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PM Dr. Ngirente officiates the Rwanda National Day at Expo 2020 Dubai



On 1st February 2022, on behalf of President Paul Kagame, Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente officiated the Rwanda National Day Celebration at Expo 2020 Dubai.

The Rt Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente was welcomed by His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence and Commissioner General of Expo 2020 Dubai and Najeeb Mohammed Al-Ali, Executive Director, Office of the Commissioner General, Expo 2020 Dubai.

The Rt Hon. Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente commended the country's remarkable development and looked to innovation and collaboration to drive a post-COVID global recovery. He said: "Supported by unique home-grown initiatives and strong values of self-reliance, dignity and hard work, Rwanda has achieved remarkable development gains and has emerged as one of Africa's fastest growing economies for the last two decades, until before COVID-19 pandemic.

"One of the lessons we have learned from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is the importance of collaboration, innovation and cooperation. We believe that these are important tools to help nations fight against the spread of COVID-19 and its negative impact on the recovery process globally. It is in this regard that we welcome you to visit our pavilion and explore further opportunities for investments in technology and innovation, financial services, education, health, renewable energy as well as many other sectors in Rwanda."

HE Sheikh Nahayan said: "Through its participation at Expo 2020 Dubai, Rwanda promotes its knowledge-based economy, invites visitors to explore the country's tourism hubs and centres for business and trade, and sheds light on the remarkable pace at which it has grown through leadership and innovation.

"The UAE believes in the potential of Rwanda and its people, and through Expo 2020, we look forward to further strengthening our relations and expanding the horizon of our cooperation for the mutual benefit of our people."

Rwanda's Pavilion showcases the 'shining star' that has turned itself into a tech-centric hub. Highlights include a journey to the King's Palace in pre-colonial times, a virtual gorilla trekking experience – the country is home to some of the world's last mountain gorillas – and some delicious local coffee at Café Rwanda.

National and Honour Days at Expo 2020 Dubai are moments to celebrate each of Expo's 200-plus International Participants, shining a light on their culture and achievements and showcasing their pavilions and programming.

Running until 31 March 2022, Expo 2020 invites visitors from across the planet to join the making of a new world in a six-month celebration of human creativity, innovation, progress and culture.

Read more: [Rwanda celebrates its National Day at Expo 2020 Dubai | Rwanda In UAE](#)

Rwandan PM Dr. Ngirente, Ohood Al Roumi hold talks



Dubai, 2nd February, 2022- Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi, Minister of State for Government Development and The Future, and Rt Hon. Dr. Edouard Ngirente, Prime Minister of Rwanda, discussed enhancing the overall partnership between the UAE and Rwanda in areas of government modernisation.

The meeting was attended by Paula Ingabire, Rwandan Minister of ICT and Innovation; Emmanuel Hategeka, Ambassador of Rwanda to the UAE, and other officials.

It was also attended by Abdulla Nasser Lootah, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office at the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs; Huda AlHashimi, Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Strategic Affairs; and Dr. Yasir Al Naqbi, Assistant Director-General for Leadership and Government Capabilities at the Prime Minister's Office at the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs.

During the meeting, Al Roumi highlighted the keenness of the UAE Government, led by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, to encourage partnerships with all countries in the field of government modernisation through sharing the UAE's successful practices in government governance and modernisation.

Al Roumi then lauded the strong relations between the governments of the two countries and their overall cooperation, commending Rwanda's distinguished development experience.

Read more: [Ohood Al Roumi receives Rwandan PM | WAM NEWS](#)

Rwanda, UAE sign MOU on political consultation



On 2nd February 2022 at the Leadership Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, Hon. Prof. Manasseh Nshuti, Minister of State in Rwanda Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and H.E. Sheikh Shakhbout Nahyan Al Nahyan, Minister of State in UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Political Consultation between the Republic of Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates.

Before inking the MOU, the two Ministers of State held a brief exchange during which they appreciated the excellent relations between the two friendly countries. H.E. Sheikh Shakhbout emphasized on his admiration for the remarkable transformation of Rwanda under the leadership of H.E. President Paul Kagame.

At the signing ceremony, Hon. Minister of State Prof. Manasseh Nshuti was accompanied by Rwanda Minister of Trade and Industry Hon. Béata Habyarimana; Minister Counsellor Edouard Bizumuremyi of the General Consulate of Rwanda in Dubai and Sheila Mutavu, Principal Officer in charge of Economic diplomacy at Rwanda Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The MOU on Political Consultation is one of the instruments in strengthening bilateral relations and provides a framework for bilateral dialogue between the two countries on issues of mutual interest.

