

# EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Washington DC



## RWANDA-NEBRASKA

Building enduring relationships

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## LEADERSHIP STUDENTS VISIT THE EMBASSY

Students of School for Ethics and Global Leadership (SEGL) have expressed interest in understanding and learning from Rwanda's leadership style.

School for Ethics and Global Leadership is a selective, semester-long residential program for motivated high school

juniors from across the United States. SEGL student visited Embassy of Rwanda in Washington on Friday February 25.

The discussions expounded on how the leadership has guarded political and economic stability of the country since the 1994 genocide against Tutsi.



Second counselor pauses with the students after a lecture on Rwanda's leadership



They touched on different topics including history of Rwanda, its economy, homegrown solutions, women empowerment, media, sustainable COVID19 management strategies, regional integration, among others.

According to the school, "It's a selection of students who have shown outstanding character, promise for leadership, and scholastic ability".



The discussions expounded on how the leadership has guarded political and economic stability of RWANDA



## SOMALI MAYORS IN RWANDA FOR STUDY VISIT

Mayors and senior government officials from the Federal Republic of Somalia are set to hold a forum in Kigali that will be followed by field visits to different parts of the country.

The forum took place from Monday, 14 to 18 February 2022, and was hosted by the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA).

The forum provided a platform for participants to reflect on the governance structures of the Horn of Africa country and pressing governance and development issues such as urbanization, decentralization, displacement, disaster management, and localization of services.

Rwanda's success story in leadership serves as a case study for different people across the world.



TNT

## AU Mission celebrates Black History Month.

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana, on Sunday February 27, attended a high-level dialogue on “Human Capital Development and Gender Inclusion”.

Organized by African Union Representational Mission to the United States of America, the celebration highlighted the rich history of the African Diaspora across the globe, and included panel discussions, history presentations and a virtual art show.

Ambassador Mukantabana called attention to moving from inspiration to implementation.

Commenting on human capital development, she said, “We need to prepare our people for the jobs of

the future; prioritize programs to increase our people’s employability- competitiveness and related skills.”

On gender inclusion, ambassador Mathilde reiterated the importance of promotion of gender equality at all levels, “This has to be put in the larger context as steadfast philosophy of people-centered politics. People centered progress and development must maximize people’s participation. It should be inclusive for the benefit of all of us.”

The celebration of Black History month highlighted the important role of the African Diaspora in the development across the globe.

The panelists made the case of how Diasporas can be catalysts in building viable partnerships and effectively address a multiplicity of difficult and complex problems that face our continent."



### Rwanda launches air balloon rides in Akagera Park



February 18, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) with partners launched the first Hot Air Balloon experience in Rwanda. The balloon rises as high as 1000m (3200 feet) above Akagera National Park scenic savanna-covered landscapes inhabited by the big 5 –

namely, elephants, rhinos, lions, leopards and buffaloes – and other vast species of wildlife.

“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.” Said Clare Akamanzi, CEO of Rwanda Development Board.

[Read more](#)

### PRAYER BREAKFAST: PRESIDENT KAGAME URGES LEADERS TO LIVE BY HUMILITY

President Paul Kagame has, on Sunday, February 27, urged leaders from different sectors to be characterized by humility, bearing in mind that they should be exemplary.

The Head of State was delivering his remarks during the 27th edition of the annual National Prayer Breakfast that was held in hybrid format at Serena Hotel, in Kigali, and aired on the national broadcaster.

[Read more](#)

# **BIOMETRICS SERVICES GOING TO**

# **DALLAS , TEXAS**

**On**

*Friday, March 11th*

*and*

*Saturday, March 12th,*

*2022*

***See page 14 for more information***

# ELLEN DEGENERES GORILLA CAMPUS OPEN FOR VISITORS

**F**ebruary 1, 2022 marks the opening of the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. The multi-acre, eco-friendly facility is located within twelve kilometers from the Volcanoes National Park, the later encompasses “great, old volcanoes towering almost 15,000 feet, and nearly covered with rich, green rainforest.” as described by Dian Fossey, the late American zoologist.

The campus with the smell of fresh soil, the lush greenery and the quiet commands a fine view of the Volcanoes National Park located nearby.

The Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund was named after, Dian Fossey.

“Growing up my hero was Dian Fossey because of what she did to bring awareness to the mountain gorillas,” DeGeneres said Tuesday February 1, 2022 during Ellentube; an hour-long, talk-variety show.

“This campus is going to be amazing. It is a place for everyone to visit. It has state of the art research facilities for scientists and researchers from around the world to advance gorilla

conservation and tourists can learn about gorillas.”

