

# EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Washington DC



**President Kagame receives top award from La Francophonie parliament**

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**RWANDAN AMERICAN FRIENDS PRESENT**

**INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION**  
 JULY 4, 2022 | 16:00 - 17:30 UTC / GMT  
 18:00 - 19:30 KIGALI

Livestreaming on "Rwandan American Friends"  

**POST-GENOCIDE RWANDA, A CHANGE TO MULTIPLE GENERATIONS: RETHINKING OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH**

[www.rwandanamericanfriends.com](http://www.rwandanamericanfriends.com)

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| <br>Bonifide Twarobira, PhD<br>Senior Lecturer, Australia, US | <br>Yuhon Kayintwama, PhD<br>Professor at Indiana State College | <br>Jeanne Adenro<br>PhD<br>Professor at College of Arts & Sciences of the State of Florida | <br>Jean Pierre Karegeya, PhD<br>Washington Health Institute Center | <br>Frédy James<br>Washington |
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#### Young Women's Peacebuilding Fellows Visit Rwanda's Embassy in Washington



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**MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN WASHINGTON D.C JOIN RWANDA TO CELEBRATE LIBERATION DAY**



### Census for the Rwandan Community living abroad

 **16 August - 15 September 2022**

Rwandans living abroad participate in the census through an online link

## President Kagame receives top award from La Francophonie parliament

President Paul Kagame was on Saturday, July 9, awarded the Ordre de La Pléiade by the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF).

The Ordre de la Pléiade is an internationally-recognized award bestowed upon individuals who have made a great contribution to the French-speaking communities and upheld the ideals of La Francophonie, promoting the role of French language in their own countries or in the world.

It was on the margins of the 47th Plenary Session of the APF in Kigali where the legislators from the bloc talked about matters of democracy and good governance, tackling insecurity, issue of high cost of living in member states, among others.



President Paul Kagame received the award of the Ordre de La Pléiade from the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie in Kigali on Saturday, July 9. Photo by Village Urugwiro.

The Ministry of Education has launched a National Plan for Teaching and Learning of French in Rwanda to respond to the government's decision taken in 2018 to use French language broadly across sectors including education, training and business.

## President Kagame Talks About Domestic Policies and Regional Security

In a televised interview with Rwanda Broadcasting Agency held on 4 July 2022, as Rwanda celebrated the 28th Liberation Anniversary, President Kagame said that there is a need to build resilience in our systems, especially economic systems, so that such shocks that come from these things that happen in one place or another, at different times do not overwhelm any country or our country.

Over the course of 28 years, the country has made significant strides in development which justifies why many commend and regard Rwandan leadership in high esteem, including its citizens. Rwanda has achieved the national development target, known as Vision2020, at a level of 80 to 85 percent, and the Country will build on what has already been achieved to attain other national goals by 2030.

Among other topics covered during the interview were regional security, the relations between Rwanda and DR Congo and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting - CHOGM which concluded in Kigali last month.

[Watch the interview here](#)

## ➔ President Kagame, Tshisekedi hold talks in Angola



On Wednesday 6 July 2022, President Kagame participated in a tripartite meeting which discussed the security situation in Eastern DR Congo, alongside President Tshisekedi of DR Congo and President João Lourenço of Angola, who is also the Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region - ICGLR. Among the key outcomes of the agreed upon the roadmap include:

- Defeating the FDLR and its splinter groups
- Create the necessary conditions for the return of refugees
- Fight hate speech
- Reactivate the Joint Intelligence Team between Rwanda and DR Congo
- Reconvening of Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) on July 12th in Luanda, Angola.

## ➔ President Kagame Receives APF Delegation

On Saturday 9 July 2022, President Kagame met with speakers of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie - APF who were in Kigali for the 47th Plenary Session of the APF. The Parliament's president Hon. Francis Drouin decorated President Kagame with the Ordre de la Pléiade, at the rank of Grand Cross.

## ➔ President Kagame Awards Two Retired Ghanaian Generals



On Monday, 4 July 2022, President Kagame conferred the National Order of Bravery (Indengabaganizi) to Maj. Gen (rtd) Henry Kwami Anyidoho and Maj. Gen. (rtd) Joseph Narh Adinkra, for their decision to stay back and save people during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

In his speech, the President commended both Ghanaian Generals for their dedication and commitment. "The Ghanaian battalion saved countless lives, under the most difficult circumstances. And there is no soldier involved who does not carry invisible wounds in his heart, to this day." President Kagame said, adding that where others fled or were withdrawn by their governments, leaving Rwandans to their fate, these officers remained and continued to lead their men and women, and did what was right to do.

