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Kwibuka 29: There is no hiding place from facts of our history – Kagame



H.E President Paul Kagame said there is no hiding place from historical facts of the Genocide, even for those who want to distort them. President Kagame shared the message while speaking at the Kigali Genocide Memorial as the country started the 29th commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Every year on April 7, Rwandans and friends of Rwanda come together to honor the more than a million innocent lives lost within just 100 days. Joined by different government officials, members of civil society, members of diplomatic corps, and friends of Rwanda, Kagame and First Lady Jeannette Kagame laid a wreath and observed a minute of silence in commemoration of Genocide victims.

Jean Damascene Bizimana, Minister of National Unity and Civic Engagement, went through the history from colonial times that led up to the planning and execution of the Genocide, with killings starting as early as in 1959.

He explained how the genocidal government carried out a process of recruiting young Rwandans to train them in military under what was called 'Civilian self-defense' in 1991, who were meant to be 'Interahamwe' executing the carefully planned Genocide.

Bizimana noted that Rwanda is still battling effects of Genocide ideology, even traceable in the Great Lakes Region. "Genocide ideology is still lingering in the region. FDLR genocidal militia has not yet been eradicated, the Congolese government supports hatred and killings of Congolese Tutsi," Bizimana said.

Kagame said that from the facts shared by Bizimana and personal testimony of Eric Mwirerwa - a genocide survivor-, the truth of the matter is what has always been said, you can run but can't hide. "There is no hiding place for you from these very facts of our history."

Kagame's remarks followed a testimony of Mwirerwa who recounted how he fled to an Anglican church in Rusororo sector, and witnessed more than 15,000 Tutsi killed by the genocidal army and Interahamwe, and the death of his family members. **Read more on The New Times**

Kwibuka 29 in UAE: World urged to unite in the fight against genocide denial and revisionism



The Rwandan Community in the United Arab Emirates, Government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and friends of Rwanda convened on May 13 in Dubai to commemorate the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

The commemoration event was an occasion to honor the memory of genocide victims, pay tribute to the resilience of survivors, reflect on Rwanda's reconstruction, and call for a renewed commitment to Never Again.

Addressing the audience of over 300 attendees, H.E Emmanuel Hategeka, Rwanda's outgoing Ambassador to the UAE reminded the gathering that the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi was a culmination of a long-term extermination agenda of which seeds were sowed under the infamous colonial divide-and-rule policy and amplified by the two successive regimes post-independence in the 1960s, targeting one group-the Tutsi.

"As part of testing the genocidal plan, many Tutsi families were forced to exile without the right to return. Scores were killed on many occasions from 1959 up to the climax of the 1994 Genocide," the Ambassador explained.

He went on to remind the enablers of Rwanda's remarkable turnaround: "Modern-day Rwanda came from a devastated state in 1994 - with a blighted socioeconomic and political fabric- to a united, continuously developing country with a promising future. We had to make very difficult choices along the way. We thank the sacrifices of selfless survivors who gifted us with forgiveness and opened up to reconciliation. We pay tribute to the selfless men and women led by President Paul Kagame that fought the genocidal regime and stopped the genocide against the Tutsi," Amb. Hategeka said

Reflecting on the need to fight genocide denial, the Ambassador told the audience that it would be a costly mistake to stay tight-lipped in the face of genocide denial, the last stage of genocide.

He observed: "Today, we still see some groups of deniers and revisionists, at times masquerading as experts who continue to spread false narratives with the aim to distort history. Today, bells of hate speech continue to ring in different parts of the African continent and the world. That is the precursor to the worst humanity could face. This 29th commemoration of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi should serve as a wake-up call to the international community to counter genocide denial with unity and full resolve."

The Ambassador also highlighted that bringing to book genocide fugitives is equally unfinished work that necessitates international collaboration, calling upon all nations to spare no efforts to apprehend all genocide suspects still at large and put in place laws that criminalize genocide ideology.

H.E Dr. Fahad Al Taffaq, Director General of Africa Affairs Department at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation expressed UAE's solidarity with Rwanda and genocide survivors: "We gather here today to commemorate and share our thoughts with Rwanda on the 29th anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. My heart and prayers go out to the survivors who continue to live with the trauma of the genocide and to the families who lost their loved ones. As we reflect on the past it is important that we also commit ourselves to the future in which such atrocities will not happen again. We must strive to build a society that is founded on principles of unity and reconciliation".

The commemoration event also included the testimony of Grace Mukasekuru, a genocide survivor who narrated the harrowing ordeal she went through during the genocide and how she found strength and hope to build a new life.

