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Monthly
Roundup of
Rwanda's
Stories

President Kagame awarded the MEDays Grand Prix for peace and democracy



On 11 November 2015 President Paul Kagame was awarded the MEDays Grand Prix for peace and democracy by Amadeus Institute, a Moroccan think tank and policy organization.

In his acceptance speech in Tangier, Morocco; President Kagame said that the award is meaningful to him personally and to all Rwandans because it celebrates the values of peace and democracy: “By recognizing the universal values at the heart of our journey of liberation and renewal, you have honoured the Rwandan people’s struggle and resilience.”

The President further told an audience – composed of governments’ representatives, public administrators, business leaders, researchers, civil society and international government experts – that the most important thing to know about Rwanda is not that genocide happened, but how the country recovered from the tragedy. “Peace is the starting point for growth and development.

But peace is much more than the absence of violence. True peace is above all a mindset. It is a condition produced, when citizens are taken seriously as individuals, as stakeholders and mobilised towards a good politics, and fully participate in governance.”

He stressed that Rwanda’s socioeconomic progress rests on safety and security of people, being accountable, as well as inclusive and democratic governance. The aforementioned principles have been the basis for recovering the country’s dignity and making meaningful contributions to the international community.

The right of poorer or darker countries to chart our own course, President Kagame said, is constantly questioned, if not overtly subverted. “Judgment is passed on the choices we make, but without serious analysis of the realities and/or context on the ground, much less consideration of the views of the citizens most concerned.”

MEDays is an annual event which brings together international policy makers to discuss issues concerning the South. The gathering takes place in Tangier.



**EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
THE HAGUE**

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Rwanda joins the Vulnerable Twenty (V20)

Rwanda has joined forces with nineteen other climate vulnerable countries to call for more action to reduce global emissions and better financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing nations.

As a land-linked country with a variable climate and mountainous terrain, Rwanda is at risk of increased weather extremes such as floods and droughts. Research conducted for the V20 estimates that the impact of climate change on Rwanda's economy could be as high as 4.5% of Gross Domestic Product by 2030. The research (<http://www.v-20.org/wp-content/files/countryprofs/Rwanda.pdf>) also indicates that the health impacts of climate change for Rwandans are likely to be severe, including increased incidences of malaria and hot and cold weather related epidemics.

"Rwanda is one of many countries that have contributed almost nothing to the problem of climate change, but will bear the brunt of its impacts. By joining the V20, we are adding our voice to the message that the international community must do more to keep temperature rises below 1.5°C and support developing nations to adapt," said Rwanda's Minister of Finance Claver Gatete.

Rwanda will attend the global climate agreement negotiations in Paris later this year and share its experience implementing innovative environment conservation programmes with V20 group members and the world at large. This includes the creation of the Green Fund (<http://www.fonerwa.org>) - an environment and climate change financing mechanism that supports climate resilience projects across the country. The fund is the largest of its kind in Africa. Learn more about the Vulnerable 20 group of nations at www.v-20.org.



Rwanda planted 30 million trees to mark the 40th anniversary of Forest Planting

Rwanda's National Forest Planting Day and Season brought together millions of Rwandans to plant millions of trees in an effort to protect the environment and avail forest resources needed for economic development and the improvement of the livelihoods of Rwandans.

The launch of the 2015/16 season took place in Gatsibo District on 28th November 2015. During the event, a sustainable agroforestry and biomass energy project supported through an investment by Rwanda's Fund for the Environment and Climate Change (FONERWA) was inaugurated.



Members of the East African Legislature Assembly joined Rwanda's Minister of Natural Resources, Dr Vincent Biruta, and other guests to kick off this year's Forest Planting Season. The theme of this year's season was "Efficient use of biomass energy to safeguard our forests". At the launch event in Mishunzi, Kiziguro Sector, Gatsibo District, 160,000 forest trees were planted on over 100 hectares of public land. Across the country, more than 30 million seedlings were planted as part of the 2015/16 Forest Planting Season.

During this year's season, trees were planted on 7,818 hectares of forest land, 49,000 hectares of agricultural land and 1,010 hectares of public forests will be rehabilitated. Altogether, 2.5% of the country's land will be planted. Planting trees helps to protect the environment and improve the quality of land, therefore supporting sustainable production.

The Government of Rwanda will use this Forest Planting Season as a chance to encourage citizens to use less charcoal and instead adopt alternative sources of energy such as gas and solar. "I want to encourage all Rwandans to plant as many trees as they can to help prevent erosion and rehabilitate our natural forests. During this forest season, we are calling on citizens to use less charcoal and instead explore alternative sources of energy such as biogas, LPG and solar energy," Minister Biruta said.

"According to the most recent Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey (EICV4), 98.5% of households in Rwanda use fuel wood and charcoal. That percentage needs to be halved. We can achieve this by using biogas, LPG, improved cook stoves and other clean energy sources," the Minister added.

