



Rwanda Mission in UAE

NEWSLETTER

Issue 13 - November 2021

The Embassy of Rwanda in Abu Dhabi

The General Consulate of Rwanda in Dubai

Inside this Issue:



1. H.E President Kagame commends taxpayer's commitment despite pandemic limitations



2. Minister Biruta, H.H Prince Faisal discuss Rwanda-Saudi Arabia relations



3. UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation visits the Rwanda Pavilion



4. Minister of State Prof. Nshuti Manasseh visits the Rwanda pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai

Enjoy reading this newsletter. Approach us for questions, suggestions, or if you wish to subscribe for upcoming newsletters via: Ambaabudhabi@minaffet.gov.rw



H.E President Kagame commends taxpayer's commitment despite pandemic limitations



H.E President Paul Kagame commended the resilience of Rwandans towards exceeding the country's revenue collection targets by over Rwf60.1 billion last year, despite Covid-19 limitations. H.E President Kagame made the remarks while officiating the 19th Taxpayers Appreciation Day celebrations and awards ceremony on 19th November 2021 at Intare Arena in Kigali.

"Even with the challenges created by the pandemic, you remained committed and contributed to our country's economic development. In the last fiscal year, we exceeded our total revenue collection target," the head of state said.

He hailed the government's efforts put in place to provide strategic tax relief to individuals and business, as part of the efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the country's economy and on families.

For instance, he said that income taxes were temporarily waived for employees in highly affected sectors, such as education and tourism. Ultimately, taxes are an investment in ourselves, in Rwanda's current and future prosperity and well-being, the head of state asserted. "We are fortunate to have public institutions that use these resources well, and provide tangible benefits, that we can see and feel."

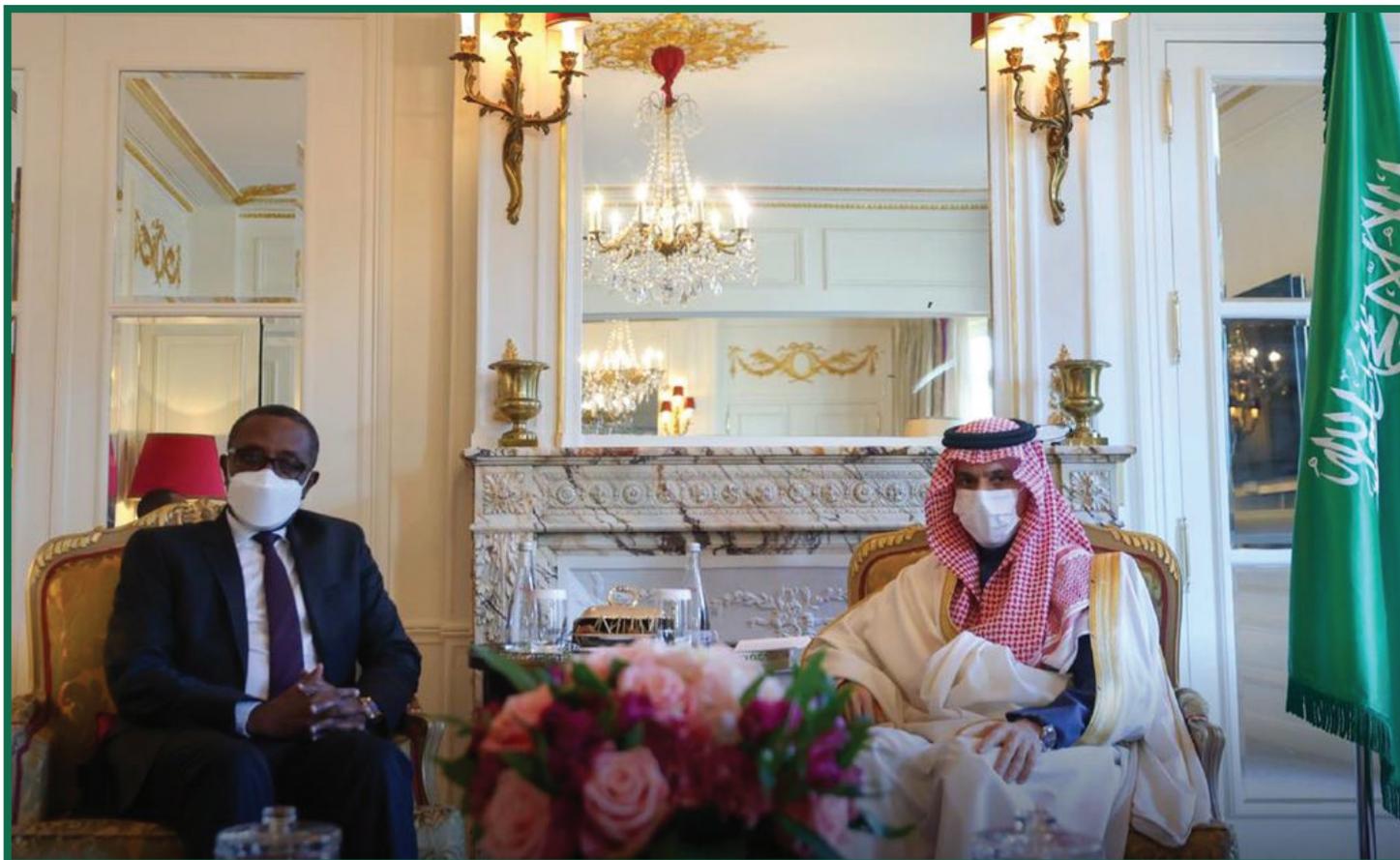
Taxpayer celebrations are held annually to acknowledge tax payers in different categories for their commitment towards paying taxes. Data from the taxman indicate that total tax and non-tax revenue collections amounted to Rwf1,654.5 billion, representing a 9.4 increase against the Rwf1,594.3 billion target.

