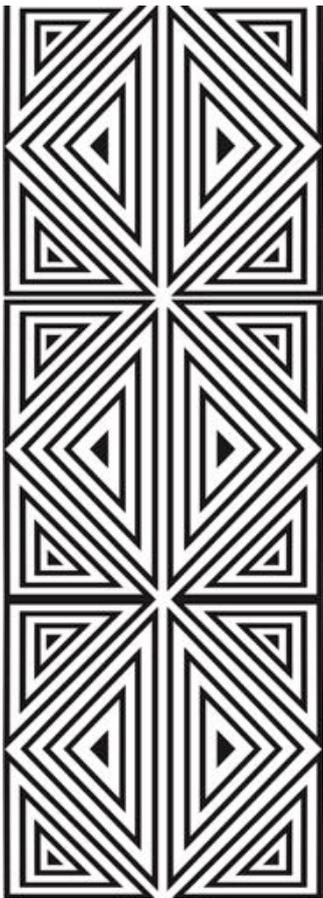


RwandaFul

Monthly Roundup of Rwanda's Stories



EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS



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President Kagame Calls For Robust Airlift Capabilities For Africa



The 11th annual African Air Chiefs Symposium was held January 24-28 in Kigali and provided a platform where senior airpower leaders across Africa established and strengthened partner relationships while collaborating and leveraging the unique contributions from each country. There were 32 African air chiefs and senior officials in attendance, three of which were virtual.

President Paul Kagame called on the airpower leaders from Africa and beyond to prioritize partnerships saying that the benefits of working together were clear in many ways. In his remarks, the President said that strategic airlift is a critical component for the maintenance of peace and security on the continent, particularly for peacekeeping operations. “Nevertheless, our airlift capabilities are limited, and this affects the ability of African air forces to respond rapidly to security threats,” he added. Rwanda has in the past been commended to be among the world’s largest and capable peacekeepers in the United Nations Peacekeeping missions.

President Kagame further highlighted that many of Africa’s emerging security challenges are transnational in scope and no one country has the resources to respond to them alone. “We must therefore prioritize partnerships because the benefits of working together are clear.”

Meanwhile the head of state emphasized that during the next days of the symposium, discussions should be held within the wider context of Africa’s socio-economic development trajectory. “Security and prosperity are two sides of the same coin. You cannot have one, without the other.”

President Kagame To African Youth: Leverage Digital Skills For European Job Market



Click on the image to start the video

President Paul Kagame has said that young Africans should leverage available technology to create jobs and integrate into the European labour market without necessarily migrating to other countries. He said this while addressing the Talking Africa Europe debate on migration and mobility in Africa-Europe partnerships on the 27th of January.

Organized by the Africa-Europe Foundation, the discussion is among other topics prepared to pave the way for the upcoming African Union-European Union Summit. Kagame said there are several reasons why Africans migrate to Europe, “some of them are justified, others are not, but they are either political, economic, security, all wrapped up on matters of governance.”

“Dangerous journeys continue to cause loss of lives and empower criminal network, we need new thinking and action to give us the results we want. To make progress, we must collectively diagnose the root cause of migration,” he said. He recommended that wide access to digital skills and technologies is one of the most strategic ways to modernize the migration policy debate.

“It is no longer necessary to relocate to Europe in order to participate directly in the European labour market. Young Africans can do so from Africa with private-public technology investments that create jobs.” Overall, he added, “our starting point is that every young African should be able to lead a dignified, productive, and safe life on the African continent, whether in their home country or elsewhere in Africa.”

Minister Vincent Biruta Visits RDF Troops In Central African Republic



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon Vincent Biruta visited Rwanda 57 Task Force Battalion at their Headquarters, Nzilla-Camp, Bangui, as well as Rwandan peacekeepers (Rwabatt 8 & Rwabatt 9) at Socatel Mpoko, Bangui in Central African Republic respectively on 13th and 14th January 2022. He was accompanied by the Head of Defence Intelligence, Brig Gen Vincent Nyakarundi.

Minister Biruta conveyed a message from HE President Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda and Commander -in-Chief of the Rwanda Defence Force, wishing them a happy new year and thanking them for fulfilling their mission with discipline and professionalism in Central African Republic.

