



# NEWSLETTER

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## Rwandans, friends of Rwanda in UAE mark the 31st commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi



The values of unity and reconciliation that have guided Rwanda's remarkable recovery following the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi serve as a powerful example to the world. This was highlighted by H.E. Sheikh Shakhboot Bin Nahyan Al Nahyan, Minister of State in the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as he joined over 400 attendees, including members of the diplomatic corps, friends of Rwanda, and Rwandans living in the UAE for the 31st commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

Sharing his message of solidarity at the event held on April 7 in Abu Dhabi, H.E. Sheikh Shakhboot said, "We are with survivors who continue to carry the weight of unspeakable trauma. We stand with them in remembrance, sympathy and solidarity. The values of unity and reconciliation which have guided Rwanda's remarkable recovery serve as a powerful example for us all."

In his remarks, John Mirenge, Rwandan Ambassador to the UAE reflected on the root causes of the genocide, the significance of remembrance, the resilience of survivors, and the spirit of renewal that has defined Rwanda's post-genocide journey under the visionary leadership.

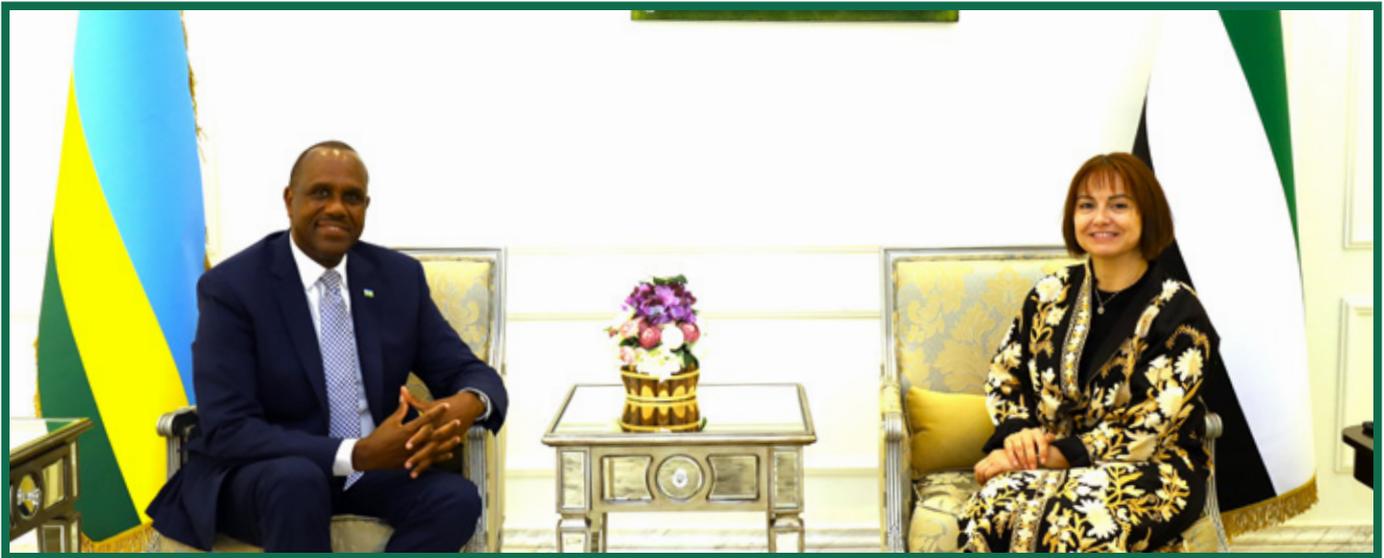
"We honor the over one million lives that were brutally taken during the genocide against the Tutsi. We must remember, for these were not just numbers. Each life lost was someone with dreams, ambitions, and a future. We also stand together in support of the survivors, to whom we feel deeply indebted and grateful. Despite unimaginable horrors and losses, they chose forgiveness and helped lay the foundation for our unity and reconciliation," said Ambassador John Mirenge.

He added: "Rwanda has chosen the path of unity and resilience, building our new nation on three main pillars of Unity, Accountability and Thinking Big. Our efforts in reconciliation, rebuilding and national unity have indeed paid off. Today, Rwanda stands as a beacon of hope and prosperity."

The Ambassador also underscored the continued importance of combating genocide ideology and denial. "We carry the solemn responsibility of preserving our history, safeguarding the progress we have made, and ensuring that the horrors of the past never return. As a global community, we must stand united in rejecting genocide denial, holding accountable those responsible, and ensuring that justice prevails. Only through truth, justice, and remembrance can we truly honor genocide victims and protect future generations."

