

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Washington DC



**Rwanda Then & Now:
Milestone in Rebirth and Growth**
A conversation in San Antonio
on Rwanda's journey to rebuild the nation.

IN THIS ISSUE

All you need to know
about Biometrics
services



Ambassador Peter Vrooman
bids farewell to Rwanda



University of Nebraska:
Rwandan night to
showcase culture



**Kigali ranked one of Africa's leading
cities for startups- page 2**



RWANDA THEN AND NOW: MILESTONE IN REBIRTH AND GROWTH'

We designed a roadmap and made transformative choices that are still guiding us today [...] that can be summarized in three words: unity, accountability and thinking big." Said Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to The United States of America, Mathilde Mukantabana.

She said this during Dreamweek summit entitled: Rwanda Then and Now; Milestone in Rebirth and Growth.

The summit on Rwanda's transformational journey was held in San Antonio, Texas from 21-22 January 2022.

The discussions as part of the summit explored Rwanda's journey of post-genocide nation building.

Rwandan Community of San Antonio organized the two-day event in partnership with DreamVoice LLC, the organizers of the DreamWeek in San Antonio.

The DreamWeek's purpose is to advance and modernize the teachings set forth by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision; to lay the foundation of tolerance by creating dialogue across cultures and communities.

"Now, Rwanda is a country governed by the rule of law where unity and reconciliation have allowed people to come together to build a cohesive and prosperous nation. The notion of forgiveness is at the core of our being and has become our duty. Martin Luther King philosophy strongly resonates with us in our constant quest for solutions through dialogue, consensus politics and inclusiveness. These concepts have been institutionalized and delivered through our home grown solutions such the national dialogue that takes place in Rwanda every year in December," said Amb. Mukantabana.

Among the speakers, included DALE DAWSON Founder, Chairman & CEO Bridge 2 Rwanda, Dr. EMMANUEL Nibishaka Deputy CEO Rwanda Governance Board, Dr. FIACRE BIENVENU Ad. Professor, Steven J. Green School of Int'l and Public Affairs at Florida International University, YEHOYADA MBANGUKIRA President US Rwandan Community Abroad, CAROL PINEAU Film maker & Journalist, among others.

Dr. Bienvenu Fiacre : " For students of Rwanda, I'd like to remind them that in a productive way, it's easy to forget that things could have gone further south hadn't it not have been for a deeper thinking and natural authority of the leadership which preserved the nationhood, the Rwandan civilization, and continue to keep it from going extinct."

Yehoyada Mbangukira: "Today, Rwanda can say what we're proud to have achieved, but there was a time that it was not possible to be Rwandan and be happy about that. As we look at that, there was something yearning of the Rwandans within the Diaspora, of a place they can say I am Rwandan, and many of us who could not say that. [...] Therefore, when you look at the then, and the trajectory we have taken today, we are a proud people. Just having a country to call home."

Dale Dawson: "Vision 2050 says that we're going to be a high income nation in the next 30 years. The growth rate needs to be 10% plus a year. Rwanda before the pandemic was hitting over 10%.

Continue reading at next page >

He added "I think nurturing high capacity young talent that we need. And also bringing in the vision we have at Bridge2Rwanda, to build a bridge to Rwanda that transforms lives at both ends. And what we've found is that when we bring our friends from the United States to Rwanda and they see and are inspired and given the opportunity to participate and to invest and to help, their lives are transformed. [...] Rwanda has developed a momentum for the last 20 years that will cause more and more people to be attracted to come and participate in Rwanda's building."

Painting a picture of how Rwanda looked like after the genocide, Dr. EMMANUEL Nibishaka Deputy CEO of Rwanda Governance Board said that many political scientists and commentator used to call Rwanda a failed state but with good governance the country has built a citizen centered sustainable development with regular monitoring of the principles of good governance. "Regular self-assessment is very essential in helping to identify area of improvement in a timely manner so that you don't lose the momentum in building a better life."

According to Prof. Margee Ensign, President of American University of Nigeria, "Any transformation, any nation building anywhere in the world requires three things: it requires a vision for a better future, a clear plan for implementing that vision and requires a method for monitoring progress towards that vision. All of these have happened in Rwanda since 1994"

Prof. Margee is a widely published scholar whose work focuses primarily on the challenges of international development as well as on the implications of development assistance.

She added "Based on evidence, Rwanda is a country with vision with honest capable leaders focused on future, developing news models of development, dealing with its history and empowering hope"

This summit was followed the next day by 'Night in Rwanda' a social and cultural event featuring Rwandan cultural dances, food and expedition of Rwanda natural beauty.

