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## Rwanda has hope of recovering from Covid-19

### President Kagame

President Paul Kagame told Rwandans that there is a lot to be thankful for in the country and despite COVID-19 challenges on the social-economic lifestyles of many Rwandans, the future will be better.

Virtually addressing the annual National Prayer Breakfast on Sunday March 28, 2021 the President said that for leaders, the gathering is an opportunity to recommit to ensuring a successful recovery from the pandemic, through seeking wisdom to serve citizen.

“Even though we are preoccupied by COVID-19, it is right to take a moment to pray for what is most important for our country. We have a lot to be thankful for. We are especially grateful that Rwandans working hand in hand with leaders have managed to avoid the worst consequences of this disease,” he said.

The president further said that Rwandans should be thankful for the vaccines that allow them to now look forward to the future without COVID and to rebuilding our economy and called on leaders to take a lead in making this happen.

“We must go about our duties with a heart for those we serve. I hope that today’s prayer event will inspire all of us to raise our collective ambitions for our country. This will challenge us to do

more and do it better, make up for some of the time we have lost- that will surely be the best blessing for Rwanda,” Kagame said. To keep Rwandans hopeful of the future, the government has embarked on 60% population vaccination target worth Rwf52billion by 2022, and recently announced another economic recovery funding from Rwf100billion to Rwf350billion.

**Rwanda has hope of recovering from Covid-19 – President Kagame | KT Press**

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**H.E Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka handing his credentials to HH Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud Minister of Foreign Affairs, after official presentation to the King**

and his desire to strengthen bilateral ties between our two countries and our peoples," Ambassador Hategeka added. With residence in Abu Dhabi, Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka is also Rwanda's envoy to the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

**Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka presents credentials to the King of Saudi Arabia | Rwanda In UAE**

## Minister Biruta Virtually Meets With IRENA Director General

On 10 March 2021, Minister Vincent Biruta had a virtual meeting with Francesco La Camera, Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency to discuss ways of scaling up cooperation in the renewable energy sector as well as enhancing projects' coordination. The Meeting focused on Rwanda's ambitions for universal access and a 60% renewables share in electricity by 2030. DG Francesco La Camera pledged that IRENA will work to bolster national efforts through the Climate Investment Platform and Clean Energy Corridors.



## Dubai Expo2020: The wait over soon!

The long awaited Dubai Expo2020 is one step close to kicking off, attracting participants from across the World. A World Expo to be hosted by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, originally scheduled for 20 October 2020 – 10 April 2021, the wonder Expo 2020 will run for six months from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Expo 2020 Dubai will be the first World Expo ever hosted in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region. Through the theme of Connecting Minds, Creating the Future, UAE aims to host a World Expo that inspires people by showcasing the best examples of collaboration, innovation and cooperation from around the world.



Expo2020 is a golden opportunity for Rwandan businesses to make new connections and explore new markets. There will be more than 200 participating nations, multilateral organisations, businesses and educational institutions. 25 million visitors are anticipated over the course of the six-month event.

Dubai Expo2020 will be open seven days a week, from 10:00 to 00:00 on weekdays and 10:00 to 02:00 on weekends and special days. World Expos are one of the oldest and largest international events on the planet, taking place every five years and lasting six months. It is a festival for all, where everyone can experience, explore, innovate and have fun by sharing ideas and working together.

**Dubai Expo 2020 | [expo2020dubai.com](https://expo2020dubai.com)**

## Dubuy.com, a new e-commerce platform to boost access of Rwandan products to UAE and global market

Rwandan products are set to gain extended access to UAE and global markets following the first launch in Rwanda of Dubuy.com, an e-commerce platform.

The e-commerce platform will bring Rwandan products to the UAE, the Gulf Region and the global markets in general and will help enterprises from around the world invest in Rwanda.

As of the launch on Wednesday 3 March 2021, over 15 Rwandan companies and many more in UAE had registered on the platform. "I encourage more Rwandan companies to onboard and display their products. We are honoured that Rwanda is the first country of launch for Dubuy.com in the region. E-commerce platforms like this are needed now more than ever before as we respond to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic," Rwanda's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates H.E Emmanuel Hategeka said at the virtual launch.

The digital platform presents more advantages and can reduce the cost of trade. "This platform is a great addition to Rwanda's local and regional trade activities. As a country promoting manufacturing of products for export, we believe it will help us quicken the process of connecting buyers and sellers. We also hope that through the platform, we will be able to reduce on the overall cost of trade," observed Zephania Niyonkuru, Deputy CEO of Rwanda Development Board.

The launch of Dubuy.com comes after RDB and DP World signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December, 2020 to launch the new global B2B and B2C e-commerce platform.

### New e-commerce platform launched | Rwanda in UAE



## Rwanda, Dubai discuss business, trade & investment opportunities

Business to business ties, trade and investment flows between Rwanda and the Emirate of Dubai are set to gain momentum as both sides discuss ways of boosting their ties. During their meeting on 11 March, Emmanuel Hategeka, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Arab Emirates, and Hamad Buamim, President and CEO of Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry reiterated their keenness to strengthen and broaden cooperation between the two sides.

