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“Allowing free movement of people, goods, and services matter a lot” President Kagame

President Paul Kagame reiterated the need to allow free movement of people, goods, and services in Africa. He was speaking at a breakfast gathering of African leaders and friends of Africa, he co-chaired, on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and its role in fast-tracking economic growth and transforming the continent. This breakfast gathering of African leaders and friends of Africa was part of the meetings held during World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos held from 23rd to 26th May 2022.

President Kagame said that for so many decades in history, there are leaders in Africa who tried to unite Africa, alongside making sure that Africa can also trade within itself and countries with each other and so on. “But it never worked for a long time for different reasons because of course some forces both within Africa and outside preferred to have the continent’s markets fragmented and they just keep using one against the other.” He added.

In his remark, president Kagame said that Africa needs to tackle a number of things, especially in the area of non-tariff barriers there is still slowness, “we could move faster. This is for me the most important thing, the fact that we have it but it is not working fully to our satisfaction.” Emphasizing that there are more to do.

“In a lot we can do and allowing free movement of people, goods, and services, these small things matter a lot.” Said President Kagame.

“We need to really show the political will and put it to work and make sure that things work because they are working for us in the end. And then when they have worked for us, we work very well with the rest of the world to our benefit.” the head of state reiterated.

A call to African leaders

President Paul Kagame issued a call to African leaders to prioritize their continent before partnering with the rest of the world.

Kagame was joined by President of Malawi Lazarus Chakwera, President of Namibia Hage Geingob, President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa, and Philip Mpango Vice President of Tanzania.

In his remarks, the President said it's time for Africans to stop dwelling on the idea that other parts of the world will pay a lot of attention to Africa and its problems, and that they will always be there to help.

This has always been proven to not be the case and that is why a number of efforts have been carried out at continental level to try and see what Africa can do for itself, he said. Emphasizing however, that this doesn't mean Africa will not partner with others.

“While it is true that people talk about African solutions for African problems, the slogan doesn’t mean that Africa doesn't need other people. It just means we start with what we are able to do for ourselves, and then partner with the rest of the world,” the head of state reiterated.
President Kagame meets Commander of U.S. Africa Command

May 19, President Kagame met with Gen Stephen J. Townsend, Commander of U.S. Africa Command that is responsible for military relations with nations & regional organizations in Africa.

President Kagame meets SG of OIF

May 20, Today, President Kagame received Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo, the Secretary General of The Organisation internationale de la Francophonie and her delegation who are on an official visit to Rwanda.

AU Chair Spoke to Presidents Kagame and Tshisekedi Over DRC Conflict

President Paul Kagame and his Congolese counterpart Félix Tshisekedi have held a phone conversation through their Senegalese counterpart, with an aim to resolve the current impasse in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The development was revealed by the Chairperson of the Africa Union, Senegal President Macky Sall, on Monday, May 30, when he tweeted thanking both leaders for "our telephone conversations yesterday and today in the quest for a peaceful solution to the dispute" between DR Congo and Rwanda.

President Sall noted that he is encouraging Angolan President João Lourenço, who is the current Chairperson of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to continue his mediation efforts in this direction.

Sustainable Energy For All Forum

May 17, President Kagame delivered remarks at the opening of the Sustainable Energy For All Forum, bringing together global leaders and youth representatives to drive action towards achieving a global clean energy transition.

To watch the video click here
PM Ngirente in Ghana for the AfDB Annual Meeting

Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente, on Wednesday 25 May, represented President Kagame at the African Development Bank Annual Meeting in Ghana.

During the presidential dialogue, Rt. Hon. Ngirente said that the government’s investments in rural areas were part of the drivers of rapid economic recovery from the Covid-19 effects. He also shared with delegates the policies that were put in place by Rwanda to kick-start its economic recovery process.

Minister Vincent Biruta Briefs Media on the Current Situation with the DRC

On 31 May 2022, Minister Biruta held a press conference on the current situation with the DRC. During the media briefing that followed another one with diplomats accredited to Rwanda, Minister Biruta underscored that Rwanda is not interested in a crisis:

"We are committed to the peace, stability, and economic development of our region and wish to continue working with the DRC bilaterally, and through the established regional initiatives", he told the media fraternity.

9th Group of Refugees and Asylum Seekers Arrive in Rwanda

132 refugees and asylum seekers evacuated from Libya arrived in Rwanda. They will be accommodated in Gashora Transit Center located in Bugesera District that currently hosts 325 refugees and asylum seekers evacuated before.

The 9th batch of evacuees is composed of 74 Eritreans, 5 Ethiopians, 4 Somalis, 4 South Sudanese, and 45 Sudanese; 65 are females and 67 male.