Rwanda at Paris Climate Change Conference

On 30 November Rwanda joined the world to negotiate a new global agreement on climate change during the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that was being held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December, 2015. Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Louise Mushikiwabo, along with Rwanda's Minister of Natural Resources, Vincent Biruta, and other government officials attended COP21, a crucial event that needs to result in a new international climate agreement, applicable to all countries.

Rwanda advocates a new universal climate change agreement with financial and technological support to enable vulnerable countries to deal with climate change. Rwanda was also calling for a strong and binding agreement that supports vulnerable nations to respond to climate change. Rwanda's Minister of Natural Resources, Vincent Biruta, stated: "We need to reach a meaningful climate agreement".



Rwanda is part of the Vulnerable 20 Group of Nations calling for a COP21 plan that limits temperature increases to 1.5°C. This group is composed of nations facing the most immediate peril of climate change. They are calling for the world to take more drastic action to avoid catastrophe. Recently Rwanda celebrated the 40th anniversary of Forest Planting Season by planting 30 million trees to protect the environment and avail forest resources.

At the opening session, the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon said. "The time for brinkmanship is over: let us build a durable climate regime with a clear route of the road that all countries can agree to follow. Paris must mark a decisive turning point."

The Conference of the Parties (COP) was created during the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992. The scale of negotiations aimed at combating climate disruption has grown constantly since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. In 2010, the Cancun Conference enabled to make this goal effective through the creation of dedicated institutions for key points, including those for adaptation to the effects of climate change, the Green Climate Fund and the Technology Mechanism. The Rwanda delegation to COP21 was led by Minister Louise Mushikiwabo; Minister Vincent Biruta; the Ambassador of Rwanda to France, Jacques Kabale and the Director General of Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) Rose Mukankomeje.

President Kagame attends 3rd Africa Global Business Forum

President Paul Kagame was in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he attended the Third Africa Global Business Forum. Hosted by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce, the forum gathered hundreds of business and private sector leaders for a two-day discussion on increasing investment on the African continent.

Addressing the gathering on 17 November, on a panel titled "Next Steps – Cementing Gains and Enabling the Future", President Kagame discussed Rwanda's progress as a result of Rwandans' commitment to change the course of their history. He highlighted that the Rwandan people are driven by the desire and belief to achieve results.

President Kagame – who was speaking alongside Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud Somali and the Executive Director/Chief Executive Office of Dubai Investment Corporation Mohammed Al Shaibani – further stressed that if Rwanda can make tremendous progress in different sectors like it did in the last two decades, other countries in similar situations can do the same.

The President pointed to inclusion as essential for good governance. "It is the simple logic that together we can go far and the gaps that existed in rights of people needed to be addressed, including women and their right to participate."

Challenging the notion of a trade-off, President Kagame spoke about the choice between economic and social development: "You cannot carry out a successful political reform when social reforms are not happening; you have to look at holistic picture. In improving the social wellbeing of Rwandans there has not been the trade-off that is theoretically talked about outside."



The International Corporation of Dubai and Rwandan Development Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The signing was attended by President Kagame and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates.

Security is the foundation for everything – President Kagame tells Interpol General Assembly

From 02–05 November 2015, Rwanda hosted the 84th Session of INTERPOL General Assembly which brought together over 1,000 delegates from 155 countries and international organizations to discuss the most pressing cross-border security concerns faced by police worldwide. Other key issues at the centre of the discussions included; combating the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, the organized crime networks behind people smuggling and drug trafficking, and cybercrime.

Speaking at the opening, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda said that security is the foundation of everything, adding that while globalisation presents many opportunities for progress and development, a more connected world comes with an increased risk of crimes: “Security is the foundation for everything. When it breaks down, the costs are huge: loss of life, destruction of trust within society and in public institutions, and economic stagnation.”

President Kagame commended INTERPOL’s capacity for information sharing and concerted action which helps eliminate the gaps where international crime flourishes: “Allow me to express our sincere gratitude to Interpol for your efforts in tracking down fugitives wanted for genocide in Rwanda, and helping to deliver justice for victims and survivors – even though there remains much work to be done. Many more of these fugitives are still at large and we will have to continue working with Interpol, and the international community, to ensure justice is done.” The President further vowed that Rwanda will remain a reliable and committed partner in the pursuit of global security and justice.

INTERPOL President Mireille Ballestrazzi pointed out that this year’s General Assembly seeks to remind participants that having to confront complex changes while providing appropriate responses is an integral part of any country’s development: “In our globalised environment, a threat for one of us constitutes a threat for all of us and international cooperation is essential for each and every country to guarantee its security.”

Themed “ INTERPOL 2020: Policing global threats in a dynamic environment”, this year’s General Assembly gathering brought together, among other participants, 640 police chiefs and senior law enforcement officials and devised ways to make the world safer and respond to the communities’ expectations.



Rwanda was destroyed by the unimaginable and it will be rebuilt by the unconventional – President Kagame

President Paul Kagame has said that to rebuild Rwanda in the aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, unconventional measures and strategies are needed. The President was speaking at the eight Unity Club Forum dinner to honour Rwandans who have dedicated their lives to promoting unity and reconciliation. The dinner was also attended by First Lady Jeannette Kagame who serves as Unity Club’s Chairperson.



