



Rwanda Mission in UAE

NEWSLETTER

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The Embassy of Rwanda in Abu Dhabi

The General Consulate of Rwanda in Dubai

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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the fourth edition of Rwanda Mission in UAE Newsletter, informing you on the important activities happening in Rwanda and in countries of our jurisdiction.

This edition focuses on COVID19 response plus insights on key events that caught global attention in February 2021. The pandemic souring globally, has put mankind at test regardless of geographical location and has recalled us that power lies in cohesion, collaboration and strong leadership. Rwanda has deployed all means possible to contain the pandemic since the first case was detected, hence minimizing the impact of COVID19 pandemic. Education, Business and tourism are rebounding, thanks to the robust response.

Rwanda's response has focused on multi-sectoral collaboration, involvement of development partners and synergy in response efforts to contain and stop this global health crisis. The interventions and decisions are science and data driven. Efforts to address COVID-19 have also been through accelerating research, knowledge sharing, innovation and technology. The vaccination campaign rolled out in February 2021 added a new boost to Rwanda's response.

The government of Rwanda is keen on putting the health of citizens, residents and travelers first as sound and strategic measures in place chart course to business recovery. The fight against Covid19 is far from over but it is certain that Rwanda will prevail thanks to the spirit of the nation and strong collaboration at all levels.

Emmanuel Hategeka
Ambassador

Enjoy reading and please feel free to approach us for questions, suggestions, or if you wish to subscribe for upcoming newsletters via:

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Rwanda rolls out Covid-19 vaccination drive

The Government of Rwanda has kicked off the national vaccination programme for Covid-19, starting with health care staff as part of the high-risk groups, the Ministry of Health announced on Sunday, February 14.

According to Dr Ngamije Daniel, Minister of Health, about 30 per cent of the population will be inoculated by the end of 2021 and 60 per cent in 2022. The Health minister said Rwanda is in talks with partners and governments to acquire more vaccines for its about 13 million population.

The Minister of Health Dr Daniel Ngamije was administered the jab at the Masaka District Hospital in the capital Kigali on Friday, kicking off the exercise alongside World Health Organisation (WHO) country representative Dr Kasonde Mwinga.

Rwanda rolls out Covid-19 vaccination drive | The East African



Rwanda deploys more robots in Covid-19 fight

The government of Rwanda, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), deployed another set of robots in the country, in a move that seeks to strengthen national response to Covid-19 pandemic.

This is the second time the country deploys robots to minimise contact between frontline workers and persons infected with the virus and to help enforce safety guidelines at strategic points.

Rwanda to deploy more robots in fighting Covid-19 | The New Times | Rwanda



RwandAir to be the first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass

RwandAir will become the first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass to enable safe and seamless international travel. The airline will begin a three-week trial in April for customers travelling between Kigali and Nairobi in Kenya. IATA Travel Pass is a digital platform to help passengers easily and securely verify that they comply with COVID 19 test or vaccine travel requirements, in turn giving governments the confidence to reopen borders.

Developed by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the trade association for the world's airlines, the platform is designed to be incorporated into airlines' own apps, so travellers by air easily understand what they need before they fly.

RwandAir to be the first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass | RwandAir



Rwanda keeps Covid19 at bay, stimulates business rebound

COVID-19 spared no country but its effects are on different scales. Rwanda is among countries with low-level of COVID-19 transmission and safer to visit, thanks to robust response.

Rwanda has been lauded by the World Health Organization and international ranking entities for keeping Covid19 at bay and stimulating the rebound of all spheres of the economy. In January 2021, the Australian think tank Lowy Institute ranked Rwanda first in Africa and sixth globally in managing the Covid-19 pandemic and making the information accessible to the public.

Rwanda's nationwide preparedness and response to Covid-19 started in January 2020, with medical personnel deployed at points of entry for screening all travelers, and flights suspension from highly impacted areas to avoid potential spread of the virus.

In February and March 2020, a national taskforce was assembled, and guidelines were issued on physical distancing, hand washing, and other measures at major public buildings and shopping centers. A national case finding and testing strategy was in place prior to the first confirmed case reported on 14 March 2020.

In order to bring Covid-19 outbreak under control, Rwanda has followed the fundamentals from testing and contact tracing, isolation and treatment, public health measures to use of technology. The country has been conducting mass testing, for free, to establish the real status of Covid19 in the country.

A country driven by innovation and technology, Rwanda used technology in community awareness, contacts tracing and patients' treatment. Drones are used for community awareness and robots have been deployed for communication with patients, cleaning and disinfecting treatment centers, hospitals and places of mass gathering, a move that has reduced the risk of infection.

The early and rapid response allowed Rwanda to maintain low transmission rates, expect for clusters that were identified and quickly mitigated.



With a population of about 13 million, Rwanda counted a total of 18,850 Covid19 cases, with over 91.8% already recovered, test positivity rate and mortality rate at 1.4% each, as of end February 2021 Ministry of Health data.

Rwanda's efforts to contain the pandemic gained boost as the country rolled out the national vaccination programme for Covid-19 on 14 February 2021 and the Rwandan government plans to inoculate at least 60 percent of its population in two years to achieve herd immunity against the virus.

Reopening and business rebound

In the wake of Covid19 pandemic, the government decided to lock down the city and shut down borders, allowing the country to significantly contain the pandemic. It is understandable that businesses were affected and needed a swift and strategic action for economic recovery in the course of cautious and gradual reopening.

