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Prime Minister Ngirente attends the World Government Summit in Dubai



On 13th February 2023, Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente, participated in the 9th Edition of the World Governments Summit that took place in Dubai from 13th to 15th February 2023.

This Summit was held under the theme “Shaping the Future of Governments”. Prime Minister delivered a main address on “Accelerating innovation: Rwanda’s model” during the plenary session of the Summit.

In his address, Prime Minister shared with participants Rwanda’s efforts to accelerate innovation and technology, focusing on a few areas that have been key to Rwanda’s transformation journey. These include digital technology, infrastructure development, modernization of agriculture and human capital development.

The Premier revealed that these efforts led to tangible results whereby from the year 2000, Rwanda has sustained its annual economic growth at an average exceeding 7% and the GDP per capita has more than tripled.

He noted that the present and future of humanity is being shaped by technology and innovation, adding that Rwanda is making this reality the focus of its journey towards economic development and transformation

On the sidelines of this Summit, Prime Minister Ngirente along with Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the United Arab Emirates witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Rwanda and the UAE.

Rwanda and UAE sign an MOU on exchange of government experience



On 13th February 2023, on the side-lines of World Government Summit in Dubai, on behalf of the Government of Rwanda, Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka signed the MoU in the field of improvement and development of government activities in the presence of Rt. Hon. Dr. Édouard Ngirente, Prime Minister of Rwanda and H.H Lt. Gen. Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the United Arab Emirates

The bilateral cooperation aims to share the best practices and successful experiences developed by the two governments in promoting institutional excellence, work quality, government innovation, and better service development.

Rwandan Prime Minister visits Museum of the Future



The Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda Edouard Ngirente visited the Museum of the Future for a tour along with a Rwandan delegation.

The tour showcased the museum's most prominent features, including its iconic design and unique experiences and highlighting its vital role in shaping the future and designing its ideas as part of the museum's efforts in creating a better future for humanity.

The tour was part of an official visit from Rwandan Prime Minister Édouard Ngirente, who is in the UAE this week for the World Government Summit 2023 held in Dubai from 13th to 15th February.

Rwanda elected for IRENA Assembly Presidency



Rwanda was on 15 January 2023 elected for the 14th Assembly Presidency of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) for 2024 during the 13th Assembly meetings held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The Assembly is the supreme organ of IRENA consisting of all 168 members of the agency. Being elected incoming Assembly President means that Rwanda will oversee its proceedings and be the champion of renewable energy dialogue throughout 2024.

Rwanda's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and Permanent Representative to IRENA Emmanuel Hategeka accepted the responsibility and said Rwanda remains committed to different initiatives within the framework of global climate action and targets.

"On behalf of the Government of Rwanda, I accept this responsibility with great honor, appreciation for the trust, and with full commitment to deliver towards the shared goal of advancing energy transition," Ambassador Hategeka stated.

He told the assembly that "We are at a turning point in the world's energy revolution in the face of a climate crisis. We must renew our commitment with an aim to achieve tangible results beyond business as usual."

The Ambassador underlined that Rwanda is committed to different initiatives within the framework of global climate action and targets, citing an example of The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol – signed on the 15th of October, 2016 in Kigali– a landmark milestone in global warming mitigation.

"Rwanda believes that renewable energy is part and parcel of sustainable transformation. This is anchored in the national vision of becoming a green, climate-resilient, and low-carbon economy by 2050," he said.

Rwanda targets to achieve universal access to electricity by 2024 with renewable energy constituting 60% of the energy mix. The current cumulative access to electricity is 75.3% and renewables have a share of 50.7% in terms of the energy generation mix.

Rwanda also targets to reduce the use of biomass to 42% by 2024 from the current 79.9%. "The use of solar energy, gas and other alternative sources of energy are critical in achieving this ambition," the Ambassador noted.

Rwanda's priorities in renewable energy – which offer opportunities for collaboration and private investment – include increasing energy generation from hydro, solar and new technologies for energy transition.

The Ambassador told over 1700 delegates at the Assembly that Rwanda offers opportunities for collaboration in renewables investment with competitive incentives. These include a variety of non-fiscal and fiscal incentives, tax exemption including VAT on importation of some Renewable Energy equipment, free repatriation of profits, preferential corporate income tax of 15%, corporate income tax holiday of up to seven years for energy projects producing 25MW with 50M USD investment, among many others.