President Kagame said that although Rwanda is proud of the progress achieved so far, Rwandans should not stop drawing lessons from the country’s unpleasant past: “We were robbed of our humanity and identify and transformed into subjects whose lives must be decided by others. They put us on a lifeline through which they administer drops of humanity. But we plugged ourselves to that lifeline.”

The President further reiterated that to give oneself dignity means fighting for it because there is no better alternative. He reminded Unity Club members – current and former government officials and their spouses – that the government’s role is to protect all citizens equally regardless of their faith. “Leaders should not believe they are superior whether to God or those they serve.”

Unity Club awarded 17 people for their exemplary dedication in promoting justice, unity and reconciliation through their acts of bravery. President Kagame congratulated the awardees and on behalf of the government, expressed his gratitude for their strength and courage. “People may call us heroes but your sacrifice is greater than any of ours. You watched your families being slaughtered yet you had the strength to live on and care for those around you. Your courage is incomparable. This country was destroyed by the unimaginable and it will be rebuilt by the unconventional.”

The President stressed that the drive to transform Rwanda is fuelled by anger and the determination to never be victims again. He called on leaders to always be driven by the desire to improve the wellbeing of Rwandans nationwide. He emphasised that transformation is only possible when it is inclusive.

Rwanda to make CHAN 2016 a memorable championship

Rwanda has promised to make the CAF Nations Championships (CHAN) 2016 a memorable championship. The promise was made by President Paul Kagame who graced the competition's official draw ceremony held on 15 November in Kigali, Rwanda. 16 African National Football teams – including the host country Rwanda, have qualified for the tournament. The championship is slated to run from 16 January 2016 to 7 February 2016.

Speaking at the official draw ceremony, President Paul Kagame assured that Rwanda will do everything possible to make CHAN 2016 a great success. He expressed Rwanda's gratitude to the leadership of African Football's governing body CAF for bringing the tournament to the "land of a thousand hills". "Rwanda is honoured to host the next African Nations Championship. We are going to have a great championship," President Kagame said.

He pointed out that through sports; citizens from across the globe learn various values including: focus, sacrifice, humility, teamwork, hard work, and honesty. "Football belongs to everybody equally. Its rules and values are universal. That is why the players, and everyone else involved, are expected to be role models of excellence and sportsmanship. Let's give the fans what they expect and deserved," the President added.

CAF Vice President, Almany Kabele Camara, asserted that the body has no doubt that CHAN 2016 will be a success; a true African fete. Rwanda is pooled in Group A alongside Gabon, Morocco and Ivory Coast. Also participating in the competition are Tunisia, Nigeria, Niger, Guinea, DR Congo, Angola, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Mali, Uganda and Zambia.

The tournament will be played at Rubavu Stadium in Western Province, Huye Stadium in the Southern Province and in Kigali City. CHAN is a championship designed for footballers playing in domestic leagues across the continent.



iPAD second edition gathered over 200 energy solution providers in Kigali

Rwanda hosted the second edition of iPAD Rwanda Power and Infrastructure Investment Forum on 5 & 6 November. The forum is a platform for private investors, project developers, consultants, technology and solution providers and financiers looking for opportunities in Rwanda's energy and infrastructure sector.



The conference attracted over 200 regional and international investors and power experts with the aim to table down the challenges encountered in energy development and come up with the same understanding. During the two-day meeting, there were roundtable discussions between representatives from the public and private sectors, as well as business-to-business engagements. "Discussions focused on procuring power projects in Rwanda, hydropower, off-grid opportunities, methane gas-to-power, waste-to-power, geothermal and peat, power purchase agreements and transmission and distribution.

The Minister of Infrastructure and Guest of honor Hon. James Musoni highlighted on the national strategies on the energy performance in Rwanda energy sector by quoting His Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, "Sustainable development of infrastructure requires vibrant partnerships between the public and private sector".

This conference offered a perfect platform for participating Private Companies and Financiers to appreciate Rwanda's energy investment potentials and to network as you share business experiences "Minister noted". Delegates visited the Gig watt utility-scale PV solar plant in Rwamagana District, the first large-scale solar field in East Africa that is now providing approximately 6 per cent of Rwanda's generation capacity.

The iPAD Rwanda Power and Infrastructure Investment Forum is an opportunity to build sustainable business relationships with participating companies interested in investing in and/or financing projects in Rwanda's energy sector.

The Forum clearly shows that, the Government shouldn't compete with the Private Sector and Private Sector doesn't compete with the Government -they are partners; they need to work together by showing benefits that accrue through the private sector and through the activities within the population.

Rwandan-Dutch partnership boosts horticulture sector

Top officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) and Dutch officials have reaffirmed their commitments to strengthen the cooperation between Rwanda and The Netherlands in boosting horticulture and agriculture sector in general. The officials reiterated the commitments on November 24, 2015 while officially opening a Greenhouse for horticulture farming in Rulindo District, Northern Province. The greenhouse worth Frw 40 million, belonging to a local company dubbed Rwanda Best Ltd, is a pilot phase of the Smart Adaptive Sustainable Horticulture (SMART Horticulture).