She added.

The campus with 360-degree Theater, that people can go in and learn more about gorillas, has been named one of Africa’s 10 most anticipated architectural projects in 2020.

Visiting the facility might not only help to learn more about gorillas but also to give a therapeutic forest bathing experience!

Scientific studies have found that forest air contains plant substances that have a positive effect on the human body.



“I hope that you get a chance to go to Rwanda and go see the gorillas because it is a life changing experience. Try to do that” Ellen DeGeneres.



Ellen DeGeneres.



**I hope that you get a chance to go to Rwanda and go see the gorillas because it is a life changing experience. Try to do that.**

**Ellen DeGeneres**



# USA-RWANDA

## Rwanda and Nebraska to strengthen ties



L-R: Maj. Gen. D. Bohac, Amb. Mathilde M. , Rep. Don J. Bacon. , Lt.Col R. Bazatoha

On Friday February 18, Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana Defense Attaché and Lt.Col Raoul Bazatoha visited Nebraska National Guard base.

They were received by Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Adjutant Gen. of Nebraska National Army, who took them on the tour of the base.

During the tour, Ambassador Mathilde and Lt. Col Raoul had engaging dialogues with different departments of Nebraska National Guard base including Women Advisory group, Nebraska Emergency management Agency, and Global Center for Health Security.

Ambassador Mathilde shared with Women Advisory group Rwanda's constant quest for full inclusion and participation of women

in the social, political and economic sphere of the country.

The meeting with the members of the Global Center for Health Security of University of Nebraska Medical Center expounded on expanding the existing partnerships with Rwanda to drive innovation through R&D to improve health care and response.

The Rwanda embassy delegation met with two House Representatives from Nebraska namely Congressman Jeff Fortenberry and Don J. Bacon.

They had a productive conversation on various topics of common interest including partnerships in wild conservation, trade, security and other areas of bilateral collaboration.

“Great meeting with the Rwandan Ambassador. Strong and courageous leadership has led this country and its citizens from the brink of destruction in the 1990s to the precipice of greatness today. Thank you to the Nebraska National Guard for hosting us.” Rep. Don Bacon tweeted after the meeting. The delegation was later invited to witness Patching Ceremony, a military tradition in which soldiers, upon their first combat deployment, receive a shoulder sleeve insignia. The ceremony is held in the presence of their family members.

In his tweet Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac said, “It was such a privilege to host Her Excellency Ambassador Mukantabana and tell our story of the Nebraska National Guard and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Thank you Rep. Don Bacon and Nebraska Medical Center for joining us in important discussions for our future together.”

Rwanda and Nebraska enjoy bilateral cooperation in different sectors mainly agriculture, security and health

## RWANDAN DIASPORA IN DMV CONVENE, DISCUSS THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN NATION BUILDING.



“It is right to take a moment and pray for what is most important for our country; we have a lot to be thankful for.” He reminded participants “our life is changed by knowing who is God. Our life has a meaning because we are part of God’s great story.”

The Defense Attaché at Embassy of Rwanda to the US, Lt. Col. Raoul Bazatoha, said Rwanda has made good progress over the past few years.

Rwandan diaspora in US, friends of Rwanda convened February 5, 2022 at Sheraton hotel in Silver Spring Maryland to pray for the nation and to discuss their role nation building.

The annual event commonly known as Rwanda Prayer Banquet featured different speakers including

Myal Greene, President and CEO of World Relief,

Evangelist Emmanuel Kwizera, International missions Director, Africa Enterprise Kenya.

In his address, Myal Greene, called upon faith-based organizations as influential leaders in the society to get on board and lead the charge on vaccination.

“Now imagine how the COVID19 situation would have been different if faith based organizations were leading the charge on vaccination.” Adding, “When one part of the body suffers the whole body suffers; when one part of the body rejoices the whole body rejoices. [...] the church is God’s intended instrument to bring transformation into this world.”

Quoting the speech of H.E Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, during National Prayer Breakfast of 2020, Ev. Emmanuel said,

“It is right to take a moment and pray for what is most important for our country; we have a lot to be thankful for.”

“ Today, Rwandans are more united, only in the last three to four years close two million Rwandans were lifted from poverty; at least in the past decade we have had an average GDP growth of 8%; while keeping inflation rate at a single digit and maintaining a stable currency; all sectors of the country have thrived...” he added.

Lt. Col. Raoul Bazatoha represented Her Excellency Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana.

“The role played by the diaspora in nation building is evident; we have seen exponential increment of remittances- even in 2020, during the covid-19 lock downs, the diaspora remittances grew...” The Defense Attaché urged Rwandan diaspora in the US and Friends of Rwanda to have unity of purpose to achieve sustainable development.