With 168 member states and headquartered in Abu Dhabi, IRENA is a lead global intergovernmental agency for energy transformation that serves as the principal platform for international cooperation, supports countries in their energy transitions, and provides state-of-the-art data and analyses on technology, innovation, policy, finance and investment. Rwanda joined IRENA in June 2009 and has been an active member since then.

Amb. Hategeka meets Rwanda-based youth at IRENA Assembly



On 15th January 2023, Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka met students from African Leadership University who were in the UAE for the 13th IRENA Assembly and the ongoing Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. The Ambassador encouraged them to be champions of energy transition and sustainability.

Rwandans in UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain tipped on heroism



The Rwandan Community living in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain was on Friday 3rd February tipped on heroism as they convened for a virtual gathering in honor of National Heroes Day. Officials used the opportunity to call upon the community to be torchbearers of heroic values and strive for Rwanda's development. In his remarks, Rwanda's Ambassador to the UAE Emmanuel Hategeka urged the audience to spare no efforts in preserving the legacy of Rwanda's heroes: "Heroic values of integrity, patriotism, sacrifice and humanity should be your attributes in whatever you do and wherever you are. You should spare no efforts in building the Rwanda We Want and preserving the national image through business and new skills," said Ambassador Hategeka who is also Rwanda's Non-Resident Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

He tasked the youth to own Rwanda's future, noting that their contribution should start now through tangible activities and good attitudes. "Our youth should understand that Rwanda's future is in your hands and that being a hero starts today, not tomorrow. The heroes who liberated the country and children of Nyange have set a good example that heroism doesn't depend on age," Ambassador Hategeka explained.

Fight against false narratives

The Ambassador went on to add: "You should not stay silent when ill-intentioned people disseminate false narratives that seek to tarnish the image of Rwanda and its leaders. You have to come out and tell the truth because you better know your country with tangible facts." Addressing the gathering, Nkusi Deo, the Executive Secretary of the Chancellery for Heroes, National Orders and Decorations of Honour reflected on all attributes of Rwandan heroes through generations and told the community that it is their task to uphold and be inspired by the legacy of National Heroes. "You should emulate the good values that we find in all our heroes. Be good Rwandans in countries of residence, promote our cultural do's and avoid don'ts," Nkusi Deo noted

Learn good manners, not bad habits

The Executive Secretary of CHENO reminded diaspora members that they should pick only best practices. "Acquire wealth, new skills and good seeds for your country, Rwanda. Learn good manners and leave behind bad habits. Earn, save, and come back to build your country," he observed.

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Community members who intervened expressed their commitment to advancing Heroes' legacy in pursuit of a better future for their families and the country.

The National Heroes day is normally observed on 1st February in Rwanda but the Rwandan community living abroad organizes celebrations through February.

Rwanda Private Sector taps into investment and trade opportunities at UAE-Rwanda Business Forum 2023



From 21st to 25th February 2023, a delegation of 100 business leaders was in the United Arab Emirates for a week of UAE-Rwanda Business Forums and investment roadshows in four emirates: Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, and Dubai.

The Rwanda delegation was led by Hon. Clare Akamanzi, CEO of the Rwanda Development Board, together with Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka and Rwanda's Private Sector Federation Ag. Chairperson Jeanne Francoise Mubiligi and CEO Stephen Ruzibiza.

The roadshows provided a match-making platform for fostering partnerships between Rwandan and UAE business executives in sectors such as agro-processing, fintech & financial services, manufacturing, real estate, ICT, logistics, trade, hospitality, healthcare, and education.

The Ambassador of Rwanda to the UAE, H.E Emmanuel Hategeka noted:

"Rwanda and UAE enjoy excellent relations and bilateral trade and investment flows have been on an upward trajectory for the last four years. The UAE and Rwanda Business Forum and investment roadshows further brought together the two business communities closer. Indeed, this is the right time to reactivate economic exchanges in order to sustain the post-pandemic economic recovery."

The Chief Executive Officer at the Rwanda Development Board, Clare Akamanzi said:

"Building on this existing partnership, it is important to continue creating platforms such as this forum to collectively share insights and opportunities that will enhance trade and investments between our two countries."

She added: "The created enabling investment environment in Rwanda offers business friendly regulation, an efficient supported process, commitment to foreign ownership and multiple incentives for exporters and priority sectors. UAE investors are encouraged to consider investing in Rwanda in the sectors of their choice."

The acting Chairperson of the Rwandan Private Sector Federation, Jeanne Francoise Mubiligi said:

"These roadshows were a great opportunity for our local investors to engage with their counterparts in the UAE for potential trade and investment opportunities. Rwandans are already trading with the UAE and it is another great occasion to further our partnership."