SMART is a public private partnership between Dutch leading horticulture companies and knowledge institutions. In this program, the partners aim to make horticulture technologies affordable and adaptable for farmers in Africa. The project opened in Rulindo is a pilot phase; and it's the first of its kind in Rwanda with improved technologies for inputs including seeds, soil, pest control, irrigation, and computerized climate control. Also the greenhouse is the first of its kind in Rwanda and adapted to the Rwandan growing conditions.



Speaking during the event, the Dutch Ambassador to Rwanda Frederique Maria de Man said that the new production methods and training center will not only serve Rwanda Best Ltd but also the wider horticulture sector. "So the future looks promising and bright and this whole program is very exciting and can play an important role in stimulating further developments in the horticulture sector," pointed out the Dutch Ambassador to Rwanda. Tony Nsanganira, the State Minister for Agriculture, lauded the flourishing partnership with The Netherlands as it's about supporting the private sector which will drive Rwanda's economy. "We do believe in the private sector and we want it to drive the whole process," said the State Minister, pledging the government's full support to these initiatives. The State Minister added that horticulture has great importance to Rwanda not only in increasing exports, but also in reducing malnutrition.

The event was also attended by Dutch businesspersons representing 18 companies including 13 interested in horticulture and 5 in livestock. Some of the Dutch firms include; Koppert, Ruk Zwaan, Wageningen, Bosman Vanzaal, Hoodendoorn, Greenport Holland. The mission of the Dutch delegation that is in Rwanda since November 22, 2015 is meant to facilitate interaction between Rwanda and The Netherlands in order to promote trade relations and learn from each other. "We believe that it will turn into investment in Rwanda agriculture sector," said one of the delegation members.

Genocide survivors win case in the Netherlands

Survivors of the Genocide against Tutsi living in The Netherlands are jubilating after a Dutch media regulatory organ ruled in their favour following a complaint against a misleading article on Genocide.

Ibuka, an umbrella of Genocide survivors, had complained against an article titled; "Ik een moordenaar" (Me a murderer?) authored by a freelance journalist, Anneke Verbraeken. Ibuka says the article, which was published in a Dutch media outlet Vrij Nederland, portrayed Jean Claude Iyamuremye as a victim, yet he is a genocide perpetrator. Iyamuremye is facing an extradition case in Netherlands, but Verbraeken, an anti-Rwanda propagandist, portrayed him in her article as a victim rather than a suspect.

The Netherlands Media Council ruled Tuesday that the author exhibited a "tendentious, activist and non-truthful image" and added that, "the journalist is free to express personal opinions, but in this article the author didn't clarify distinction between facts, allegations and her personal opinions." The Dutch media regulatory organ further concluded the author made biased reporting and provided inaccurate information.

In June 2014, the Dutch Supreme Court ruled that, The Netherlands is allowed to extradite Jean Claude Iyamuremye 38, a Genocide suspect to Rwanda. Thus, he was set to be the very first Rwandan to be extradited, out of an estimated 20 genocide suspects living in The Netherlands. The extradition has not yet taken place. Iyamuremye will be extradited to answer genocide crimes he allegedly committed at former ETO Kicukiro in Kigali, where thousands of Tutsi were slaughtered in the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi.

In August 2015, Members of Parliament from The Netherlands, a country known for supporting Rwanda's justice system visited Rwanda and said their country is weighing out extraditing Genocide suspects on their soil. "We are not a country where criminals should expect safe haven. But we are a country of peace and we need to always strike a balance between the two," Sharon Gesthuizen, the head of delegation said.

Minister Mushikiwabo briefs Diplomatic Corps accredited to Rwanda

Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Louise Mushikiwabo, met on 10 November with heads of foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Rwanda. The purpose of the meeting was to brief them on Rwanda's achievements in development, peacekeeping, regional security and matters related to Rwanda's integration.

Minister Mushikiwabo stated that during the side lines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Rwanda had the occasion to evaluate its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). She thanked different partners for accompanying Rwanda into the journey of achieving her goals.



Minister Mushikiwabo said: "On a general scope, the MDGs have been successfully achieved. Particularly for Rwanda, the records are good. The involvement of women has been vital to attain the MDGs". She further said that despite the good records in MDGs there is still work to complement the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework. Minister Mushikiwabo announced that Rwanda was rewarded to host the Centre of the SDGs in Africa.

On peacekeeping, Minister Mushikiwabo briefed the gathering about the outcomes of the Peacekeeping Summit held in New York in September on the side lines of the UNGA. She highlighted that a number of countries decided to join and also committed to contribute to equipment and troops.

Regarding regional integration, Minister Mushikiwabo briefed them about the upcoming summits namely the Northern Corridor Integration Projects Summit in December, the East African Community Summit, the Commonwealth Heads Of Government Meetings (CHOGM) and the ICGLR Summit.

