

# Rwandaful

Monthly Roundup of Rwanda's Stories



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

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## Remarks By Vincent Biruta, Minister Of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation



*Click on the image to start the video.*

“Mwiriweho neza! I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda to the Kingdom of the Netherlands on this occasion as we celebrate the 15th anniversary of its establishment in The Hague.

I further would like to commend the work that the Rwandan Embassy has been doing, since 2006, in maintaining and strengthening the friendship and cooperation between our two countries as well as ensuring the wellbeing of the Rwandan community living in the Netherlands. Because of this work, Rwanda enjoys excellent relations with the Netherlands.

In the last fifteen years, the Embassy of Rwanda has also been a key pillar in facilitating the increase of trade between the two countries and connecting investors. This has led to a growth in interest of Dutch companies to invest in and trade with Rwanda in various areas including in agriculture, coffee, horticulture and water resources management. To cite a few data, the Netherlands imports from Rwanda was US\$7.2 Million during 2020 while Rwanda imports from the Netherlands amounted to US\$19.66 Million during 2019.

Another important point to note in the cooperation is that this year, we celebrated 25

years of cooperation between Netherlands and Rwanda in the justice sector. We appreciate the support offered by the Kingdom of the Netherlands through financial disbursements, human resources, infrastructural development, and capacity building. In line with this, I would like to express our sincere gratitude toward the Dutch Government for its support in the reconstruction of Rwanda after the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, in that aspect.

We further salute the strong cooperation at the multilateral level where both countries have supported each other including in the adoption of the UN handbook on combatting sexual violence in Peacekeeping operations, and The Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians, amongst others.

As I conclude, I wish to once again reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to support the Embassy of Rwanda in the Netherlands in its activities that help to enhance cooperation with the Netherlands in both bilateral and multilateral settings, for the mutual benefits of our peoples.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a Happy Anniversary!”

## Introduction On The Embassy's 15th Anniversary By Ambassador Nduhungirehe



*Click on the image to start the video of the special anniversary message by Ambassador Nduhungirehe.*

The 26th of October 2021 marked the 15th anniversary of the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. 2006 is indeed the year that the embassy opened in The Hague and on the 26th of October 2006 the first Ambassador presented his credential letters to Queen Beatrix. This anniversary is a testimony of the existing good relations between the Republic of Rwanda and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

In celebration of this milestone, throughout the month of November 2021, the embassy highlighted the importance of the bilateral relations between Rwanda and the Netherlands, as well as the work of the embassy in promoting economic cooperation, trade and investment, as well as supporting the Rwandan community in the Netherlands.

These highlights included a selection of officials from the government of Rwanda and the Netherlands, investment and trade partners, as well as representatives of the Rwandan community in the Netherlands who were invited to record messages, statements and videos. You will find all of those in this special edition of the RwandaFul newsletter and you can watch the videos on our YouTube-channel at any time you wish.

## Ambassador Matthijs Wolters Of The Embassy Of The Kingdom Of The Netherlands

Remarks by Ambassador Matthijs Wolters of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kigali on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in the Netherlands.



*Click on the image to start the video.*

## Zephane Niyonkuru, Deputy CEO Of Rwanda Development Board



*Click on the image to start the video.*

“Hello Everyone!

My name is Zephane NIYONKURU, and I am the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Development Board.

We are an entity tasked to fast-track the economic development of Rwanda by enabling the private sector. We focus on investment promotion and implementation, we focus on tourism and conservation, we promote exports and we also help the members of the private sector to tap into the right skills once they invest in Rwanda.

We have been working closely with embassies and missions of Rwanda abroad and we have been working closely with the Embassy of

Rwanda at Hague. We work closely with ambassadors, minister counsellors, commercial attaches, among other key staff at the embassy.

Investments from the Netherlands have been growing over the last five years, we registered investments worth over USD 50 Million. If you look into the exports over the last three years, exports from Rwanda to the Netherlands reached USD 18 Million and were dominated by tea, coffee, flowers and other horticulture products.

I want to say congratulations on your 15th Anniversary. We look forward to more collaborations.

Thank you very much.”

## Claude Bizimana, CEO Of National Agricultural Export Development Board



*Click on the image to start the video.*

“I am Claude Bizimana, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB). It’s a Rwandan public-commercial institution with the mission to facilitate the growth of businesses to diversify and grow agriculture and livestock commodity export revenues.

