

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Washington DC



RWANDAFUL DAY IN DALLAS

Rwandans in the US, friends of Rwanda express their feelings after two years without meeting

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Rwandaful day in Dallas, Texas as Rwandans, friends of Rwanda meet



It is a Saturday; hundreds of Rwandans and friends of Rwanda convene in Dallas, Texas for celebration of International Women's day.

The running starts at the entrance of Marriot hotel in Dallas Fort Worth where the event is taking place, arms widely open for a long awaited hugs.

A white young woman in her 30's comes towards me smiling; at first, my mind tells me we had met somewhere before. "Hiiii," in a low-pitched voice, "where do you guys come from? You seem to be a very well organized community. I like your dress code and I can read happiness in all of you people, everyone is happy!"

"This is Rwandan community; we convened here with friends of Rwanda to celebrate International Women's day!" I said. "Rwanda, Kigaaali oh you guys rock! Arsenal team visit Rwanda. A very nice country" she replied.

Hundreds of people who had not been able to see each other in person for more than two years now because of the pandemic are finally meeting.

You can see people in traditional attire hugging each other in every corner, the MC keeps calling people to enter so the event can kick off; everyone is too excited to keep time. "This is a moment beyond words, Vital," my old friend Ramjaane Joshua of One Nation Radio tells me.

The event was prepared on March 12, 2022 to celebrate efforts made by women in every sector of society including leadership, governments, civil society, private sector, entrepreneurs, trade unions, artists, academia and social influencers.

The celebration served as a platform to reflect on the contribution of women in social transformation and to discuss on how to push further urgent action and accountability while overcoming the challenges.

The event featured panel discussions for an engaging environment and expounded on various issues affecting the society, particularly women.

The panelists shared experiences on various topics including youth engagement through pandemic and beyond, the opportunities for women in science and technology, business among others.

"As I listened to the various panels I could not help but notice how young the panelists were, yet so professional, eloquent and impassioned." Penned, on his blog, Mr. Willis Shalita, whom I owe the title on the front page of this newsletter.

According to Ange Kalisa in charge of gender in the community of Rwandans living in Texas, the challenges that women face begin from their youthful innocence "but this is why we are here today to champion our cause and make our voices heard, we are here to take charge and lead! We want to be equal and have a say in our own lives. We are strong, we are smart, and we are talented."



Prof. Boatama Mosupjoe, Associate Dean of Resource and Program Management at California State University Sacramento depicted Rwanda as a good example of women empowerment across the world "when I teach my students and ask them which country has the most women in parliament [...] they take me to Europe and I bring them back to Rwanda...". Ambassador of Rwanda in the United States of America Mathilde Mukantabana said that Rwanda removed structural barriers that women used to face.

She challenged the audience to take part in breaking social norms that are still one of the major challenges. "The strength and vibrancy of the Rwandan US Diaspora would not have been smoother and a force to contend with but for Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana — our never tiring representative in these United States. Full of energy, un-assuming, approachable and down to earth, and full of wisdom and charm, she has employed her people skills and amazing organizational skills to bring Rwandans of all persuasions together." Writes Willis.

The colorful event that featured performances by Rwandan artists like Intore Masamba, The Ben and Dallas-based traditional dancers and fashion show attracted not only Rwandans but also friends of Rwanda.

Around 250 people attended the event with more than 3000 following it virtually.

Vital Karangwa, Communication Officer, Embassy of Rwanda in Washington DC.

Leaders of Rwandan communities in the US meet for a leadership retreat

Leaders of United States Rwanda Community Abroad (USRCA) convened Friday, March 11, in Dallas, Texas for a retreat to discuss their contribution to Rwanda's socio-economic transformation, maintaining a healthy, united community and strengthening ties with US.

In his welcoming remark, Yehogada Mbangukira president of (USRCA) reminded community leaders to revisit and reflect on USRCA vision for a better performance. "This is why we have been entrusted with leading our communities".



In her opening remark Ambassador of Rwanda to US, Mathilde Mukantabana requested USRCA leaders to heed the growing influence of diaspora across the world and set sound strategies to position themselves to make their voice heard while connecting with their country to capitalize on their potential.

[More on United States Rwanda Community Abroad \(USRCA\)](#)

Amb. Claver Gatete presents credentials to UN secretary General



On March 28, the new Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations, Amb. Claver Gatete, presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

Before his latest appointment, Amb. Gatete held Cabinet positions in Rwanda, serving most recently as Minister for Infrastructure since in 2018. He was the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning from 2013.

