



Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda - Washington D.C.

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BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



June 1st, 2021

At Urugwiro Village, H.E. President Paul Kagame received a US Congressional Delegation led by Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma who was joined by Senator Mike Rounds of South Dakota and Congressman Trent Kelly of Mississippi.



On the same day

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Vincent Biruta received Mr. Rémy Rioux, the Director General of l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD). They discussed key areas of Rwanda-France cooperation, and signed the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Rwanda and the French Development Agency.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



June 3rd, 2021

At Urugwiro Village, H.E. President Kagame received Mr. Huang Xia, UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME
COVAX AMC SUMMIT
2 June 2021

We must redouble our efforts, and also diversify the sources of vaccine available to COVAX, even as we work to build Africa's vaccine production capacity for the future.

The COVAX Advance Market Commitment, led by Gavi, is the financing mechanism that ensures vaccine access for low- and middle-income countries.

Now is the time to ensure COVAX has the funds to keep saving lives, and help bring the Covid-19 pandemic to an end.

Thank you for your attention.

On the same day

H.E. President Paul Kagame participated in the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) Summit. In his remarks, President Kagame emphasized that “we must redouble our efforts, and also diversify the sources of vaccine available to COVAX, even as we work to build Africa's vaccine production capacity for the future.”

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



June 3rd, 2021

Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente participated, as a speaker, in the opening ceremony of the 24th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum that took place in Russia. On post Covid-19 recovery in Africa, Prime Minister Ngirente emphasized that this was the right time to invest in Africa given its potential for growth. He added that in Rwanda, strategic investment in key sectors such as infrastructure, education, health, human capital & pharmaceuticals is a priority.



On the same day

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Vincent Biruta was received by H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of Tanzania. As Special Envoy, he delivered a message addressed by H.E. President Paul Kagame to his counterpart.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

June 4th, 2021

JOINT STATEMENT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE WORKING VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA BY DR VINCENT BIRUTA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, 04 JUNE 2021

PRETORIA - The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor hosted her Rwandan counterpart, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr Vincent Biruta, on a Working Visit to South Africa on 4 June 2021.

The two Ministers met to assess the current state of bilateral relations as well as to iron out challenges that are affecting the conduct of relations between South Africa and Rwanda.

The Ministers recalled the good bilateral relations that existed between the two countries prior to the events

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr. Naledi Pandor hosted her Rwandan counterpart, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. Vincent Biruta, on a working visit to South Africa. The two Ministers met to assess the current state of bilateral relations as well as to iron out challenges that are affecting the conduct of relations between South Africa and Rwanda.



June 8th, 2021

H.E. President Paul Kagame spoke at the official Launch of the Mastercard Foundation, Africa CDC and African Union partnership: *Saving Lives and Livelihoods*. The partnership will build on the tremendous and ongoing efforts of AVATT, COVAX, WHO, and governments to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines across Africa. COVAX and AVATT combined will provide vaccines for 45-50 percent of Africa's population, leaving approximately 10 to 15 percent – between 125 million-188 million people – that still need to be covered to achieve the African Union's goal of vaccinating 60 percent of Africa's population by the end of 2022. The President remarked that “ [...] there is a long-term vision to build Africa's capacity to produce high-quality medicines and vaccines right here on our continent. As Africa, we have to do our part with a sense of urgency and excellence.”

African Union

AFRICA CDC
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Partnering African Health

mastercard
foundation

AFRICAN UNION, AFRICA CDC & MASTERCARD FOUNDATION
Launch Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative:

**A Partnership for
COVID-19 Vaccination
in Africa**

Tuesday 8 June 2021 | 15:00 - 16:30 EAT (12:00 - 1:30 GMT)

Via Zoom: Register using the link below
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OrMboXbGTFCRWCUrI5cGDw

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME
UNGA HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON HIV/AIDS
 8 June 2021

Waiting to respond to HIV in Africa was a mistake, because the virus was spreading, even though it was treatable.

Some even believed that Africans would not be able take their medicine on time. A decade was lost, and many lives as well.

The turning point in the fight against HIV in Africa was the consensus to invest heavily in national health systems, through key programs such as PEPFAR, the Global Fund, and others.

Indeed, the health systems that Africa has depended on to fight the Covid pandemic, were largely built with HIV funding.

