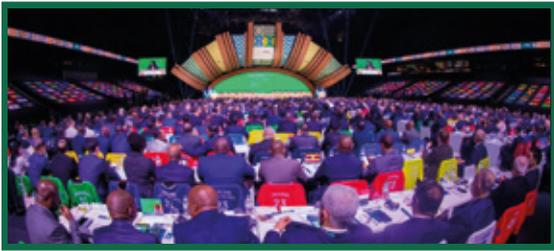




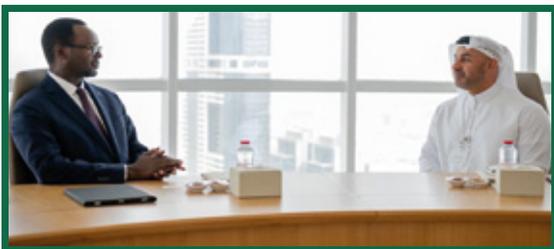
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## Rwanda hosts the 73<sup>rd</sup> FIFA Congress



Kigali, 16 March 2023 - Over 2000 delegates representing 211 FIFA members, head of Confederations and other global players in football gathered in Kigali for the 73<sup>rd</sup> FIFA congress.

In his remarks, President Kagame welcomed the new FIFA World Cup format under which the slots available for African teams will almost double, "creating even more engagement and visibility on our continent."

The Head of State further emphasised the need to borrow the sports' positive spirit into global politics

"What the world needs, is to see more of the positive spirit of sportsmanship in our politics, rather than bringing political divisions into sports" President Kagame said.

The 4<sup>th</sup> and the first-ever elective FIFA Congress held in Africa, re-elected President Gianni Infantino to serve a second four-year term as FIFA president.

On the sidelines of the congress, President Kagame was joined by President Infantino to unveil the Kigali Pelé Stadium as Rwanda became the latest member association to name a stadium after Pelé.

## Rwanda to host Africa Energy Expo 2024



On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in Dubai, UAE Informa Markets, organisers of Middle East Energy together with Rwanda Convention Bureau announced the launch of its latest exhibition, Africa Energy Expo, which will take place at Kigali Convention Centre in Rwanda next February. Joining a growing portfolio of events including Egypt Energy and Nigeria Energy, the new Africa Energy Expo aims to back Africa's COP27 climate pledges and serve as a scene-setter to the Africa Power Vision by bringing together key energy stakeholders from around the globe, increase the level of international support, and facilitate access to modern, affordable, sustainable energy in Africa.

Speaking at a press conference on the sidelines of Middle East Energy at Dubai World Trade Centre, Emmanuel Hategeka, Rwandan Ambassador to the UAE, said there are several reasons why Rwanda is the "ideal destination" for such an event.

"We are delighted to host this event in Rwanda, a country that has made positive advancements in the energy transition to renewables but is also the second most attractive MICE destination on the continent," said Ambassador Hategeka.

He added: "Over the past two decades, we have consciously invested in the stability, safety as well as infrastructure of the country and ensured that Rwanda is an open-to-business nation. We are one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa with a pre-pandemic GDP growth of around 8 percent per year, having shown resilience throughout the pandemic and a strong bounce back. By investing in a national airline that is connecting the country to the world, implementing policies such as visa-on-arrival for tourists from around the globe to building a new airport to accommodate the growing tourism traffic, Rwanda is the go to place for leisure and MICE on the continent":

Leveraging the 48-year heritage of leading energy events in the MEA region, Africa Energy Expo will help build a network of government and regulatory authorities, investors, contractors, project financiers, distributors, local manufacturers, and more to gather and start the groundwork for developing cost-effective energy solutions, bridge the investment gaps, and finalise the next steps of implementation.

Commenting on the launch of the new portfolio, Azzan Mohammed, Exhibitions Director – Energy, MEA, Informa Markets, said: "Through this expanded portfolio, we intend to provide our exhibitors with better access to stakeholders and ultimately facilitate their growth in the African market – which currently holds incredible potential for transformational change and better access to electricity for Africa's population. With Africa's energy sector playing a key role in bringing together the pan-African audience for the shows in this new portfolio, we look forward to exploring what the region has to offer."