"Thank you Hamad Buamim, President and CEO of Dubai Chamber for a very productive exchange. Working together, we can do more to drive business between Dubai and Rwanda," Ambassador Hategeka tweeted after the virtual meeting.

Rwanda is a fast growing Trade and Investment Hub and a gateway to other countries in East Africa. With RwandaAir operating four weekly flights to Dubai and the capacity of Kigali Logistics Platform by DP World, there are more cooperation potentials between Rwanda and Dubai.

### Rwanda, Dubai discuss business, trade and investment opportunities | WAM

## A world Traveler in Love with Rwanda: Interview with Michelle Karam, TJD Founder

A nature lover, world traveler and influencer, Michelle Karam is beyond a tourist! Founder of TJD- an Adventure Travel Company, she first visited Rwanda in 2020 after the first Rwanda-UAE Tourism webinar organized by the Embassy of Rwanda in UAE in collaboration with Rwanda Development Board in last August. Through TJD, over 50 tourists visited Rwanda from November 2020. Michelle shares her memorable experience in the wonder nature and hidden gems everyone should visit in the remarkable Rwanda



Over 50 direct bookings made on TJD to Rwanda since last November

## Share a brief experience of your trips to Rwanda?

Our first trip to Rwanda was in October 2020. It was a detailed trip covering Akagera National Park and Volcanoes National Park. Rwanda has so much to offer with a great diversity and history. We learned about locations, wildlife, rules and regulations, the difference in each park, what they have to offer, and how Rwanda has worked towards promoting this incredible small country into a sustainable direction for tourism.

## You have facilitated many tourists with their trip to Rwanda.

### How do they feel on their tour?



We've made over 50 direct bookings on TJD to Rwanda, since November 2020 to March 2021, during the midst of a pandemic. That number is only direct bookings through TJD, the indirect impact that we have had is an unmeasurable number.

During their journey in Rwanda, our guests have been blown away by the nature, the friendliness of the people,

the delicious cuisine and activities. From our experience, our guests are almost guaranteed to return.

## Have you observed any impact of the UAE-Rwanda Tourism Webinar?

The UAE-Rwanda Tourism Webinar was an initial catalyst in our decision to expand our TJD offering to Rwanda. We can proudly say that TJD has directly increased bookings in Rwanda.

From December 2020 to March 2021, we have booked over 200 hotel room nights, 64 business class tickets with RwandAir, and had over 50 unique travelers. This has been possible through our consistent promotion of Rwanda. TJD has generated over 1,000 social media posts, explanatory blog articles, and worked with supporters to host social events and gatherings. With consistency in promoting, we have seen a huge shift in travelers adding Rwanda on their bucket list.

## Which hidden gems have you discovered in Rwanda?

Rwanda as a country is a hidden gem that we are exploring more and more every month! We first started with Gorilla Trekking then moved further along with the rest of the primates: Chimpanzees and Golden Monkey. I would definitely recommend the Golden Monkey trek to all. The playful encounters are energizing and should not be missed.

## Tell us about your food experience in Rwanda?

Rwanda's culinary experiences have exceeded all expectations. On TJD, we have met local chefs who have shared their cuisines and hands down, it has been one of the best experiences.

## How do you assess Rwanda's efforts to ensure safety and security of tourists during this pandemic?

On a global scale, Rwanda is at the forefront of managing this pandemic and the impact on the tourism industry. The policies Rwanda has created protect the local population, travelers and businesses, while at the same time providing safety to all. I am blown away at how the country has dealt with it, and grateful that we were able to succeed in a small country like Rwanda in generating sales into the economy.

## Do you have something more?

We also work very closely with NGO programs and have created our very own program on TJD called 'I See You' – A photographic and entrepreneurial project for children in Rwanda. We also work very closely with our guests, providing an opportunity where they can donate school supplies to children in a school in Kigali. And, finally, we support Wilderness Safaris and their projects in Akagera communities. These are ways in which as a company, we hope we can influence tourists not only to visit Rwanda, but to also be part of building and helping the community.

We would also like to create a space for anyone who wants to learn more about our CSR projects in Rwanda and the many ways you can contribute.

TJD offers curated luxury experiences in 7 destinations. You can find out more and book with us directly through our website at

[www.travelwithtjd.com](http://www.travelwithtjd.com)

**Full Interview: A world Traveler in Love with Rwanda | Rwanda in UAE**



## Rwanda absolutely ready for CHOGM – Commonwealth Boss

The Commonwealth Secretariat has given assurance that this year's Commonwealth Heads of States and Government's Meeting (CHOGM) scheduled for June 21st this year will take place as planned.

