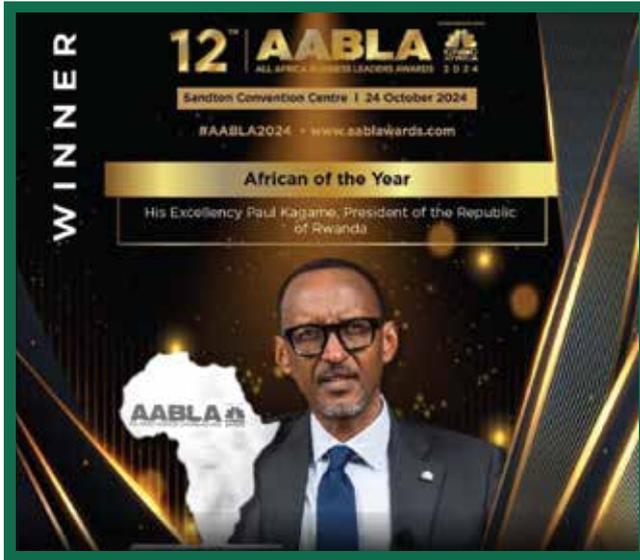




NEWSLETTER

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President Kagame awarded as African of the Year



On October 24, President Paul Kagame was named African of the Year, an award bestowed to an esteemed individual who embodies the spirit of growth and resilience that is driving Africa forward.

This is among the many awards given across different categories by All Africa Business Leaders Awards in partnership with CNBC Africa to honour remarkable leadership and salute the continent's business game-changers for their continuing commitment to excellence, developing best practices and innovative strategies.

"Their commitment to excellence and transformative leadership inspires us all to embrace the potential of our continent," said the organizers on the African of the Year award. With more than 10 categories, the award stands out as one of the African prestigious award. **Read more on The New Times**

Rwanda retains top place in visa openness in Africa



Rwanda is ranked the first country in visa openness in Africa, a position it has maintained since 2023 due to its visa-free regime, according to the latest report on Africa Visa Openness.

The authors of the Africa Visa Openness Index (AVOI) 2024 also ranked Benin, The Gambia, and Seychelles as leading countries in first place of visa openness for offering visa-free access to all Africans.

The report is a joint initiative of the African Development Bank and the African Union (AU) Commission.

AVOI measures the extent to which African countries are open to visitors from other African countries. It analyses each country's visa requirements to show which nations on the continent most facilitate travel to their territory.

The report indicates that the top 10 countries scored an average of 0.910. Eight countries decreased their score, 17 countries increased their score, and 29 countries maintained their score. **Read more on The New Times**

Rwanda among top performers in World Bank business environment report



Rwanda emerged among the top performers in fostering a welcoming business and investment environment, according to an inaugural World Bank Business Ready (B-READY) report unveiled on 3rd October 2024.

The first edition of the report, which replaces the previous Doing Business project, assessed the business environments of 50 global economies and focused on three pillars, namely regulatory framework, public services, and operational efficiency, with scores rated from 0 to 100.

Rwanda scored 81.31 in operational efficiency to claim the third position globally, following Singapore with 87.33 and Georgia with 84.75.

In public services, Rwanda scored 67.37 for the eighth standing, while in regulatory framework, the African country finished seventh with 70.35.

The scores place Rwanda as one of the top-performing countries globally and the best-performing country in sub-Saharan Africa.

According to the report, with high operational efficiency, Rwanda is one of the fastest countries in Africa and the whole world for company registration, reinforcing its position as a regional leader in ease of doing business.

Rwanda's digitization of public services has been a key driver of its strong performance, the report said, citing systems such as the Integrated Electronic Case Management System for the judiciary and the electronic certificate system for land registration, which have streamlined processes, reducing both the time and cost of doing business.

In the regulatory framework, the report said Rwanda's legal reforms continue to enhance its global competitiveness, including the 2021 Investment Promotion Law, the Company Law, and the Insolvency Law, which have created a more business-friendly regulatory environment.