For example, Rwanda's National Reference Laboratory has performed thousands of Covid tests per day during the pandemic. And it was originally built as an HIV laboratory.

Even with the framework of combatting a specific pandemic, we can work together as partners to disburse funds in a flexible manner, with the goal of continuing to strengthen health systems.

H.E. President Paul Kagame participated in the 2021 UNGA High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. In his address, the President observed that “HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 are both pandemics. There are common lessons and shortcomings to address. Waiting to respond to HIV in Africa was a mistake. [...] We must also seize this moment to increase scientific research collaboration with Africa, and to invest in drug and vaccine manufacturing capacity on our continent.”

June 8th, 2021



At Urugwiro Village, H.E. President Paul Kagame received Mr. Niklas Adalberth, Founder of the Norrsken Foundation, Europe’s largest hub for impact and tech entrepreneurs, now building Norrsken East Africa in Kigali, which is set to house over 1,000 entrepreneurs providing them with advisory, business linkages, financing, among other services to help them grow and become unicorns.

June 9th, 2021



On the same day

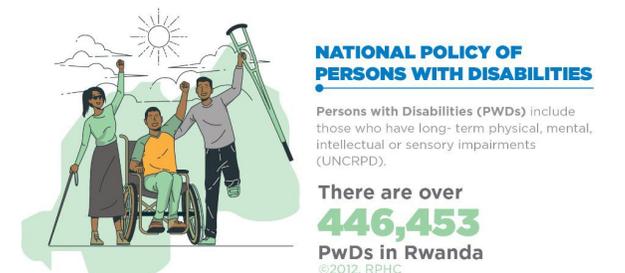
At Urugwiro Village, H.E. President Paul Kagame received Mr. Herbert Onyewumbu Wigwe, Access bank PLC Group Managing Director. Access Bank Rwanda is a commercial bank in Rwanda. It is one of the commercial banks licensed by the National Bank of Rwanda, the national banking regulator.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



June 11th, 2021

Minister of State, Prof. Manasseh Nshuti and Permanent Secretary Clementine Mukeka were in Arusha, Tanzania participating in the 31st Sectoral Council of Ministers for East African Community Affairs and Planning to consider key aspects in the implementation of the Common Market Protocol.



June 17th, 2021

Rwanda has recently adopted a new policy on Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) for their full inclusion, participation and to ensure that they live a dignified and secure life.

Read more on this policy here:

<https://bit.ly/3vrcB1O>

Vision
To make Rwanda a country where all Persons with Disabilities enjoy full inclusion, participation and live a dignified active, productive, healthy and secure life.

Key Objectives

- Promote access to social security and income support programs.
- Promote Digital Inclusion.
- Promote universal design standards and regulations for accessible infrastructure.
- Increase employment participation in various sectors.
- Subsidise the provision of assistive devices and other health services.
- Promote social and cultural activities.



June 21st, 2021

At Urugwiro Village, H.E. President Paul Kagame met with Mr. Kuok Khoon Hong, Chairman and CEO of Wilmar International, A Fortune Global 500 company with headquarters in Singapore, leading in agribusiness group; together with Mr. Santosh Pillai, Wilmar International Head for Africa and Mr. Teklay Teame, CEO of Simba Supermarket. Wilmar's business activities include oil palm cultivation, oilseed crushing, edible oils refining, sugar milling and refining, manufacturing of consumer products, specialty fats, oleochemicals, biodiesel and fertilisers as well as flour and rice milling.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



June 21st, 2021

H.E. President Paul Kagame spoke with host Zain Verjee at the virtual Qatar Economic Forum powered by Bloomberg Live where leaders from across the world spoke on the theme of “New Perspectives for Tomorrow.” In his interview, President Kagame remarked that “Africa has to be an equal partner with the rest of the world when it comes to manufacturing vaccines instead of waiting for vaccines from those places where they manufacture them.”. Watched the full interview at <https://youtu.be/pxdJdH8KOvU>



June 24th, 2021

At Urugwiro Village, President Kagame received Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, US Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