Minister Mushikiwabo also took this opportunity to explain in details the various stages of the Rwandan constitution amendment process. She emphasized that Rwanda did not dismiss the international voice; this is a decision by Rwandan citizens. "Some people have started to conclude what will happen. The constitution amendment is a process. Let the exercise take place and wait for the outcome of the referendum".

Finally, Minister Mushikiwabo talked about the ongoing Burundi crisis. She stated that there is a need to come up with a collective solution, from the region and the whole International community, to the current situation in Burundi.

Rwanda launches a 16 days campaign to fight violence against women and girls

On 25 November 2015, Rwanda joined the rest of the world to launch a 16 days campaign to fight violence against women and girls. The campaign aims to advocate and encourage citizens across the globe to join in the fight to stop Gender Based Violence (GBV). The launch was held in Kirehe District, Eastern Province.

Themed "Stop Violence against women and girls: Act now," the campaign marks 16 days of activism against GBV and will run from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. The campaign is a time to galvanize action end violence against women and girls around the world.

The Executive Secretary of the National Women Council, Jackline Kamanzi, said that as part of the campaign, the council has organized dialogues and public lectures in higher learning institutions on the trafficking of human beings, a form of violence that many still ignore. "Through human trafficking, women and girls find themselves in situations where they have been taken far away from their families, countries; where they are coerced into prostitution. To attract them, human traffickers use fake promises of scholarships and other advantages."



The message was also passed on in parents' forum (Umugoroba w'Ababyeyi) in villages nationwide. Communities expressed their commitment to help fight any form of violence against women and girls.

Other activities to mark the campaign include awareness forums to encourage married couples to regularize their marriage bonds, to call on Rwandans to join the HeForShe campaign, and to provide start-up capital to the victims of violence.

The year 2015 marks the 20-year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive roadmap to gender equality. This year, a new Sustainable Development agenda – which for the first time includes specific targets and indicators on ending violence against women, was launched replacing the Millennium Development Goals.

Rwanda's Cycling Team wins "Tour du Rwanda" for the second time in a row



On 22 November, Jean Bosco Nsengimana of Team Rwanda Kalisimbi was crowned this year's winner of "Tour du Rwanda", one of Africa's most grueling cycling competitions. The 22-year rider clocked a total of 23h54'50" in the race's seven stages.

Following last year's win by Valens Ndayisenga, this year, Rwanda's cycling teams of Kalisimbi, Akagera and Muhabura came together as Team Rwanda to ensure that the race title remains in the country. The team stood out throughout the week as Nsengimana kept the race leader's yellow jersey from the first day to the end.

On a rainy Sunday afternoon, in front of a cheering crowd of Rwandans and their friends – soaked to the bone by a heavy downpour, Nsengimana took the stage flanked by Joseph Areruya of Team Akagera Camera Hakuzimana of Team Muhabura. The two came second and third respectively. Waving National Flags, the fans sang the National Anthem to remind those who were watching from far that this was indeed a National Triumph.

The top race winners were later joined by their fellow Rwandan riders to pay tribute to the President of the Republic, Paul Kagame, for his support which, they said, is a defining factor behind their sustained success. In September this year, the team received 18 road bikes, eight time trial bikes and other items as a gift from the President.

"This is a great moment for me but it is also the result of the work of the whole team. I worked hard to succeed in this Tour du Rwanda and this is a great reward," said Nsengimana. The race winner further expressed his gratitude to the President and Rwandans nationwide for rallying behind Team Rwanda. Wherever the riders went, hundreds of residents lined on the streets to cheer them on.

The Minister of Sports and Culture, Julienne Uwacu, praised Rwandan riders for their hard work, team spirit and concentration. Nsengimana becomes the second Rwandan to win the race since it became a UCI Africa 2.2 category in 2009. He won the prologue and two stages: Kigali – Musanze and Rubavu – Kigali.

Since 2009, Eritrea has won 16 Tour du Rwanda stages, followed by Rwanda with 10 stage wins, Morocco with nine and South Africa with eight.

Rwanda shines at Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo

The Rwanda Development Board has scooped a National Tourism Board award as the best exhibitor in the just concluded Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo 2015. Rwanda stood out due to availability of relevant information and packages that were being offered to visitors and clear visual easily comprehensible.

Commenting on the award, Ambassador Frank Mugambage appreciated the acknowledgement of the great strides Rwanda has made in the sector and also emphasized the need to promote regional tourism. "We believe that there is great potential in promoting regional tourism and encouraging East Africans to travel and experience the member countries' tourism products," he said. A key attraction for the expo visitors to Rwanda's stand was the cultural performances and tour operators who were offering several packages.

In addition, as part of the joint marketing efforts for the East African region, Rwandan private sector from 13 companies-hoteliery and tour operators participated at the expo and got a chance to see Uganda's offering during a ten-day familiarization trip organized by the Uganda Tourism Board.

This year's Pearl of Africa Expo attracted 75 buyers, 25 countries and 350 exhibitors. The Pearl of Africa Tourism expo is organized by the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) and brings together travel agents, tour operators, hoteliers, destination managers and other service providers in the tourism value chain.