“There is nothing that brings minds and hearts together than a forum like this; in a posture of prayer, together...,” he noted.



# Nebraska: Rwandan Students hold Rwanda Night in style

Rwanda Students Association at University of Nebraska Lincoln, US, held Rwanda Night on Saturday February 20, 2022.

The annual event at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) brought together Rwandan students, Friends of Rwanda and other members of the Lincoln community.



Among attendants, included 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), among others.

According to Clare Umutoni, president of the Rwandan Students Association at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the event was an opportunity to celebrate Rwanda; "This is yet another golden opportunity to celebrate the Rwandan culture, diversity and to give back to both the University of Nebraska Lincoln."

Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources , Tiffany Heng Moss said that Rwanda night connects Rwanda wuth Nebraska. "It's a great time to celebrate Rwanda, experience the culture and to connect as a community.

H.E Mathilde Mukantabana, Ambassador of Rwanda to the United States of America thanked Rwandan students in Nebraska for strengthening bonds with Nebraskans. "We are incredibly proud of you. Your academic work did not deter you from finding time to celebrate your nation." Adding, "It's also obvious by looking around this room that you have made Nebraska your home.

You have strengthened the bonds of friendship and solidarity among your peers and tonight you are bringing Rwanda to Lincoln, Nebraska."

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 of its first edition in 2020 the event was acclaimed as a considerable success and scooped University of Lincoln "Program of the Year" award.

# Pictorial: Rwanda Night in Nebraska



## ➔ President Kagame, Angola's FM meet in Kigali



February 26, President Kagame received Angola's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Tête António who brought a message on bilateral and regional affairs from President João Lourenço.

## ➔ President Kagame Meets President of Mauritania



February 23, President Paul Kagame arrived in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for a working visit. He was received by President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani at Nouakchott Oumtounsy International Airport.

## ➔ President Kagame in inauguration of Wade stadium



February 22, President Kagame joined President Macky Sall and other Heads of State for the inauguration of the newly-constructed 50,000-seater Stade Abdoulaye Wade.

## ➔ President Kagame meets Emir of Qatar



February 14, President Kagame met with Emir of Qatar HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani on a productive discussion on bilateral relations and the ongoing successful areas of cooperation between the two countries.

## ➔ President Kagame, Mozambique's Nyusi meet in Kigali



February 10, President Kagame received President Nyusi for a meeting they discussed the good progress that has been made between Rwanda and Mozambique in the ongoing cooperation towards securing Cabo Delgado as well as other areas of bilateral collaboration.



## VACCINE EQUITY IS ABOUT THE FUTURE, NOT PAST - PRESIDENT KAGAME

Vaccine equity is about creating readiness for the future in the event of health challenges such as pandemics, President Paul Kagame has said.

H.E president was speaking in Marburg, Germany on February 16 in discussion on BioNTech vaccine production facilities to be built across Africa.

H.E joined other world leaders including WHO Director General [Read more](#)

## GOOD GOVERNANCE A KEY CATALYST FOR PEACE AND SECURITY - PRESIDENT KAGAME

President Paul Kagame has said that there is no way to build sustainable peace and security, both within and between Europe and Africa without putting governance at the centre.

The head of state shared the remarks at the ongoing Europe-Africa summit in Belgium on Thursday February 17.

[Read more](#)

On the sidelines of the meeting president Kagame met King Philippe of Belgium. He also held different meetings with heads of states and governments to discuss bilateral cooperations including Greek Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Slovakia Eduard Heger, Prime Minister of Bulgaria Kiril Petkov.

**“Rwanda votes in favor of UNGA draft resolution A/ES- 11/L.1 on the aggression against Ukraine, to firmly support that sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of any country must be respected.**

[Full statement](#)

## PRESIDENT KAGAME PAYS TRIBUTE TO PAUL FARMER AND JOE RITCHIE



### FARMER COMBINED MANY THINGS HARD TO FIND IN ONE PERSON

"It is hard to find the words to express the sad news of the passing of Dr. Paul Farmer - the person, the Doctor, the philanthropist."

This was the tribute by President Paul Kagame as he mourned the infectious disease physician and anthropologist, who was announced dead at the age of 62 on February 21.

He survived by his wife and three children.

President Kagame used his twitter handle to describe Dr. Farmer as someone who combined many things hard to find in one person. Farmer has been eulogised for his impact through his multiple initiatives that delivered

quality and equitable public healthcare globally. Particularly in Rwanda, for about two decades, he was involved in the country's primary healthcare to curb child and maternal mortality, training physicians, medical research, and the establishment of the Butaro Cancer Centre of Excellence that is greatly contributing to the fight against cancer.

