

# EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Washington DC



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# President Kagame to push for measurable results as head of Commonwealth

President Paul Kagame is committed to ensure that all Commonwealth countries grow together and tap into the enormous opportunities that the bloc offers.

He said this as he took over as chair-in-office of the bloc that saw two new members admitted, making it 56 countries.

He will head the bloc for two years and he outlined his priorities during a press briefing held at the end of the 26th Commonwealth Heads

of Governments Meeting (CHOGM) that took place in Kigali.

“As Chair-In-Office, we look forward to working towards strengthening the partnerships within the commonwealth, for the benefits of all our citizens...each country in the Commonwealth has specific challenges and all together have common challenges but it's not about the challenges alone, we have more opportunities. Members will continue working together to benefit from the opportunities we share and those we can find in each other,” said President Kagame.

The 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was held in Kigali, June 24 2022, bringing together different Heads of Government from the Commonwealth Countries.

His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales called for continued unity in all efforts made by the commonwealth countries, being bold with ambition, decisive with their actions and united in their efforts.

The Commonwealth has members from Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific.

Among these include Gabon and Togo whose admission was approved during the Kigali meeting.



President Paul Kagame has taken charge of the Commonwealth for the next two years

On what he envisages as challenges ahead in running such a vast bloc, President Kagame said that there are actually more opportunities to tap into collectively.

“It’s always going to be how much we pull along each other, how much we work together and we can do it in a way that, even together, we can keep measuring the progress we are making, it has to be about doing thing. This is what I feel that is at hand,” he said.

At the official opening of CHOGM, Charles The Prince of Wales, who represented Queen Elizabeth hinted on allowing more countries to join the club calling it a free association of independent, self-governing nations.

This CHOGM was the 6th to be held in Africa and drew over 5000 delegates. During the meeting Heads of Government reappointed Scotland to finalize her mandate in office.

The next CHOGM will be held in Samoa in 2024 and a new secretary general will be elected them.

## ➔ President Kagame Meets with UAE President in Abu Dhabi



On Wednesday 15 June in Abu Dhabi, H.E President Paul Kagame met with UAE President H.H Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and presented his condolences for the passing of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The meeting also discussed the ongoing bilateral cooperation between Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates.

## ➔ Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore Visits Rwanda



Following his participation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting - CHOGM 2022, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of the Republic of Singapore made a one-day Official Visit to Rwanda on Monday 27 June 2022. Prime Minister Loong was received by President Kagame at Urugwiro Village for a closed-door meeting covering Rwanda and Singapore's extensive partnerships and future opportunities of mutual interest.

The Heads of State held a press conference to discuss areas of cooperation between the two countries, with Singapore being one of Rwanda's fastest growing trade and investment partners.

## ➔ President Kagame Addresses the ITU-WTDC Opening



President Kagame, on Monday 6 June, addressed the opening of the International Telecommunication Union - World Telecommunication Development Conference (ITU-WTDC). Under the theme: "Connecting the unconnected to achieve sustainable development" WTDC provides a platform for stakeholders to develop innovative approaches to achieve affordable, inclusive universal connectivity.

In his remarks, President Kagame has called on the world to work towards addressing the gaps in connectivity and digital transformation that still hamper access to technology for many, if not one is to be left behind. President Kagame also said that the responsibility to shape the future of the digital economy and ensure no one is left behind, lies with us and all of us, working together. No company, country, or institution has the resources to do it alone.

## ➔ President Kagame Awards ITU Secretary General the National Order of Honour



On Tuesday 14 June, President Kagame awarded the International Telecommunication Unity Secretary General Houlin Zhao the National Order of Honour, Agaciro, recognizing his distinguished service as the leader of ITU during a very consequential period for the globalization of telecommunications technology.

## PM Ngirente Inaugurates the New Ellen DeGeneres Campus



Rwanda's Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente, on behalf of President Kagame, presided over the dedication ceremony of the new Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, at Kinigi, Musanze District on Tuesday 7 June. The construction was funded through American television personality, Ellen DeGeneres.

Rt. Hon. Dr. Ngirente described the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund as a conservation milestone which will significantly boost the efforts to create a safe space for the Mountain Gorillas. He also said that For decades, passionate conservationists have been working to protect the mountain gorillas and their habitats, adding that the campus is a testimony that the hard work has paid off.