## Amb. Hategeka speaks at the 48<sup>th</sup> Energy conference in the Middle East in Dubai



On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka spoke at the 48<sup>th</sup> Energy conference in the Middle East in Dubai. The ambassador shared perspectives from Rwanda on Energy Transition and invited energy leaders to explore potential investment opportunities in Rwanda.

"Devising the best route through the energy transition is crucial as the world unites to mitigate climate change while offering sustainable and affordable energy sources," Amb. Hategeka said.

He noted that promoting the energy sector necessitates mobilizing investment and directing it where most needed and profitable, adding that the African continent is rich in renewable energy sources- many of them underutilized today- and the investment potential is so much more appealing.

The Ambassador told the gathering that Rwanda believes that renewable energy is part and parcel of sustainable transformation and this is anchored in the national vision of becoming a green, climate-resilient, and low-carbon economy by 2050.

On Rwanda's investment opportunities, the Ambassador said: "Rwanda offers investment opportunities with competitive incentives. I invite energy leaders and innovators to Rwanda as a launch pad for your innovations or investment expansion including new technologies that will increase access and affordability of renewable energy on the continent."

## Amb. Hategeka, UAE Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs discuss strengthening collaboration



On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka met with H.E. Abdullah Lootah, Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Competitiveness and Experience Exchange. The two sides discussed areas of cooperation within the framework of the MoU on Government experience exchange recently signed between the two countries.

## Amb. Hategeka meets with the Director General of Economic and Trade Department at MOFAIC



On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka met with H.E. Ahmed Abdulla Burhaima, Director General of Economic and Trade Department at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC). Discussions focused on strengthening cooperation between Rwanda and UAE across areas of mutual interest.

## Gender equality, Rwanda and UAE shared value- Ambassador Hategeka



On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Rwanda joined the United Arab Emirates and the rest of the world in spotlighting the remarkable progress in gender equality as the global community marks the International Women's Day.

The celebration came at a time when gender equality continues to gain momentum in the two friendly countries. Women in Parliament 2022 Report by the Inter-Parliamentary Union ranks Rwanda and the UAE among the world's six countries with gender parity in their lower or single house as of 1 January 2023.

Reflecting on Women's Day, H.E. Emmanuel Hategeka, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the UAE said.

"Rwanda and UAE share commitment to gender equality and our two countries continue to be gender champions in their respective regions and globally as indicated in the Inter-Parliamentary Union 2022 report. Gender equality is enshrined in the longstanding vision of our two countries and is backed by good leadership. This International Women's Day is a reminder that gender equality is a fundamental right and a backbone to just and inclusive development."

Rwanda and the UAE have unleashed women potentials through strong policies and regulatory frameworks. Rwanda's constitution provides a requirement of a minimum quota of at least 30% of women in decision-making institutions. Currently, Rwanda is ranked the first country globally to have the highest women representation in Parliament at 61.3%.

On the other side, the UAE Presidential directive providing that Emirati women must occupy 50% of the Federal National Council's (Parliament) seats is a testament to UAE's commendable commitment to gender equality.

In October 2022, parliamentarians from around the world adopted the Kigali Declaration Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world at the end of the 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda.

In Rwanda and elsewhere in the world, promoting and sustaining gender equality and equity is a continuous journey. There are some stereotypes and biases that need to be uprooted.

"Despite all the achievements towards gender equality, we still have common stereotypes and gender biases at the workplace, jobs and gender-based career orientation biases, behavioural biases that need to be eliminated right from the family level, at the national and global levels," Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka concluded.

## Rwanda's progress in gender promotion highlighted at American University in the Emirates



On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Second Counsellor Mrs. Ines Mutoni spoke at the Women in Leadership panel discussion held at the American University in the Emirates. She spoke on Rwanda's development in terms of female representation. Mrs. Mutoni also spoke on Rwanda being ranked the best place in Africa to be a woman and the 6<sup>th</sup> best place to be a woman in the world. The panel discussion highlighted Rwanda's work to empower women.

## Rwanda's airport among 10 best in Africa, 3<sup>rd</sup> best in region



Kigali International Airport has been ranked among the top 10 airports in Africa by the SKYTRAX World Airport Awards 2023, because of its excellent customer service and efficient operations.

The airport was also recognized as the third best regional airport in Africa, the fifth cleanest airport in Africa and had the sixth best airport staff in Africa, a testament to the airport's commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction.