On behalf of H.E. President Paul Kagame, Minister Vincent Biruta attended the 15th Extraordinary Session of the African Union Assembly on Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.
Ambassador Mathilde presents her credentials to the Vice President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

On June 1, Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana presented her credentials to the Vice-President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. General Hamilton Martins Mourão Antonio in a ceremony held at the Planalto Palace.
On the sidelines, Ambassador Mathilde held a meeting with Honorable Paulino Franco de Carvalho Neto, Vice Minister for Multilateral Political Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador also met officials in Ministries of Agriculture and ICT. They discussed several areas of interest in a wider framework of cooperation between Brazil and Rwanda.

GLOBAL AND LOCAL TRENDS SHAPING AFRICA’S CONSERVATION

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana joined a high-level panel discussion to expound the nexus between conservation and development, global trends shaping both and the emerging African agenda.

The event held on May 5 brought together more than 100 guests, including the African Diplomatic Corps in Washington, D.C.; U.S. members of Congress, the Administration, and implementing agencies; U.S.-based multilateral agencies; NGO partners, corporates, and foundations supporting conservation and development in Africa.

SEMO AND RWANDA NURTURE COLLABORATION

The Second Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Washington Mr. Charles Ntageruka and the representative of Rwandan Community in Missouri Dr. Mukiza Ntezimana Jonas met with the senior management of Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) led by President Carlos Vargas. The objective was to nurture the collaboration between SEMO and Rwanda.

RWANDA PARTICIPATES IN PASSPORT DC 2022

On May 7, Rwanda participated in the Passport DC 2022 annual “Around the World Embassy Tour” along with other embassies at the African Union Representational Mission to the United States of America. Rwanda was proud to showcase Made in Rwanda products. Passport DC is an annual month-long journey around the world highlighting DC’s thriving international diplomatic community and its lively and varied culture.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA, FORSTRING PATERNSHIP

The Second Counselor at the Embassy of Rwanda, Mr. Charles Ntageruka the Representative of Rwandan Community in Tennessee State, Mr. Bahati Kalisa and Dr. Cherry Houston, a friend of Rwanda were honored and hosted on May 2 by the top officials of Lipscomb University in Nashville led by Dr. Norma Burgess, Associate Provost at Lipscomb University.

Part of discussions was to strategize together how they can reinvigorate and engage more the ongoing collaboration between Lipscomb University and the University of Rwanda.
Rwandan students in the US have proposed solutions to help combat genocide denial and genocide ideology abroad.

Understanding the different stages of the genocide, establishing foundational knowledge to effectively utilize social media, having repositories in ready access for the youth and extending invitations to youth are some of the proposed solutions.

These were highlighted during a virtual interaction among the students from different US universities, which was organised on May 30, 2022.

The discussions revolved around the role of the youth in preventing and fighting against the genocide ideology and revisionism.

The students discussed different strategies that should be adopted by youth and other organs to counter Genocide ideology and denial that is still present in some groups.

Didier Bizimungu, a Florida Atlantic University alumni explained the different stages of Genocide, noting that denial is the last stage.

“If they [deniers] can figure out the way to control the narrative then the generations to follow will not remember what truly happened, how the Genocide against Tutsi occurred.

The youth must take up that story and keep it going because it is an important piece of making sure the Genocide does not occur again,” he said.

Gladys Mihigo from Oklahoma Christian University shared her experiences of when she first arrived at school in the United States.

“A lot of people ask me if the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi was still ongoing and whether that’s why I came here, whether I was fleeing from the Genocide against Tutsi... some also asked me what ethnic group I was. Part of this was down to the ignorance of many about modern day Rwanda,” he said.

She challenges fellow students to tell the true history of the Genocide against Tutsi and how Rwanda has evolved after 28-years in order to counter misinformation.

Ricky Junior Isheja, a student at Marist College in New York shared a testimony on how organising genocide commemoration activities at school was another good way to tell Rwanda’s story.

“We as Rwandans should consistently seek to educate the international community because it is our task to tell them about our history,” he said.

Bertrand Bahizi, from Harvard University, explained how to address problems of youth that have been exposed to Genocide ideologies and denial in their communities.

“The community should extend invitations to these vulnerable people and begin engaging them in order to counter the negative views that they have adopted,” he said.

However, he added that this was a process and requires consistency.
PICTORIAL: #KWIBUKA28 EVENTS HELD IN MAY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**North Dakota**

In North Dakota, Rwandans and friends of Rwanda called for extradition of Genocide fugitives and leveraging social media to counter Genocide denial.