We worked with the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in The Hague since 2015, and we have been able to create market linkages and strengthen existing ones, participate in exhibitions for export produce in the Netherlands and EU market.

I am very delighted to celebrate with the Rwandan Embassy in The Hague on the 15th anniversary and I send my best wishes to the Rwandan community residing in The Kingdom of The Netherlands.

Over the recent five years of collaboration with the Rwandan embassy in The Hague, a lot has been achieved:

- We secured new buyers for our export produce,
- Volumes of our coffee exports increased tremendously to generate revenues worth 2 million Euros,
- Horticulture exports as well increased tremendously to generate revenues worth 8 million Euros.
- The embassy has been a great channel of business communication between Rwandan exporters and buyers in The Netherlands and
- Our collaboration helped so much the Rwandan community especially Rwandan exporters to mobilize and bring on board new investments in the agri-exports value chains.

I really believe that our partnership with the Embassy will be strengthened in a bid to attain high end markets, mobilize more investors to explore different available opportunities in the agri-export sector in Rwanda.

I also do believe that through the Embassy as our channel of business communication, opportunities for the Rwandan agri-export sector will keep expanding in the future.”

## Rosmarijn Fens, MD Of The Netherlands–African Business Council



*Click on the image to start the video.*

"Hello, my name is Rosmarijn Fens, and I am the Managing Director of the Netherlands-African Business Council. We hereby congratulate the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda to the Kingdom of the Netherlands with its' 15th anniversary. We are at a time full of anniversaries, since just last month, the Rwandan Embassy was present when we, the NABC, celebrated our own 75th Anniversary.

The aim of the Netherlands-African Business Council is to promote African countries as lucrative destinations for business and investment and to help Dutch companies find their way in Africa. Next to that we see, more and more often, requests coming in from African companies that aspire to do business with the Netherlands and seek our advice - a development that we encourage greatly.

Rwanda is one of the 15 focus countries of the Dutch private sector, and in the past 15 years the NABC and the embassy have organised multiple events together. I would like to recall the Rwanda Business Day, organised by NABC in Amsterdam

in 2015, on the occasion of the visit of His Excellency president Paul Kagame to the Netherlands.

Other highlights included trade missions. NABC took Dutch entrepreneurs to Rwanda in 2013, 2015 and 2017. We also received a Rwandan Business Delegation that focused on horticulture. So what do we expect in the coming years? Rwanda is the smallest of all the 15 focus countries, and has been chosen because we do see good business opportunities in the country.

In order for companies to thrive, it is crucial to have a stable business climate and a well-functioning rule of law - and we hope and expect Rwanda to keep pursuing these important elements. We would love to see a resumption of physical trade missions and business events picking up again in the coming few years.

We wish you a great day and look forward to working with you during the coming 15 years, and far beyond! Bye!"

## Harry Betist, MD Of Travelproof



*Click on the image to start the video.*

“Excellency Nduhungirehe and dear colleagues at the Rwanda Embassy. My name is Harry Betist and I am honored to have the opportunity to congratulate the Rwanda Embassy The Hague with its 15th anniversary here in the Netherlands.

Allow me to share a few words about the intensive collaboration from me and my colleagues with the Rwanda Embassy during the past three years. We have experienced the entire team – His Excellency, Minister Counselor, First Secretaries and all colleagues at the Embassy – as an open and welcoming team.

Bridging our two nations, bridging different views, bridging different understandings. Specifically I experience the Embassy myself as an open house, where each and everyone is hearty welcome. Where each and everybody is invited, especially to network and to share values and to find the proper way ahead in the interest of Rwanda and the interest of the Netherlands.

I would like to express that the entire team, not only where His Excellency carries the title “Ambassador”, is a team of ambassadors to your country. Motivating Dutch people to not only visit the country but also to take the very interesting and, looking from historical point of view, dramatic story of Rwanda on board. To build on understanding and to build on enthusiasm and excitement about your country.

I wish you another fifteen or hopefully even more prosperous years ahead and wish you happy celebrations. Thank you so much.”