Minister Biruta updated the Forces on current security situation in Rwanda and also on efforts the country has made in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic including giving vaccines to the population. He also briefed them on current relations between Rwanda and neighbouring countries.

The Head of Defence Intelligence, Brig Gen Vincent Nyakarundi urged the Forces to remain very determined in accomplishing their tasks.

Rwanda Defence Force is the largest troops contributor to the United Nations Multidimensional Integration Stabilization Mission in Central African Republic.

Ambassador Nduhungirehe Presents Letters Of Credence To President Of Latvia

On 11 January 2022 in Riga, Ambassador Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe presented his letters of credence to President Egils Levits appointing him as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Rwanda to Latvia.

The Republic of Latvia is situated in the Northeastern part of Europe. Being one of the major manufacturers of machinery (domestic and industrial) at a low cost compared to most western Europe, Rwandan companies can take advantage of this opportunity to acquire

durable machinery. Current figures indicate that since 2016, Latvian companies have exported goods (mainly grain and lighting materials) worth 800,000 Euros to Rwanda while imports from Rwanda have not exceeded 10,000 Euros. It is therefore important for both countries to explore how to enhance their trading relations for example; Rwanda exporting flowers, tea and coffee to Latvia.

Please [click here](#) for the photo album.



Ambassador Nduhungirehe & President Egils Levits



Ambassador Nduhungirehe & Latvian State Secretary Of MFA, Mr Andris Pelšs



Mrs Inese Liepiņa, Deputy Head of State Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, & Ambassador Nduhungirehe



Ambassador Nduhungirehe & Mrs Inese Voika, MP & Deputy Secretary of the Latvian parliament



Ambassador Nduhungirehe & Mr. Vladimir Samoilenko, Deputy director of the technology dept. in the Investment & Development Agency of Latvia.



During his visit to Latvia, Ambassador Nduhungirehe visited the KGB Building – the "Corner House", which is a museum to remember what happened to the people and land of Latvia during the Soviet and German National Socialist regimes from 1940-1991.

Rwanda Expects 10.2% Economic Growth In 2021

The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana has assured members of parliament that despite the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic, Rwanda's Economy is on a strong rebound.

Presenting the state of National Economy and Budget, Minister Ndagijimana noted that as a result of strategic measures employed to contain the impact and manage COVID-19 pandemic, the Rwandan economy recovery is strong.

“In November 2021, GDP was revised upward from initial 5.1% to 10.2% to reflect the stronger performance in the first half of 2021. This strong recovery will continue in the medium term where growth is projected at 7.2% in 2022, 7.9% in 2023, 7.5% in 2024, and 7.5% in 2025,” Minister Ndagijimana said.

He pointed out that growth will be driven by good performance in agriculture, continued recovery in industry sector supported by mining sector and resumption of construction activities, as well as the services sector, which he said, has started to recover as a result of gradual removal of health restrictions.

When COVID-19 pandemic struck, in early 2020, Government responded strongly and timely with both health and economic measures through the Economic Recovery Plan to mitigate its impact.

Key interventions focused on strengthening the health sector to manage the pandemic and build resilience to future pandemics, expanding social protection programs to support the most vulnerable people, supporting agriculture sector to ensure food security and establishment of the Economic Recovery Fund to support the most affected private businesses.

So far, the utilisation rate of the Frw 100 million Economic Recovery Fund last year currently



stands at 90%. The fund provided loan restructuring for hard hit sectors, direct subsidies for the transport sector, working capital for micro businesses SME's large corporations as well as loan guarantees for SMEs.

Minister Ndagijimana informed parliamentarians that Government has mobilized additional USD 250 million to strengthen the existing Economic Recovery Fund but also create a new investment window to support expansion of existing and new investments to boost the economic recovery.

Minister Ndagijimana cautioned parliamentarians that any economic performance in Rwanda and globally will depend on the COVID-19 situation. He assured that Government will continue to monitor the evolution of the pandemic and to respond adequately.

“Acceleration of the vaccination campaign, domestic manufacturing of vaccines, building the resilience of our health sector will continue to be the top priorities, to create conditions for economic activities,” Ndagijimana added.