Read more: [Rwanda, UAE sign MoU on political consultation | IGIHE](#)

FOCUS ON RWANDA BUSINESS FORUM IN DUBAI

Rwanda's trade with UAE has grown ten-fold in a decade: PM Ngirente



Rwanda's Prime Minister Rt Hon. Dr. Edouard Ngirente says that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become a valuable partner in the country's economic journey, with trade between two countries growing ten-fold between 2010 and 2020, and almost three-fold from 2018 to 2020. PM Dr. Edouard Ngirente was, on behalf of H.E President Paul Kagame, delivering his keynote address at the Rwanda Business Forum held as part of the activities to mark Rwanda National Day at the ongoing Dubai Expo 2020. The forum run from 2nd to 3rd February 2022.

Prime Minister Dr. Ngirente said that currently UAE is Rwanda's leading trade partner with close to \$900 million in total trade as of 2020. He pointed out that trade with the UAE accounted for almost 20% of Rwanda's trade globally in 2020.

"Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates have had long-standing historical ties which have been strengthened over time. Today, we enjoy an excellent bilateral relationship, with trade and investment growing over the last years," Prime Minister Dr. Ngirente said. "Building on this existing partnership, it is important to continue creating platforms such as this Business Forum to collectively share insights and opportunities that will enhance the trade and investment between our two countries," the Premier added.

The Rwanda Business forum in Dubai also targeted Investment promotion, export and tourism promotion– especially through the Visit Rwanda brand – business-to-business meetings and Government to Government meetings. Rwanda government agencies which featured in this high-profile forum include Rwanda Development Board, Rwanda Finance Limited, Rwanda Mining Board, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of ICT and Innovation.

"First, the private sector will remain key to building resilient, sustainable, and inclusive growth. We really believe in Private sector as a government," Prime Minister Dr. Ngirente noted.

He added: "Private investments, including Foreign Direct Investments, will play an increasingly important role in sustainably bridging the financing gap for our country's development.

The Rwanda Business Forum was made of the following key sessions: Rwanda Investment Forum, Rwanda Health Sector Roundtable, African Fintech Investors Forum, Rwanda Mining Investment Roundtable, Visit Rwanda Media Briefing, Travel Trade event with B2B Meetings, Rwanda BPO Roundtable and the Innovation Ecosystem Networking Luncheon.

Read more: Rwanda's Trade with UAE Has Grown Ten-Fold in a Decade-PM Ngirente | KT Press

Rwanda Business Forum: KIFC launches \$50M fund targeting FinTech companies



The Kigali International Financial Centre has announced the debut of a \$50m fund that will focus on financial technology (FinTech) companies with proven technology operating in Africa.

The development was announced at a forum on financial technology (FinTech) on 2nd February 2022 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates as part of the different activities organized around the Rwanda National Day at the Expo 2020 Dubai.

The new fund is backed by MyGrowthFund Venture Partners and is expected to support capitalization of FinTech companies operating in Africa.

The fund domiciled in KIFC will create proximity on the continent between investments and FinTech opportunities and will increase indigenous investment in African FinTech. Nick Barigye, CEO of Rwanda Finance Limited (RFL) said that attracting fin-tech oriented investors and creating a thriving fin-tech ecosystem, would facilitate scaling up investment across the continent.

"70 per cent of the investment deals go to tech-based products and/or services, so attracting fintech oriented investors and creating a thriving fintech ecosystem, which would facilitate scaling up investment across the continent, is of paramount importance to KIFC," he said

Read more: KIFC launches \$50M fund targeting FinTech companies | The New Times

Rwanda eyes UAE's cooperation to launch own satellites for geospatial data: Minister Paula



Rwanda is keen to have the UAE's cooperation to utilise geospatial data in its developmental projects in key sectors, a senior official told Emirates News Agency while in UAE for the Rwanda National Day at Expo 2020 Dubai.

"We are looking at cooperation with UAE in space sector. One of the things we're looking at is how do we leverage data in general, but very specifically geospatial data, to support some of the programmes and policies that we are implementing in agriculture, education, mining, and infrastructure development," said Paula Ingabire, Rwandan Minister of ICT and Innovation.