Amb. Gatete served as Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda from 2011, having been Deputy Governor since 2009.

Beginning his diplomatic career in 2005, Amb. Gatete was based in London until 2009 as Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ireland and Iceland.

Amb. Claver Gatete replaces Amb. Valentine Rugwabiza whom UN secretary General appointed as his new Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

Pictorial: International Women's day celebration in Dallas, TX



Ministers Biruta, Mujawamariya on a working visit to Washington DC.

Ministers Vincent Biruta of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Jeanne D'Arc Mujawamariya, of Environment, and delegation were in Washington DC from March 28 to April 1, for a working visit where they held bilateral talks with various institutions; the Department of State, Department of Defense, USAID, the National Security Council, to mention a few.

The delegation met senior leaders, including Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, USAID Administrator Ambassador Samantha Power, among others, to discuss ways of strengthening partnerships. The ministers and delegation also met with different Senators and members of the Congress to discuss cooperation.



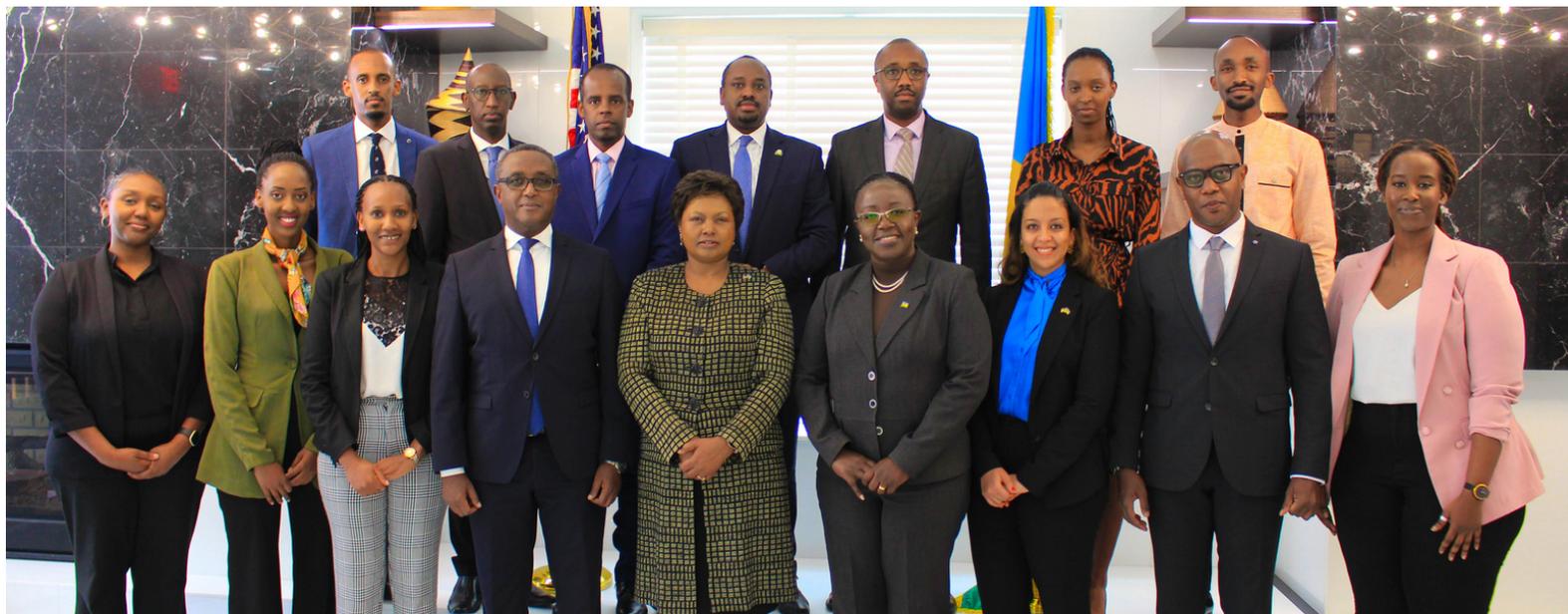
Ministers Biruta, Mujawamariya and Amb. Mathilde met Samantha Power Administrator

“We are visiting Washington DC to strengthen the existing partnership between Rwanda and USA. We've been working together in various sectors, including defense and security, climate change, health, education and many others.” Said Minister Vincent Biruta during a live interactive discussion with Atlantic Council.