This comes amidst global uncertainty occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic as well as resultant measures to curb it such as travel restrictions. The meeting was initially scheduled to be held in Kigali last year but was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, Commonwealth Secretary-General told the press that they are committed to having the meeting held in Kigali as a face to face meeting. Rt Hon. Scotland was in the country for a three day visit to review preparatory activities as well as engage various industry stakeholders.

"Rwanda is absolutely ready. There are venues that have been constructed specifically for CHOGM. The CHOGM task force is monitoring, 100 per cent. I don't think we have ever seen a country as ready, prepared and hopeful as we have seen this time in Rwanda," she said.

**Rwanda is absolutely ready for CHOGM – Commonwealth boss | The New Times**

## Empowering women for a better world, not only smart politics but the right thing to do



Every year, on March 8th, countries and communities around the world celebrate the International Women's Day (IWD). This year, it is against the backdrop of a devastating health and economic crisis, resulting from the global COVID-19 pandemic that we marked the day. And like many other issues, women have been affected the most. A 2020 UN Women report -From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the wake of COVID-19, estimates that "the pandemic will push an additional 96 million people into extreme poverty by 2021, 47 million of whom are women and girls".

Despite the fact that they have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, women have once again demonstrated their courage, strength and resilience in the pandemic preparedness and response, in Rwanda, in the UAE and all over the world from the top leadership down to the communities and families.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact are a stark reminder of the urgency needed to step up action towards gender equality and women empowerment.

Tremendous effort and reforms have been deployed to change the status-quo inherited in the last two decades, including in Rwanda and the UAE and today we celebrate women in leadership positions across national, regional and global institutions.

In the most recent past, the world applauded the election of Nigerian Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation, the election of Rwandan Economist Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa as the vice-chairperson of the African Union Commission, the election of Hon. Louise Mushikiwabo as the fourth and current Secretary General of organization Internationale de la Francophonie and many more before.

One can draw parallels with the equally laudable successful Hope Probe Mission to Mars, a vision of the UAE leadership come true and the magnificent ground-breaking World Expo2020 officially starting in October of 2021 in Dubai both historic in the sense of the word with women leaders at the helm.

These women trail blazers continue to be the shining light that young ladies follow and emulate along their path. Undoubtedly, women ascension to decision-making positions works to reaffirm their potentials, the world trust in them and acts as a good opportunity to drive and support the gender equality agenda across nations.

**Read the Op-ed by Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka |The New Times**

## RwandAir becomes First African Airline to vaccinate all staff against Covid-19

RwandAir becomes First African Airline to vaccinate all staff against Covid-19

The national carrier RwandAir says it is the first African airline to vaccinate all staff against Covid-19, which will position the carrier as one of the safest on the continent. The drive comes just after RwandAir announced it will be the first carrier in Africa to start trialling the IATA Travel Pass in April 2021 to enable the safe resumption of international travel.

RwandAir is one of the world's fastest growing airlines and operates one of the youngest state-of-the-art fleets on the African continent. With a reputation for delivering a premium service to all its customers, RwandAir operates 12 aircraft with an average age

of just under six years. The airline currently offers services to 25 destinations across 21 countries throughout Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

**RwandAir Becomes First African Airline to Vaccinate All Staff Against COVID-19 – KT PRESS**



## Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka signed the condolence book of the late President H. E John Pombe J. Magufuli

On 22nd March 2021, Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka paid a courtesy visit at the Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania in Abu Dhabi and signed the condolence book of the late President H. E John Pombe J. Magufuli. He expressed condolences to the family of the great statesman, the people of Tanzania on behalf of the embassy and RCA in UAE.



## New KIFC brand unveiled to the world

Rwanda Finance Limited (RFL) on Wednesday, March 31 unveiled the new brand for the Kigali International Financial Centre (KIFC). The KIFC is poised to become one of the leading international financial centres on the continent, and has developed a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework, robust infrastructure, and a skilled and dynamic workforce that will help investors develop their interests across Africa.

Rwanda Finance is the agency mandated to promote the Centre. Nick Barigye, CEO of Rwanda Finance, noted: "our brand launch today brings bold ambitions to life and signals an important step in the journey of Kigali International Financial Centre.

We want KIFC to be a new destination for pan-African investment. We want to be the jurisdiction of choice for consolidating capital efficiently and deploying it effectively across the continent. We want

to connect international investors with opportunities across Africa, we want to connect African entrepreneurs with global capital, and we want to connect the people of Rwanda with the world".

The new brand reflects the vision of KIFC which is to build a bright future for Rwanda and for Africa, by creating jobs, education and professional opportunities for the Rwandan people and by transforming the investment landscape across the continent.

**New branding for Kigali International Financial Centre unveiled | The New Times**

## Rwanda Mission in UAE launches its website

It's live!! Excited to announce that the Mission of Rwanda in UAE website was launched on 24 March 2021!

Visit [www.rwandainuae.gov.rw](http://www.rwandainuae.gov.rw)

your information super highway for all you need to know about Rwanda, our cooperation with UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, consular services, trending news and more!