June 25th, 2021

H.E. President Paul Kagame received H.E. President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo, at La Corniche One Stop Border Post, who was on a one day working visit to Rwanda. The two Heads of State toured the City of Rubavu to assess the damage caused by the recent earthquakes which followed the Nyiragongo volcanic eruption. After the tour of Rubavu city, the two Presidents held a tête-à-tête. A day after, President Kagame also visited Goma, where he was received by his counterpart, President Tshisekedi. In his remarks, President Kagame recognized that “I am thankful to President Tshisekedi for providing this opportunity for me and my delegation, and the Rwandans to be able to be here, to express our solidarity and a sense of strong partnership that exists between our two countries. I extend to you President, the people of DRC, particularly of Goma, our condolences for those who lost their lives and were displaced and affected by the recent volcanic eruption. I thank President Tshisekedi of this great country for having paid us a visit yesterday. Both yesterday & today, we have had a good opportunity to have broad and productive exchanges that will benefit our two countries. We signed a number of agreements. I believe this is just the beginning. There are many areas in which we cooperate to build a solid relationship but also the basis for cooperation between our two countries.”

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



June 28th - 29th, 2021

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Vincent Biruta was received by his Italian counterpart Foreign Affairs Minister Luigi Di Maio, who hosted the G20 Foreign Affairs Ministers' meeting in Matera, Italy. Rwanda was invited as Chair of the NEPAD Agency Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee. In his remarks at the Multilateralism and Global Governance Session, Minister Biruta remarked that “As long as the threat of new variants exists in a single part of the world, it is the entire planet that is at serious risk. This is why the African Union, through agencies such as AUDA-NEPAD and the Africa CDC, was quick to adopt a multinational approach by engaging as a bloc with the COVAX facility and creating an African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT) to procure life saving vaccines. [...] With its resources, the G20 has the ability to react swiftly in times of crisis. It has the capacity to scale up solutions for a global reach. It is well positioned to work with Africa in support of a more equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines through different mechanisms as well as facilitate their production on the continent.”



June 30th, 2021

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Vincent Biruta was received in Vatican City by Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States at the Holy See's Secretariat of State. They discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between Rwanda and the Catholic Church.

RWANDA IN THE NEWS



June 2nd, 2021

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) together with the National Olympic Committees and government authorities of Qatar and Rwanda, with support from Pfizer, has established two further pre-Games vaccination opportunities for Olympic and Paralympic Games participants. The two hubs will both offer the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, in line with the IOC announcement on 6 May 2021 of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE to donate doses of the companies' COVID-19 vaccine to Games participants from National Olympic and Paralympic Committees around the world.



June 7th, 2021

For the first time in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, #Rwandafresh products are now available in CarrefourUAE outlets. Consumers have been flocking Marina Mall and Yas Island to buy and enjoy fresh avocados and passion fruits from Rwanda!

RWANDA IN THE NEWS



June 10th, 2021

The Rwanda Development Board and Belgium-based Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs (OVO) have signed a cooperation agreement that will see Rwandan start-up businesses get access to finance and expert advice. OVO's SusTech4Africa programme in Rwanda offers a tailor-made six-month programme to support companies on their pathway to growth. Each accepted company will be paired with a team of expert coaches in Belgium and Rwanda. The coaches offer strategic guidance and technical assistance to companies through weekly or bi-weekly mentoring sessions. Rwandan start-ups that are transforming their local communities through the use of sustainable technology and aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals are invited to apply to join the yearly programme.

On the same day

Chief Prosecutor of the the International Residual Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, Serge Brammertz, has launched an investigation into genocide fugitive Protais Mpiranya's illicit funds made from business over the last two decades. In an interview with the New Times, Mr. Brammertz said Mpiranya, who was the commander of the Presidential Guard during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, is being sought to answer for his commanding role in the Genocide. "We have reason to believe he has also operated business enterprises using illicit funds. Many individuals are likely to have interacted with or learned of him. These persons are of interest to us, and we encourage them to come forward with information about Mpiranya,". Mr. Brammertz also requested the UN Security Council support in bringing the remaining fugitives to book as quickly as possible to enable the tracking activities to finally be brought to an end.

RWANDA IN THE NEWS



June 12th, 2021

Congratulations to the Rwanda Women's Cricket Team for finishing third in Kwibuka T20 women's cricket tournament. The 2021 Kwibuka Women's T20 Tournament was a women's T20I cricket (WT20I) tournament held in Rwanda. This was the seventh edition of the annual Kwibuka Tournament, first organised 2014 in remembrance of the victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. All matches were played at the Gahanga International Cricket Stadium in Kigali. Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria and Rwanda participated in the tournament and Kenya won the 2021 edition.