World Of Coffee Dubai: Rwanda Showcases One Of The World's Best Specialty Coffee



Coffee consumers and buyers in Dubai can sample freshly brewed Rwandan coffee, one of the best specialty coffee in the world known for both a colorful history and an exciting taste on display at World of Coffee exhibition in Dubai. Six Rwandan Coffee growing and exporting companies were showcasing their specialty coffee at the event officially from 12 January to 14 January 2022 at the Dubai Exhibition Centre. Coffee consumers, buyers and distributors as well as roasters came together at the Rwanda stand to taste and interact around the Rwandan coffee,

famed for rich body, high acidity, intense flavor and delightful aroma. The event provided an excellent opportunity to meet and network with different players involved in coffee supply chain. [Read more.](#)

Passion Fruit: Rwanda Well Positioned To Capture Market Share In Europe

Rwanda is well positioned to seize a share of the market for passion fruit in Europe, according to a study by Manufacturing Africa in collaboration with various Rwandan government agencies.

Demand for passion fruit in European markets is estimated at about 375,300 tonnes per year, which translates to about \$861 million. Ghana, Madagascar and South Africa are currently the main African suppliers of passion fruit to Europe. However, according to the study, demand for passion fruit in high-value markets is sufficiently strong to allow for the entry of new producing countries.



Rwanda boasts of very low and low slope land, ideal for the production of passion fruits. Purple passion fruits grown in Rwanda are the preferred variety in EU markets. Varieties from Colombia (currently one of the biggest exporters to the EU) are mostly used as puree or juices due to their high acidity while the purple variety grown in Rwanda, Kenya, and South Africa is favoured for fresh consumption. [Read more.](#)

Royal Balloon Launches Rwanda's First Hot Air Balloon

Royal Balloon Rwanda, in partnership with the Rwanda Development Board and Akagera Management Company, is pleased to announce the start of its operations in Rwanda by offering a hot air balloon experience in Akagera National Park, the first of its kind in the country.

Royal Balloon Rwanda operates two hot air balloons that can accommodate 4 to 6 guests. The Hot Air Balloon climbs as high as 100m to 1000m above the park's scenic savanna-covered landscapes inhabited by the big 5 – namely, elephants, rhinos, lions, leopards and buffaloes – and other vast species of wildlife.

Commenting on the new tourism experience, Clare Akamanzi, CEO of Rwanda Development Board, said: “We are pleased to partner with Royal Balloon Rwanda to add yet another exciting product to Rwanda's adventure tourism experiences. We are committed to continue forging new partnerships and enable more investments in the tourism sector to exceed travelers' expectations while sustainably contributing to conservation.” [Read more.](#)



Ironman Announces Rubavu In Rwanda As New Host City For Ironman 70.3 Rwanda

IRONMAN 70.3 Rwanda triathlon will take place on Sunday, August 14, 2022. “Rwanda becomes the fourth country in Africa to host an



Click on the image to start the video

IRONMAN 70.3 event,” said Thomas Veje Olsen, Managing Director of the IRONMAN Group in Europe, Middle East, and Africa. “We know from our work in South Africa, Morocco, and Egypt that there is a huge appetite for endurance sports on the African continent, and we are excited to add IRONMAN 70.3 Rwanda to our race calendar. We look forward to putting this unique region on display, and athletes and travelling spectators have so much to look forward to when visiting Rubavu in Rwanda.” [Read more.](#)

Rwanda Is The Safest Country In Africa For Solo Travellers



[Business Insider Africa](#) reported that Rwanda has been ranked the sixth safest country globally for solo travellers, according to a new survey.

Usebounce.com, a luggage storage app for finding and booking left luggage & lockers, reported that it based the ranking on two criteria: the score of the crime index, and the score of the security index, meaning that one prepares to travel on their own, one of the essential criteria to take into account is the safety of the country in which they are going.

European countries dominated the list according to the index ranking, with Japan and Rwanda being the only Asian and African countries to make the top 10 list of countries.

Switzerland, with a score of 21.7 for the crime index, and a score of 78.3 for the security index, emerged as the safest country for solo

travellers, followed by Slovenia (crime index: 22.3; security index: 77.7) and Japan (crime index: 22.4; security index: 77.7).

Georgia, Iceland, Rwanda, Croatia, Czech Republic, Austria, and Denmark, rounded up the top 10 list of safest countries for solo travellers.