Rwanda's economy to grow by 7%

Rwanda's growth projections for 2015 have been revised upward from 6.5 per cent to seven per cent. The development comes after completion of the fourth Policy Support Instrument (PSI) review between Rwanda and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Economic performance in 2015 has been stronger than expected, with growth in the first half of the year averaging 7.3 per cent. Construction and other services performed particularly strongly, while agriculture and manufacturing grew roughly in line with expectations," the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Claver Gatete said.

Meanwhile, consumer price inflation increased in September due to higher food and utility prices and the depreciation of the Rwandan franc against the US dollar, but is forecast to remain below five per cent for 2015.

"Policy performance through end-June 2015 was consistent with the programme framework, with almost all quantitative objectives reached. Significant progress was made on structural reforms, most notably on tax policy and administration. Planned reforms of the regime for agricultural taxes and for publishing quarterly reports on budget execution, however, are taking somewhat longer than originally anticipated," Ms. Laure Redifer the head of the IMF team said.

Looking forward, the risks to the economic outlook have increased, in light of lower global commodity prices and weaker growth prospects in Rwanda's main export markets. Mining activity in Rwanda has already been affected, with exports for 2015 and the near term forecast to drop substantially. This will put pressure on the balance of payments and as a result, economic growth in 2016 is projected to be between six and 6.5 per cent, compared to seven per cent previously anticipated.

The IMF mission welcomed the readiness of the Rwandan Government to take steps to tighten economic policies in response to the weaker external position, and encouraged them to continue to exercise exchange rate flexibility. It also welcomed the government's ambitious programme of forward-looking structural reforms aimed at strengthening the efficiency of public investment spending; improving tax compliance; broadening the tax base; and reinforcing accountability for budget execution. The IMF's Executive Board is expected to consider the 4th PSI review in December or January.

PSI is an instrument of the IMF designed for countries that do not need balance of payments financial support. The PSI helps countries to design effective economic programmes that, once approved by the IMF's Executive Board, signal to donors, multilateral development banks, and markets the Fund's endorsement of a member's policies.



Rwanda in the media - Highlights

Rwanda builds utility-scale solar farm in 1 year (Mother nature network)

From hip-hop star Akon training African solar engineers to remote villages abandoning kerosene in favor of solar LED lanterns, there's been a lot of talk about how solar could help Africa leapfrog over fossil fuels while still bringing electricity to those who don't yet have it. [Read more](#)

Rwf6 Billion Plant to Add 12 MW to National Grid From City Waste (Renewables biz)

A Rwf6 billion plant that will supply up to twelve megawatts of electricity to the national grid from bio-degradable waste will, if everything goes according to plan, be available in eight months following a partnership agreement between Rwandan and Belgian private sector firms. [Read more](#)

Rwanda got it right in setting goals for growth and poverty reduction - Carolyn Turk (Rwanda News Agency)

World Bank is a key development partner to Rwanda that has provided support to several sectors such as agriculture, energy and social protection among others. Carolyn Turk, the outgoing World Bank Country representative shared key achievements during her tenure and Rwanda's development course. [Read more](#)

Africa Deserves Climate Justice -- Here Are 5 Ways to Deliver It at COP 21 (The Huffington Post)

Viewed from a different perspective, climate change provides African governments with an added incentive to put in place policies that are long overdue. Countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda have already developed climate-resilient strategies to reduce poverty, raise productivity and cut emissions. [Read more](#)

Kagame underlines EAC future priorities (The East African Business Week)

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame last week called on the East African Community (EAC) to strengthen integration efforts by addressing insecurity, bad governance and corruption in line with the regional economic bloc's Vision 2050. [Read more](#)

Rwanda follows Mauritius in rankings (The East African Business Week)

The Rwanda Development Board CEO, Francis Gatere said the annual World Bank/International Finance Corporation Doing Business survey is important to RDB, but their own internal reform agenda is also considerably wider in scope in terms of making Rwanda more competitive, writes AGNES BATETA. [Read more](#)

Regional MPs happy with one-stop border (The East African Business Week)

Citizens of the region will benefit a great deal from the facilities offered by the One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) system in the East African Community Partner States, but there are still technicalities holding back full implementation. [Read more](#)

Cytonn Investments sets up in Rwanda (East African Business Week)

Cytonn Investments Management Limited have entered into the Rwandan market writes AGNES BATETA. [Read more](#)

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We invite our followers on social media to "like" our posts, react to them and post relevant items on our Facebook page and also to react on and re-tweet our tweets on Twitter. This way, you will help spread the emerging great story of Rwanda to those who do not yet know.

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www.facebook.com/pages/Rwanda-Embassy-in-The-Hague/151677708237339#!

