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## We must remain vigilant and sustain the gains: H.E President Kagame in New Year's Message



H.E President Paul Kagame has reiterated the need of heightened vigilance among Rwandans especially as the country strengthens the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The head of state made the remarks during his annual end of year address streamed through various platforms including the national television and social media.

In a televised address, Kagame said that the past year, just like the one before, has been marked by uncertainty and adversity.

“Even now, the new Covid-19 variant prevents us from celebrating holidays as we would like, carefree in the company of family and friends,” he said.

This is the second time Rwanda marks New Year celebrations under Covid-19 induced restrictions.

With a low infection rate and a high uptake of Covid-19 vaccinations, Rwandans were optimistic of a better festive season but the new Covid-19 variant, Omicron, made it bleak.

“Unfortunately we still have to be vigilant, at the same time our country has continued to come together and that is why we have avoided the worst.” Kagame stressed that the gains made this year must be sustained and utilized to keep Rwanda moving forward in the coming years.

“I take this opportunity to thank our health workers, youth volunteers, security institutions, public servants, the private sector, our partners, and all Rwandans for playing their part in Rwanda’s journey,” the head of state highlighted.

To close his remarks, the Head of State took time to officially wish Rwandans a blessed and prosperous new year.

**Watch: President Kagame | 2022 New Year's Message**

## Digital Cooperation Organization adds Rwanda as eighth member



The Digital Cooperation Organization has expanded to include Rwanda as its eighth member state, with the DCO now representing around half a billion people.

Based in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, The DCO is a multilateral organization that aims to promote growth in the digital economy through collaboration between its members, established in November 2020 by Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Pakistan. Nigeria and Oman joined as additional founding members earlier in 2021.

Deemah Al-Yahya, the DCO's secretary-general, told Arab News the organization "came together with the intention to digitally transform and put hands in hands to prosper and harness the opportunity of the digital economy."

Paula Ingabire, the Rwanda's Minister of ICT & Innovation welcomed the announcement. "Joining the DCO is an opportunity to be part of the platform and broader network through which we will build global partnerships, in the public and private sector including startups, that will deliver an inclusive digital economy for Rwanda," she said.

Al-Yahya said digital advancement is crucial to the transformation of countries. "DCO is more economical, an organization that focuses on the productivity and on the lives of the people," she said. "Therefore, Rwanda joining means that they are open to change. They are now with the advancement that they have from a digital perspective and their tech-savvy youth."

She said this will not only benefit Rwanda internally but will benefit the other members as well. "They are now going through a huge transformation digitally. I think it's a very useful opportunity for other countries to experience that."

Rwanda has prioritized digital economy policies through Rwanda's Smart Rwanda Master Plan and National Information and Communication Infrastructure strategies. In December 2021, Rwanda's government announced the Kigali Innovation City, planned to serve as a tech and innovation center for Africa.

**Read more: Digital Cooperation Organization adds Rwanda as eighth member | Araba News**

## UTB formalizes partnership with two Dubai based academic institutions



The University of Tourism, Technology and Business Studies (UTB) signed memoranda of understanding with the Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management (EAHM) and Dubai College of Tourism to promote cooperation and collaboration between the parties.

The events took place separately at EAHM campus and Dubai college of Tourism, and were attended by Emmanuel Hategeka, Ambassador of Rwanda to the UAE. The major scope of the MoUs is to formalise collaboration and cooperation in developing their respective institutions and contributing to building a professional workforce needed for the development of Rwanda and Dubai through sharing of capacity development resources, experience, knowledge and best practices with their respective areas of expertise in training, education, internship and job placement for students and graduates **Read more: EAHM signs MoU with Rwandan university to share best practices | Khaleej Times**

## Amb. Hategeka, UTB delegation discuss collaboration with GroupL

On 14th December 2021, H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka met with UTB delegation and Mr Kabir Luthra CEO of GroupL, one of UAE's leading providers of unique and innovative HR solutions.

The two sides explored opportunities for collaboration in employment of UTB graduates abroad.



## Rwanda achieves WHO COVID-19 vaccination target



Rwanda has achieved the World Health Organization (WHO) target of vaccinating 40 percent of the entire population by December 2021, the Rwandan Ministry of Health said in a statement.

According to the ministry, as of Dec. 24, a total of 7,556,466 of the targeted Rwandan population aged over 12, have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while 5,313,421 have received two doses.

"Vaccinating 40 percent of our country's total population before the end of 2021 is a great milestone. This is attributed to our country's leadership, partnership, coordination and community engagement," Daniel Ngamije, Rwandan Health Minister told Xinhua in a telephone interview.

Rwanda targets to vaccinate 70 percent of the total population by December 2022.

**Read more: Rwanda achieves WHO COVID-19 vaccination target | Xinhua**

## Rwanda to benefit from US\$352m OPEC Fund for global development operations

The OPEC Fund for International Development has approved US\$352 million for sustainable development operations across the world at the organisation's 178th Session of the Governing Board, held virtually on 16th December 2021.

