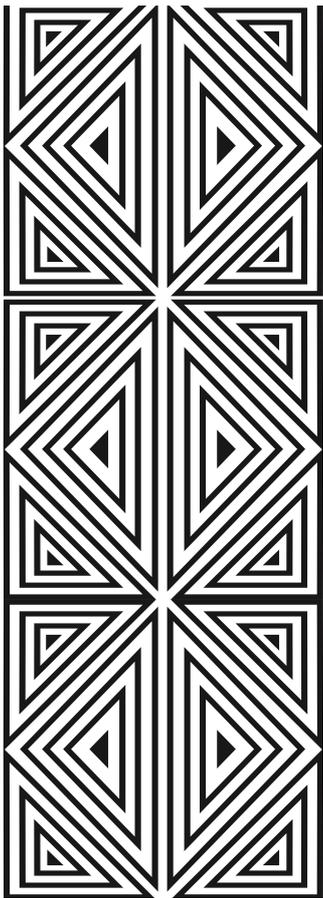


# RwandaFul

Monthly Roundup of Rwanda's Stories



EMBASSY OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA  
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS



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## President Kagame Delivers State Of The Nation Address



On 21 December 2020, President Kagame delivered the State of the Nation Address and held a virtual press conference, which was followed by an interactive session with citizens across the country.

President Kagame reassured Rwandans that despite the shock of Covid-19, and the many adjustments we have had to make, the state of our nation remains strong. President Kagame said that resilience is the capability to withstand hard times, but without compromising long-term health and well-being, or the ability to prosper in the future.

President Kagame highlighted the benefits from the investments that Rwanda has been making, which magnified the natural resilience of the citizens, and helped to mitigate the negative impacts of the covid-19 pandemic.

[Click here](#) for full address.

## President Kagame Joins Catholic Community To Celebrate Cardinal Kambanda

President Kagame has on 6 December joined catholic faithfuls from across the country at Kigali Arena in a thanksgiving in honor of the first ever Rwandan cardinal His Eminence Antoine Kambanda. Addressing the congregation, the President expressed gratitude to Pope Francis for trusting Cardinal Kambanda to be amongst the Pope's closest advisors. This trust is founded on the wise judgement and proven commitment throughout his service to the Church in Rwanda. Cardinal Kambanda has also shown that he is able to contribute to the Church on the global stage. President Kagame has also commended the continued catholic church partnership in improving the wellbeing of Rwandans through education, health, and development. Antoine Cardinal Kambanda was officially created on 28 November in the Vatican. [Click here](#) for the full address.



## President Kagame Attends 5th Meeting On Europe–Africa Relations

On 2 December President Kagame attended the 5th Meeting on Europe–Africa Relations alongside other Heads of State and Government, where participants discuss strengthening the partnership between Africa and Europe. In his remarks, President Kagame said that Africa is engaging with Europe with a view toward taking the relationship to a higher level, and making sure it is adapted to the times we live in today. He also added that Africa has assets and capabilities to offer to the partnership, both human and material. [Read more.](#)



## President Kagame Attends International Anti–Corruption Excellence Awards

President Kagame has on 9 December attended the 5th edition of Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award in Tunis. In his remarks, President Kagame said that combatting corruption may have a political cost, but the price of not uprooting it is much higher, in particular for the most vulnerable members of our societies. He also noted that transparency and accountability allow us to use our national resources effectively, for the well-being of our citizens. [Read more.](#)

## President Kagame Attends 9th Smart Africa Board Meeting

On 7 December President Kagame joined other Heads of State and Government, their representatives and other delegates for the 9th Smart Africa Board Meeting which took place virtually. In his remarks, President Kagame said that the covid-19 pandemic has shown that connectivity is not a luxury, but a necessity; stressing that increasingly, the provision of education and health services depends on digital infrastructure. The good jobs of the future will also rely on technology skills and a digital identity. [Read more.](#)



## Government, Unilever & Wood Foundation Africa Expand Nyaruguru Tea Project

The 3 parties signed an agreement for a second phase of the Nyaruguru tea project which will include an additional 3,000 hectares of smallholder catchment area and tea processing factory. The development comes after the success of the first phase of the project which was completed ahead of schedule, with the farmers of Nyaruguru District showing they can effectively plant to scale and produce high-quality tea.