The discussion with Atlantic council expounded on different topics including relations between the United States and Rwanda, defense and security, Rwanda's role in the Great Lakes, to post-covid recovery among others. [You can watch it here](#). The Minister and his delegation were hosted at the Search for Common Ground to interacted with civil society actors and at the Heritage Foundation.

Pictures on the next page

The delegation visited the embassy of Rwanda in Washington



Issue MARCH 2022



Ministers Biruta, Mujawamariya on a working visit in Washington DC.



Meeting with Samantha Power, USAID Administrator



Atlantic Council

Atlantic Council
AFRICA CENTER
A CONVERSATION WITH
H.E. VINCENT BIRUTA THE
FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
#AfricasTimeHasCome



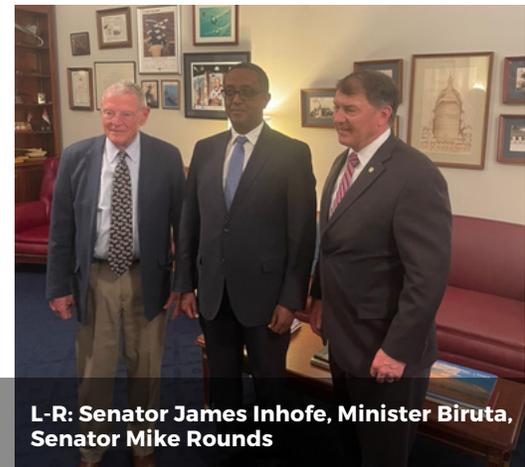
Meeting with Molly Phee, Assist. Sec. of State for African Affairs of the United States



Minister Biruta with Wendy Sherman, Deputy Secretary of State



Minister Mujawamariya met with partners from AWF, UNEP, ICF Group, Conservation Int'l



L-R: Senator James Inhofe, Minister Biruta, Senator Mike Rounds



THE EMBASSY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
WASHINGTON D.C.

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana requests the honor
of your presence to the 28th commemoration of the 1994
Genocide against the Tutsi.



kwibuka28
remember-unite-renew

The event will feature a survivor's testimony and other
distinguished guests from the Department of State,
educational institutions, and more.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7TH, 2022
1:00PM - 2:30PM EST

STREAM LIVE ON
RWANDAINUSA WASHINGTON, D.C.



RWANDANS IN THE US BREATHE SIGH OF RELIEF AFTER EMBASSY EXTEND BIOMETRIC SERVICES TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

Embassy of Rwanda in the United States in partnership with Rwanda Directorate of Immigration and Emigration launched mobile biometrics services in February 2022.

Rwandans living in the United States can now provide their biometrics in their states without travelling to the embassy in Washington DC. The consular services have been extended to three communities so far: San Antonio, Dallas, Nebraska and Michigan to be covered on April 8.

According to Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana, the embassy is considering to reach out to other communities as time goes on.

Members of United States Rwandan Community Abroad express their feelings about the move:



It is a relief! Before, people had to travel from their states to Washington DC to spend days there waiting for documents; this means spending money for flight tickets and accommodation and on top of this we had to suspend work during that period.

Yehoyada Mbangukira,
President of United States Rwandan Community Abroad



I paid my biometrics fees about 6 months ago, with the intention to travel to DC. But with Covid19, financial struggles and day to day activities of a student, I couldn't see a way to make it. It was such a joy, when I heard, the embassy was coming to Lincoln for the MOBILE biometrics service. Very grateful!"

Ange Nicole Ishimwe



It would have been quite expensive to travel and stay in DC. I had school and work to do, so travelling would be difficult. Thanks to MOBILE biometrics services, I was able to submit my biometrics in a short time without waiting for days.

Josué Kwizera



I submitted my biometrics application almost 6 months ago, I couldn't travel to Washington DC to do my biometrics. With the Covid pandemic, everyone was struggling financially but also trying to stay safe with reducing travels and being in contact with a lot of people. Luckily, the embassy launched their MOBILE biometrics system and visited us on campus to collect our biometrics.