The Dian Fossey Fund has been in Rwanda for more than half a century and has been a key partner for Rwanda.

## Ambassador of Vatican to Rwanda submits his letters of credence



On June 7, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Vincent Biruta received a copy of the credentials of H.E. Archbishop Arnaldo Catalan, the new Apostolic Nuncio and Vatican's Ambassador to Rwanda.

They discussed the Catholic Church's role in rebuilding Rwanda, especially the reconciliation process, education, and health.

## Rwanda Not Deterred by the Cancellation of Migrants Flight



Following Tuesday 14 June's announcement that the first flight under the new Rwanda-UK Partnership was not going ahead, Yolande Makolo, the Rwandan Government Spokesperson announced, "We are not deterred by these developments. Rwanda remains fully committed to making this partnership work. The current situation of people making dangerous journeys cannot continue as it is causing untold suffering to so many.

Rwanda stands ready to receive the migrants when they do arrive and offer them safety and opportunity in our country."

## Students of George Mason University meet Ambassador Mukantabana



Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana on June 28, 2022 hosted a group of students from The Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University.

The students are planning to visit Rwanda for a weeklong study tour to learn Rwanda's transformational journey including its innovative model of leadership.

Ambassador took the students through different mechanisms that led to Rwanda's development including homegrown solutions, unity and reconciliation, consensus democracy, people centered leadership, good diplomacy, ICT and leveraging youth potential.

## Reception in commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth



Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana on June 24, attended a reception hosted by British Ambassador to the United States Dame Karen Pierce DCMG and Mr. Charles Roxburgh Head of Mission in commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The event not only proved to be an opportunity to renew Rwanda and UK relationship and partnerships but also an opportunity to engage with the present Diplomatic Corps on current trends about Rwanda such as CHOGM among other things.

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## Ambassador Mukantabana attends reception hosted by US Secretary of State



Washington, D.C. – On Thursday, June 16 2022, Her Excellency Mathilde Mukantabana, Ambassador of The Republic of Rwanda in Washington D.C, attended a reception hosted by the Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States and Ms. Evan Ryan. The reception was held at the U.S. Department of State in honor of Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions.

## Amb. Ibrahima Touré pays courtesy call to Amb. Mukantabana



Ambassador Mukantabana On June 9, 2022 ,received Ambassador of Ivory Cost Ibrahima Touré for a courtesy visit at the Embassy. Both discussed areas of collaboration such as peace and security, diaspora engagement projects as well as how both countries can work together to create more proactive mechanisms in engaging the US in lieu of reactionary. Ambassador Touré took the opportunity to praise Rwanda's achievements and expressed his contentment with Côte d'Ivoire diplomatic relationship with Rwanda.

## **CARDINAL ANTOINE KAMBANDA MEETS RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN MAINE**



On Friday, June 17, Cardinal Antoine Kambanda met Rwandan community in Portland, Maine. “We are thrilled to receive him here. It was an opportunity to exchange with him on different issues including faith.” Appolinaire Munyaneza, the president of Rwandan Community in Maine told this newsletter.

Cardinal Antoine Kambanda celebrated a special Mass with the community at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Cardinal Kambanda, the first Rwandan to be named cardinal, is the Archbishop of the Diocese of Kigali, Rwanda.

## **HEAD OF MINUSCA INAUGURATES CONFERENCE HALL CONSTRUCTED BY RWANDAN PEACEKEEPERS**

On Tuesday 7 June, the Special Representative of Secretary-General and Head of United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Ms. Valentine RUGWABIZA, along with CAR Government officials conducted a field visit in Bria town of Haute-Kotto Province where they inaugurated a Conference Hall constructed by Rwandan Peacekeepers (Battle Group IV) in collaboration with MINUSCA.

The conference hall accommodates up to 250 people and will help the leadership of Haute-Kotto Prefecture to host different meetings and events. It is divided into two main parts, the Conference Hall and a Multimedia room.

The Head of MINUSCA, Ms. Valentine RUGWABIZA appreciated the various achievements of MINUSCA Forces countrywide and thanked Rwanda Battle Group IV for its contribution to the Socio-economic development of the communities that they protect. She urged the peacekeepers to maintain these positive achievements.

## #CANACHALLENGE: RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN US LIGHTS UP 1341 HOMES IN RWANDA



# #CanaChallenge

Light up Rwanda, transform families' livelihoods

Rwandan Community in the United States (USRCA) joined Rwanda Development Bank's (BRD) Cana Challenge campaign by donating money that connected over one thousand three hundred families to green energy.

