



*Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda - Washington D.C.*

# JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2021



## IN THIS ISSUE

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**BILATERAL RELATIONS**  
PAGES 1-2

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**THE EMBASSY**  
PAGES 5

---

**RWANDA IN THE NEWS**  
PAGES 3-4

## BILATERAL RELATIONS



### *January 25th, 2021*

H.E. President Kagame participated in the World Economic Forum virtual panel discussion on “Advancing a New Social Contract” as part of the Davos Agenda. President Kagame highlighted that “[the covid-19 pandemic] crisis has revealed gaps in the existing social protection systems everywhere in the world. The pandemic has also reminded us of how we are interlinked and interdependent in many ways.”

On the same day, H.E. President Kagame participated in the Climate Adaptation Summit where he encouraged the audience to invest in climate adaptation because it strengthens our societies for future growth and prosperity, and furthermore make adaptation a priority for 2021 and beyond.



### *January 26th, 2021*

H.E. President Kagame received Mr. Eric Duval, CEO of Duval Group, and his team who were in Rwanda to discuss ongoing investment projects. The company has been constructing eco-friendly buildings in Rwanda through its subsidiary ‘Duval Great Lakes Ltd’ and has executed mega construction projects in Rwanda including BPR headquarters located in Kigali city.

# BILATERAL RELATIONS

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME

NEPAD@20 SYMPOSIUM

28 January 2021

Many other leaders rallied to the NEPAD cause in the following years.

NEPAD has remained true to its vision.

NEPAD's values are part and parcel of the reform spirit we have seen in the African Union over the past several years, with good results.

It is therefore no accident that NEPAD officially became the African Union Development Agency in 2018.

NEPAD's track record makes it the ideal institution to help lead implementation of Agenda 2063 on behalf of the African Union.

I thank the partners who have supported NEPAD over the last two decades, both in Africa and beyond.

## January 28th, 2021

On the same day, H.E. President Kagame also attended the launch of the 2021-2030 roadmap for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) where he reinforced that “the fight against NTDs is part of the broader agenda to strengthen national health systems & achieve Universal Health Coverage. Investing in health is very good value for money.”

H.E. President Kagame attended and spoke at NEPAD’s 20th Symposium and in his speech, The President maintained that “NEPAD has remained true to its vision. NEPAD’s values are part and parcel of the reform spirit we have seen in the African Union over the past several years, with good results.”

LAUNCH OF 2021-2030 ROADMAP FOR NTDs

28 January 2021

In Rwanda, we have integrated NTD medication into the national supply chain, down to the community level.

We are also in the process of certifying the eradication of sleeping sickness in Rwanda.

The fight against NTDs is part of the broader agenda to strengthen national health systems, and achieve Universal Health Coverage.

The health systems that serve to combat pandemics such as Covid-19 or HIV/AIDS, are the same institutions that lead the campaign against NTDs.

Investing in health is very good value for money.

In this regard, allow me to stress the importance of increasing domestic financing for health, especially in Africa.

Domestic health financing is a priority for the African Union, and progress is being tracked across member states on an annual basis.



## January 29th, 2021

Foreign Affairs Minister, Vincent Biruta participated, on behalf of H.E. President Paul Kagame, at The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) mini-Summit on the political and security situation in the Central African Republic that was held in Luanda, Angola. The mini-Summit was convened by the President of Angola in his capacity as Chair of the ICGLR.

# RWANDA IN THE NEWS



## Rwanda refutes allegations from UN Group of Experts on the DRC Midterm report

8 January 2021 – The Government of Rwanda refutes allegations from the UN Group of Experts (GoE) Midterm report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, and reiterates that there were no Rwandan troops on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo and that there had been no recent Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) joint operations with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC).

Rwanda enjoys cordial bilateral relations with the DRC, and there are several existing bilateral cooperation engagements, including military cooperation. However, such cooperation is exclusively limited to intelligence sharing on various armed groups operating in Eastern DRC that are a common threat to both countries.

The Government of Rwanda would also like to reiterate its commitment to promote national and regional natural resources governance mechanisms in the fight against illegal exploitation and trade of minerals in the region. It is against this background, and in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill, that in February 2020, during the last visit of the UN GoE to Rwanda, they were shown various anti-smuggling efforts in place, and witnessed minerals that had been seized by authorities.

