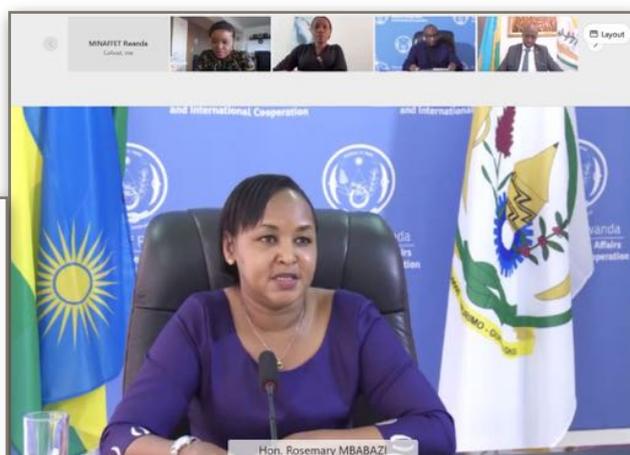
On 29 May, the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Kingdom of the Netherlands held a virtual conference for the Rwandan youth living in the Netherlands, under the theme: “The Role of the Rwandan Youth Abroad in Building the Rwanda and Africa We Want”. The conference was organized to celebrate the 58th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was later transformed into the African Union (AU).

The conference brought together the Rwandan youth living in the Netherlands, members of the Committee of the Rwandan Community Abroad – The Netherlands (RCA-NL), leaders of the Pan-African Movement, Rwanda Chapter (PAM- Rwanda), as well as Government and Embassy officials to discuss on how the Rwandan youth living in the Netherlands can foster unity, patriotism and Pan-Africanism, contribute to the socio-economic development of their country and to the integration of their continent, and be a mirror of Rwanda’s positive image in the Netherlands.

Topics of discussion were aligned with Rwanda’s Vision 2050, the Youth and Diaspora policies of the Ministry of Youth and Culture (MYCULTURE) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MINAFFET), respectively, as well as the Strategic Plan of the Pan-African Movement, Rwanda Chapter (PAM-RWANDA).

Program:

- Opening remarks by Mrs Solange Umwari, Vice Chairperson of the Rwanda Community in the Netherlands (RCA-NL), Moderator
- Welcome remarks by Ambassador Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe
- 'The Rwandan youth in upholding national values, promoting unity and embracing Pan-Africanism', by Hon Protais MUSONI, Chairman of the Pan-African Movement, Rwanda Chapter
- 'The experience of the youth living abroad in building the Rwanda and Africa we want', Mrs Sado Mubyeyi, Rwandan-Dutch Youth, Tourism management graduate
- 'The role of the youth in Rwanda’s socio-economic transformation', by Hon. Rosemary MBABAZI, Minister of Youth and Culture.



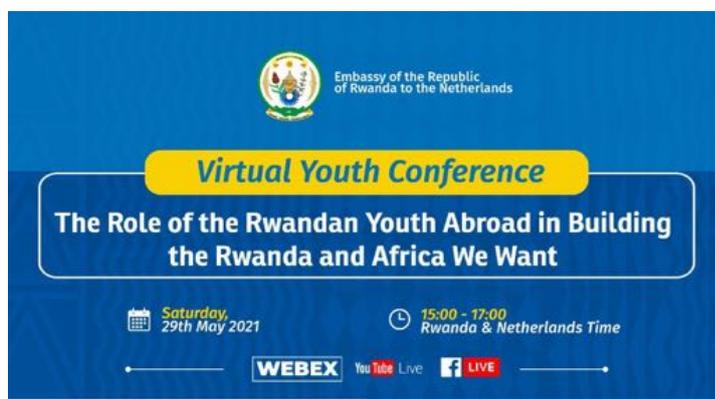
Virtual Youth Conference in the Netherlands - continued

Ambassador Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe said that the focus of the conference was three topics that are interlinked: the people, the country and the continent: "In other words, we are going to discuss about youth, patriotism and pan-Africanism. Indeed, when we talk about the people in Rwanda and in Africa, we obviously mean the youth first and foremost; when we talk about our country, it's about patriotism and socio-economic transformation; and when we talk about our continent, it's about integration and pan-Africanism."

The Ambassador said that the Government of Rwanda initiated many civic engagement policies and outreaching events, such as Come and See, Itorero, Rwanda Days, YouthConnekt, Meet The President and others, which today have increasingly gained recognition not only by the young people in the country but also those from the Rwandan Community Abroad (RCA), as an important contribution to unity, patriotism and socio-economic development.

"We have the best panel to address the theme of this conference and draw perspectives for the Rwandan youth abroad, with respect to patriotism and pan-Africanism. We have here with us a youthful panel. We have Hon.

Minister of Youth and Culture, we have the Comrade Chairperson of PAM-Rwanda as well as a representative of the youth in the Netherlands. I am grateful that they accepted to participate in this conference and have no doubt that they will enrich us with their knowledge and experience", Ambassador Nduhungirehe concluded.



Click on the image to start the video of the conference.

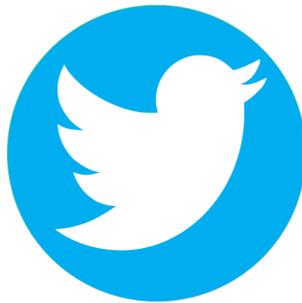


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Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda

Parkstraat 15
2514 JD, The Hague
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 70 392 65 71

E-mail: ambalahaye@minaffet.gov.rw

Website: www.rwandainthenetherlands.gov.rw

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