



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

# JULY - AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2021



## IN THIS ISSUE

**BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS**  
PAGES 1-13

**THE EMBASSY**  
PAGE 17-20

**RWANDA IN THE NEWS**  
PAGES 14-16

**THE RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.**  
PAGE 21

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

### GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM

1 July 2021

The Generation Equality Forum is the most significant platform for advancing gender equality in today's world.

I wish to commend President Macron of France and President López Obrador of Mexico for championing this initiative, together with UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Rwanda is particularly happy to be associated with the Action Coalition for Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality.

Let me tell you about Rwanda's plans and commitments in this area.

First, we aim to bridge the gender gap in digital access by 2026.

We will do this in three specific areas: ownership of smartphones, access to digital financial services, and science, technology, and math studies at the upper secondary level.

### **July 1st, 2021**

H.E. President Paul Kagame participated in the Generation Equality Forum, which is championed by the Presidents of France and Mexico, together with the UN Women Executive Director. When addressing the forum, the President stated that "Achieving gender equality in technology and innovation is just one part of the wider struggle to guarantee equal rights and opportunities for women and girls."

### **July 4th, 2021**

Rwandans in Rwanda and all over the world celebrated Kwibohora27; Rwanda Liberation Day. In his message for the day, H.E. President Paul Kagame declared that "Today, Rwanda is not just a place on the map. For us, it means something that we can all identify with and be proud of, and in which we feel valued. Rwanda means hope. It means that we care for one another."



H.E. President Paul Kagame held a virtual meeting with EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen. The meeting was a follow up on the recent EU agreement to strengthen the Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority, which will further attract investments in vaccine manufacturing in the country. Their conversation concluded that more can be done, and better, in the fight against COVID19 pandemic. The EU Commissioner committed to a strong EU support in supply of vaccines and towards efforts to make vaccine manufacturing a reality in Rwanda & Africa.

### **July 8th, 2021**

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



**July 8th, 2021**

The Rwanda Minister of Health, Dr. Daniel Ngamije met with the Robert Koch-Institute (RKI) where they discussed the transfer of knowledge and technology; such as sequencing Covid19, now performed at National referral Lab. They also discussed training courses in genome sequencing of SARS COV-2 with EFFO project delegation in Kigali and the RKI Public Health Laboratory Support (virtually present) to further exchange between RKI and partner Rwanda Biomedical Centre.



**July 9th, 2021**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. Vincent Biruta and Minister of Youth and Culture, Rosemary Mbabazi together with Senior Defense and Security Advisor, Gen. James Kabarebe exchanged with a group of 60 Rwandan Diaspora Youth from Europe who were on a 10-day trip to discover their home country, learn the history and understand the role they can play in Rwanda's journey to transformation.

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



**July 9th, 2021**

At the Government of Mozambique's request, the Government of Rwanda deployed a contingent of 1000 Rwanda Defense Forces and National Police to Cabo Delgado Province affected by terrorism and insecurity.



**July 15th, 2021**

H.E. President Paul Kagame virtually joined other African leaders and the World Bank for a high-level meeting hosted by the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, H.E. President Alassane Ouattara to generate support for the 20th replenishment of the International Development Association. In his remarks, President Kagame insisted that "We must maintain focus on the most important thing, and that is continuing to make the progress we are making. We cannot allow obstacles to become permanent setbacks, especially those within our power to fix."