June 30th, 2021

Rwanda has signed a Rwf 3.6 billion agreement today with the European Union to enhance the attractiveness of Rwanda for investments in vaccine manufacturing.

THE EMBASSY



June 5th - 6th, 2021

The Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in collaboration with the United States Rwandan Community Abroad hosted the annual retreat in Washington D.C. The retreat convened all the Diaspora leaders in the United States. The two-day meeting brought together the Embassy staff, the national diaspora (USRCA) leadership team and the leaders of the 27 RCAs that have been formed in States with high concentrations of Rwandans. The retreat allowed the USRCA and chapter RCAs to set a common agenda for the year together, review, set standards, objectives and yardsticks to measure the progress made. Such a retreat places itself in the overall strategy of Rwanda's Foreign Policy; of optimizing the engagement of the Rwandan Community abroad in the development of the country. Due to the scope and extent of the geographical and ideological challenges inherent to the United States, mobilizing communities has been paramount in advancing the overall strategic interests. This retreat intended to harness even further the vibrancy of the Rwandan diaspora in the U.S., and most especially its budding demography of rising professionals who have a significant contributing potential in country building.

THE EMBASSY



June 7th, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana had a courtesy call with Ambassador Uzoma Emenike, the new Ambassador of Nigeria. Both ambassadors committed to working together for the betterment of their countries and the continent.



June 10th, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana and Mr. Lawrence Manzi met with Mr. Brock Pierce, President of Percival Ventures. Brock Pierce is a venture capitalist and entrepreneur with an extensive track record of founding, advising and investing in disruptive businesses. Mr. Pierce pioneered the market for digital currency in games and has raised more than \$200 million for companies he founded. He is the Chairman of the Bitcoin Foundation and Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Blockchain Capital. Blockchain Capital is the first sector-focused venture fund that invests solely in Blockchain technology companies and the Bitcoin ecosystem. Mr. Pierce is interested in visiting Rwanda to engage on Blockchain capital.

THE EMBASSY



June 14th, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana participated in a panel discussion hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce titled; “Women Taking the Lead: Diplomacy in the Pandemic Era,” The event was part of the Chamber’s “Women Taking the Lead” program, a platform that connects and champions women leading at the highest levels of business and government. It is designed to help leaders create and strengthen a network of allies to champion their work and provide opportunities for professional growth and leadership development. The forum featured Ambassadors of Canada and Denmark (list the correct names) and was moderated by Penny Naas, President of International Public Affairs and Sustainability at UPS.

On the same day

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana provided opening remarks at the *African Diplomatic Orientation & Engagement Program* hosted by the Africa-America Institute (AAI) and the Energy Workforce & Technology Council (the Council). AAI is the flagship U.S. organization dedicated to promoting enlightened engagement between Africa and America through education, training and dialogue. The Council is the national trade association for the energy technology and services sector, representing more than 600,000 jobs in the technology-driven energy value chain. It is a trusted resource, advancing member policy priorities and providing targeted workforce development for the entire Oilfield Services Sector (OFS).

RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.



June 12th, 2021

The Rwandan Community of Utah held a commemorative event of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The Rwandan community in Utah were also honoured to have in attendance Representative Angela Romero, who sponsored the 2020 General Session recognizing the 7th of April as the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, and, in attendance representing the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda to the U.S. was First Secretary, Francis Mulindwa.

On the same day

The Rwandan Community in Iowa in partnership with friends of Rwanda, held a virtual kwibuka27. Also among participants was CNLG representative, Dr. Jean Damascene Gasanabo and representing the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda to the U.S. was First Counsellor, Lawrence Manzi.

RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.



June 19th, 2021

The Rwandan community of San Antonio, Texas hosted a commemoration event of the 1994 genocide against the tutsi in Rwanda, where the Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana was also in attendance. In her address, the Ambassador reiterated that “It is no exaggeration to say that in Rwanda’s case the seeds of denial were planted from the very moment the killing started. We are inextricably bound to our past, however painful, but we are not bound to repeat it.”



June 29th, 2021

Two Rwandan community abroad soccer teams created a lifetime legacy of friendship through an amicable soccer game, namely Team Maine and Team Dallas-Fort Wayne.