Rwanda rolled out Rwf200 billion Covid-19 recovery fund in June 2020 as part of Government efforts to support the recovery of businesses hardest hit by Covid19 so that they can survive, resume operations and safeguard employment, thereby cushioning the economic effects of Covid19.

Standard & Poor's (S&P) has maintained Rwanda's rating at "B+" in its rating released in February 2021. S&P observed that Rwanda's economy will gradually rebound in 2021; the GDP will

expand by 3.9 per cent in 2021 and by an average 7.1 per cent between 2022-2024.

Tourism reopening

Rwanda has announced the reopening of tourism activities as well as the resumption of international travel for visitors arriving by charter flight, effective 17 June 2020 and for visitors arriving by commercial flights on 1 August 2020. The land borders have gradually reopened and movement and trade resumed.

Reopening gates to international travelers moved with prevention measures to ensure passengers safety. All travelers are tested with PCR test before departure and on arrival. The Kigali International airport is equipped with staff and technology that ensure that health and safety of travelers are observed to the highest standards.

Rwanda received WTTC "Safe Travels" Stamp ahead of reopening, after announcing the return of commercial flights. The "Safe Travels" stamp means that Rwanda has adopted the global standardized health and hygiene protocols that were devised following the experience of WTTC members dealing with COVID-19.

Kagame pays tribute to Rwandan heroes



President Paul Kagame, on February 1, paid tribute to Rwandan heroes who exemplified and defended the highest values of patriotism and sacrifice for the wellbeing of the country and its citizens.

“The selfless dedication to our country of the heroes we honour today showed us what we can achieve. The nation we have is a result of their sacrifice. These are the values we must pass on to the next generations,” President Kagame said in a tweet.

The Heroes Day was celebrated virtually and on media platforms due to Covid-19 pandemic.

“This pandemic has shown us that we are all capable of heroic acts. As we continue the fight against COVID-19 we thank the front-line health workers, the security services for their heroic sacrifice and call on every citizen to keep each other safe,” President Kagame added.

Every year, Rwandans celebrate their heroes who portrayed values such as proven integrity, patriotism and bravery, setting a good example, truthfulness and love for others.

Kagame pays tribute to Rwandan heroes | The New Times

What To Expect At CHOGM 2021?

A Rwandan proverb says: “Two people working together are better than eight fighting against each other”. As a landlocked country, we know that regional and international cooperation is imperative to thrive and succeed.

Even more so, since COVID-19 has highlighted that in an interconnected and interdependent world, countries share a common destiny.

The accelerated international response to the current public health emergency is an illustration that when we combine our efforts, we have the capacity to prepare for future threats but also, to act on pre-existing ones. In that context, the Commonwealth, which has been a leader in environment and climate change that continue to affect communities around the globe, could also play a key role in ensuring equitable access to and distribution of fairly priced COVID-19 vaccines.

The 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

scheduled to take place in June 2021, in Rwanda, under the theme “Delivering a common future: connecting, innovating, transforming”, will be an opportunity for Commonwealth Leaders to reflect on new forms of global governance while also raising ambitions on key decisions taken during CHOGM 2018. It will also be the occasion to build unified positions ahead of key upcoming events, including the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) scheduled for early November 2021, in Glasgow, UK.

It is indeed time to put our words into action, by making our governance models more inclusive; by making our health systems more resilient; by ensuring our economies and trade attain sustainable growth; by strengthening our social protection systems; by taking bold action on climate and by unlocking the advantages of technology for development. We must adapt our national, regional, and international systems to respond to both current and pressing challenges and as our talented and innovative young people will inherit this world, we shall do it with them, rather than for them.

Let us build on CHOGM’s momentum, to strengthen existing strategic partnerships and alliances as well as build new ones towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other major international commitments designed to preserve global common goods. As we look ahead with optimism that the global health situation will improve over the next few months, Rwanda, as the youngest member of the Commonwealth family of Nations, is looking forward to welcoming all of you to your extended home.

Our national COVID-19 response has been focused on multi-sectoral collaboration and built upon regional and international responses. As we continue to strengthen our capabilities, be reassured that we will host you in a safe environment, in respect of all World Health Organization recommendations.



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Murakaza neza mu Rwanda! (Welcome to Rwanda!)

The author is Dr. Vincent Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

UAE Mars mission: History made as Hope probe enters orbit



The UAE made history on 9 February 2021 when its space agency joined an elite club of five countries that have sent a spacecraft to the Red Planet.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, personally thanked staff at mission control in Dubai.

Sheikh Mohamed said the bright young Emiratis who led the mission were "part of a generation that makes us proud".

UAE Mars mission: History made as Hope probe enters orbit | The National

Rwanda, a top destination in 2021

Rwanda is among the safest countries you can visit in 2021. As the world adapts to living with the COVID-19 pandemic, Rwanda has put in place health and safety measures and reopened its doors for tourists, offering safe and seamless experiences.

Some of the world's leading travel websites have featured Rwanda among the safest countries you can visit this year and shared the many exciting things you can do while visiting the country. Find out why Rwanda is ranked one of this year's hottest travel destinations according to leading travel publications at

Make Rwanda your travel destination in 2021 – Visit Rwanda



Plan your trip

and experience the best
that the Mother Nature
has to offer!