**July 21st, 2021**

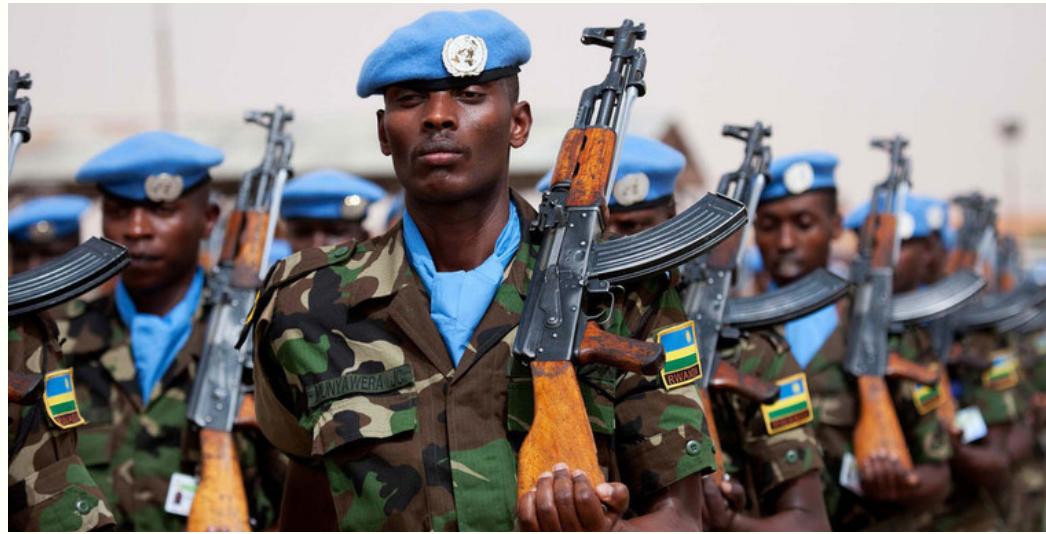
At Urugwiro Village, H.E. President Paul Kagame received the Mayor of Paris and President of the Association of Francophone Mayors, Anne Hidalgo, who was in Kigali for the 41st Congress of the Association.

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



**July 21st, 2021**

At the Kigali Convention Center, Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente presided over the official opening of the 41st Congress of Francophone Mayors and the General Assembly of the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF).



***On the same day***

Rwanda and the U.S. hosted a virtual meeting of the UN General Assembly Special Committee on Peacekeeping to strengthen UN Peacekeeping. For nearly two decades, Rwanda and the U.S. have partnered to develop UN Peacekeeping military and police capabilities, primarily through the provision of partnered pre-deployment training, equipment, and facilities enhancements at Rwanda's Peacekeeping Training Center in Gako. Rwanda is among the world's largest and most capable UN Peacekeeping troop and police contributors, deployed in 5 UN Missions.

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME  
**Building The Bandwidth**

22 July 2021

Warm greetings to all.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected all aspects of national life, and education has not been spared.

The disruption of in-person classes has exposed, more than ever, the gap in digital access, skills, and online learning for all children, especially girls.

We have the opportunity to re-engage in the cause of girls' education, so that they are not left even further behind.

In Rwanda, we continue to make significant investments in digital infrastructure and training for our young people.

For example, the Rwanda Coding Academy admits 50 percent girls, and aims to resolve the shortage in engineers through a focused engineering program at high school level.

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1 / 2

**July 22nd, 2021**

H.E. President Paul Kagame participated in the Building the Bandwidth meeting hosted by UNESCO, the Varkey Foundation, and CJ Cultural Foundation. In his address, President Kagame remarked that “The disruption of in-person classes has exposed, more than ever, the gap in digital access, skills and online learning for all children, especially girls. We have the opportunity to re-engage in the cause of girls' education so that they are not left even further behind.”



**July 24th, 2021**

With regard to the ongoing fight against COVID19, Minister of Health Dr. Daniel Ngamije received nine tons of medical equipment including medical beds and respiratory devices and COVID19 vaccines donated by the Government of United Arab Emirates represented by United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Rwanda, Ambassador Hazza Alqahtani.

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



**July 26th, 2021**

H.E. President Paul Kagame, in his capacity as the Chair of NEPAD Agency Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, gave remarks during the Official Ceremony of the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit led by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and hosted by Italy Prime Minister, H.E. Mario Draghi. The Pre-Summit aimed to consolidate a common vision to deliver progress on Sustainable Development Goals, deliver the latest evidence-based and scientific approaches to food systems transformation from around the world, and launch a set of new commitments through coalitions of action and mobilize new financing and partnerships. All of this will be achieved by fostering diverse engagement from all quarters to uncover the broadest range of solutions and have maximum impact, together. In his address, President Kagame remarked that “For Africa, the central goal is to halt our continent’s over-reliance on food imports, end malnutrition & create millions of new jobs in the food economy. In doing so, we will strike the right balance between people and planet.”

Watch the full speech: <https://bit.ly/3ryNuKn>

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME  
U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT

28 July 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

The Corporate Council on Africa has been the voice of private sector engagement between the United States and Africa for a quarter century.