[Read more](#)

### JOE WAS A FRIEND, WHO PLAYED A BIG PART IN THE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF OUR NATION

H.E President Paul Kagame also paid tribute to late Joe Ritchie who passed away on Tuesday, February 22.

Reflecting on his life President Kagame said, "Joe was a friend, who played a big part in the economic transformation of our nation".

Ritchie, 75, was involved in Rwanda's recovery efforts in different ways, including serving as the founding CEO of Rwanda Development Board (RDB), an institution tasked with spearheading the country's development.

[Read more](#)



## Biometrics services go to Dallas, TX

After successful mobile biometrics services to Rwandans in Nebraska, San Antonio and surrounding areas this time the services are set to be extended to Texas.

The Embassy 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.

This time the services will be extend to **Dallas, Texas on Friday, March 11, 2022 9:30AM - 4:30PM** and **Saturday, March 12th, 2022 10:00AM - 5:00PM central standard time.**

Requirements include approval of passport by Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration of Rwanda (DGIE) and a negative COVID test results taken within 72 hours leading up to the day

Rwandans living in Texas, surrounding areas and anyone planning to be in the area on the aforementioned date can apply for their e-passport through [www.irembo.gov.rw](http://www.irembo.gov.rw) and follow the guidelines.

The venue and appointment guidelines will be communicated ahead of time to those who registered.

For more info: [www.rwandaembassy.org](http://www.rwandaembassy.org) or [info@rwandaembassy.org](mailto:info@rwandaembassy.org)

## Rwandan community abroad can now apply national ID from embassies

The Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) started the issuance of East Africa e-Passport since 28 June 2019 with the National ID card as a requirement for citizens aged 16 years and above.

Rwandan Community abroad without National ID cards could not apply for an e-Passport.

In collaboration with the National Identification Agency (NIDA) and Irembo Ltd, DGIE has developed a system that allows to apply and acquire Rwandan National ID and e-Passport from the Embassies.

This was implemented to facilitate the Rwandan Community abroad without National ID cards.

DGIE is pleased to announce to the general public that Rwandan Community abroad can now apply for a National ID card and thereafter apply for an e-Passport via Irembo portal.

The biometric data will be captured from the nearest Embassy and be used for the processing of both National ID card and e-Passport.

DGIE encourages all Rwandan citizens to apply for an e-Passport at their earliest possible opportunity before the planned phased out of Machine Readable Passports scheduled on 27th June 2022.

For more inquiries and clarifications, kindly contact [diaspora@migration.gov.rw](mailto:diaspora@migration.gov.rw)

# UKRAINE'S BUDIAK WINS TOUR DU RWANDA STAGE AMID CRISIS IN HIS COUNTRY



From the first day of **Tour du Rwanda**, the Africa's most celebrated cycling event, you could see fans cheering on the riders at several places along the route.

The **Ukraine's Anatolii Budiak** won stage 6 of the Tour du Rwanda on day six from Musanze in northern province to Rwanda's capital Kigali amid the crisis in his country.

Drone Hopper's rider, **Eritrean Natnael Testefazion Androni Giocattoli**, won the 14th edition of the 8-day event that attracted 95 cyclists from four continents.

Budiak topped Natnael Tesfazion just seconds before Eric Manizabayo came home in third place.

"I'm very happy to win a race of such a level," Budiak said after the race, "it was very hectic, everyone wanted to attack and it made the race very indecisive."

President Kagame flagged the 75.3km last stage of the tour in Kigali, Rwanda's capital.

A Rwandan Mugisha, 25, who races for South Africa's ProTouch, won the stage 8.

"When I saw the President, I told myself that we need to do better and at least make him proud. I said we need to prove to him that we can try our best and tap into the encouragement he always gives us. Yesterday we got better bikes," he was quoted as saying.

According to Tour du Rwanda organizers, the cycling event was upgraded to 2.1 Category, the rating standard of the world's bicycle racing governing body, UCI.

The Tour du Rwanda, one of Africa's most celebrated cycling events, ended on Sunday 27, February leaving excitement and inspiration to both fans and aspirant cyclists.

The International Cycling Union (UCI) announced Rwanda as the host nation for the 2025 Road World Championships, first country in Africa to host the prestigious tournament.



The Ukraine's Anatolii Budiak won stage 6 of the Tour du Rwanda



[Click here for more about Tour Du Rwanda](#)



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