PSF signed 5 MoUs with their counterparts in the Emirates that hosted the Business Forum including one between the Rwandan Private Sector and the Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce & Industry establishing the UAE-Rwanda Joint Business Council. This is meant to open a platform for a continuous partnership.

The UAE is one of Rwanda's leading trade partners. Over the last 10 years, trade has grown tenfold to US\$ 1.09 billion in 2022. On investments, there are 11 UAE companies registered in Rwanda with investment commitments valued at over US\$ 248 Million USD.

Dubai hosts the inaugural Visit Rwanda Golf Tournament 2023



The inaugural Visit Rwanda Golf Tournament Dubai 2023 was organized in Dubai on Saturday 25th February 2023, attracting 44 golfers from both Rwanda and UAE.

H.E Clare Akamanzi, Chief Executive Officer at Rwanda Development Board and Cabinet Member flagged off the tournament at the Dubai Hills Golf Club.

At the prize-giving ceremony, H.E Clare Akamanzi said: "This tournament is a key activity that will increase tourism between Rwanda and Dubai. Rwanda has unique touristic attractions for all categories of tourists including leisure, nature and culture lovers. I invite UAE residents to visit Rwanda for an unforgettable experience."

Speaking at the prize-giving ceremony, Stella Obinwa, the Director, Africa International Operations, Dubai Tourism said "We look forward to increasing tourism flows between Dubai and Rwanda. The Visit Rwanda Golf tournament is a duo move that will increase the number of tourists between Dubai and Rwanda."

H.E Emmanuel Hategeka, Ambassador of Rwanda to the UAE said "I congratulate winners in different categories. You played and really deserved to win! Those who played but didn't get any awards should not worry as the return leg in Rwanda will be your turn to win!" The Visit Rwanda Golf Tournament Dubai winners received trophies and other high-value awards including gorilla trekking permits powered by RDB, RwandAir Business class tickets and nights stay at One&Only Resorts in Rwanda. The next Visit Rwanda Golf Tournament will be played in Rwanda on a date that will be announced in the near future.

Rwandan Police Officers compete in SWAT Challenge 2023



On February 20th 2023, Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka welcomed the team of Rwanda National Police officers who were in the UAE to participate in the SWAT Challenge 2023 in Dubai. The team underwent various tactical and obstacle challenges that will test their skill and teamwork. The event is a wonderful opportunity for the Rwandan police officers to exchange ideas with other teams from around the world and learn from them.

Rwanda partners with DUBUY to boost coffee exports to UAE



Rwanda's coffee exports to the United Arab Emirates are expected to grow as the country partners with DUBUY, a B2B e-commerce platform by DP World to bring single origin high-quality Rwandan coffee closer to consumers in UAE and the Gulf region.

The prospects of coffee exports were echoed on Thursday 12th January at the Coffee Cupping and Testing event in Dubai, organized to celebrate and promote Rwanda Coffee, in the margins of the World of Coffee Exhibition that took place in Dubai from 11th – 13th January 2023.

Rwanda's Ambassador to the UAE H.E Emmanuel Hategeka joined leaders from DUBUY and Dubai Multi Commodities Centre as well Rwandan coffee exporters, UAE-based importers and coffee lovers at the event

The Ambassador said that Rwanda coffee is no stranger to UAE, as it was the highlight of the Rwanda pavilion during Expo2020 where the pavilion served all guests a free cup of coffee every day and hosted over 1.2 million visitors in six months.

He reminded of the UAE market potential as well as the impact of the cash crop on people's livelihood.

"First, coffee is one of Rwanda's leading traditional agricultural exports with annual revenues of over USD \$75 million supporting more than 355,000 smallholder families for their daily livelihoods.

Second, UAE is a major trade hub and Rwanda's leading trade partner. As a major coffee consumer society, coffee buyers from UAE and GCC cannot miss the opportunity to source single origin high-quality Rwandan coffee. This unique event brings the exporters and buyers together to sample the best of Rwanda's coffee and conclude supply deals."

Touching on logistics, the Ambassador said that trade logistics have been put in place. Dubuy.com, an e-commerce platform working with DP World dry port in Kigali as well as RwandAir that has already begun direct cargo flights to Dubai are facilitators of two-way trade flows between Rwanda and UAE.

In their remarks, Mahmood Al Bastaki, COO - Digital Trade Solutions, DP World and Saeed Al Suwaidi, the Director of Agri Commodities at Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) appreciated and recommend the Rwandan coffee while reiterating their instructions' commitment to promoting Rwandan coffee on the global market.