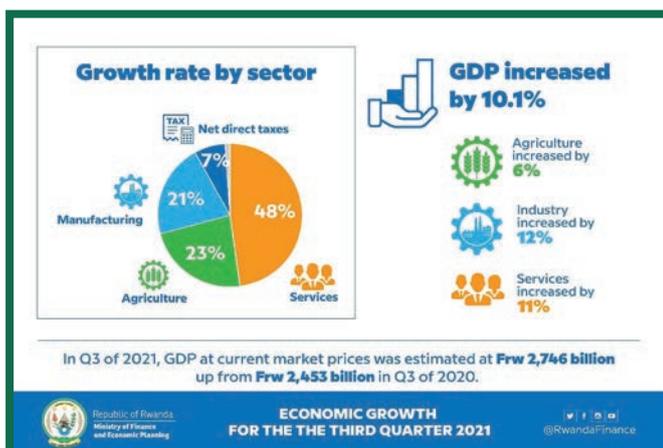
The OPEC Fund's new financing will support a project worth US\$18 million in Rwanda among different countries that will benefit from the Fund financing scheme.

Members of the Governing Board reviewed several milestones achieved as part of the OPEC Fund Strategic Framework 2030, including inaugural credit ratings for the organisation from S&P Global (AA; Positive Outlook) and Fitch Ratings (AA+; Stable Outlook). The Strategic Framework 2030 is designed to diversify the OPEC Fund's financial resources and deliver greater development impact for partner countries.



**Read more: OPEC Fund approves US\$352m for global development operations | WAM**

## Rwanda's economy grows by 10.1% in the third quarter of 2021



Rwanda's economy grew by 10.1% in the 3rd quarter of 2021. This is according to the report of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda released in December 2021.

In the third quarter of 2021, GDP at current market prices was estimated at Frw 2,746 billion, up from Frw 2,453 billion in the same quarter of 2020.

Services continued to lead in terms of shares to GDP with 48 percent compared to 23 percent and 21 percent shares for agriculture and industry respectively. The remainder 7 percent was attributed to adjustment for taxes and subsidies on products.

**Read more: GDP National Accounts (Third Quarter 2021) | NISR**

# RWANDA AT EXPO 2020: ENGAGING PARTNERS AND WELCOMING GUESTS

## Expo 2020 Dubai opened up prospects for investment cooperation with the participating countries- Commissioner General Yves Iradukunda



Commissioner-General of the Republic of Rwanda's pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, Yves Iradukunda, stressed that the presence of Rwanda in this important global event allows it to get to know the world and open up prospects for investment cooperation with the participating countries, which leads to creating job opportunities and real economic diversification in Rwanda.

In an interview with WAM News, Yves Iradukunda praised the strong relations between Rwanda and the UAE in various fields, expressing his appreciation and thanks to the UAE government for the hospitality at Expo 2020 Dubai.

He said, "A great opportunity to be at Expo 2020 Dubai and introduce the world to Rwanda, pointing out that his country is an exciting tourist destination in Africa that attracts tourists from all over the world, as we have many high-end tourism options."

He added that "Rwanda's presence at Expo 2020 Dubai provides us with an opportunity to share with the world, exchange experiences and face challenges together," noting that Rwanda is one of the most promising African countries with a prosperous economic future.

The Rwanda Pavilion is located in the Opportunity District at Expo 2020 Dubai, and includes a panel bearing an important description that captures the momentum of the great transformation that the country has witnessed, which promises a bright future for Rwanda.

**Watch the Interview: Rwanda is an exciting tourist and investment destination in Africa | WAM NEWS**

### Former Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid visits Rwanda Pavilion



On 20th December 2021, the former Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid visited the Rwanda Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. After touring the pavilion, she announced that she enjoyed the visit particularly Rwanda Specialty Coffee.

She invited expo goers to pass by the Rwanda pavilion, "If you want to have the best coffee in #Expo2020 one shall definitely visit #Rwanda pavilion!" Kersti Kaljulaid wrote on her Twitter handle.

### Amb. Hategeka receives delegates from Bloomberg and Alkebulan



On 13th December 2021, H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka welcomed Ms. Verna Eggleston of Bloomberg and Chief Smalls alexander, curator of Alkebulan, a one-of-a-kind African Dining experience at Expo2020, to discuss Rwanda specialty Coffee and explore collaboration. Stay tuned!

## Delegations from Kenya, Tanzania visit the Rwanda pavilion



On 14th December 2021, the Rwanda Pavilion team received Margaret Kobia, Cabinet secretary, Kenya Ministry of Public Service and Gender, and Senior officials from Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

## Rwanda Pavilion video contest winner announced!



Rwanda Pavilion at Expo 2020 announced Bwijkenoziki Maxime as the winner of the video contest! He will be offered a ticket to travel to Dubai with singer Bruce Melody in January 2022 on RwandAir to visit expo and discover the Rwanda Pavilion.

Maxime will also have the chance to visit other country pavilions and Rwanda Pavilion will share this amazing experience with you through social media platforms.

The video contest consisted of sharing on social media a video explaining Expo 2020 and Rwanda's participation. The public voted the winner!

## Rwanda Beans Coffee explores partnership with key coffee distributors and roasters in UAE



On 13th December 2021, while on a market exploration visit in Dubai with the support of Rwanda General Consulate in Dubai, Rwanda Beans Coffee Founder Mike Mwendata along with the Consulate Trade Officer Noor Ahmed met with senior managers of Lulu Hypermarket, key coffee distributors and roasters in the UAE. They explored supply of coffee partnerships! In the picture, look at the space for upcoming trial orders for value added Rwanda Specialty coffee in the United Arab Emirates.

# Season's Greetings from Rwanda Mission in the UAE