In June 2020, we met virtually. Unfortunately, we still have to meet virtually today.

The Covid-19 pandemic is forcing us to adjust and adapt. We don't know how much longer it will be with us.

That is why we need even stronger partnership between Africa and the United States.

The United States is now stepping up to provide millions of Covid-19 vaccine doses through COVAX.

**July 28th, 2021**

H.E. President Paul Kagame participated in the U.S. Africa Business Summit hosted by Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), where he encouraged the summit to; “[...] use the urgency of this moment to identify similar opportunities for partnership, focusing especially on the young men and women on both our continents who see solutions, where others only see problems.”

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME  
Global Education Summit  
29 July 2021

Let me start by thanking President Uhuru Kenyatta and Prime Minister Boris Johnson, for their commitment to the Global Partnership for Education.

This summit is an important reminder that the ongoing COVID pandemic must not reverse the gains made in education access and quality, particularly in Africa.

Globally, we still need to triple current spending in education to reach the Sustainable Development Goals target.

In Rwanda, we have worked hard to reach the 20% target of education expenditure, including an innovative national effort that built more than 22,500 classrooms in the last year.

This serves as a good foundation to do more and indeed much more is required of all of us.

For example, increasing spending efficiency alongside allocating higher amounts to education will ensure that all children are better prepared to lead more productive and fulfilled lives.

[@UrugwiroVillage](#) [@PresidentPaulKagame](#) [@PaulKagame](#)

1 / 2

H.E. President Paul Kagame participated in the Global Education Summit. In his remarks, President Kagame said that “This summit is an important reminder that the ongoing COVID pandemic must not reverse the gains made in education access and quality, particularly in Africa. Globally, we still need to triple current spending in education to reach the Sustainable Development Goals target.”

**July 29th, 2021**



**August 2nd, 2021**

At Urugwiro village, H.E. President Paul Kagame received his counterpart, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan for a two-day State Visit. They held a tête-à-tête and bilateral talks before addressing members of the press. In his remarks, President Kagame reiterated that “Rwanda and Tanzania share more than just a border. Our strong historical ties and a common aspiration to deliver prosperity to our people have always been central to our cooperation. With the signing of these agreements, we are committed to ensuring that this visit leads to tangible results and gives renewed momentum to our bilateral relationship. With the signing of these agreements, we are committed to ensuring that this visit leads to tangible results and gives renewed momentum to our bilateral relationship.”

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



**August 3rd, 2021**

On her second and last day of the State Visit, H.E. President Samia Suhlu Hassan together with H.E. President Paul Kagame toured the Mara Phones Rwanda; Africa's first smartphone factory, as well as Volkswagen Rwanda at the Kigali Special Economic Zone. Mara manufactures 3 different smartphone models while Volkswagen Rwanda currently assembles 6 different models at their facility. Later, President Kagame hosted a State Banquet in honor of President Suhlu Hassan at the Kigali Convention Center.

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



**August 5th, 2021**

The President of the Central African Republic, H.E. Faustin-Archange Touadéra arrived in Kigali for a State Visit to Rwanda. President Touadéra was received by President Kagame at Urugwiro Village where the two Heads of State held a closed-door meeting before addressing the press, then later addressed members of the press and witnessed the signing of several agreements. In the joint press conference, President Kagame remarked that “sustained cooperation across the continent is essential for all of us to be able to succeed. The problems that have been in the Central African Republic, unfortunately, which brought in the international community, is how Rwanda found ourselves there. We are playing our part, making a contribution to dealing with that problem. While this was a problem we all came together to address, there is an opportunity also for Rwanda and the Central African Republic to work together in different other areas, further supporting peace and security, as well as development.” Later, President Kagame hosted a State Banquet in honor of President Touadéra at the Kigali Convention Center.