Francis Gatare, chief executive officer of the Rwanda Development Board, a government department responsible for investment promotion, said in a statement that Rwanda's performance in the B-READY report reflects "our unwavering commitment to creating a conducive environment for private sector growth and investment." **Read more Xinhua**

Amb. Mirenge delivers Rwanda's statement at a Ministerial Roundtable on Green Economy at the World Green Economy Summit



On 02 October, Amb. John Mirenge delivered Rwanda's statement at a Ministerial Roundtable on Green Economy at the World Green Economy Summit in Dubai. He highlighted key initiatives and policies that Rwanda has implemented to accelerate the transition to a green and sustainable economy.

The Ministerial roundtable featured distinguished speakers including H.E President of Palau, Host country officials, invited Ministers and representatives from UNFCCC and UNEP. Their contributions underlined the critical need for united global efforts in addressing climate change and fostering green economies.

Ambassador John Mirenge delivered Rwanda's statement at the 28th IRENA Council



On October 24, 2024, Amb. John Mirenge delivered Rwanda's statement at the 28th Council Meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). He highlighted Rwanda's progress in the energy sector and the pivotal role of renewable energy in driving sustainable economic growth.

Rwanda has currently achieved 80% electricity coverage, with Renewable Energy contributing 52% of the generation mix. The aim is to achieve universal access by 2030 with renewable energy share of 60%.

The Ambassador invited all stakeholders to join Rwanda in this journey towards a sustainable energy future. "Together, we can overcome challenges and seize opportunities, ensuring that Rwanda's energy transition benefits all citizens and contributes to a greener planet," he said.

Rwandan Horticulture Exporters Seek New Markets at Dubai Organic and Natural Products Expo



Rwandan horticulture exporters showcased their products at the Organic & Natural Products Expo in Dubai, held from November 18-20, 2024. The expo, a premier platform for organic and natural goods, provided a unique opportunity for Rwanda to expand its footprint in the Middle East's growing demand for fresh and high-quality produce.

Ambassador John Mirenge, Rwanda's envoy to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), met with the exporters during the event, emphasizing the importance of such platforms in boosting Rwanda's export potential. "This expo is a gateway for Rwandan businesses to build strategic partnerships and tap into the lucrative markets of the UAE and the broader Middle East," Ambassador Mirenge stated.

Rwanda's participation in the expo aligns with its national agenda to diversify export markets and strengthen trade ties with the UAE, a key trading partner. The Middle East presents a significant opportunity for Rwandan exporters, given the region's high demand for organic fruits, vegetables, and other horticultural products.

Rwandan exhibitors at the expo showcased a variety of goods, including avocados, passion fruits, and specialty teas. These products, already gaining recognition for their quality, aim to cater to the UAE's growing appetite for premium organic produce. **Read more on Taarifa**

Ras Al Khaimah Chamber enhances areas of cooperation with Rwanda



His Excellency Mohammed Musabah Al Nuaimi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ras Al Khaimah Chamber of Commerce, met with John Mirenge, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda, to discuss avenues for collaboration. During the meeting, His Excellency emphasized the importance of strengthening economic ties between the business sectors of both regions, while addressing topics of mutual interest, enhancing cooperation, and identifying potential investment opportunities across various economic sectors.

He highlighted the Chamber's organizational and promotional capabilities, reaffirming its readiness to provide comprehensive support and facilities to Rwandan companies seeking to participate in economic events and promotional exhibitions. These initiatives aim to bolster their presence in regional markets and contribute to advancing bilateral relations in the fields of exhibitions and conferences.

For his part, John Mirenge, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the UAE, stressed that the bilateral relations between Rwanda and the UAE are based on strong and solid foundations, especially in the economic field, noting that the UAE is a strategic partner of Rwanda in most vital sectors, and that the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah is a distinguished partner in many of Rwanda's leading commercial projects, expressing his country's desire to benefit from the pioneering experience achieved by Ras Al Khaimah in terms of economic development, especially in the business and industrial tourism sector.

Read More on WAM Arabic

SCCI discusses inclusion of Rwanda in its trade mission to EA



The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) reaffirmed its commitment to bolstering economic ties between Sharjah and Republic of Rwanda. By fostering investment and trade cooperation, the Chamber aims to expand opportunities for the UAE business community and its counterpart in Rwanda.