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/EmbassyRwandaNL

Flickr:

www.flickr.com/photos/rwanda-embassy-nl

Youtube:

www.youtube.com/EmbassyRwandaNL



Rwanda in the media - Highlights

Rwanda ranks higher in gender equality than Canada: report (Global News)

Women around the world only have 118 more years to go before they're paid as much as men, according to the 2015 Global Gender Gap Report. Our country currently ranks 30th out of 145 countries examined by the World Economic Forum. Rwanda also performs better than Canada (and many other more developed nations) when it comes to women's participation in the work force and wage equality. [Read more](#)

Rwanda to attract U.S.\$1 Billion and create 100,000 jobs by 2020 (CIO East Africa)

Rwanda's Minister for Youth and ICT Jean Philbert Nsengimana has said that through the recently cabinet-approved Smart Rwanda Master plan, his government aims at attracting ICT investments worth US\$1billion and create 100,000 new jobs by 2020. [Read more](#)

Ericsson with worldwide E-Learning to train ICT professionals (Techcabal-Sunday)

Worldwide E-Learning Campus (WEC) Rwanda has launched a partnership with Ericsson to develop professional ICT competencies within the country starting in November 2015. This partnership targets more than 10,000 students from different academic institutions across Rwanda. [Read more](#)

Reducing Rwanda's crime through systems like TEKANA (CNBC Africa)

Attempts to curb transnational border and cybercrime is slowly gaining momentum with Rwanda using integrated solutions such as Tekana, a traffic system providing police with data to understand crime trends as well as managing road safety. [Read more](#)

PPC's Rwanda unit boosts production by 25% (Money web)

PPC's Rwandan unit expects to raise output by a quarter next year to cater for increasing demand as growth in the East African nation accelerates. [Read more](#)

Local firms partner to sell made in Rwanda electronics (The New Times)

Local entrepreneurs and investors in the ICT sector have partnered to form a wholesale distribution outlet of gadgets and electronics manufactured in the country by Positivo BGH. [Read more](#)

Rwanda's president condemns deadly violence in Burundi (France 25)

Rwandan President Paul Kagame implored neighboring Burundi to avoid the ethnic violence that ended in genocide in his country in 1994, in an emotional speech that was shared on social media on Sunday. [Read more](#)

Rwanda's economic performance stronger than expected, says IMF (CPI Financial)

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team, led by Laure Redifer, IMF Mission Chief for Rwanda, visited Kigali from October 21-November 4, 2015. Redifer noted that Rwanda's economic performance in 2015 had been stronger than expected, with growth in the first half of the year averaging 7.3 per cent, leading projected real GDP growth for 2015 has been revised upward, from 6.5 to seven per cent. [Read more](#)

France seeks UN action to halt Burundi killings (AFP)

France on Monday presented a draft resolution to the UN Security Council aimed at toughening the international response to the violence in Burundi, where fears of Rwanda-style mass killings are rife. [Read more](#)

DR Congo: Security Council calls for total neutralization of foreign, local armed groups in east (United Nations)

The United Nations Security Council today called for the elimination of local and foreign armed groups which have for decades devastated the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and urged the immediate resumption of joint operations between the UN peacekeeping force's Intervention Brigade and the national army. [Read more](#)

Peace academy opens gender leadership course (The New Times)

Barriers and challenges to women's participation in peacekeeping still exist, which inhibits the fight against gender-based violence in conflict areas, according to Col Jill Rutaremara, the director of Rwanda Peace Academy (RPA). [Read more](#)

EAC jointly market at travel mart (East African Business Week)

The East African Community Partner States Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda organized a joint event at the World Travel Market (WTM) in London last week. [Read more](#)

RSE weathers global shocks 'well enough' (The East African)

Despite several markets in sub-Saharan Africa bleeding from low turnover, the Rwanda Stock Exchange (RSE) maintained a comparatively acceptable levels of activity over the first nine of the year, pushing up turnovers. [Read more](#)

Rwanda in the media - Highlights

Rwanda joins 19 other nations in call for emission cuts (The East African)

Rwanda has joined forces with 19 other climate-vulnerable countries to call for more action to reduce global emissions and better financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing nations. [Read more](#)

RDF conducts relief in place operation for its troops in peacekeeping missions (The New Times-Sunday)

Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) has started a relief in place operation for its troops deployed in peacekeeping missions. The first batch of 5 Infantry Battalion troops left Kigali on Friday for Malakal in UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) where they are replacing 35 Infantry Battalion that returned recently. [Read more](#)

IMF defending Rwanda's poverty statistics dominates local media reports (APA)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says it had no reason to doubt statistics contained in the fourth Rwanda Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey (ECV4) report, which indicated that Rwanda's poverty levels reduced by 5.8 percent in the last three years, local media reports said on Thursday. [Read more](#)

Energy Firms Spearhead Hydropower Projects Worth U.S.\$40 Million (Allafrica.com)

Afritech Energy (AE), an energy development company, has signed an agreement with the East African Power to empower village programs in its hydropower portfolio. The commitment, worth \$40 million, was revealed during a press conference held in Kigali on Tuesday. [Read more](#)

Rwanda urges Interpol to track 1994 genocide fugitives (SABC Africa)

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame is seeking the help of Interpol to track down the 1994 Rwandan genocide fugitives. Kagame says while many of them have been arrested through Interpol many more remain at large. [Read more](#)