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



**August 12th, 2021**

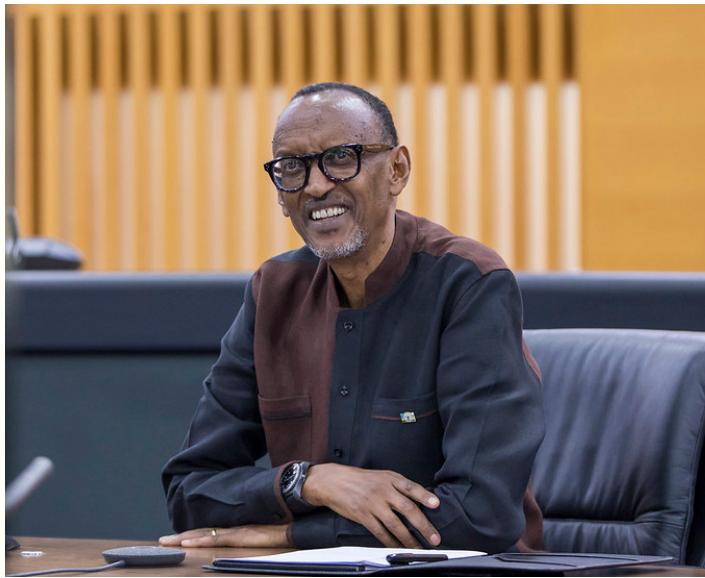
At Urugwiro Village, H.E. President Paul Kagame received former Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, who is the Patron for The Africa Electronic Trade Group (The A-eTrade Group), and Mulualem Syoum, the Group's CEO & Board Chair. The A-eTrade Group is developing a comprehensive e-commerce platform, Sokokuu, to enhance the role of Africa's small and medium enterprises in inter and intra-African trade. Rwanda will host the Group's continental headquarters working closely with regional offices.



**On the same day**

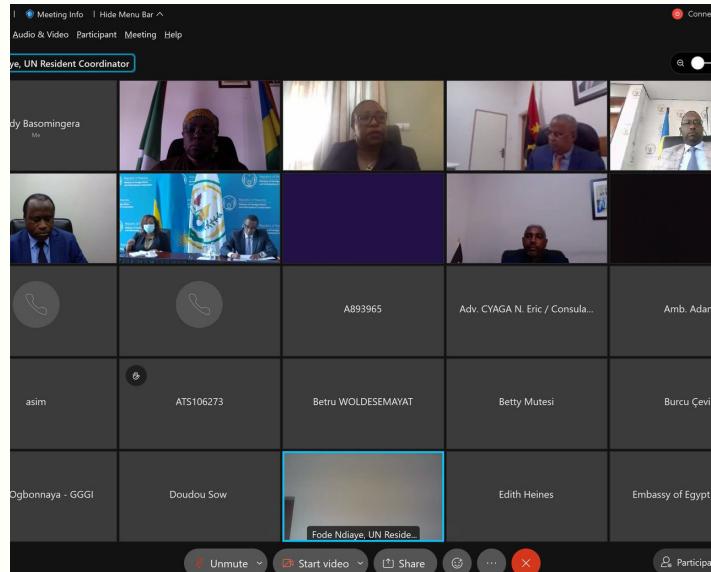
The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. Vincent Biruta chaired this year's Rwanda Ambassadors and High Commissioners Retreat. The retreat was held virtually, discussions focused on 2021/22 foreign policy priorities.

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



**August 17th, 2021**

H.E. President Paul Kagame chaired a Presidential Advisory Council (PAC) meeting to discuss various topics including the COVID-19 pandemic and current affairs. The meeting brought together Rwandan and International experts who offer strategic advice to the President and the government.



***On the same day***

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. Vincent Biruta, Minister of Health, Dr. Daniel Ngamije and Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Uzziel Ndagijimana briefed the Diplomatic Corps with missions in Rwanda on the national Covid19 response and economic recovery plan.