These remarks were made during a meeting held at SCCI's headquarters between Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of SCCI, and John Mirenge, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the UAE, along with his accompanying delegation.

Discussions during the meeting centered on the potential inclusion of Rwanda in the Sharjah Chamber's annual trade mission to East Africa. This initiative reflects the Chamber's commitment to broadening investment collaboration between Sharjah and promising African markets. **Read more on Sharjah24**

Amb. Mirenge engages potential partners at GITEX2024



On 15 October, Amb. John Mirenge along with Second Counsellor Ines Mutoni toured the GITEX Tech Week exhibition in Dubai and engaged potential partners. The expo showcases the latest technology and AI driven solutions from around the world.

Amb. Mirenge attends AIM Summit 2024 in Dubai



On 21 October, Amb. John Mirenge along with Minister Counsellor Edouard Bizumuremyi and Second Counsellor Ines Mutoni joined the opening of AIM Summit 2024 in Dubai, a premier event for alternative investments. The summit gathers top decision-makers and C-level executives to discuss investment developments, global market conditions, and the latest trends.

Amb. Mirenge attends the 11th Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate



On 11-12 November 2024, Amb. John Mirenge attended the 11th Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate under the theme “The Illusion of Stability: A World in Flux.” Organized by the Emirates Policy Center (EPC), the two-day event focuses on evolving global strategic trends amidst influential shifts in world security, emerging alliances, rising militarization and the shifting roles of great powers, with special emphasis on the persistent instability in the Middle East.

Amb. Mirenge meets with H.E Mohamed, Regional CEO of AD Ports Group



On 16 October, Amb. John Mirenge visited AD Ports Group and met with the Regional CEO, H.E Mohamed Eidha AlMenhali, to explore collaboration opportunities in logistics and special economic zones. He also toured key AD Ports facilities, including KEZAD and the Digital District.

Amb. Mirenge attends a farewell event for the outgoing Ghanaian Ambassador



On 11 October, Ambassador John Mirenge attended a farewell evening, organized by the African Group of Ambassadors, in order of H.E. Ahmed Ramadan, Ambassador of Ghana to the UAE who has completed his tour of duty.

Amb. Mirenge receives the Ambassador of EU Delegation to UAE



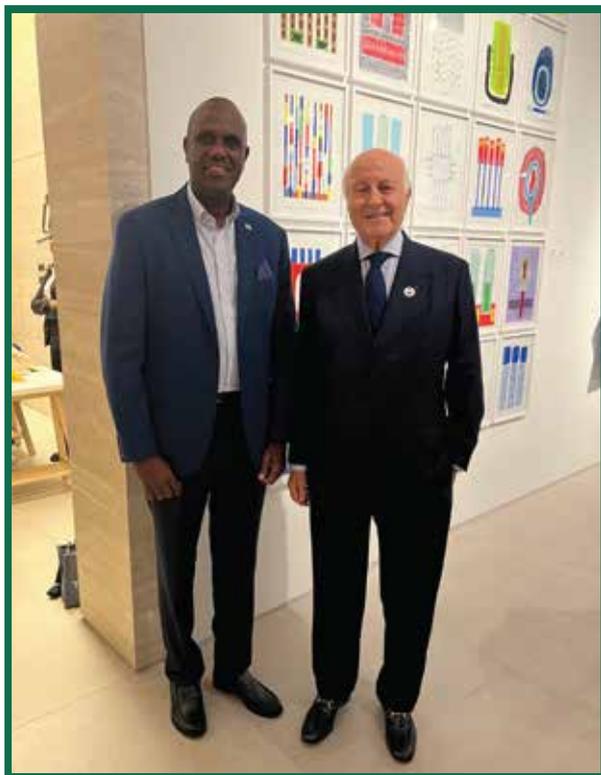
On 01 October, Amb. John Mirenge received H.E. Lucie Berger, Ambassador of the European Union to the UAE, for a courtesy visit. The two Ambassadors exchanged views on matters of common interest.