Here's how african companies can grow into the world-class space at a faster pace (Ventures Africa)

After the 1990s, Rwanda's investment in technology contributed to its economic growth and also helped to create a conducive business environment for investors in the country. Visa's presence in Rwanda has continued to benefit from this. [Read more](#)

Rwanda seeks to increase hydroelectric generation from 160 MW to 563 MW by 2018 (Hydroworld)

On Nov. 3, Dan Munkittrick, chairperson of East African Power, a local Rwandan energy firm, announced a US\$40 million hydroelectric project joint venture between East African Power and its Canadian counterpart, Afritech Energy, according to published reports. East African Power made an initial \$500,000 commitment to the project. [Read more](#)

Rwanda beefs up borders security with technology (SABC Africa)

Rwanda is betting on technology and international cooperation to curb transnational crime within and on its borders. The East African nation has integrated a global communications network within all its borders to access information on Interpol's various criminal databases throughout the year. [Read more](#)

Rwanda's rainforests: 5 reasons to visit right now (CNN)

Rwanda, which sits smack in the heart of sub-Saharan Africa, is home to one of the oldest rainforests in Africa. Rising up to over 6,000 feet, the Nyungwe National Park is a highly elevated and isolated region of rainforest, covering more than a 386 square miles across the southwest of the country. [Read more](#)

Kenya Co-op Bank plans to expand into Rwanda (CNBC Africa)

Nairobi Securities listed Co-operative Bank says it is already in talks with the regulators in Kigali for a possible entry into the market. The bank's company secretary says they will use the savings and credit cooperative model that has seen it succeed in markets such as South Sudan. [See more](#)

Invest in off-grid, renewable energy solutions, say experts (The New Times)

Energy experts have called for strong public-private sector partnerships and more investments to boost off-grid and renewable energy solutions. The experts from more than 20 countries were speaking during a two-day iPAD Rwanda Power and Infrastructure Investment forum, which opened in Kigali yesterday. [Read more](#)

Rwanda in the media - Highlights

Is Rwanda Ready for a Boom? (The Market Mogul)

Rwanda is a country whose history has seen one of the great man-made atrocities. Its 1994 genocide left its people scarred and economy in ruin. Over a million people were killed and more than 3 million displaced within Rwandan borders and even more fled as refugees to surrounding nations. [Read more](#)

Rwanda: IMF staff completes Review Mission to Rwanda (EIN News)

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team, led by Ms. Laure Redifer, IMF Mission Chief for Rwanda, visited Kigali from October 21-November 4, 2015 to carry out discussions with the Rwandan authorities on the fourth review of their economic and financial program supported by the IMF's Policy Support Instrument (PSI).¹ The PSI-supported program for Rwanda was approved by the IMF Executive Board on December 2, 2013 [Read more](#)

Mr. President sir, inspire your people (National Mirror)

Recently, the BBC quoted President Muhammadu Buhari as allegedly calling his compatriots unruly. It soon became the yardstick with which many of the foreign press began to measure the national psyche. Let us borrow a leaf from Paul Kagame of Rwanda. Through his positive steps, he has rebranded Rwanda from a nation of butchers to an oasis of hope and business friendliness. [Read more](#)

Never Again Rwanda in drive to heal Genocide wounds through dialogue (The New Times)

A local peace-building and human rights organization, Never Again Rwanda (NAR), is set to address healing needs of Rwandans and enable them participate in governance of their communities. [Read more](#)

Rwanda focused on poverty reduction policies (East Africa Business Week)

The government continues to adopt several policies related to environment protection, natural resources, water, land, forestry, mining and climate change, which have seen more than one million Rwandans lifted out of poverty over the last 10yrs. [Read more](#)

Rwanda eases licensing (East African Business Week)

The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) together with Trademark East Africa (TMEA) have eased issuance of licensed certificates by launching an online portal that automates processing and issuance of licensing certificates. [Read more](#)

New higher education project for refugees in Rwanda met with optimism (Xinhua)

Congolese refugee students in Rwanda and officials have welcomed the free tertiary education program launched in the country to provide world class education as humanitarian response to the migrant crisis builds momentum. [Read more](#)

Easy access to credit earns Rwanda top WB ranking (The New Times)

It's as easy for entrepreneurs to access start-up credit in Rwanda as it is in the US and Colombia, with only New Zealand besting the three countries that tied in joint-second, the World Bank Doing Business Report (DBR) 2016 says. [Read more](#)

EAC business climate improves (East African Business Week)

The Sub-Saharan Africa economies continue to implement reforms to improve the business climate for domestic entrepreneurs, with members of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA) particularly active during the past year, says the World Bank Group's annual ease of doing business measurement. [Read more](#)

Rwanda launches guide to budget (East Africa Business Week)

The government has once again launched a Citizen's Guide for the Budget 2015/16 Booklet, an activity that is done after the approval of the budget to make sure that the budget document, beyond the budget law; the citizens are able to get a simplified form that they can be able to read. [Read more](#)