Minister Paula noted that the geospatial data is globally being leveraged and utilised in policy decisions and programme implementation. "We know UAE is quite advanced in this area and we would like to learn from the UAE," affirmed Ingabire who is a known technology enthusiast.

Satellite launching, geospatial data cooperation

Asked whether Rwanda is looking for the UAE's cooperation for launching its own satellite or sharing geospatial data from the Emirati space assets, the minister said, "It's actually a mix of both. The starting point is building capacity. You can have access to different geospatial datasets, and you have the capacity and the ability to mine, analyse and translate that into a way that creates value for us. So that's our starting point," she explained about the potential cooperation with the UAE. Being able to have those analytical skills and tools will enable Rwanda to use that data for valuable insights in its policies and programmes being implemented in the country, Ingabire emphasised.

"We also have ambitions, obviously, to partner with countries like UAE to build and be able to launch our own satellite. That may be a mid to long term ambition, even as we already think about the low hanging fruit, which is really around building analytical skills and how we can make the best use of these geospatial data," she explained.

Cooperation in governance, technology, innovation

The minister made it clear that Rwanda is keen to cooperate with the UAE in any potential sector.

"The anchor of those kinds of cooperation is around knowledge and skills transfer and building the right capabilities that will allow us to benefit from the experience that UAE has."

Ingabire pointed out that the UAE has a very good government, and experience in exchange programmes focusing on technology and innovation. "The UAE has deployed various technologies and innovations to really improve efficiencies and drive productivity. So, that's another framework that we're looking to engage on with UAE."

Education, agribusiness, e-commerce

Education is another potential area of cooperation, the minister added. Human capital development, trade and investment, agribusiness, and e-commerce, along with technology and innovation, are potential areas of cooperation. "We are working to create partnerships around artificial intelligence (AI). Both UAE and Rwanda are hosting the World Economic Forum Centres for 4th Industrial Revolution. The UAE is around building the right policy and business landscape to nurture AI innovations," she pointed out. Another potential area of cooperation is cybersecurity and the biggest focus is really on skilling – providing the much-needed skills and nurturing specialists in this sector, she said.

Read more: [Rwanda eyes UAE's cooperation to launch own satellites for geospatial data](#) | WAM NEWS

Minister Paula, UAE Minister of State for Advanced Technology discuss collaboration



On 3rd February 2022, Hon. Paula Ingabire, Rwanda Minister of ICT and Innovation along with Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka held a bilateral meeting with H.E Sara Al Amiri, UAE Minister of State for Advanced Technology.

They discussed opportunities for future collaboration in Advanced Technology and innovation, in addition to joint effort to facilitate exchange of data and expertise between UAE and Rwanda.

Minister Béata, CEO Yamina visit Colombia pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai



On 4th February 2022, Hon. Béata Habyarimana, Minister of Trade & Industry; Amb. Yamina Karitanyi, CEO, Rwanda Mining Board along with Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka toured the pavilion of Colombia. They tasted some Colombian delights and rhythms and explored business opportunities.

The delegation also visited pavilions of Bahrain, Sweden and Japan to explore opportunities for partnership and best practice exchange.

The Queen's Baton Relay stops by the Rwanda pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai



On 10th February 2022, H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka welcomed the Queen's Baton Relay at the Rwanda pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. During the Queen's Baton Relay welcome ceremony, Uruyange ballet, a traditional dance group of Rwandan Community in the UAE produced an entertaining performance.

As part of the traditions of the Commonwealth Games, the Queen's Baton is taken to various destinations before the start of 2022 games in Birmingham, UK. Rwanda is the last country to have joined the Commonwealth and is preparing to host CHOGM2022 in June.

Amb. Hategeka receives singer Bruce Melodie at Rwanda pavilion

On 9th February H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka received Rwandan singer Bruce Melodie who was visiting the Rwanda Pavilion at Expo2020 Dubai. Bruce Melodie visited the Expo 2020 Dubai with Bwijkenoziki Maxime, the winner of a video contest which was launched last year by the Rwanda Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai.



The singer shared his positive impression about Rwanda pavilion particularly Rwanda specialty coffee, cultural decoration and Rwanda's transformation journey. "When you visit Rwanda pavilion, you really find, see and feel Rwanda. I even saw new things which I didn't see before. I sampled a very tasty Rwandan coffee which I didn't taste before," said Bruce Itahiwacu commonly known as Bruce Melodie.