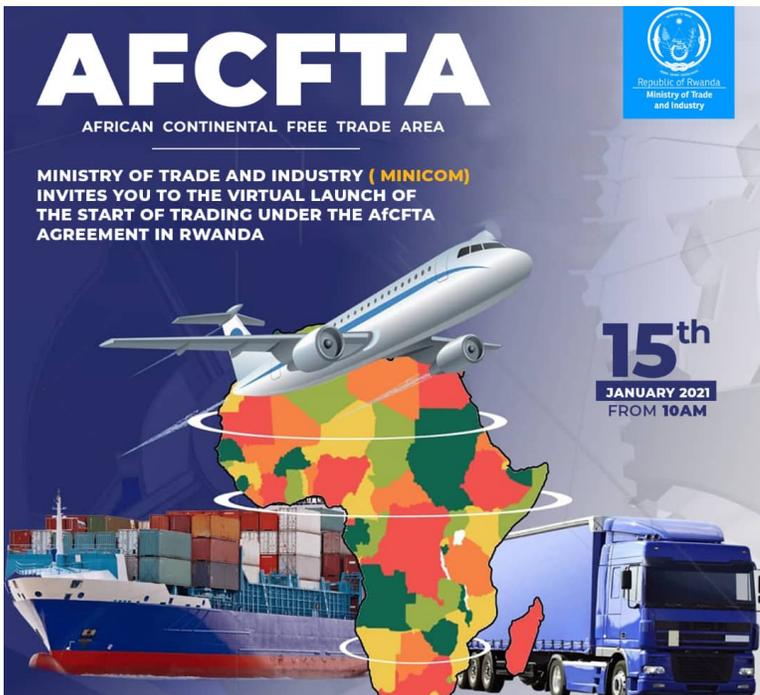
The Government of Rwanda regrets the shortcomings of the UN GoE report, and the lack of good faith demonstrated by the experts. Despite being granted access to various Government institutions, facilitated in meeting witnesses and provided with responses to all issues raised, the UN GoE report omitted key information and clarifications provided by the GoR.

The Government of Rwanda wishes to conclude by expressing its deepest concerns towards the lack of rigor from the UN GoE in the fulfilment of its mandate, raising serious concerns about the independence of its reports.

END

## January 8th, 2021

Following the UN Group of Experts (GoE) Midterm report, the Government of Rwanda has refuted the allegations brought forth by the GoE and reiterated that there were no Rwandan troops on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo and that there had been no recent RDF joint operations with FARDC.



## January 15th, 2021

On this day, Rwanda launched the start of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) - the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating. As Rwanda launched the start of trading under the ACFTA, in this market, goods from African countries will get preferential tariffs and service providers will be allowed to provide their services without any restrictions.

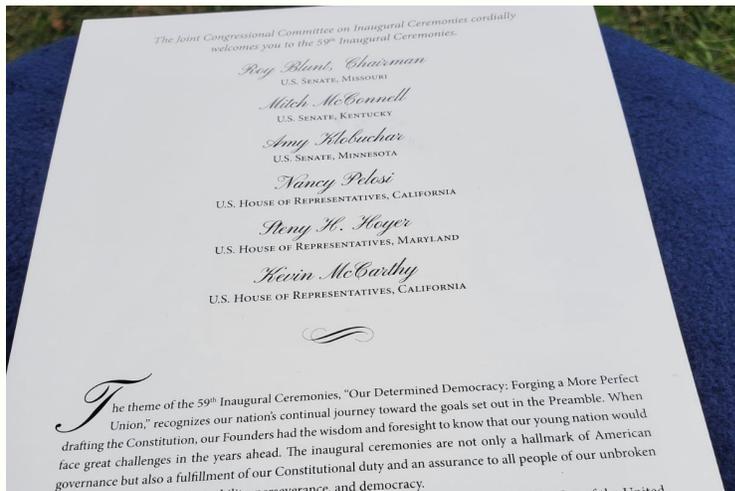
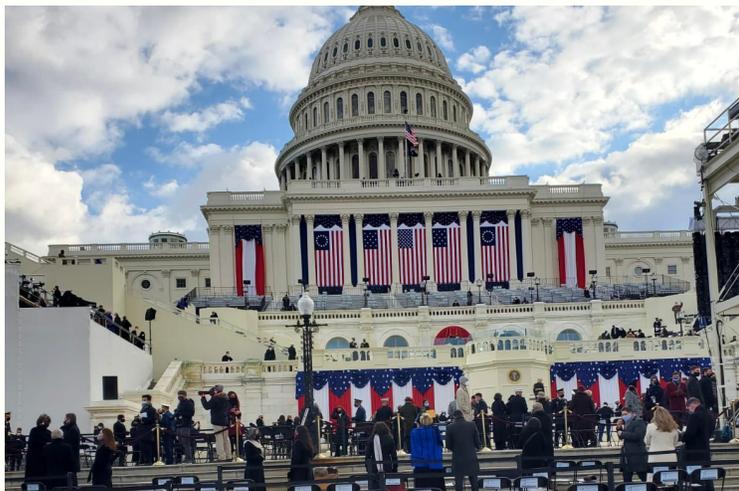
## RWANDA IN THE NEWS



*January 20th, 2021*

The law relating to Investment Promotion and Facilitation was adopted by parliament on this day. The new investment code will offer incentives that will enhance Rwanda's competitiveness; attract cross-border investment, new business and financial institutions to Kigali International Financial Centre.

## THE EMBASSY



### January 20th, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana attended the inauguration ceremony of the 46th President of the United States, Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. and the historic swearing-in of the first woman and person of Black and South Asian descent as Vice President of the United States, Kamala Devi Harris.



### January 28th, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana attended a meeting that convened representatives of African Diplomatic Corps and Congress hosted by Representative Karen Bass and Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative Gregory Meeks. The discussion was centered around U.S-Africa Policy Relations and shared vital strategic interest for the people and continent of Africa. Representative Gregory Meeks committed to “elevating African issues at the full Committee and incorporating African voices in U.S. diplomacy, national security and trade”.