RRA is optimistic that the collections are set to increase to Rwf1,755.5 billion with a nominal increase of Rwf120.1 billion, according to Commissioner-General Pascal Ruganintwali.

During the event more than 30 taxpayers were awarded for their significant contribution to improved tax revenue collection

Read more: [Kagame commends taxpayer's commitment](#) | The New Times

Minister Biruta, H.H Prince Faisal discuss Rwanda-Saudi Arabia relations



On 12th November 2021, Rwanda Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Honorable Dr. Vincent Biruta met with His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the sideline of the Paris Peace Conference in Paris.

During the bilateral meeting, the two ministers reviewed the overall aspects of relations between the two countries, and ways to develop and strengthen them in all fields, in addition to discussing opportunities to enhance economic and investment cooperation and joint coordination to serve the interests of the two brotherly nations and peoples.

Read more: His Highness the Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda | Saudi Press Agency

Saudi Arabia Cabinet approves a General Cooperation Agreement with Rwanda

Saudi Arabia Cabinet meeting chaired by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud approved on Tuesday 23rd November 2021 a General Cooperation Agreement between the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the government of the Republic of Rwanda.

The General Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Rwanda and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was signed on 8th June 2021 in Kigali by Rwanda Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Honorable Dr. Vincent Biruta and Honorable Ahmed Bin Abdul Aziz Kattan, Minister of State for African Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Read more: Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Chairs Cabinet's Virtual Session | Saudi Press Agency



Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Chaired the Cabinet's Virtual Session which approved the agreement

H.H Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan visits the Rwanda Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai



On 5th November 2021, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, was received at the Rwanda pavilion by H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka. H.H Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan commended Rwanda's leadership for the country's progress and transformation.

Gambia FM visit the Rwanda Pavilion



On 16th November 2021 at the Rwanda pavilion, Minister Counsellor Edouard Bizumuremyi welcomed Hon. Dr Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Gambia for a visit of the pavilion. Hon. Dr Mamadou Tangara also tried and liked the Rwanda specialty Coffee.