On his part, Maxime said: "It was my first time to board an airplane. Visiting Rwanda pavilion was a fantastic experience. We enjoyed the Rwandan culture and coffee as well. We visited different countries' pavilions and explored their cultures. In few words I traveled to ten countries here at Expo! It was amazing!"

Amb. Hategeka joins Bloomberg Philanthropies to celebrate Women's Economic Independence



On 17th February H.E. Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka joined Bloomberg Philanthropies led by Ms Verna Eggleston to celebrate Women's Economic Independence showcasing women led cooperatives supported by Sustainable Growers, a Rwandan NGO selected in best practice projects aligning with UN Sustainable Development Goals at Expo 2020 Dubai.

Sustainable Growers Program was selected in the Best Practices projects to be showcased at Expo 2020 Dubai. The program was spotlighted in the week of Food, Agriculture Livelihood from 17th to 24th February 2022.

The Question Coffee program was also selected as one of the winning 25 development projects out of 1,175 entries from around the world to be spotlighted at the Sustainable Development Goals Best Practice Programme presented at Expo 2020 Dubai.

"Both Sustainable Growers and our brand Question Coffee were selected in best practice projects because we aligned with the 4th Goal of SDGs. That's why we were selected at the UN Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai and that's why we are here celebrating. We were chosen because our activities touch lives of people. Throughout the week at Expo, we will be presenting our activities and displaying our coffee," Sustainable Growers Executive Director Christine Condo explained.

The six women leaders of cooperatives growing coffee in Rwanda also visited the Rwanda pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai and enjoyed a cup of their produce - Question coffee available at the Rwanda pavilion.

AU Deputy Chairperson visits the Rwanda Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai



On 28th February 2022, H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka welcomed H.E Dr Monique Nsanzabaganwa, the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission for a tour at the Rwanda pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. Dr Nsanzabaganwa also tasted a delicious cup of specialty Rwandan coffee.

The AU Commission Deputy Chairperson earlier on 27th February officiated the Africa Honor Day at Expo 2020 Dubai. She noted that Africa has abundant opportunities and is open for business.

H.H. Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi visits the Rwanda Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai



On 9th February 2022, The Rwanda pavilion team at Expo 2020 Dubai had the honor to welcome H.H. Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi, known as Green Sheikh for his devotion to conservation.

They exchanged on conservation, tourism and he tried specialty Rwandan coffee.

Rwanda's agriculture exports rose by 39% to Rwf543bn in 2021



Rwanda earned over \$543 million (about Rwf543 billion) in agricultural export revenues from January to December 2021 against over \$390 million of the same period in 2020, representing an increase of 39 percent.

These export statistics are contained in the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB)'s December 2021 and Quarter Two Report 2021-2022, which was published early February this year.

The report comprises statistical data for agricultural exports and re-exports for December 2021. It also provides combined data for the calendar year of January-December 2021, fiscal year July-December 2021 and quarter two (October-December 2021) in comparison with the same period of 2020.

According to the report, both export and re-export increments were related to the economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, where most of the economic activities resumed with more movement of people and goods in the region and abroad.

The report indicated that tea, coffee, flowers, fruits and vegetable unit prices were also showing positive trends, thus contributing to the realized good export performance compared to the same period of 2020.

Rwanda targets to generate \$1 billion (Rwf1 trillion) in annual agricultural exports by 2024, which is more than double the current output by the sector.

Achieving that goal will require doubling down on exports of emerging crops such as cereals and horticulture, as well as meat, dairy and poultry products, while steadily growing traditional exports crops which are coffee, tea and pyrethrum, according to NAEB's strategic plan 2019-2024.

Read more: [Rwanda's agriculture exports rose by 39% in 2021 | The New Times](#)

Amb. Hategeka hosts Rwanda in UAE Team for an annual get-together



On Friday 18th February 2022, H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka hosted the staff of Rwanda Mission in the UAE to an annual get-together to reflect on 2021 and re-energise for the work ahead.

Ambassador Hategeka used the occasion to commend the team for their contribution to promoting diplomatic relations, economic diplomacy, and supporting Rwanda's community in UAE, among others.

"All of what the Mission achieved is a result of team work. I thank you for your invaluable role in achievements we made together," Ambassador Hategeka said.

Despite the Covid-19 related challenges, Rwanda Mission in UAE registered good results in 2021, some of which are highlighted below:

Diplomatic relations

The Mission concluded the presentation of credentials to the whole jurisdiction: H.E Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka presented his credentials to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 17 March 2021; to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain on 6 July 2021 and to Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency on 3 May 2021.