Jean D Niwenshuti

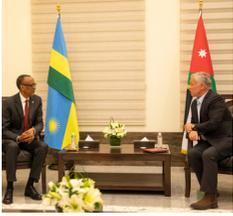


This is a very good service because the embassy facilitates Rwandans. For example we would have spent much money and much time going to Washington DC. But they reached out to us instead. I am very grateful.

Emerita Nyirabyago

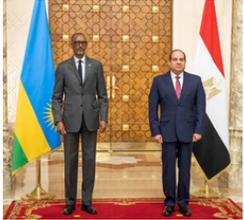


➔ President Kagame, meets HM Abdullah



On Wednesday, March 23, President Paul Kagame arrived in Aqaba, Jordan where he was welcomed by His Majesty Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, where he also attended the Aqaba Process Meeting on East Africa.

➔ President Kagame Meets President of Egypt



President Kagame later travelled to Cairo, Egypt on March 26 for an official visit during which he had a tête-à-tête with President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi who had welcomed him.

➔ President Kagame meets H.E Gen. Mahamata Idriss Deby



March 18, President Kagame & H.E General Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, Chairman of Transitional Military Council & President of the Republic of Chad held bilateral discussions before witnessing the signing of a General Cooperation Agreement, supporting cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

➔ President Kagame holds bilateral meeting with President Tshisekedi



March 24, On the sidelines of the Aqaba Process Meeting on East Africa, President Kagame and President Tshisekedi held a cordial and productive meeting on bilateral and regional cooperation.

➔ President Kagame, Mozambique's Nyusi meet in Kigali



March 7, President Kagame and President Embaló sat down for a tête-à-tête before holding bilateral talks with officials from both delegations. The two Heads of State also witnessed the signing of agreements focused on strengthening key areas of cooperation between the two countries.

RWANDA LAUNCHES CENTER FOR FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



President Kagame and Borge Brende, the president of the World Economic Forum during the launch

March 24, President Paul Kagame presided over the official launch of the Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) in Kigali, following a partnership with the Ministry of ICT and Innovation and the World Economic Forum.

The development is part of the efforts to position Rwanda as a proof-of-concept hub and an enabler of the innovation and startup ecosystem, according to the Ministry.

This center for the fourth industrial revolution will play an important role to meet the vision of Rwanda becoming a middle-income country by 2035, said Borge Brende, the president of the World Economic Forum.

[Read more](#)



PRIME MINISTER DR. NGIRENTE DELIVERED REMARKS AT THE WORLD GOVERNMENT SUMMIT

Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente, has on Wednesday 30 March 2022 delivered closing remarks at the eighth edition of the World Government Summit, during the session on the Sustainable Development Goals in action. The Prime Minister has said that efforts to recover from the Covid-19 crisis must be underpinned by multilateralism and collaboration between governments as well as international organisations. He also called for collaboration among international financial institutions, civil society, and the private sector and to draw on international research and innovation.

This year's summit convened more than 4,000 individuals from 190 countries participating in various sessions to discuss and highlight global challenges and their potential solutions.

PRINCE CHARLES, DUCHESS CAMILLA EXPECTED IN KIGALI FOR CHOGM



Prince Charles, the heir-apparent to the British throne has announced that he and his wife, Camilla, will be in Kigali for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) slated for June this year.

The Prince of Wales, the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II, made the announcement on March 14, an occasion for all 54 member countries of the Commonwealth to celebrate Commonwealth Day. Rwanda marked the day by hoisting the

Commonwealth flag at the Kigali Convention Centre (KCC) by officers of Rwanda National Police.. Postponed for two consecutive years due to Covid-19, CHOGM will take place in Kigali during the week of June 20.

RWANDA'S RESPONSE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORT



Response @HRW report

The judicial system in Rwanda operates fairly and transparently in compliance with Rwanda's laws, as well as our regional and international obligations. Everyone is equal before the law and no one is prosecuted for having political opinions. The sustained harassment of Rwanda by Human Rights Watch does nothing more than entrench negative stereotypes about justice and human rights in Africa.

Yolande Makolo

Rwanda Government Spokesperson



OFFICIAL VISIT OF RWANDA MINISTER OF DEFENCE TO BURUNDI

On 15 March in Gitega, Burundi's President Evariste Ndayishimiye received a delegation from Rwanda led by Major General Albert Murasira, Rwanda's Minister of Defence, who brought a message from President Paul Kagame.