## Anne-Marie De Brouwer Of The Mukomeze Foundation



*Click on the image to start the video.*

“My name is Anne-Marie de Brouwer. I work at Impact: Center against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Mukomeze Foundation, and at Bèkske: Rwandan Empowerment Coffee. In particular with regard to those last two organisations, myself and my colleagues had many fruitful meetings with the staff of the Embassy of Rwanda in the Netherlands over the past 13 years.

The Mukomeze Foundation was set up on 8 May 2008 in the Netherlands and focuses on the plight and needs of survivors of sexual violence during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. We work together with Solace Ministries in Rwanda and together we support and seek the empowerment

of survivors of sexual violence in such areas as education, agriculture and income-generating projects.

With Bèkske: Rwandan Empowerment Coffee, a social enterprise, we sell in the Netherlands the delicious specialty coffee from Rwanda, grown by Rwandan female coffee entrepreneurs who also survived the genocide, including many also sexual violence. Rwandan coffee is not only one of the best coffees in the world, the coffee we sell is also honest coffee. Bèkske: Rwandan Empowerment Coffee brings 3-4 more times back to the people who grow the coffee than most regular coffees you normally buy.

## Anne-Marie De Brouwer Of The Mukomeze Foundation

Together with my colleagues from Mukomeze and Bèkske, I would like to warmly congratulate the staff of the Embassy of Rwanda to the Netherlands with its 15th anniversary. We have always enjoyed our good relationship and contact.

Almost from the very early beginnings that the Rwandan Embassy arrived in the Netherlands, we met. I would like to mention several highlights in our encounters and cooperation.

One was in 2009, when we organized as the Mukomeze Foundation a 15th commemoration event at Tilburg University. We then also launched the book “The Men Who Killed Me: Rwandan Survivors of Sexual Violence”, with testimonials and portraits of Rwandan genocide survivors of sexual violence. The Embassy was present to give a speech about Rwanda’s past, present and future and to commemorate together. We organized more commemorations in the years following, in the presence of the Rwandan Embassy. We always appreciated the interest of the Rwandan Embassy in the work of the Mukomeze Foundation and that it underlined the importance of support to genocide survivors of sexual violence.

Other highlights were the visits of Mama Lambert to the Netherlands on the invitation of the Rwandan Embassy. Mama Lambert is the counselor at Solace Ministries where she counsels thousands of genocide survivors, including the survivors we work with via Mukomeze and Bèkske: Rwandan Empowerment Coffee.

For example, in 2014, the Embassy invited Mama Lambert to speak about her experiences in the genocide at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague within the context of the 20th commemoration of the genocide against the Tutsi. And in April 2019, the Embassy invited Mama Lambert again, this time for the 25th commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi, in the City Hall of The Hague, to share her story with the audience. We were then also able to present our new book “And I Live On: The Resilience of Rwandan Genocide Survivors of Sexual Violence” – an updated version of “The Men Who Killed Me” in the Peace Palace in The Hague to the UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide.

With Bèkske: Rwandan Empowerment Coffee we are deliberating with the Rwandan Embassy how we can upscale the sales of our coffee in the Netherlands so that we can have a bigger impact on the powerful Rwandan coffee business entrepreneurs. This also falls within its mandate to promote economic cooperation, trade and investment.

We, the board members of Mukomeze and co-owners of Bèkske: Rwandan Empowerment Coffee, wish H.E. Ambassador Olivier Nduhungirehe and all the staff members of the Rwandan Embassy in The Hague a wonderful and happy 15th Anniversary.

We wish you all the best and many more successes and joy for the years to come.”

## Claude Ndabarasa, President Of The Rwanda Community Abroad In The Netherlands



*Click on the image to start the video.*

“My name is Claude Ndabarasa, I am the President of the Rwandan Diaspora in the Netherlands. First of all, I would like to wish our embassy a happy 15th anniversary. These years have been marked by many activities carried out by the embassy in partnership with our diaspora, and this close partnership still exists until now. These activities include organizing annual celebrations, such as Kwibuka, Women's Day, Liberation Day and more. The fact that we have an embassy here in the Netherlands makes it easier

for our diaspora here to get services near them. This is a huge advantage for us, Rwandans, thanks to our country's leadership.