Rwandans in Texas and those that travelled from other parts of the United States of America were extended consular services including the opportunity to take biometrics.

The event attracted over 500 people (both physically and online) from civil society, media, academia, philanthropy, and business.

RWANDA RANKED SAFEST COUNTRY IN AFRICA

Rwanda has been named as the safest country for solo travelers in Africa and the sixth on the planet according to a review conducted by usebounce, a renowned and trusted travel website.

The country was the only one in Africa to make it in the top 10 list which is led by Switzerland.

According to the survey, the main criteria based on were the score of the crime index, and the score of the security index, which are the main factors that travelers consider prior to boarding a plane to a certain country.



ARSENAL-LUIZ-DAVID IN RWANDA'S VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK

USA-RWANDA

AMBASSADOR PETER VROOMAN BIDS FAREWELL TO RWANDA AS TENURE COMPLETES

“Friends:After nearly four years, the time has come for me to say goodbye (Murabeho) to the people of Rwanda. It has been a great honor to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda.” Ambassador Peter Vrooman said in his Farewell Video.

In his Kingarwanda message, with an accent close to a native Rwandan, Amb. Vrooman expressed his honor to have served as US ambassador to Rwanda.

“Kingarwanda has helped me get to know the people and culture of better Rwanda,” he added.

He usually uses some Kingarwanda words when giving speeches in the country or interacting with social media users.

On January 24, President Kagame received Ambassador Peter Vrooman for a farewell meeting.

President Biden appointed Amb. Vrooman to Maputo in Mozambique.



AACS >

SECURITY AND PROSPERITY ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN- PRESIDENT KAGAME

On 25th January, President Kagame delivered opening remarks at the 11th African Air Chiefs Symposium.

The Symposium was co-hosted by Ministry of Defense and U.S Air Forces Africa under the theme “Strategic Airlift”.

He said, “Security and prosperity are two sides of the same coin. You cannot have one, without the other”.

This symposium aims at creating a forum for Air Chiefs from across the African continent to come together to address regional and continental issues, enhance relationship and increase cooperation among African Air Forces.



Nebraska: Preparations for Rwanda Night underway

Ahead of the Rwanda Night in Nebraska, preparations of the award-winning program are underway. Rwanda Night, an annual event at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) that brings together UNL's Rwandan students and other members of the Lincoln community, will take place on 19 February at University of Nebraska.

“As we are nearing the D-day, preparations are underway to ensure that Rwanda Night 2022 meets and surpasses expectations- as it has done in the past.” Says Clare Umutoni, head of the organizing team.

The primary purpose of this award-winning program is to bring together the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Rwandan community to embrace shared identity, Ubunyarwanda, and give the Lincoln community a taste of Rwandan culture.

At the launch its first edition, in 2020 the event was acclaimed as a considerable success. That very first year, Rwanda Night won university's award of "Program of the Year 2020 Award."

“It is also an opportunity for Nebraskans to learn more about Rwanda as a country, celebrate its culture, all the while creating meaningful connections through music, dance, and other aspects.” Adds Clare.

The idea was brought up by Polly Musayidizi, former president of Agricultural Leadership Shields, one of the most prominent student organizations at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Rwandan Night is open to all UNL students as well as the general public. Among expected dignitaries, include Mathilde Mukantabana, Ambassador of Rwanda to the U.S., Major General Daryl L. Bohac, Adjutant General of Nebraska National Guard, Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss, the chief Dean of The UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CANR), Mike Boehm, vice-chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR).

RWANDAN NIGHT

SATURDAY
FEB 19, 2022

VENUE:
NEBRASKA UNION
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

-FOOD
-MUSIC
-DANCE
AND MUCH MORE

FREE ENTRY FOR UNL STUDENTS
\$25 PER TICKET FOR THE PUBLIC

unl_rsa / agrishields
531-739-2428 / 531-739-2432

UNL does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination

RHA ASA

Over 250 people are expected to attend the event.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS & OTHER NEWS

➔ President Kagame Meets Burundi envoy



January 10, President Kagame received in his office a delegation led by Burundi's Minister in charge of EAC Affairs

Youth, Culture and Sports, Amb. Ezéchiel Nibigira with a message from President Evariste Ndayishimiye. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral relations.

➔ Dubai Expo: Prime Minister pitches Rwanda to global investors



Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente has called upon potential investors from different corners of the world to consider the Rwandan market and explore the business opportunities present in the country.

He made the remarks during Rwanda's National Day as part of the ongoing Dubai Expo 2020 in the United Arab Emirates. Read more.