The East African reports that this effort is part of the normalisation of the relations between the two countries.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF RWANDA DEFENCE FORCE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF TO FRANCE



From 14 to 17 March, General Jean Bosco Kazura, Chief of Defence Staff of the Rwanda Defence Force paid an official visit to France. The RDF delegation also comprised the Head of Defence Intelligence, the Head of International Military Cooperation and the RDF Chief Operations and training (Chief J3). Jeune Afrique reports that the trip was held at the invitation of General Thierry Burkhard, Chief of Staff of the French Armed Forces. Bilateral discussions centred around opportunities to revive and strengthen Defence Cooperation in areas of mutual interest as well as regional and global security dynamics.

**BIOMETRICS SERVICES GOING
TO**

MIDWEST , MICHIGAN

On

Sunday, April 10th

2022

See page 10 for more information

Biometrics services go to Midwest, Michigan

After successful mobile biometrics services to Rwandans in Nebraska, San Antonio, Dallas and surroundings areas this time the services are set to be extended to Great region of Midwest.

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 **Midwest, Michigan on Saturday, April 10, 2022 9:00AM - 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 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 or 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

CARLOS ALOS FERRER APPOINTED AS THE NEW AMAVUBI HEAD COACH



On Tuesday, the Spaniard Carlos Alós Ferrer was appointed the new head coach of the national football Team – Amavubi on a one-year contract, replacing Mashami Vincent whose contract expired at the beginning of this month.

The 47-year-old holds a UEFA Pro coaching license and has previously been the Technical Director of FC Barcelona as well as head coach for AS FAR Rabat in Morocco Botola Pro League, Enosis in Cyprus 1st Division, etc.

Carlos Ferrer also served as Kazakhstan National team coach. Among the challenges awaiting him, there are qualifying Amavubi for AFCON 2023 and for CHAN 2023. TNT



Carlos Alos Ferrer (R) was unveiled as head coach of the national football team (Amavubi) on Tuesday, March 29, in Kigali

Rwandan Emeran optimistic about excelling at Manchester United

Rwandan teenager Noam Emeran is eager to make his mark at English Premiership side Manchester United.

The 19-year-old winger trained with the senior team – alongside Juan Mata and Marcus Rashford – under the watchful eyes of manager Ralf Ragnick throughout the international break and he hopes he can build on that momentum.

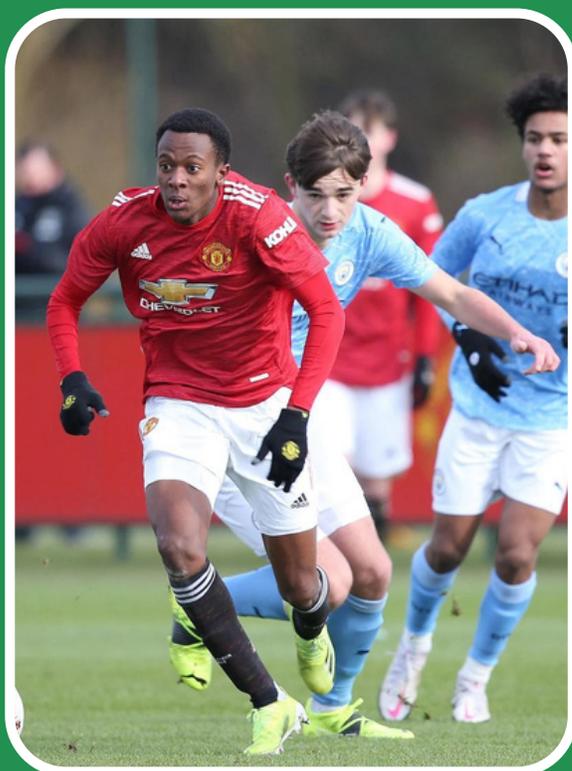
Emeran revealed that after his injury worries, which kept him out for several months, he spoke to Manchester United legend Wayne Rooney who urged him to remain strong and that has culminated to his impressive return.

“Rooney told me a player makes good or bad choices based on his determination,” Emeran was quoted in Le Parisien.

“I realized that I had to be demanding of myself and go all out.”

Emeran has featured in the last seven Premier League 2 games for the Manchester United under-23 side.

He is one of the few players from the under-23 side expected to get full promotion into the first team for the 2022/2023 season. TNT



Noam Emeran, 19. Net photo.



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