Held under the theme, "Remember – Unite – Renew," the commemoration period began on April 7 and will continue for 100 days.

## Amb. Mirenge receives the UN Resident Representative for the UAE



On 09 April 2025, Amb. John Mirenge received Bérangère Boëll, United Nations Resident Coordinator for the UAE, for a courtesy visit. She conveyed her solidarity and reiterated the UN Secretary-General's support for Rwanda during the period of the 31st commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. The Ambassador and the UN Resident Representative for the UAE also exchanged on collaboration opportunities between Rwanda and the United Nations.

## Rwanda, UAE and Malaysia Centres for the Fourth Industrial Revolution sign a tripartite MOU



On 23 April 2025 at the Dubai AI Week 2025, Amb. John Mirenge signed a tripartite MOU between Centres for the Fourth Industrial Revolution of Rwanda, UAE and Malaysia. The MOU aims to deepen collaboration across the centres and continue the momentum built through the AI Fellowship Program.

This partnership will drive joint AI initiatives, from governance frameworks to talent development and innovation. It underscores the Government of Rwanda strong commitment to building inclusive, future-focused AI ecosystems.

## Amb. John Mirenge meets with H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy



On 28 April 2025, Amb. John Mirenge met with H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy. They appreciated the existing bilateral ties and explored avenues to further strengthen Rwanda-UAE collaboration, particularly in trade, investment, tourism, and within multilateral forums.

## Rwanda's Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources addresses the Netafim Leadership Forum in Abu Dhabi



On 04 March 2025 in Abu Dhabi, Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe, Rwanda's Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources addressed the Netafim Leadership Forum, where business leaders discussed precision agriculture solutions. He presented Rwanda's agriculture investment opportunities, highlighting key projects such as the Gabiro Agribusiness Hub.

## Rwanda to benefit from the Beginnings Fund launched in the UAE



On 28 April 2025 in Al Ain–UAE, Rwanda’s Minister of Health Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana, along with Ambassador John Mirengi joined the launch of The Beginnings Fund, a new initiative to improve maternal and newborn health in Africa.

Rwanda is among the 10 countries set to benefit from this new fund. Launched by a coalition of global philanthropies in partnership with ministries of health of the countries involved, “The Beginnings Fund” will operate in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Lesotho, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

It aims at pooling together resources and investing multi-year funding, with initial commitment from its founding philanthropies being to catalyse further funding from new donors, ensuring long-term sustainability.

The establishment of the fund is part of a joint philanthropic commitment of nearly \$600 million for maternal and new-born survival, including \$100 million in direct funding for initiatives that further the Beginnings Fund’s mission.

Among the organizations supporting the fund is the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity, the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation, Delta Philanthropies, The ELMA Foundation, Gates Foundation, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Patchwork Collective, and others.

With a focus on sustainability and local ownership, the Beginnings Fund will work in partnership with African governments, national organizations, and experts to prevent over 300,000 deaths and enhance access to quality care for 34 million mothers and babies by 2030.

**Read more on The New Times and Emirates News Agency**

## Rwanda's Minister of Health visits the Oncology Center at the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi



During his visit to the UAE, Rwanda's Minister of Health Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana, along with Ambassador John Mirenge, met with Dr. Stephen Grobmyer, Chair of Oncology at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. They discussed potential collaboration in cancer care, research, including advanced therapies such as Heavy Ion Therapy.

## Rwanda, Bahrain Ministers of Finance discuss collaboration opportunities



At Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group (WBG) in the United States of America, Rwanda's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Yusuf Murangwa along with Tesi Rusagara, Minister of State in Charge of Resource Mobilization and Public Investments had a bilateral meeting with Bahrain's Minister of Finance and National Economy, Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and his delegation. Their discussions included boosting tourism opportunities and advancing ICT collaboration to drive innovation and growth between the two countries.

### Minister Bagabe, E20 Senior Executives discuss investment opportunities



On 5 March 2025, Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe, Rwanda's Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, along with Ambassador John Mirenge, visited E20 INVESTMENT Ltd., an Abu Dhabi-based agribusiness investment company. He met with senior executives, led by Rahul Wagh, Director of Investments and M&A, to discuss investment opportunities and competitive incentives in Rwanda's agriculture sector.

### Minister Bagabe, Group 4 Holding Senior Executives discuss investment opportunities



On 5 March 2025, Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe, Rwanda's Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, along with Second Counsellor Ines Mutoni, visited Group 4 Holding, where they met with Chairman Mohamed Rashid to discuss investment opportunities and competitive incentives in Rwanda's agriculture sector.