Under the theme "Remember-Unite-Renew" the commemoration period, which started on April 7, 2023 runs for 100 days until July 4.

Read the Ambassador's full Speech

President Kagame, Saudi Ministers discuss expanding bilateral partnership



President Kagame met with HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accompanied by H.E Faisal Alibrahim, the Minister of Economy and Planning on the sidelines of Qatar Economic Forum.

The meeting explored areas for expanding bilateral partnership and the opportunities for stable investments in Rwanda, including in infrastructure projects. They also discussed the request for Rwanda's support for Saudi Arabia's bid to host World Expo 2030.

UAE leaders extend condolences to President of Rwanda over floods victims



President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan sent a message of condolences to H.E Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, over the victims of the recent floods that hit the country, wishing a speedy recovery to all the injured.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, also dispatched similar messages to the Rwandan President.

Read more on WAM

Secretary General of GCC Condoles Rwandans on the Victims of Floods



The Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassem Mohamed Al-Bidaiwe, expressed profound condolences to the Republic of Rwanda on the victims of floods which hit a number of areas in the northern, southern and western parts of the country, resulting in several injuries.

In a press release, the Secretary General of the GCC expressed sincere condolences and sympathy to the government and people of the Republic of Rwanda and the people and relatives of the victims, wishing the injured a quick recovery. **Read more on SPA**

Ambassador Hategeka bids farewell to officials in Saudi Arabia



On 2nd May 2023, Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka paid a farewell courtesy call on H.E Abdulmajeed R Alsmari, Deputy Minister for Protocol Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

They appreciated the good relations between Rwanda and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the shared commitment to strengthen their relations further.

While in Riyadh, Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka paid a farewell courtesy visit to Digital Cooperation Organization and met with Her Excellency Deemah Al Yahya, Secretary General of the Digital Cooperation Organization. Discussions focused on fast-tracking cooperation initiatives in digital technologies.

Amb. Hategeka meets the Rwandan Community in Riyadh



On 2nd May 2023 during his farewell visit to Saudi Arabia, Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka took the opportunity to meet and engage some members of the Rwandan community based in Riyadh. He reminded them to always uphold Rwandan values wherever they are and whatever they do for themselves and their country.

Rwanda showcases tourism offerings at 30th Arabian Travel Market



Rwanda participated at the 30th Arabian Travel Market (ATM) that took place from 1 – 4 May 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

The Arabian Travel Market is the largest travel and tourism event in the Middle East, with more than 2,000 exhibitors and representatives from over 150 nations from all around the world attending.

Rwanda's participation at the Arabian Travel Market is part of the country's efforts to showcase its tourism attractions to the world.

The Rwandan delegation at the events include officials from the Rwanda Development Board and Rwanda's Embassy and Consulate in the UAE, RwandAir and 10 tour operators and hoteliers.

These are Primate Safaris, Gorilla Expedition Safaris, Pure Africa Tours, Simba Voyages Ltd, Jambo Travel and Tours Limited, Gerry Tours Safaris, UberLuxe Safaris, G-Step Tours, Luxury Africa Tours, and Akagera Rhino Lodge.

Along the margins of the market, the delegation also held a trade networking session with travel and tour agents.

Speaking on Rwanda's participation, the Tourism Promotion Manager, Rwanda Development Board, Linda Mutesi, said, "We are excited to participate at the Arabian Travel Market and to showcase Rwanda's tourism potential to the world. This platform provides Rwanda's tour operators and travel agents an opportunity to connect with their international colleagues and foster new business relationships. We believe that Rwanda has a lot to offer to tourists, and we are committed to promoting our country as a top tourist destination."

Read more on [RwandaInUAE](#)

Amb. Hategeka, IRENA DG discuss opportunities to accelerate Energy Transition



On 25th May 2023, Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka paid a courtesy call on Francesco La Camera, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The Ambassador appreciated the good collaboration and shared updates on Rwanda's renewable energy initiatives.

The DG expressed gratitude for Rwanda's valuable contribution as IRENA Council Member and welcomed Rwanda as IRENA's 14th Assembly President Designate and reaffirmed commitment to supporting Africa's energy transition.

Second Counsellor Inès Mutoni participates in the 25th IRENA Council Meeting



Second Counsellor Inès Mutoni joined over 300 delegates from 113 countries who attended the 25th Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) from 23-24 May in Abu Dhabi-UAE.

Delegates discussed steps to accelerate the energy transition pathway ahead of COP28. Ms. Ines shared Rwanda's progress in renewable energy deployment and opportunities for partnership and financing in the sector.