Minister of State Prof. Nshuti Manasseh visits the Rwanda pavilion



On 16th November while on official visit to the UAE, Minister of State, Prof. Manasseh Nshuti visited the Rwanda pavilion at Expo2020 Dubai, with Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka. He witnessed the positive impression of pavilion visitors and commended the work done by Rwanda Expo Team

Africa CDC designate Rwanda Biomedical Center among COVID-19 Vaccination Centres of Excellence



The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), a Specialised Technical Institution of the African Union (AU), has designated two institutions to serve as part of a network of Centres of Excellence (CoE) for COVID-19 vaccination. These include the Institut Pasteur, Casablanca, Morocco and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre, Kigali. Africa has vaccinated only about 5% of its population with COVID-19 vaccine and a 70% coverage target has been set by the World Health Organisation to bring the pandemic under control.

Institut Pasteur of Morocco and Rwanda Biomedical Centre have both demonstrated efficiency in COVID-19 vaccination rollout in their respective countries. For instance, Morocco has vaccinated more than 80% of its targeted population. Rwanda has immunized about 25% of its eligible population and aims to achieve a 40% coverage by the end of 2021. "We expect to attain 40% of targeted persons by December 2021 and are looking forward to working closely with other African countries to share our experiences so far as well as offer technical assistance to others, if necessary, as part of the Africa CDC and Mastercard foundation Saving Lives and Livelihood partnership and network of CoE," said the Dr Daniel Ngamiye, Minister of Health of Rwanda.

Read more: [Rwanda Biomedical Center designated among COVID-19 Vaccination Centres of Excellence | Africa CDC](#)

UAE, IRENA launch USD 1 billion Global Finance Platform to Accelerate Renewable Energy



The United Arab Emirates and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) announced on 3 November 2021 the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform, a new global climate finance facility to accelerate the transition to renewable energy in developing countries. The UAE committed USD 400 million in funding provided by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) toward the platform's goal of securing a minimum of USD 1 billion in total funding. The formal launch took place on the sidelines of the COP 26 United Nations Climate Summit in Glasgow in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan, Through co-financing, ETAF will aim to mobilize an additional USD 2 billion in energy transition investments, targeting a total

deployment of 1.5 GW of clean renewable energy generation and storage by 2030. ETAF will be managed by IRENA from its Abu Dhabi headquarters, capitalizing on the UAE's climate finance market and renewable energy innovation infrastructure.

The new accelerator platform will help mitigate investment risks and finance renewable energy projects in developing countries that may otherwise struggle to secure sufficient capital.

Read more: [UAE, IRENA launch USD 1 billion Global Finance Platform | IRENA](#)

Energy Transitioning- Rwanda Renewables uptake and IRENA's Role



Rusumo falls Hydropower Project in the East of Rwanda is expected to generate 80 MW to be shared equally between Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi



Rwamagana Gigawatt Solar project in Eastern Rwanda produces 8.5 Megawatt to the national grid

The world is in a race for a climate mitigation agenda aimed at averting the eminent dangers posed by climate change. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), headquartered in Abu Dhabi, is on the right course of rallying multilateral efforts behind energy transitioning as a pathway to a sustainable future.

With 166 member states, IRENA stands out as a uniquely global energy hub and a source of guidance and support for stakeholders across the world. Through its 2021 World Energy Transitions Outlook, the Agency presents to member states policy frameworks necessary to advance a transition that is aligned with a global net zero future, while being just and inclusive.

With over 300 partners collaborating under IRENA's climate investment platform, stakeholders with viable projects in renewable energy and climate investment around the world can bank on the Agency for resource mobilization. By 2020, the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility resulted in the selection of 32 renewable energy projects that benefited from \$350 million in concessional loans and improved lives of over 2.5 million people around the world.

In Africa, IRENA has supported different national and regional programs and initiatives including Africa Clean Energy Corridor, a regional initiative to accelerate the development of renewable energy potential and cross-border trade of renewable power within the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) and Southern African Power Pool (SAPP). This is in addition to West Africa Clean Energy Corridor, a regional initiative supporting the creation of a regional power market in the West Africa Power Pool.

For IRENA, the expansion of renewables goes beyond the provision of reliable energy and climate protection. "Energy is the key to development in Africa and the foundation for industrialization. Like in Europe and other parts of the world, the expansion of renewables goes beyond the provision of reliable energy and climate protection. Economic development as a whole will benefit and new jobs and opportunities for entire industries will emerge," wrote IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera in a recent IRENA-German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development joint report on renewables in Africa.