Apostolic Nuncio receives Amb. Mirenge



On 08 October, Amb. John Mirenge was received by H.E. Msgr Zakhia El-Kassis, Apostolic Nuncio to the United Arab Emirates. The two discussed matters of common interest.

Amb. Mirenge meets with the Founder of Bassam Freiha Art Foundation



On 10 October, Amb. John Mirenge toured an art exhibition at Bassam Freiha Art Foundation and met the Founder H.E Bassam Said Freiha. They exchanged views on the relevance of art as a means of preserving cultural heritage.

Amb. Mirenge, Skyline University explore collaboration opportunities



Amb. John Mirenge visited Skyline University and met Vice Chairman, Mr. Nitin Anand and his team. Their discussions focused on areas of collaboration in tourism and hospitality training and scholarships program for Rwandan students.

Second Counsellor joins the Official Opening of ADIPEC 2024



On November 4th, 2024, The Second Counsellor, Mrs. Ines Mutoni joined the official opening ceremony of Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference, convening global leaders in the energy sector under the theme "Connecting Minds, Transforming Energy".

Celebrating International Coffee Day at RoR Roastery in Dubai



On October 1, 2024, Minister Counsellor Mr. Edouard Bizumuremyi and Trade Officer Noor Ahmad visited RoR Roastery to sample specialty Rwandan coffee produced by sustainable growers. The visit highlighted Rwanda's rich coffee culture on this significant day.

Minister Counsellor Visits Chaman Textile Factory



On October 28, 2024, the Minister Counsellor and Trade Officer visited Chaman Textile Factory in Sharjah, where they met with CEO Mr. Naseem Khan. The meeting focused on an overview of the textile industry and investment opportunities in Rwanda, emphasizing potential joint ventures for establishing a textile factory.

Minister Counsellor Bizumuremyi meets with Rwandan publishers at Sharjah Publishers Conference



Minister Counsellor, Mr. Edouard Bizumuremyi met with Rwandan publishers attending the 14th Sharjah Publishers Conference, bringing together professionals, experts and thought leaders to discuss trends, and challenges in the international publishing industry. They discussed forging cooperation with relevant stakeholders to organize such an event in Rwanda.

Rwanda Finance Ltd CEO Nick Barigye attends Apex Invest Abu Dhabi



Rwanda Finance Ltd CEO Nick Barigye attended Apex Invest, a premier investor networking event currently taking place in Abu Dhabi – UAE.

On Day 1, he participated in an engaging roundtable titled: "Kigali International Financial Centre: A Conduit of Capital in Africa". The session highlighted Rwanda's favorable investment environment and the pivotal role of KIFC in facilitating capital flows across the continent.

The Apex Invest event brings together a diverse audience including sovereign wealth funds, single-family offices, pensions, foundations, and high-net-worth individuals to foster meaningful partnerships through one-on-one meetings.

Students showcase Rwandan culture at Middlesex University Dubai



On 18th November 2024, Rwandan students at the Middlesex University in Dubai showcased Rwandan rich cultural heritage at the International Day organized by the University to celebrate the diverse cultures and backgrounds of students and staff at the Middle Sex Dubai. Second Counsellor Ines Mutoni joined them.

Rwandan culture shines at New York University Abu Dhabi's Afro Festival



On 24 November 2024, Rwandan culture shined brightly at New York University Abu Dhabi's Afro Festival, where Rwandan students showcased our nation's cultural heritage and touristic attractions. The festival celebrates the university's community members from the African continent.

UAE and Rwanda: A growing partnership for Africa's future



Rwanda is building a reputation as the dynamic hub of African transformation, capitalizing on unprecedented progress made in infrastructure and governance over the past three decades. Similarly, the UAE, with its investments in key sectors, is playing an active role in Africa's future growth. The UAE has become a pivotal partner for Rwanda, with trade between the two nations exceeding \$1.1 billion in 2023.

Rwanda's growing economic relationships with the UAE are more than just about trade — they represent a strategic partnership for Africa's future. As the world becomes more multipolar, Rwanda and the UAE and its Gulf neighbors are aligning their visions for long-term growth, creating opportunities for innovation, infrastructure development, and regional leadership. **Read Salvatore Lavallo's opinion in *The Middle East Economy***