**Iowa**

#Kwibuka28 event in Iowa featured discussions on social, political and historical contexts of the Genocide and testimony
At the initiative of Rwandan students (all under 18), Western Reserve Academy based in Cleveland Ohio organized the commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda.

Rwandans and friends of Rwanda in Atlanta lauded resilience of the survivors of the Genocide against Tutsi and highlighted the need to fight Genocide denial by speaking out against people twisting the history of Rwanda.
Members of Rwandan Community in Seattle, Washington have renewed their commitment to fight Genocide ideology and to teach younger Generation the history of Rwanda.

Rwandans and Friends of Rwanda in Missouri gathered to honor the victims of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda.
The first reunion of the survivors of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda was held in Utah from 27–29 May 2022. This event served as a safe space for survivors and their friends to engage in dialogue relating to different issues. They discussed challenges including how to manage traumatic memories resulting from the Genocide, ways through which survivors may contribute to the documentation and dissemination of information relating to their experiences, their relationship with other citizens from the host country, and the opportunities yet to be realized.

"This is an opportunity for survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi to meet and share common and varied stories of how we have coped over the last 28 years." said Jason Nshimye the chairperson of IBUKA-USA.

This experience is a healing process, which is facilitated by experts in areas of mental health, trauma recovery, and other disciplines that address challenges faced by survivors of Genocide, particularly the Rwandan Survivors as they continue to grapple with this shared ordeal.

The event brought survivors, their families, and friends from across the United States and abroad together and provided a forum for them to learn together, plan a path forward, and seek resolutions to common challenges as they get to know each other.

This face-to-face encounter was invaluable not only because it provided a forum for survivors to mourn the shared tragedy but also facilitated the sharing of coping skills and mechanisms from peers and more importantly, practical advice from professionals.
PICTORIAL: FIRST REUNION OF SURVIVORS AND 28TH COMMEMORATION OF THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST TUTSI IN RWANDA
PROFESSIONAL RWANDAN TOUR COMPANIES FORGE STRONG TIES WITH U.S.

Rwanda Development Board and Chamber of Tourism in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Washington D.C. organized a unique platform for Rwandan tour operators on May 2, to engage with tour operators/travel advisors in New York City, Fort Lauderdale (Florida) and Chicago (Illinois). This "roadshow" was an important undertaking in order to create viable business ties as the United States remains Rwanda’s top market source for tourism.

The events were hosted in notable locations such as the Harvard Club and Sheraton Hotels. Close to 200 U.S. tour operators/ travel advisors were able to network and attend a B2B session with their Rwandan counterparts.

Companies that attended included: Africa Journeys; African Unique Safaris; Rwanda Eco Tours; Heritage Safaris; Wildlife Tours Rwanda; G-step Tours, King’s Safaris Rwanda; International Travel Agency; Anywhere Rwanda Travel and Tours; Prime Transport Service; Inzozi Tour & Travel; Silverback Africa Excursions and Sharama Events and Tours.

A Rwanda destination presentation was also the delivered by RDB representative, Mr. Philibert Ndandali, Ag. Tourism Promotion Manager who presented various tourism offerings and the success achieved by Rwanda in managing covid 19 pandemic to allow progressive travel back to Rwanda.
REMINDER ON THE PHASE OUT OF THE MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT

The Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) would like to remind all Rwandans that the old Rwandan passports issued before the 27th June 2019 shall effectively be phased out and cease to being recognized as travel documents with effect from 28th June 2022.

We take this opportunity to inform you that Rwanda East Africa (EAC) electronic Passport application is applied through Irembo’s platform: www.irembo.gov.rw

For more information or clarification, please call: +250 722 180 218, +250 722 159 372, +250 726 792 989. You may also contact us via social media platforms:

- Twitter: @Rwandamigration
- Facebook: @Rwandalmmigration
President Paul Kagame said he feels happy and proud that Rwanda is hosting the Basketball Africa League (BAL) for the second time.

Last year, the country hosted the entire inaugural season of the competition and earned a lot of appreciation from it, as it was played during challenging times when the Covid-19 pandemic was a serious issue globally.

While participating in the “Moving Sports Forward Forum,” an event co-hosted by the Giants of Africa and Basketball Africa League on Saturday, May 21 in Kigali to discuss the development of sports on the African continent, President Kagame was asked how he feels about the fact that Rwanda is hosting the mega event again, and he responded:

“My feeling is that of pride and happiness that we have done something and it has materialized and it’s going to have an impact as regards to our young people and the development of talent on our continent.”

“I’m also thankful to all of you who have been each contributing their part and making this happen. There is something about sports, it goes beyond what we can describe, it’s more in the feelings as well as it connects those feelings from one person to another,” he added.