## UAE participates in Global AI Summit on Africa in Rwanda



The United Arab Emirates participated in the Global AI Summit on Africa, held in Kigali, Rwanda, from April 3 to 4. The UAE delegation was headed by Dr. Mohammed Al Kuwaiti, Head of Cyber Security for the UAE Government. The summit brought together more than 1,000 participants, including policymakers, entrepreneurs, researchers, and investors from over 95 countries, with the participation of over 100 AI companies. The summit aimed to accelerate AI innovation and align strategic policies to enhance Africa's AI capabilities to achieve competitiveness and inclusive growth.

On the sidelines of the summit, Mohammed Al Kuwaiti, met with Paula Ingabire, Rwanda's Minister of ICT and Innovation and David Kanamugire, CEO of Rwanda's National Cybersecurity Authority, to discuss areas of cooperation in cybersecurity and digital transformation. The meetings addressed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in several vital areas, including protecting digital infrastructure, exchanging information on cyber threats, developing incident response mechanisms, and building national competencies and capabilities. The importance of data protection and raising cybersecurity levels was emphasized, especially with Rwanda's accelerating shift toward artificial intelligence and cloud computing, which requires a reliable and secure digital infrastructure.

The meeting also discussed the implementation of joint projects by Emirati companies in the fields of cybersecurity, secure artificial intelligence, and data analysis, which will enhance Rwanda's digital readiness and support the construction of a safe and sustainable technological environment that serves the development goals of both countries. **Read more on WAM**

## UAE Business delegation visits Rwanda to explore trade and investment opportunities



On 5 March 2025, Rwanda Government Officials hosted a delegation from the United Arab Emirates, led by UAE Ambassador H.E. Hazza Al Qahtani and Presight Senior Manager, Channel Partner Development, Shameem Backer. Discussions focused on trade and investment opportunities across sectors, including infrastructure, energy, and technology.

## Rwanda's exports to the United Arab Emirates surpass \$1.5 billion



Rwanda's exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) increased by 63.9 per cent, from slightly over \$951.2 million in 2023 to more than \$1.55 billion (approx. Rwf2.2 trillion) in 2024, shows Rwanda Development Board's 2024 report. The report indicates that the strong growth in sales to the UAE was key in driving Rwanda's overall goods export performance.

The UAE remains Rwanda's largest market abroad, with the Middle East nation accounting for 63.9 per cent of Rwanda's goods exports in 2024, according to the report indicated.

The data implies a seven-percentage increase in UAE's share of the country's [formal] goods exports compared to 56.9 per cent in 2023.

Rwanda's total goods exports amounted to over \$3.2 billion (approx. Rwf4.5 trillion) in 2024, meaning a rise of almost 30 per cent, given that they had generated more than \$2.46 billion in 2023. According to RDB, the figure includes informal cross-border trade (ICBT). The UAE's share does not include ICBT. **Read more on The New Times**

## Rwanda Showcases Tourism and Investment Opportunities at Arabian Travel Market 2025 in Dubai



Rwanda actively participated in the 2025 Arabian Travel Market (ATM), which took place from 28 April to 1 May in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Rwanda Development Board (RDB), in collaboration with Rwandan tour operators, travel agents, national carrier RwandAir, and the Rwandan Embassy in the UAE, highlighted the country's unique tourism experiences and investment opportunities to travel professionals from across the Middle East and beyond.

By engaging with travel professionals and potential investors, Rwanda seeks to strengthen its presence in the Middle Eastern market and attract more visitors and business opportunities.