In 2015, the Embassy in conjunction with the Diaspora organized Rwanda Day, a great occasion to meet and interact with the President and Rwandans from all over the world. Other activities include encouraging Rwandans living in the Netherlands to participate in government programs, such as Gir'Inka, health insurance, where our diaspora has taken the lead in collecting contributions.

Last year our diaspora, in partnership with the embassy, raised funds to send to Rwanda in order to support the government efforts to fight against COVID-19. The embassy has also supported our diaspora to set up a football team in which embassy officials also play. This support highlights the good cooperation between the embassy and the diaspora. I wish, on behalf of our diaspora, to maintain this close relationship with the embassy. I would like to thank our embassy for always being there for us.”

## Christine Safari, President Of Ibuka – In The Netherlands



*Click on the image to start the video.*

"My name is Christine Safari, I'm the chairperson of Ibuka Netherlands. I'd like to wish a happy 15th anniversary to the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

In the past 15 years, Ibuka Netherlands collaborated with the Embassy in different domains. We jointly organized yearly remembrance ceremonies. Together we provided social assistance to the survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsis. Last but not least, we collaborated in efforts to bring suspects to justice.

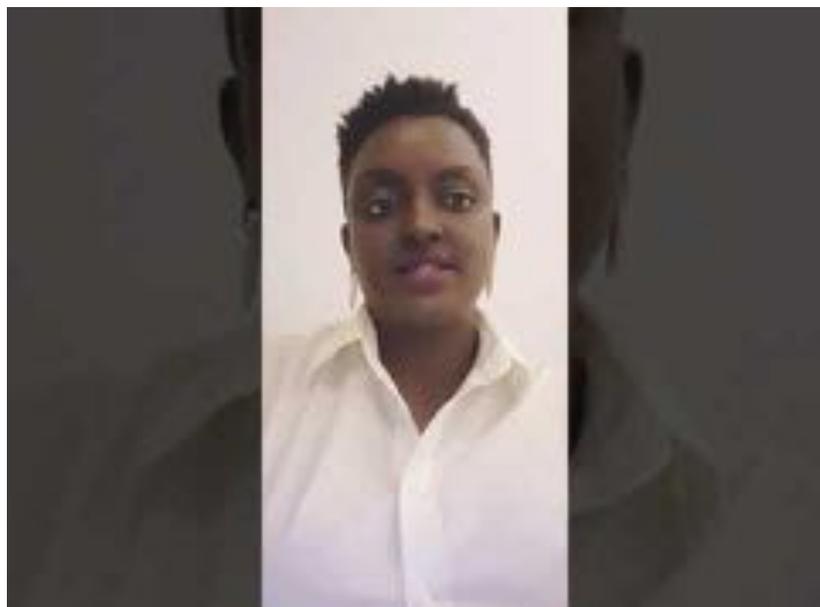
Ibuka Netherlands is very thankful for the Embassy assistance and we look forward to continued collaboration."

## Dr Etienne Ruvebana, Studied At The University Of Groningen In The Netherlands



*Click on the image to start the video.*

## Yvette Ruzibiza, A Rwandan Student In The Netherlands



*Click on the image to start the video.*

## Ambassador Nduhungirehe Gives A Tour Of The Embassy In The Hague And Introduces The Team



*Click on the image to start the video.*

**Michel Sebera**  
Minister Counselor



*Click on the image to start the video.*

**Jean Hugues Mukama**  
First Secretary



*Click on the image to start the video.*

**Herbert Ndahiro**  
First Secretary



*Click on the image to start the video.*

**Ambroise Ngabonziza**  
Administration & Finance Officer



*Click on the image to start the video.*

**Willem Versteegh**  
Marketing & Communication Expert



*Click on the image to start the video.*

**Lydia Sibo**  
Executive Assistant



*Click on the image to start the video.*

**Joy Uwanziga**  
Consular Affairs Assistant



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**Tharcisse Ndayambaje**  
Driver



*Click on the image to start the video.*

**William Rucyahana**  
Driver



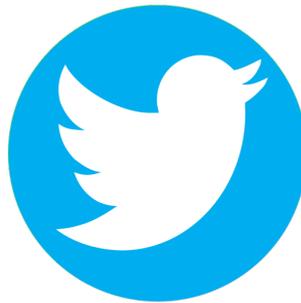
*Click on the image to start the video.*

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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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