According to SKYTRAX, the airport has continuously worked towards improving the quality of its services, which has paid off in the form of recognition and appreciation from its customers.

The SKYTRAX World Airport Awards is an annual event that recognizes and celebrates the best airports around the world based on customer experience, services, and amenities offered.

The World Airport Awards began in 1999, when Skytrax launched its first global, airport customer satisfaction survey. A central directive of the survey is for customers to make their own, personal choices as to which airport they consider to be the best.

The focus is to deliver a customer survey and airport awards process that is independent, impartial and global, and this ethos remains essential to all aspects of the survey and awards process.

Kigali International Airport is recognized for its excellent customer service and efficient operations, which have made it a popular choice among travelers.

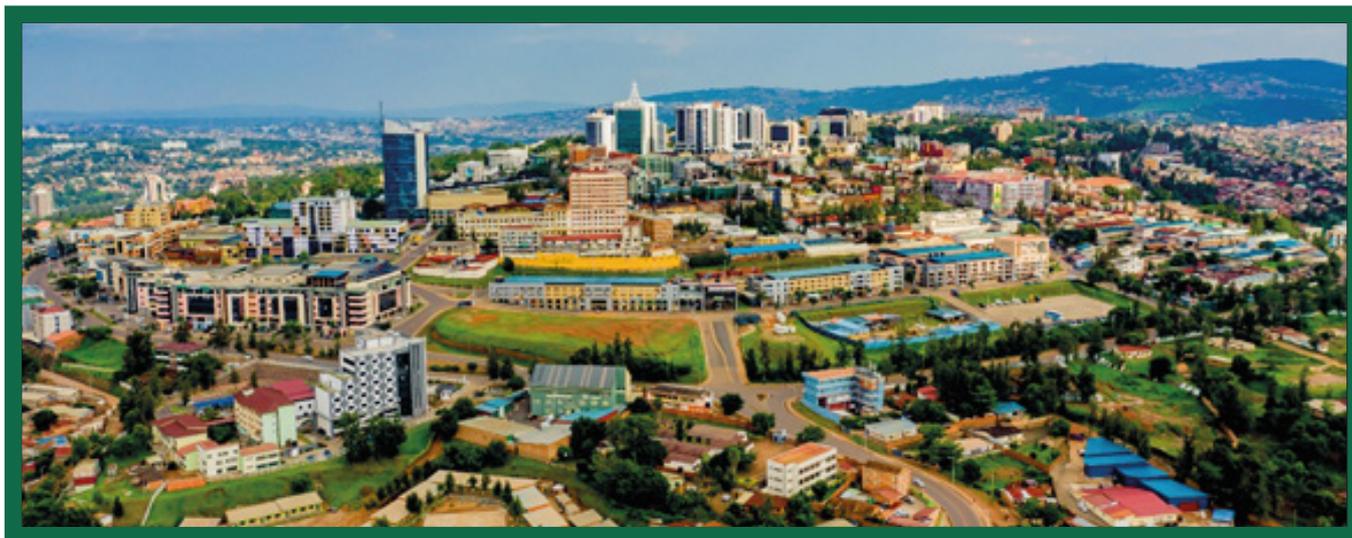
The airport's commitment to innovation and technological advancements has also played a significant role in its success, it has implemented several digital solutions, such as the pathogen monitoring program acting as a public health radar, to streamline the passenger experience and enhance safety and security measures.

There is also a state-of-the-art Bird Collision Avoidance System, to eliminate the risk of bird strikes, advanced weather forecasting instruments and up to date air traffic interface management technologies.

The airport prioritized sustainability, with its efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and promote eco-friendly practices.

The recognition from the SKYTRAX World Airport Awards 2023 is a testament to Kigali International Airport's commitment to excellence and innovation. The airport has consistently improved its services and facilities, ensuring that passengers have a comfortable and enjoyable travel experience.

## Rwanda's economy grew by 8.2% in 2022



Rwanda's economy grew by 8.2 percent to Rwf13,716 billion in 2022, up from Rwf10,930 billion in 2021.

This was announced during the launch of the country's GDP in 2022 by the National Institute of Statistics (NISR), on March 16.

Gross domestic product, or GDP, is a monetary measure of the market value of all final goods and services produced and sold in a specific time period by a country, generally without double counting the intermediate goods and services used in the process of production.