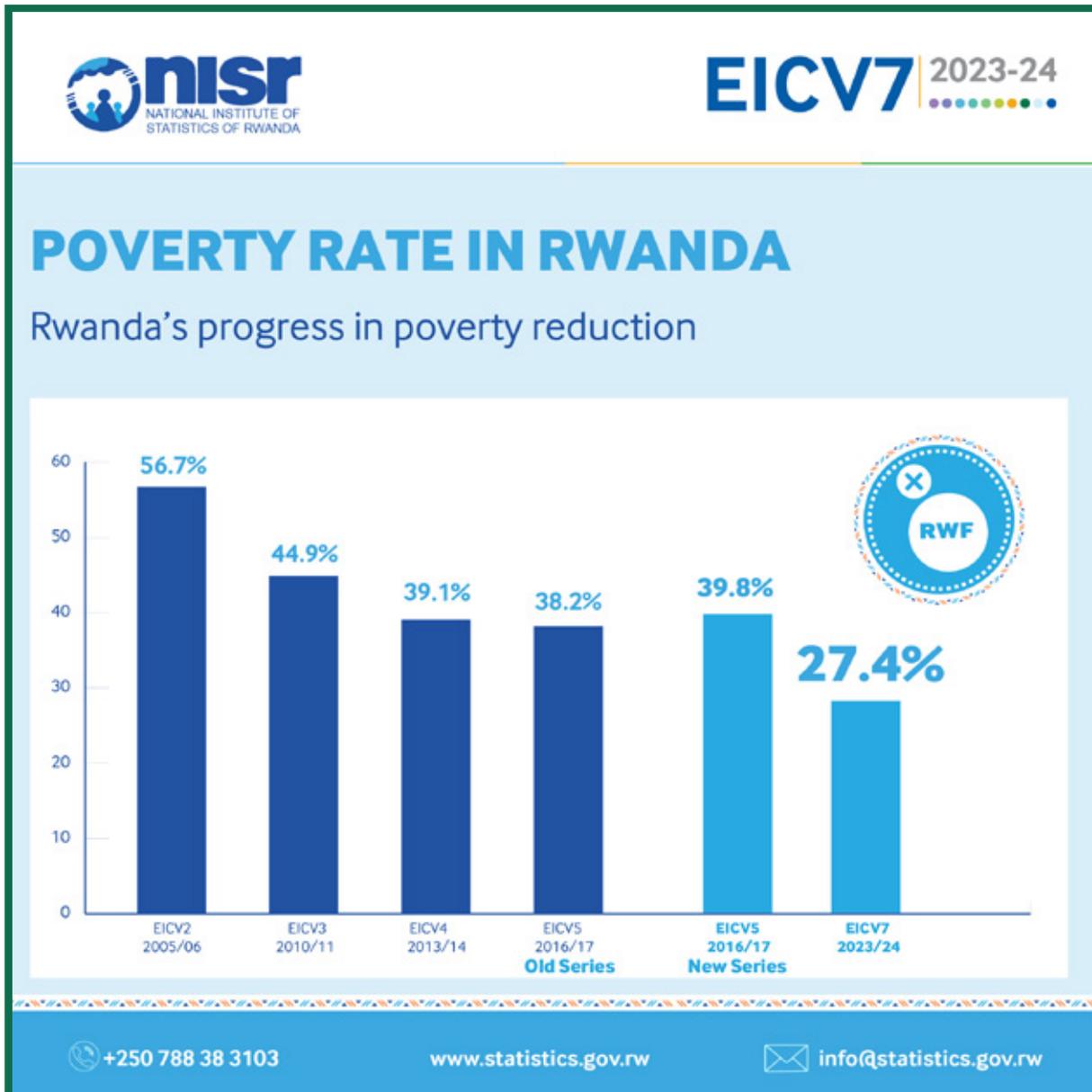
The Arabian Travel Market is a significant event in the global travel industry calendar, providing a platform for destinations to showcase their offerings to a wide audience of travel professionals and media. Rwanda's participation underscores its commitment to expanding its tourism sector and fostering international partnerships. **Read more on Taarifa**

## Ambassador John Mirengye engages Rwandan students in Abu Dhabi on their role in Rwanda's Transformation



On 14 March 2025, Ambassador John Mirengye welcomed Rwandan students in Abu Dhabi to the Embassy for an insightful conversation on their role in Rwanda's transformation. He encouraged them to strive for excellence as they contribute to the nation's progress.

## Rwanda Lifted 1.5m People Out of Poverty Since 2017 – Survey



The poverty rate among Rwandans dropped to 27.4 percent in 2024, from 39.8 percent in 2017, a new survey shows. The seventh Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey's (EICV 7) findings show that the data represents a reduction in poverty of 12.4 percentage points.

Approximately 1.5 million Rwandans came out poverty in the last seven years, between 2017 and 2024, averaging 214,000 individuals emerging from poverty each year. The poverty rate was lower in urban areas (16.7 percent) compared to rural (31.6 percent), the report showed.

Presenting the findings, Ivan Murenzi, the Director General of National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), said that poverty quite significantly decreased compared to the previous numbers.

"It means that 1.5 million Rwandans graduated from poverty, which is a significant progress," he said, pointing out that this improvement is related to advance in the living conditions of Rwandans, including nutrition. **Read more on The New Times**