H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka presented his credentials to IRENA DG on 3/5/ 2021

For Rwanda, whose first Permanent Representative Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka presented his credentials to IRENA on 3 May 2021, increasing the share of renewable energy is enshrined in a clear national vision of becoming a green, climate resilient and low carbon economy by 2050.

Advancing environmentally friendly practices is an integral part of Rwanda's development. This is further emphasized in a statement from H.E President Paul Kagame speech at a Climate Change Panel at World Economic Forum – Davos in January 2015: "As we look forward to development, we are not making a choice between environment and prosperity. We are rather looking at how we combine both because one supports the other."

Stepping up cooperation with IRENA could give an impetus to ongoing Rwanda's energy transitioning.

"Enhanced partnership with IRENA will promote exchange of knowledge and best practices in renewable energy. We will work together in resource mobilization efforts to implement our Nationally Determined Contribution especially for renewable energy targets. We look forward to scaling up in our cooperation in renewable energy transitioning for a greener future of Rwanda," Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka said.

The growing Rwanda-IRENA cooperation opens doors to public and private entities in Rwanda and East Africa. In addition to knowledge and best practices exchange, actors can share projects for consideration by partners collaborating under IRENA's climate investment platform.

Rwanda joined IRENA in June 2009 and has been an active member since then. Renewable energy is expected to play a central role in delivering Rwanda's ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in May 2020 that features a 38% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions compared to business as usual by 2030. The country's efforts to limit its contribution to climate change and adapt to the consequences over the next decade will require approximately US \$11 billion.

Read more: Energy Transitioning- Rwanda Renewables uptake and IRENA's Role | KT Press

Amb. Hategeka, Dr. Sulaiman of Aldahra Holding LLC discuss investment opportunities



On 17th November 2021 at Aldahra Holding LLC office in Abu Dhabi, H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka met with Dr. Sulaiman Al Nuaimi, CEO of Government relations at Aldahra Holding LLC as a follow-up to his recent visit to Rwanda. Dr. Sulaiman shared very positive feedback from his visit and pledged to build strong partnerships for investment in the fields of Agriculture and Real Estate development.

Amb. Hategeka, Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management leadership explore avenues for collaboration



On 24th November 2021, H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka along with Minister Counsellor Edouard Bizumuremyi visited the Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management, one of the top tourism and hospitality academies based in Dubai, and met with the Dean, Dr. Frederic Bouchon along with the Managing Director, Mr. Jeroen Greven.

The meeting was an occasion to explore avenues for partnerships with Rwanda tourism institutions such as University of Tourism, Technology and Business Studies (UTB) and Davis College and Akilah Rwanda.

Rwanda partners with Google to fast-track digital transformation



Rwanda has partnered with global tech giant, Google, to accelerate the country's digital transformation necessary for the growth of its innovation ecosystem.

In a joint statement released by the two parties, Google and the government of Rwanda committed to partnering in several areas. They include affordable and universal access to connectivity; adoption of digital platforms; digital skilling for all; and fostering a pan-African innovation ecosystem.

Rwanda's Minister of ICT and Innovation, Paula Ingabire said that the partnership comes as a tool to enhance Rwanda's economic transformation. She highlighted that the partnership with Google will complement the existing efforts to drive digital inclusion, skilling and supporting the growth of economic development leveraging technology.

"We are optimistic that this agreement will drive digital inclusion, and growing the digital economy will continue to drive Rwanda's economic transformation in line with the country's vision to become a knowledge-driven economy," the minister said.

Under the agreement, Google will support Rwanda to set up a national programme to scale up digital literacy among Rwandan citizens by recruiting digitally-savvy youth to deliver digital literacy training.

Read more: [Rwanda partners with Google to fast-track digital transformation | The New Times](#)

UAE named world's safest country to walk at night in new global index



People feel safer while walking at night in the UAE than anywhere else in the world, an international survey has found. According to Gallup's Global Law and Order 2021 report, the Emirates scored 95 per cent when it came to feeling safe about walking alone at night. **Read more | [The National](#)**

We honor the memory of UAE Martyrs and keep their families in our thoughts and prayers.