The expansion to a 6,400-hectare smallholder catchment will include parts of Busanze, as well as Kibeho, Munini, Mata, and Cyahinda sectors in Nyaruguru District in the Southern Province. This will be supported by a dedicated farmer services company which has an existing 800-hectare commercial plantation feeding into the processing factory operated by Unilever Tea Rwanda.

The Fast Moving Consumer Goods giant, Unilever with direct access to international markets together with the Services Company of Nyaruguru, originally set up by the Wood Foundation Africa, with co-financing from UK Aid and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation enable the farmers to get the best possible yields. The Nyaruguru tea project has not only been the largest greenfield tea project in Africa, but also unique in that smallholder farmers represent the majority of the production process. The second phase of the project will be fully financed by the Government of Rwanda, Unilever Tea Rwanda and The Wood Foundation Africa and includes US\$20 million of support for farmer development. Thousands of more farmers and their families will be able to transform their lives by growing high-quality tea in an area where they were previously restricted to grow high-value crops due to the acidic nature of the soils.

Commenting on the project, Hon. Minister Gérardine Mukeshimana; the Minister of Agriculture said that: “Nyaruguru tea project is expected to positively impact the livelihood of farmers by increasing their income. Moreover, the project will further contribute to the growth of tea exports, which are expected to generate \$209 Million by 2024. This project is the best investment to add value to the acidic soils.”

[Read more.](#)

## International Trade Centre Enhances Rwandan Avocado Exports

The International Trade Centre (ITC), under the East African Community (EAC) European Union (EU) - Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP), has convened a two day workshop on Improving Avocado Post harvest management. The training took place from 10 to 11 December 2020. It was a practical consultative training gathering together 20 major identified exporters of avocados from across the country aimed at enhancing the product safety, process management and value chain improvements. It was also the first of its kind to be carried out in Rwanda.

ITC is implementing the MARKUP Programme, a regional development initiative, which aims to contribute to the economic development of the EAC by improving market access to EU and the East African region. Financed by the EU, the program supports Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) operating in coffee, cocoa, tea, spices and horticultural sectors in five EAC partner states. ITC implements a number of technical assistance and training activities aimed at improving the trade competitiveness of SMEs and promoting export market linkages.

It is against this background that under the support of EU, the ITC has valued the importance of growing the Rwandan horticulture sector by identifying key potential commodities that could be enhanced to generate more revenues. After consulting the National Agricultural Export Development Board, avocado being the first emerging fruit that is exported to earn highest revenues than any other crop, the focus has been turned to this sector, a source of income to a considerable number of smallholder farmers.

The workshop will leave SMEs and export companies' owners with managerial skills in the whole value chain of horticulture, including but not limited to production and farm best agriculture practices. The objective is to assist SMEs to achieve improved quality of product through introduction of better post-harvest and processing techniques. Quality systems



improvement, preventing/overcoming challenges deteriorating the sector and analyzing market trends in avocado supply chain will be among other key important lessons that would lead Rwandan exporters into a niche market in the near future.

Rwandan avocados are exported mostly to European countries, including **the Netherlands**, United Kingdom and Belgium. In 2019, Rwanda supplied 138,120 avocado seedlings to 384 farmers as efforts to expand the number of avocado trees in the country. Hass variety dominates the country's exports with 80%, followed by Fuerte among others.

During the last fiscal year of 2019/2020 Rwanda exported 840,672Kg of avocados which generated \$ 840,570. In the previous fiscal year 2018/2019, the country had exported 605,986Kg of avocados worth \$ 42,252.

## RDB, DP World Sign Memorandum Of Understanding To Accelerate International Trade Through New E-Commerce Platform

The Rwanda Development Board has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with trade enabler-DP World to launch its new global B2B and B2C e-commerce platform, Dubuy.com, in Rwanda early 2021. The vision of the MoU is to make it easier for Rwandan



Rwanda will become DP World's hub for expanding e-commerce across the East Africa Community and beyond. Rwandan businesses will also benefit from broader DP World services and investment that will help to facilitate and develop trade. This includes the promotion of Rwandan exports of coffee, tea, and horticulture on [Dubuy.com](https://www.dubuy.com), the modernizing of Rwanda's supply chain logistics including in rural areas, and access to digital tools to help businesses save money and expand their reach to local, regional, and global markets.