#Canachallenge is an initiative launched by Rwanda Development Bank (BRD) that seeks to provide solar home systems to some 10,000 families in the first Ubudehe category.

Ubudehe 1 is the socio-economic class of the most needy Rwandans. BRD has been inviting people to join this challenge, indicating that with only Rwf15,000(\$15) contribution, one can help light up a family in need.

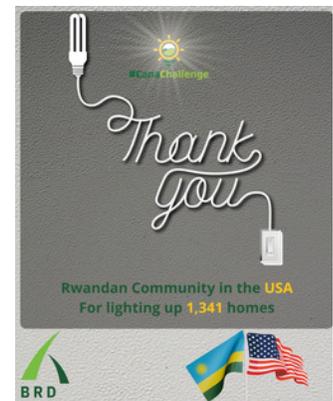
In the #canachallenge an organization or individual can make a voluntary pledge and contribution to "Light up a Rwandan Family" that is far away from the national grid coverage area and cannot access electricity.

"A special Thank You to the Rwandan Community in the USA for your valuable contribution to #CanaChallenge." reads a message of BRD to USRCA.

In a response to the message, Mr. Yehoyada Mbangukira, President of USRCA thanked the development bank for the opportunity given: "Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this great initiative! On behalf of the Rwandan Community, here in the USA, as President, please know we are good and ready to play our role in building Rwanda." .

Rwandan Community and friends abroad contributed Rwf 168,666,034 (\$168,000) to the CanaChallenge, resulting in installation of solar home systems in 12,044 households.

Access to off-grid electricity contributes to the country's sustainable development agenda that targets 100 per cent of households' access coverage to electricity by the year 2024.



# Rwandan Community in Buffalo and Oregon mark 28th commemoration of the Genocide against Tutsi

## Buffalo



Rwandan Community in Buffalo, New York pledged to take lead in halting deniers of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi. The community marked commemoration on Saturday June 25, 2022. The event featured discussions that unmasked new strategies of deniers and how this is passed down to their descendants.

## Oregon



Mr. Francis Mulindwa(right), First Secretary of the Embassy of Rwanda in Washington addresses Rwandan community of Oregon  
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## **PUBLIC NOTICE ON THE PHASE OUT OF THE RWANDAN MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT**

The Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) would like to remind the general public that the Rwanda Machine Readable Passport (old passport) has been phased out and ceased to be recognized as travel document with effect from 28th June 2022.

All Rwandans who wish to travel to countries where a passport is needed, are required to have the new Rwanda East Africa (EAC) e-Passport. However, returning citizens with valid Machine Readable Passport (old passport) will be allowed to return to Rwanda.

Rwandans are encouraged to apply for the new Rwanda East Africa (EAC) e-Passport via irembo portal:: [www.irembo.gov.rw](http://www.irembo.gov.rw)

For further information or inquiries on the Rwanda's East Africa (EAC) e-Passport, kindly contact us on +250 722 180 218, +250 722 159 372, +250 726 792 989 or via social media platforms

- Twitter: @Rwandamigration
- Facebook: @RwandaImmigration

# FIFA RWANDA TO HOST 73RD FIFA CONGRESS IN MARCH 2023

The world football governing body (Fifa) has settled on Rwanda to host the 73rd FIFA Congress, during which the Fifa presidential elections will be held.

The Fifa Executive Committee on Thursday, June 23, endorsed Kigali to host the high level congress, less than four years after the country hosted the Fifa Council Meeting in October 2018.



President Paul Kagame meets with Gianni Infantino, President of the world football governing body (Fifa), on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos on January 25, 2018



The 72nd FIFA congress was held in Qatar which is set to host 2022 football world cup

Rwanda has over the last few years carved a niche for itself as a favourite destination for global events.

The country hosted the 2016 African Nations Championships (CHAN), the 27th African Union (AU) Summit in 2016, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol in 2019, the 2021 Basketball and Volleyball African championships

and the finals for both the 2021 and 2022 Basketball Africa League.

Recently, Rwanda hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), just 13 years after joining the 54-nation community. CHOGM is held in Africa for the first time since 2007.

Rwanda, one of the safest countries in the world, has become the new top destination for event hosting not only in Africa but also globally.



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