The mission also facilitated high level visits and meetings, the most recent prominent being the working visit to the UAE by H.E President Paul Kagame in last October.

As Rwanda taps into cooperation potentials with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the General Cooperation Agreement signed last June is a game changer.

Trade and Investment

Trade flows increased remarkably thanks to new and existing trade deals and partnerships. The UAE is Rwanda's leading trade partner. In 2020, total trade with UAE accounted for almost 20% of Rwanda's trade globally. For the first eleven months of 2021, the total trade reached over USD 649.5 million with exports accounting for 58%.

Every week, Rwanda exports to UAE about 20 tons of avocados, passion fruits, among other fruits and vegetables. Leveraging the e-commerce platform launched by DP World last year, there is a huge potential to increase this volume in 2022.

Through the Mission facilitation, Rwanda secured US\$15 million loan from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development for the rehabilitation of Rambura-Nyange road in July 2021.

The Rwanda Mission in UAE keeps good relations with seven UAE companies which have registered their businesses with RDB with investments commitments valued at US\$ 185.4 million as of end 2021. Rwanda's strategic participation in forums like the ongoing Expo 2020 Dubai gave an impetus to economic diplomacy endeavors.

Technical cooperation

The Mission has connected Rwanda-UAE institutions and the whole jurisdiction as well, in fields of education, health, ICT, space and financial services among others.

Image Building

The Mission has sustained and enhanced the positive image and reputation of Rwanda through different events including the 27th Commemoration of 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and the ongoing Expo 2020 Dubai, among others. Social and Media engagements rose considerably. Over 100 articles were published in UAE media while the social media engagement increased by 60%.

The Staff of the Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the General Consulate in Dubai who had gathered at the new Ambassador's residence for the annual get-together, expressed their appreciation to the Ambassador for the event and good leadership.



Staff gathered at the New Ambassador's Residence for the annual get-together

JURISDICTION CORNER

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid inaugurates the Museum of the Future



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, inaugurated on 22nd February 2022 the Museum of the Future, as Dubai's new iconic landmark officially opened its doors to the world with a new message of hope for all humankind.

The 77-metre tall architectural marvel will provide the largest platform in the region to study, envision and design the future. It is a novel scientific and intellectual centre where the brightest talents in the fields of science, technology, research and innovation will converge to discover solutions to tomorrow's world.

Inaugurating the museum, H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said: "The UAE is betting on the future. It focuses on harnessing efforts, minds, resources and capabilities to foresee, design and build it. The Museum of the Future is a major leap in Dubai's and the UAE's journey towards building a knowledge-based future economy, employing advanced technology in all development sectors and contributing to creating an inclusive scientific and intellectual movement."

Read more on Gulf News

Saudi Arabia celebrates 3 centuries of glorious history on Founding



For the first time, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia celebrated the anniversary of the Founding Day of the first Saudi State on 22nd February 2022.

Saudi Arabia's King Salman said that Founding Day was a celebration of the history of a country, the cohesion of a people, and steadfastness in the face of all challenges. The king said in a tweet that celebrating this anniversary was also an aspiration to the future.

The king had issued a royal decree designating February 22 as Founding Day, to recognize the foundation of the First Saudi State in 1727 by Imam Mohammed bin Saud.

Congratulations poured in from world leaders as cities across the Kingdom have organized activities and events over three days to mark the first Founding Day.

Read more: Saudi Arabia celebrates its Founding Day

Bahrain International Airport gets 5-star Skytrax rating



The Bahrain International Airport has been certified as a 5-Star Airport by the international air transport rating agency Skytrax, becoming the third airport in the Middle East to achieve this highest quality rating.

The rating includes direct services for departures, arrivals, and diverted flights, including airport facilities and customer services, security, immigration, and retail, as well as food and beverage facilities.

H.E Eng. Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed, the Minister of Transportation & Telecommunications and Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) Chairman, said: "This international-level achievement reflects the tireless efforts of the BAC team, our strategic partners, and airport service providers, as well as 'Team Bahrain'. They all strive to implement the highest international standards in their provision of services to travelers and airlines and their close supervision of the airport's facilities, to ensure operational continuity and the highest levels of efficiency and safety." **More on Skytrax**

Photo gallery: Rwanda National Day at Expo 2020 Dubai | 1 February 2022