Rwanda has put considerable effort into ensuring the security and safety of the country's territory by building competent and professional security organs. In 2018, the East-African country was ranked the second safest country in Africa by the 2018 Gallup Global Law and Order report, with 83 per cent of residents expressing confidence in the local police force. The previous year, Gallup's Law and Order Index had also ranked Rwanda among the safest countries globally that provide a conducive atmosphere to people who walk alone at night.

Study Trip Avila Reizen To Rwanda

Five Dutch travel agents experienced an incredible adventure when they went on a study trip to Rwanda with [Avila Reizen](#). For nine days they discovered together the green, safe and surprising Rwanda, a travel destination that has no equal.



We look back with the participants, but it immediately becomes clear that they lack superlatives to describe this special study trip. "We still fondly remember this unforgettable journey every day." For ten years now, Avila Reizen has stood for extraordinary voyages of discovery, with an eye for the smallest details. They provide tailor made products and a personal service is of paramount importance. Five travel agents had the opportunity to discover Rwanda with Avila Reizen early December. A trip that absolutely exceeded expectations. Tim van der Wel (co-founder Avila Reizen): "Traveling through Rwanda with Avila means staying in special accommodations, a relaxed travel pace, experiencing the highlights in a different way and discovering hidden gems away from the crowd. Of course, Rwanda is also the

ultimate destination for spotting many special primates. We have brought all these ingredients together on this study trip, so that the travel agents can explore Rwanda as we offer it to customers.'

In the capital Kigali, a visit to the Genocide Memorial Museum is a must. This is because it reflects on the tragic events of 1994 that are undeniably linked to the history of the country. A visit should certainly not be missed, but it is not the most enjoyable part of the trip. It makes you understand the country better, which makes the rest even more impressive," says Annemarie Bruil (The Travel Club). 'It is a real must-see, but it is intense and confrontational. But those who do not know history understand neither the present nor the future. This is equally true for Rwanda, a country with a complex and

painful history. But after the visit, you travel through the country with a different perspective,' adds Joan de Haart (Joan Travel).

Rwanda is known as the country of thousands of hills. It is very green, and certainly appeals to adventurous travelers. Joan: 'It was a study trip to the greenest, cleanest and safest African country! Everywhere, even in the capital Kigali, we were treated to views of endless green hills with villages, mountain rainforests, coffee and tea plantations. We imagined ourselves in a painting, really beautiful! Bridging a long distance was therefore never annoying, especially not with that delicious Rwandan coffee during the stops. And the cheerful, colorful and hospitable population made the most impression!'

[Read more.](#)

Rwf38Bn To Support Communities Around Rwanda's National Parks

Michel Masozera, the Director of Policy and Institutional Partnerships for Africa at WCS in Rwanda told The New Times that the country will continue to benefit from more conservation financing windows. “Now in partnership with the Ministry of Environment we are designing a \$38 million (Rwf38.4 billion) project that could promote conservation around three national parks. If successful, the project implementation will take five years. We shall hopefully conclude the designs by March this year,” he said.



He said that Green Climate Fund (GCF) – a global fund established under the framework of the UNFCCC as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism to assist developing countries – has approved the concept and awarded the ministry of environment an amount totaling to \$547,455 to prepare a full proposal to be submitted to this fund by the beginning this year. [Read more.](#)

Rwanda's Transition To Electric Buses



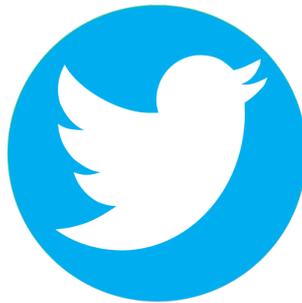
Vehicular emissions are currently the leading cause of increasing air pollution in cities in Rwanda. In recognition of the well-documented impact of air pollution on public health, the Government of Rwanda has introduced incentives for introducing electric vehicles across all vehicle types. While electric motorcycles, cars, bicycles, and even trucks have begun to populate Rwanda's capital city, Kigali, the high cost for larger investments in minibuses and buses has remained elusive. To ensure safe and environmentally sound transport for goods and people, buses are the final frontier in terms of reaching the targets for e-mobility set by the Government of Rwanda. [Read more.](#)

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ISSUE 111

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