The decision to launch Dubuy.com in Rwanda follows the country's consistent superior annual rating in the World Bank's global "Ease of Doing Business" rankings and its commitment to international trade and investment. The e-commerce site will bring Rwandan products to global markets and help enterprises from around the world to invest in Rwanda. In turn, Rwandans will have greater access to international products.

DP World has already invested in world-class port and logistics facilities in Kigali, demonstrating its strong belief in Rwanda's future. [Read more.](#)

## Forest Of Hope Guest House And Camp Site Opens In Gishwati-Mukura National Park

As part of a multi-phased conservation and tourism management program for Rwanda's Gishwati-Mukura National Park, the Forest of Hope Association (FHA) in partnership with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) announced the opening of the Forest of Hope Guest House and Camp Site in the Gishwati sector of the park. Visitors staying at both the guest house and camp site have the opportunity to explore the Gishwati sector of the park for an immersive forest experience.

The Forest of Hope Guest House features two serviced double en-suite rooms for a maximum of four guests, offering a basic standard of accommodation, three wholesome meals a day and non-alcoholic beverages. The camp site offers unserviced facilities for a maximum of eight campers.

During their stay, adventurous guests can explore everything Gishwati Forest has to offer, including the chance to admire and monitor some of the world's last remaining chimpanzees, and golden and mountain monkeys in their natural habitat; there is also excellent birding as well as authentic cultural and community exchanges. Guests are also invited to visit the onsite indigenous tree nursery and to plant a tree as part of the park's reforestation efforts.

With support from the West Chester University Foundation of Pennsylvania, FHA also operates the Gishwati Research Station to facilitate biodiversity research in the park.

Speaking at the opening, FHA Coordinator, Thierry Aimable Inzirayineza, said, "We look forward to welcoming our first guests to the Forest of Hope Guest House and Camp Site. We are collaborating with Wilderness Safaris in conservation and community development, focusing on chimpanzee monitoring and community education, and we look forward to sharing this work with visitors. The Forest of Hope Association is proud of the relationships we have built with community



partners over the years, and our collective understanding of the importance of the protection and conservation of Gishwati has made this new ecotourism offering possible."

"The Forest of Hope Guest House and Camp Site is another great addition to Rwanda's lodging facilities that attract visitors from around the world, and offer world class tourism experiences," adds Belise Kariza, Chief Tourism Officer at the Rwanda Development Board. "I thank the Forest of Hope Association and Wilderness Safaris for further reinforcing Rwanda's pole position as a responsible and sustainable tourism destination that values and protects our natural heritage. I encourage everyone to visit the unique Gishwati-Mukura National Park, a UNESCO biosphere reserve, for truly unforgettable primate trekking experiences and much more." [Read more.](#)

## Ambassador Nduhungirehe meets with RCA-NL committee

On 13 December 2020, Ambassador Olivier Jean Pierre Nduhungirehe met with RCA-NL committee members for the first time since his arrival in the Netherlands. During the meeting, both Ambassador and RCA-NL committee members discussed on matters important and relevant to RCA-NL and Rwanda.



## Remarks By Ambassador Nduhungirehe For The Rwandan Community In The Netherlands



The Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Olivier Jean Pierre Nduhungirehe, reaches out with a special message to all the Rwandans living in the Netherlands.

[Click here](#) to watch the video on the Embassy's Youtube-channel.

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

# First Virtual Conversation With Ambassador Nduhungirehe



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)** to the first virtual conversation with **Ambassador, Olivier J.P. NDUHUNGIREHE.**

The meeting will be virtual and will take place on Saturday

**Date: 30 January 2021**

**Time: 15:00-17:00**



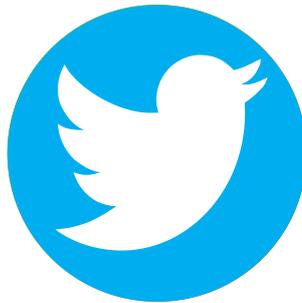
For registration, please use [this link](#).

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