UGANDA'S LT. GEN. MUHOOZI KAINERUGABA MEETS PRESIDENT KAGAME

The Commander of Land Forces of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), Lieutenant General Muhoozi Kainerugaba held a tête-à-tête with President Paul Kagame at Village Urugwiro. The first-born son of President Museveni and a Senior Presidential Advisor in charge of Special Operations arrived in Kigali on Saturday, January 22 for a one-day visit.

He held a tête-à-tête with President Paul Kagame at Village Urugwiro where they discussed the restoration of bilateral ties between the two countries

RWANDA-UGANDA: GATUNA BORDER REOPENS

Monday January 31, 2022 Gatuna One Stop Border Post officially reopened on, three years after it was closed in February 2019.

Following the visit to Rwanda of Lt. Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, the Government of Rwanda took note that there is a process to solve issues raised by Rwanda, as well as commitments made by the Government of Uganda to address remaining obstacles.

In this regard and in line with the communique of the fourth Quadripartite Summit held at Gatuna/Katuna on 21st February 2020, the Gatuna border post between Rwanda and Uganda re-opened from 31st January 2022.

➔ Rwanda to host Ironman Triathlon race



January 18, President Paul Kagame received Serge Pereira, CEO of Starstone, an insurance firm, and Cindy Descalzi who were in the

country to launch Ironman Triathlon. The race, expected to take place in Rubavu district in August this year, is one of a series of long distance triathlon races organised by the World Triathlon Corporation.

CHOGM SET FOR KIGALI IN JUNE 2022

President Paul Kagame and the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland, have announced that the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) has been set for the week of 20 June, 2022.

CHOGM was due to have been held in Kigali in June 2020 but has been postponed twice due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Announcing the development in a joint statement published on Monday, January 31, President Kagame said that the last two years have made clear the global connection and need to work together to achieve tangible and sustainable results.

"Rwanda is pleased to welcome all delegates and participants to Kigali for a safe and productive CHOGM Rwanda 2022. The last two years have made it clear to us that we are more connected than ever before and we must work together to achieve the tangible and sustainable results we want," the President is quoted in the statement. "The long awaited meeting will be an important occasion to come together to address the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic

and to build on innovative technological and economic opportunities to solve other key problems facing our citizens," he added.

On her part, Scotland said that the meeting in Rwanda will provide "a real opportunity" to reaffirm the values that bind the Commonwealth together and focus on vital issues including the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, tackling climate change and poverty, boosting trade and promoting sustainable development.

This will be the first CHOGM to be held in Africa for over a decade and

I would like to commend the Government and people of Rwanda for their outstanding commitment and dedication to delivering an exemplary CHOGM in Kigali."

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent and equal countries. Representing a third of the world it is home to 2.4 billion people and includes both advanced economies and developing countries.

It had earlier been said that over 8,000 guests would be expected in the country for CHOGM and the several meetings organized on its margins.



Delivering a Common Future:
Connecting, Innovating, Transforming.



@CHOGM2022 | #CHOGM2022



BIOMETRICS SERVICES

Embassy of Rwanda in Washington has rolled out a program to extend consular services to Rwandans in US. During this program, Rwandans can provide biometrics on site without necessarily travelling to the embassy's office in Washington DC.

➔ Frequently asked questions about biometrics.

1 What is biometrics?

Biometrics refers to identifying individuals based on distinguishing physical characteristics. This includes fingerprints, face and hand geometry, signatures, and other traits.

2 Who must provide biometrics?

Biometrics collection is mandatory for all Rwandans applying for the first time an e-Passport.

3 What are the requirements to provide biometrics?

An approved e-Passport application and confirmation from DGIE, appointment, negative covid-test taken within 72 hours to the appointment.

4 How long does it take?

Between 10-25 minutes

5 What documents should I bring?

- Rwandan ID,
- Prepaid, self-addressed return envelope with a tracking number, that will be used to mail you your passport, and
- Negative COVID test results

6 What happens after my biometrics are collected?

Your biometrics are submitted to Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration for the processing and printing of the passports, which in turn are shipped to the Embassy for distribution.

7 Is there any fee I have to pay?

There is no additional fee to your passport fee.

8 Are the biometrics area and machines disinfected during this pandemic?

Yes, the rooms and surfaces are sanitized regularly



THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
RWANDA
WASHINGTON DC, USA

1714 New Hampshire Ave NW Washington DC 20009.
Phone +1 (202)-232-2882
E-Mail: info@rwandaembassy.org
Website: www.rwandaembassy.org