The National Order of Bravery is awarded to an individual or group of individuals, who demonstrated outstanding supreme acts of self-sacrifice to save the life of one or many people.

## ➔ President Kagame Receives the APAC Delegates

On Saturday 9 July 2022, President Kagame met with speakers of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie - APF who were in Kigali for the 47th Plenary Session of the APF. The Parliament's president Hon. Francis Drouin decorated President Kagame with the Ordre de la Pléiade, at the rank of Grand Cross.

## Young Women's Peacebuilding Fellows Visit Rwanda's Embassy in Washington



On Thursday 21 July 2022, Young Women's Peacebuilding Fellows from George Mason University visited the Embassy to learn peacebuilding from Rwanda's experience. During an interactive discussion, the students were given a detailed account of the efforts that contributed to the ideal peace in Rwanda.

Mr. Lawrence Manzi, the First Counselor at the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Washington D.C took the students through the History of Rwanda, unity, reconciliation and peace building process after the Genocide against Tutsi in 1994, Rwanda's moral duty of contributing to the peace support operations in other countries, women in peacekeeping, etc.

## Kent State University Delegation visits Rwanda



Kent State University students in Rwanda for a two-week study tour that ended on July 28, 2022 to explore post-genocide policy and peacebuilding.

The tour is a result of partnership between Kent State University and University of Rwanda. The two have developed a program that combines cultural learning and academic coursework on peace and conflict studies.

They visited different places including Rwanda National Police, Rwanda Development Board, Rwanda Social Security Board, Ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement, among others.

## Iwacu Conversation Second Edition, to take place in-person in Ottawa



Iwacu Conversation Second Edition is taking place in-person in Canada's National Capital region of Ottawa-Gatineau from September 16-17, 2022.

Organized by Rwanda We Want (RWW) and International Rwandan Youth for Development (IRYD) with the support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation IWACU is a project launched in 2021 by RWW and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The objective of IWACU is engaging with the Rwanda Youth Community Abroad using a youth friendly approach that maximizes their ownership, motivation and engagement levels.

This edition will bring together 2000 to 2500 youth, their parents and friends of Rwanda from Canada, the United States and Rwanda.

## Government of Rwanda to Conduct the 5th Census of the Population



This August, Rwanda through the National Institute of Statistics, will conduct its 5th National Population and Housing Census. The last census was carried out in 2012, and findings indicated a total population of 10,515,973 Rwandans. Rwandans living abroad will participate in the census online.

## Members of Diplomatic corps in Washington D.C join Rwanda to celebrate Liberation day

Members of the Diplomatic corps, media and friends of Rwanda and Rwandans on Thursday, July 7, joined Rwanda in celebrating the 28th anniversary of Liberation.

The ceremony, which was organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Washington D.C, had attendees taken through a detailed account of the journey that the RPA Inkotanyi undertook to defeat the genocidal regime, bringing to an end the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi on 4 July.

The Permanent Representative of the African Union to the United States of America, H.E. Ambassador Hilda Suka-Mafudze commended Rwanda's achievements in different sectors.

She hailed the contribution of the Government of Rwanda showing the world that women are cornerstones in the development of nations.

She pointed out "Rwanda is globally leading in women participation in decision-making in all positions with 61.3% of women in parliament; in addition, women hold 55% of government cabinet positions."

In her remarks, the Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda in Washington D.C, Mathilde Mukantabana, quoting President Paul Kagame told attendees that Rwanda's Liberation was not about restoring the past but creating something fundamentally new and better for all Rwandans.

Ambassador Mathilde reminded that the liberation struggle sought to build a country suitable for all.

"The Kwibohora means to unshackle oneself. It's a continuous journey our country has embarked on under the abiding principle of people-based governance."

"I urge and encourage our young people present today to embrace your heritage, draw inspiration from those who came before you, and use your talents to build a better Rwanda, a better Africa, and a better world for all of us." She added.

The vice president of Rwandan Community in the United States, Ms. Cathy Rwivanga "Liberation was achieved through great sacrifice, sacrifice guided by a vision of a better society ...the journey has not been an easy one, it required thinking beyond self

She requested member of Rwandan diaspora and friends of Rwanda to be part of the progress that Rwandan is making.

"Let us part of the progress. The opportunity to talk about Rwanda, when you speak Rwanda, people on the ground have set the precedence, for diaspora, we are proud to call ourselves Rwandans. It is our duty to protect that legacy that has been set...we have to make sure that we are the ambassadors of our country."

The celebration of Liberation was combined with Rwanda's 60th Independence that took place on July 1.