The growth announced by the national statistical agency was mainly buoyed by the service sector which contributed 47 percent to total GDP, followed by agriculture with 25 percent and industry with 21 percent.

This, according to Yusuf Murangwa, Director General of NISR, is derived from 7.9 percent registered growth in the first quarter, 7.5 percent in the second quarter, 10 percent in the third quarter, and 7.3 percent the fourth quarter.

In the services sector, hotel and restaurant services increased by 87 percent, transportation activities increased by 22 percent, technology and communication services by 20 percent, education by 17 percent, and tourism and retail by 14 percent.

In the industrial sector, output rose due to a 15% increase in mining and quarrying and an 11% increase in manufacturing output.

The output of the food processing industry increased by 13 percent, the output of the clothing and footwear processing industry increased by 21 percent, and the output of the metal processing industry increased by 7 percent.

Industrial production could have risen above this level but it was not the case due to the decline in construction activities which decreased by 6 percent.

Agriculture sector growth decreased by 1 percent due to poor production performance across all seasons for the lack of inputs and unfavorable weather conditions in the year.

On the other hand, private final consumption expenditure was 74 percent of GDP in 2022 while government final consumption expenditure was 17 percent. Gross capital formation was estimated at 24 percent of GDP.

In the year under review, imports of goods and services increased by 30 percent while exports of goods and services increased by 16 percent against an indicator of constant 2017 prices.

Minister of Finance and Planning, Uzziel Ndagijimana, said the published figures are a general indicator of overall activities carried out during the year, and changes may be reflected depending on different measures taken.

"What a household sees is a reflection of different activities that took place. If we say that the industry has gone up or hotels have risen at the rate of 47 percent, when you go out and find that they are all full it means that the life there has been better compared to the times of Covid-19," he explained.

The new GDP figures exceed the previously projected 6.9 percent growth, given the effects of high inflation felt on an individual level and across all sectors, globally.

# JURISDICTION CORNER

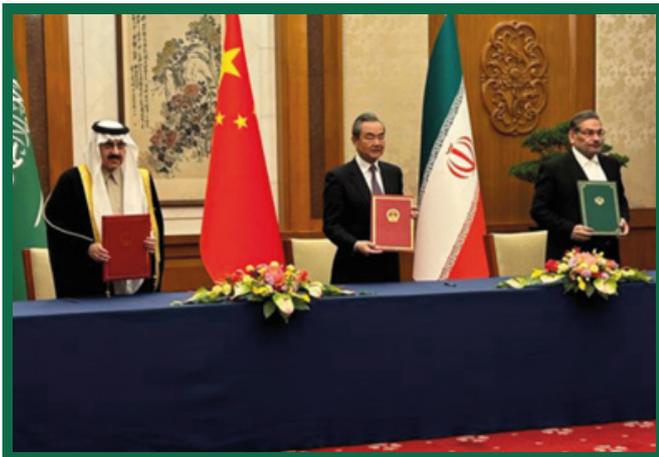
## UAE: Multiple entry permit now available to finish Golden Visa application procedures



Foreigners who wish to get a UAE Golden Visa can get a multi-entry permit to finalize the procedures in the Emirates. They must simply follow five steps to apply for the permit, the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security (ICP) explains on its website.

The Golden Visa is a long-term residence visa which enables foreign talents to live, work or study in the UAE while enjoying exclusive benefits.

## Saudi Arabia, Iran reach agreement to renew diplomatic relations



On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations and reopen their embassies within two months following years of tensions between the two countries.

The agreement came following talks that took place from Monday, March 6 to Friday, March 10 in Beijing. The two are committed to a meeting between ministers of foreign affairs of both countries to implement the agreement, arrange for the return of their ambassadors and discuss means of enhancing bilateral relations.

## Bahrain's economy expands by 4.9% in 2022, the fastest in a decade



Bahrain's economy grew by 4.9 per cent in 2022, the fastest pace recorded in a decade driven by an acceleration in non-oil growth, according to preliminary data from the country's Information and eGovernment Authority.

According to a statement from Bahrain's Ministry of Finance, the country's non-oil sector grew by 6.2 per cent in 2022, the highest growth rate recorded over the past ten years. It exceeded the 5 per cent growth target set under the government's economic recovery plan that was launched in 2021 in response to the pandemic.