On December 16, 2020, Rwanda Development Board signed an MoU with DP World to launch Dubuy.com to link B2B and end-to-end destinations from Kigali to UAE. The platform was launched first in Rwanda in early March 2021. As of January 2023, in around 100 registered Rwandan sellers on DUBUY, there are about 20 top Rwandan Coffee sellers.

Coffee is grown in most provinces of Rwanda at an altitude less than 1900 m. It is uniquely known for its rich, aromatic, and natural flavorful profiles. It is sweet, strong-bodied, and rich in acidity, giving Rwandan coffee a special taste and aroma.

Rwandan coffee is exported under the national brand of A Second Sunrise and has won global awards and different accolades. In the fiscal year 2021-2022 alone, Rwanda's coffee export volumes amounted to over 15 million kilogrammes, and generated over \$75.5 million. That is an increase of about 23 percent in coffee revenues compared to the previous year.

Amb. Hategeka meets H.E Mohammad Lootah, President and CEO of Dubai Chambers



On 19th January 2023, Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka met H.E Mohammad Lootah, President and CEO of Dubai Chambers. The two sides committed to growing trade and investment flows through stronger B2B partnerships.

Amb. Hategeka meets the Executive President of Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government



On January 19th 2023, Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka met with Dr. Ali A. Sebaa Al Marri, Executive President of Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government. Both sides discussed cultivating a partnership between the school and institutes in Rwanda aimed at training for public administration. The Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government is a research and teaching institute in Dubai, which focuses on Public policy. The meeting highlighted opportunities of integrated education in Rwanda and expanding advanced training in those fields.

Amb. Hategeka addresses Kreston Middle East & Africa Conference



On January 24th 2023, Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka delivered a keynote speech at the virtual Kreston Middle East & Africa Conference. The Ambassador spoke on promoting cross-regional partnerships between Rwanda and the Middle East.

The Ambassador said that "If we have finance in the Middle East and enticing opportunities in African countries, like Rwanda, we need to match the two." He told the audience that Rwanda has positioned itself as a regional investment hub, and a launch pad to the entire African continent with competitive opportunities and incentives.

Ambassador signs the book of condolences at the Embassy of Türkiye



On February 9th 2023, Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka signed the book of condolences at the Embassy of Türkiye in Abu Dhabi - UAE. On 6 February 2023, a Mw 7.8 earthquake struck southern and central Türkiye and northern and western Syria killing more than 47,000 people and leaving one million homeless. The Ambassador expressed his condolences and sympathy with the Government and people of the Republic of Türkiye.

Second Counsellor Ines signs the book of condolences at the Embassy of the Holy See



On 5th January 2023, Second Counsellor Ines Mutoni, on behalf of the Ambassador signed the Condolence Book on the demise of the Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI at the Embassy of the Holy See in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Amb. Hategeka hosts the Mission team for an annual get-together



Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka hosted at his residence diplomats and staff of Rwanda Embassy in Abu Dhabi and General Consulate in Dubai for an annual get-together. It was an evening full of fun and reflection on last year's achievements as well as plans for 2023.

JURISDICTION CORNER

WGS 2023: World Bank's IFC, Abu Dhabi fund to invest \$1.5 billion in emerging market energy transition



The World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) investment arm will sign an agreement with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development on a joint \$1.5 billion investment in emerging markets' energy transition, the IFC chief said at the World Government Summit in Dubai on Monday.

UAE residency visas: 7 changes you need to know



Ever since the UAE's largest entry and residency visa reforms went into force in October 2022, several changes have come into effect. These reforms have streamlined procedures, expanded the long-term Golden Visa scheme; and introduced a new five-year residency called Green Visas.

Many other changes have been implemented recently, including an increase in fees for visa services and extended grace periods to exit the country after visa expiry. Read seven residency-related changes you need to know on Khaleej Times

UAE and Saudi Arabia drive GCC's 'significant improvement' in economic diversification



Gulf nations have made “significant improvement” in the diversification of their economies and have hastened their economic transformation policies after the onset of Covid-19, a study has shown.

The UAE and Saudi Arabia led the region over the past two decades, thanks to policy measures to develop their non-oil sectors, the latest global Economic Diversification Index (EDI) report released by the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government said on Tuesday.

Bahrain assumes the presidency of the Digital Cooperation Organization



The Kingdom of Bahrain has on Sunday 05 February assumed the presidency of the Digital Cooperation Organization in its current session 2023, during the General Assembly which was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.