This was the first in-person Liberation Day celebration in Washington D.C since COVID-19 hiatus.



## ➔ Minister Vincent Biruta in Luanda for the First JPC between Rwanda and DRC

On July 20, 2022, in Luanda, Minister Vincent Biruta participated in the 1st day of Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) between Rwanda and DRC, under the auspices of Angola.

The JPC was convened in the framework of the implementation of the Road Map to diffuse the situation and embark on a gradual process of restoring trust between the two countries.

## ➔ Minister Biruta Attends the ECCAS Ordinary Session in Kinshasa



On 25 July 2022, Minister Vincent Biruta participated in the 21st Ordinary Session of the Economic Community of Central African Heads of State and Government Conference in Kinshasa.

During this meeting, the Heads of State and Government analysed the report and the recommendations of the Council of Ministers and recommendations on monitoring ECCAS progress in security, regional integration and energy policy.

## ➔ Rwanda to Host the Headquarters of the African Medicines Agency

On 17 July 2022, Rwanda was selected to host the Headquarters of the African Medicines Agency by the Executive Council meeting in Lusaka.

AMA will enhance the capacity of state parties and RECs to regulate medical products, to improve Africa's access to quality safe, and efficacious medical products.

## Rwanda named among TIME magazine's top destinations



A prominent American news magazine, TIME, has named Rwanda among the world's top 50 destinations for the year 2022.

To compile the list, TIME solicited nominations of places from its international network of correspondents and contributors, "with an eye toward those offering new and exciting experiences."

"Often described as the friendliest African city, the Rwandan capital of Kigali is pushing toward a green future, especially for its growing tourism trade," reads part of the article TIME wrote about Kigali.

In general, the list features places from different continents, ranging from Australia's the Great Barrier Reef, where visitors can see undersea wonders while participating in conservation efforts, to the ultra-high-tech city of Seoul.

# LIBERATION AND CHANGING PARADIGMS: VIEWS FROM RWANDAN SCHOLARS IN THE US



Rwandan scholars living in the United States have hailed strides made by the Government of Rwanda in different sectors including education and health.

The remarks were made, on Liberation Day, during a virtual panel conversation held on Monday July 4, 2022 organised by Rwandan American Friends, a platform that brings together Americans of Rwandan descent and friends of Rwanda to highlight their contributions to the social and economic development of the United States and Rwanda.

“Rwanda represents what it looks like to move in a direction that is conscious of caring for others and not leaving anyone behind, and I think the world has so much to learn from that and to see what is actually possible from a country that is small but mighty,” said Joanne Adebayo, Member of Board of Trustees at Dickson College in Pennsylvania.

Bonifride Tuyishimire, a Biostatistician in Rockville, Maryland, said that there is no limit to how far Rwanda can go.

“Rwanda went through so much but after only 28 years, it’s a totally different country even in the midst of trauma caused by 1994 genocide effects. People were able to come together to rebuild the country by fostering unity,” she said.

## Rwanda Day, an inspiration

Sharing his personal story on how he opened a school in Rwanda, Yohani Kayinamura, a professor of Chemistry at Florida State College, narrated how particular remarks of President Paul Kagame opened his eyes.

“When I was a freshman in college, I remember attending Rwanda day during which President Kagame said something that got stuck with me ever since. He said that the leaders of Rwanda were building a foundation for us to keep building on through our various contributions and skills and knowledge,” he said.

“It meant that we too, regardless of where we are, were invited to contribute to the development of the country. And this foundation is solid and unshakable. In the area of education, the foundation is undeniable,” he added.

Kayinamura established a school ‘Bright Future Academy’ in Ruhango district after being inspired to contribute to the education sector.

According to these scholars, the struggle of liberation may have had a starting date but it does not have an ending one.

They called for fellow Rwandan Diaspora members and friends of Rwanda to continue strengthening the relationship between the two countries through exchanges in various areas including education, skills transfer, health, and business.

“We welcome policymakers, heads of institutions and just people that are willing to listen, welcome our ideas, and put them where they are most beneficial to Rwandans,” added Kayinamura.

Jean-Pierre Karegeye, a scholar in Interdisciplinary Genocide Study Centre, noted that Rwanda is transforming Genocide wounds into a resource for establishing a new contract of confidence and solidarity between Rwandans.

“Liberation for me means changing paradigms, changing mind-set. I have been visiting Rwanda twice a year since 2001, but every time you go there it’s a new Rwanda. It’s like something new happens every second, and this shows you the transformation,” he said, adding that there is a lot going on in Rwanda in terms of technology among many changes in different sectors.

## **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



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