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

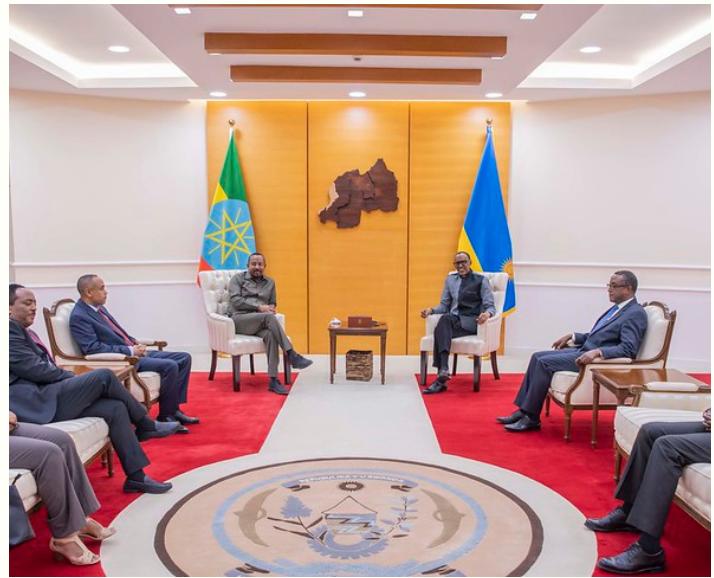


**August 27th, 2021**

H.E. President Paul Kagame joined other Heads of State from various African countries for the G20 Compact with Africa CwA Summit hosted by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in Berlin, Germany. G20 CwA was launched in 2017 to promote private investment in Africa. In his address, President Kagame remarked that “End-to-end production of mRNA vaccines is possible in Africa, thanks to innovations in engineering being undertaken by BioNTech and its partners, among others. This trend will have wide implications for the feasibility of all types of pharmaceutical production in Africa in the years ahead. The necessary partnerships are in place to make this happen. Around the table here, we have the European Union, the European Investment Bank, the World Health Organisation, and Africa CDC.”

On the sidelines, President Kagame met with the President of Senegal, H.E. Macky Sall ahead of the summit. The President also met with Sabine Dall’Omo, CEO of Siemens South Africa, Werner Hoyer, together with the President of the European Investment Bank, and Chairman of the kENUP Foundation, Holm Heller.

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



**August 29th, 2021**

The Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Abiy Ahmed Ali arrived in Kigali for a two day working visit. At Urugwiro village, President Kagame held tête-à-tête discussions with Prime Minister Ahmed Ali during which they discussed various topics of mutual interest including issues specific to both countries, and the region as well as global current affairs.



**August 31st, 2021**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. Vincent Biruta, received UN Secretary General Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu, for a courtesy call. They discussed priorities for the prevention of genocide, the preservation of memory and the fight against genocide denial.

## RWANDA IN THE NEWS



### **July 19th, 2021**

Volkswagen Group CEO showcased the prototype of an electric tractor to be tested in Rwanda! The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the University of Rwanda's College of Science and Technology launched the conservation agriculture project Gen.Farm; a sustainable CO2-free hub where farmers can book an e-tractor including a trained driver for swappable batteries allowing the e-tractor to operate around the clock.



### **July 22nd, 2021**

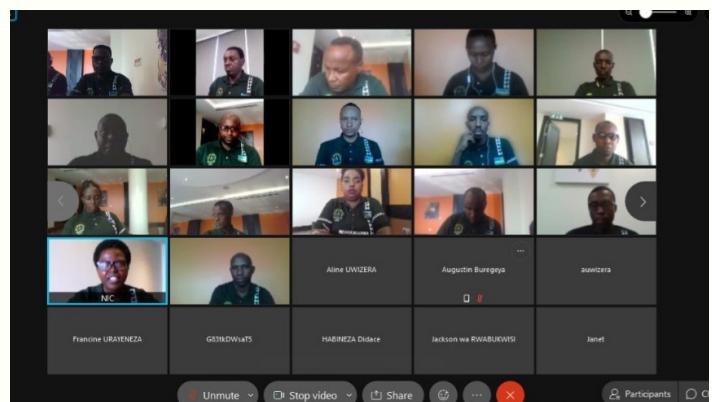
Rwanda marked its 10th appearance in the Olympics, with the 2020 edition of the games in Tokyo, Japan from July 23 to August 8. Rwanda was represented in 3 sports as follows: Marthe Yankurije and John Hakizimana competed in athletics 5000m and marathon respectively, Moise Mugisha in Cycling road while Alphonsine Agahozo and Eloi Maniraguha competed in swimming 50m freestyle.

## RWANDA IN THE NEWS



**August 2nd, 2021**

The Government of Rwanda successfully raised US\$ 620 million through the issuance of a 10-year Eurobond. The issuance, which went to market on this day, attracted strong investor demand.