Amb. Hategeka appreciates the Mission Team at Labor Day Celebration



Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka hosted the Embassy and Consulate Team for a belated Labor Day celebration. It was an opportunity to appreciate the staff for their hard work, team spirit and unwavering commitment to boosting Rwanda's relations with the UAE and the whole jurisdiction.

The staff took the occasion to appreciate the Ambassador for his good leadership and the achievements registered by the Mission in the past four years. They wished him all the success as he prepares to embark on his new assignment as Rwanda's Ambassador to South Africa.

During the Labor Day celebration, Team RwandaInUAE selected Pierre Muyombano, Communication Specialist at the Embassy as the Employee of the Year 2022-2023. He received from the Ambassador a certificate of appreciation. This Year's award of the Best Employee of the Year followed as a similar recognition last year during which Amb. Emmanuel awarded Ms. Noor Ahmed, Communication and Trade Officer at the General Consulate of Rwanda in Dubai a certificate of Best Employee of the Year 2021-2022.

Rwandan culture showcased at the 11th Madinah Festival



Rwanda was among 80 countries represented at the 11th Madinah Festival taking place from 03-13 May 2023 at the Islamic University of Madinah in Saudi Arabia. Rwandan students at the university are using the festival to showcase Rwanda's culture and Made in Rwanda products.

Rwanda's exports up by 40%



Rwanda's exports of goods and services increased by 40.5% (\$2.1B) in 2022 compared to 2021. Rwanda exported to DR Congo goods worth \$154.9M. Meanwhile, Rwandair transported 3,744 tons of cargo, with the majority of shipments to Dubai, Belgium, and the UK.

Total exports of goods and services recorded a significant increase in 2022, reaching \$ 2.9 billion to account for a growth of 40.5 percent, up from \$2.1 billion in 2021.

According to the latest Rwanda Development Board (RDB) annual report, in 2022, Rwanda saw a "notable increase" in its service export receipts, which amounted to \$853.1 million, marking a 47.3 percent increase compared to 2021.

"This increase was primarily driven by the recovery of the travel industry," the report reads in part.

Rwanda's merchandise export receipts amounted to \$2.1 billion, representing a 37.8 percent increase compared to 2021, with RDB attributing the growth to "the strong performance of the country's manufacturing activities." **Read more on The New Times**

JURISDICTION CORNER

UAE Cabinet approves 78 eco-friendly initiatives for COP28



The UAE has approved 78 eco-friendly projects and initiatives in preparation for COP28, which will take place at Expo City Dubai in November. These include national strategies to reduce carbon footprint and regulate the use of solar power products, as well as sustainable tourism, among others.

The initiatives were approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, on Wednesday.

Read more on Gulf News

Saudi Arabia launches e-visa initiative

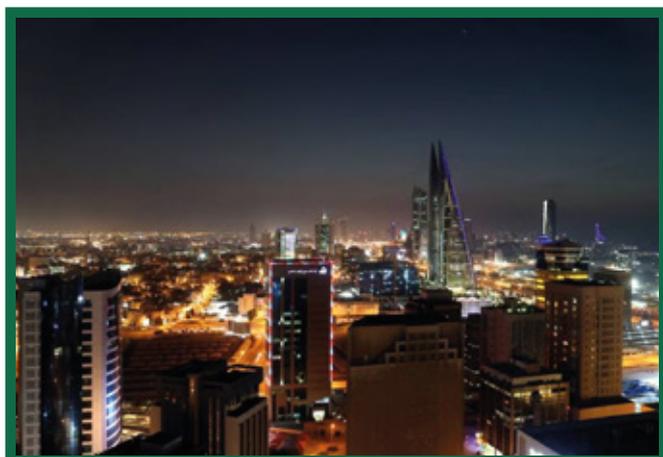


Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry launched an initiative for issuing e-visas at some missions of the kingdom abroad.

The initiative replaces the visa strip on passport with an e-visa whose data can be read via the Quick Response (QR) code, it added. The country is seeking to diversify its oil-reliant economy and attract more foreign visitors.

An e-visa can be done online from anywhere around the world. This takes the hassle out of the visa application process. In addition to this e-visas are usually processed within a short amount of time. Therefore, by Saudi Arabia introducing an e-visa, it saves visitors time and money.

Bahrain plans international commercial court based on Singapore model



Bahrain plans to establish a court for transnational commercial disputes called the Bahrain International Commercial Court based on the Singapore International Commercial Court model, the Bahrain and Singapore Courts said in a statement on Wednesday.

Read more on Reuters