**August 5th, 2021**

The Minister of State, Prof. Manasseh Nshuti together with Senior Defense and Security Advisor, Gen. James Kabarebe officially opened the first edition of the e-Itorero Indahangarwa that took place virtually from August 5th to August 18th, 2021 hosted by the National Itorero Commission. This online program was followed by Rwandan youth living in and outside of Rwanda. e-Itorero Indahangarwa is a platform for nurturing “Ubutore values” of Rwandan youth living in Rwanda and abroad, as well as equipping them with Rwandan cultural values.

## RWANDA IN THE NEWS



**August 11th, 2021**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. Vincent Biruta signed a country host agreement with AKADEMIYA represented by Dr. Ousmane Badiane, its Founder and Executive Chairperson. The agreement regulates relations between Rwanda and AKADEMIYA as regards the establishment of its main office in Kigali. AKADEMIYA is an international non-profit organisation that provides data and analytical services, and by the signed agreement, the Government of Rwanda will facilitate its activities in the country and on the African Continent.

## THE EMBASSY



**July 24th, 2021**

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana and Defense Attaché, Lt. Col. Raoul Bazatoha participated in the official Kwibohora27 celebrations hosted by the Rwandan community in Portland, Maine. As a way to bring people together, the community held various sporting events including football, volleyball and basketball matches between communities of Maine and Texas. Ambassador Mukantabana addressed the communities of over 300 community members and friends of Rwanda from various cities. In her speech she emphasized the need for the youth to play an important role in the development of Rwanda.

## THE EMBASSY



### **July 29th, 2021**

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana together with Defense Attaché, Lt. Col. Raoul Bazatoha received Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Sr. National Guard officer, and his team to discuss the partnership between the Rwanda Defense Force and Nebraska National Guard Czech Republic and Rwanda. The productive meeting solidified the foundation of a long-term strengthened cooperation in peacekeeping operations.



### **July 30th, 2021**

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana had courtesy calls respectively with Hajia Alima Mahama, Ambassador of Ghana to the U.S., and Ambassador of Benin to the U.S., Amb. Jean Claude de Rego. Ambassador Mukantabana congratulated both Ambassadors on their new appointments and welcomed them to Washington D.C. and the African Diplomatic Corps.

## THE EMBASSY



### **July 31st, 2021**

To conclude Kwibohora celebrations amongst the many US Rwandan Communities Abroad, Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana offered a closing statement. In her remarks, Amb. Mukantabana reiterated that “As we conclude celebrating Rwanda’s 27th anniversary of liberation, we are reminded that our freedom now continues with efforts to become a knowledge-driven, self-reliant nation.” Watch the full statement at <https://youtu.be/L3iXNW9Lvp4>



### **August 3rd, 2021**

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana presented a copy of her letter of credence to Brazil. The Ambassador thanked her counterpart for paving the pathway for both countries to solidify existing partnerships and forging new connections.

## THE EMBASSY



**August 9th, 2021**

The Embassy, represented by First Counselor Lawrence Manzi and Second Counselor Charles Ntageruka, hosted students from George Mason University and the University of Rwanda (virtually) for the final session of their virtual study abroad climate program. The program looked at climate from both Global & South perspectives including policy making, business and science.



**August 30th, 2021**

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana joined other African Ambassadors in welcoming Hon. Liberata Mulamula, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of Tanzania back to Washington DC. Other Ambassadors in attendance were Ambassadors of Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan. The gathering included discussions on how they can collectively further deepen bilateral and multilateral relations.

## RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.



**July 4th, 2021**

The Rwandan Community of the Midwest, and different other neighboring states including Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, and Tennessee celebrated together Kwibohora27 in South Bend city, Indiana. Defense Attaché, Lt. Col. Raoul Bazatoha, on behalf of the Ambassador, joined the Community in celebration. The community paid tribute to Rwandan men and women who gave their lives, and also in different ways those who contributed to Rwanda's liberation. The Kwibohora27 celebrations highlighted numerous testimonies of genocide survivors who were rescued by RPF Inkotanyi, songs of Intsinzi, great conversations, and connecting among the Rwandan Community of Midwest US.



**July 25th, 2021**

The United States RCA community in Portland, Maine celebrated Kwibohora27 with amicable basketball, soccer, and volleyball matches with the US RCA community of Texas throughout the day. The festivities concluded with a reception and dinner, including celebratory traditional dances, remarks from Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana who attended the event in person. Together, they took stock of the true meaning of the freedom Rwandans enjoy in our country.