



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

MARCH-APRIL NEWSLETTER 2021



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BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



March 1st, 2021

H.E. President Kagame attended the 2nd Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development where he gave remarks and emphasized that “Africa should speak with one voice on the importance of global vaccine equity, both now and in the future.” Watch the full remarks [here](#).



March 7th, 2021

H.E. President Kagame welcomed European Council President, Charles Michel, Secretary-General of La Francophonie, Louise Mushikiwabo, and Member of European Parliament, Chrysoula Zacharopoulou to Rwanda. The President appreciated the European Council President’s commitment to strengthening Africa-Europe ties, including the private sector and his guests’ collaboration on equitable access to vaccines & improved management of current and future pandemics. The three guests were in Rwanda to support the ongoing COVID19 vaccination campaign with vaccines obtained through the COVAX initiative and to advocate for international collaboration for equitable access to vaccines.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



March 11th, 2021

H.E. President Kagame received Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland at Urugwiro Village ahead of CHOGM2021, who was in Rwanda for a 3-day visit. Later the same day, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vincent Biruta met with SG Patricia Scotland to further discuss CHOGM2021 preparations as well as other issues of global interest including COVID19 and Climate Action.



March 22nd, 2021

H.E. President Kagame, alongside co-Chair, and Chairman of the board of Fundacion Carlos Slim and Fundacion Telmex, Carlos Slim Helu, and co-Vice Chairs and Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay and Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, Houlin Zhao chaired the virtual Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development Spring Meeting, under the theme “Building an Inclusive Post-COVID Digital Future”.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



March 26th, 2021

Minister of Foreign Affairs Vincent Biruta received the Chief of Mission of the United Nations Migration Agency, Ms. Helene Fors. Both parties appreciated the strong cooperation between Rwanda and the IOM and discussed ways to enhance diaspora engagement to support Rwanda's socio-economic development.



March 29th, 2021

H.E. President Kagame attended the meeting on The International Debt Architecture and Liquidity, where he advocated for the modernization of the international debt architecture and that “ [It] should not be seen as merely a Covid emergency measure. It is a long-overdue discussion that goes to the heart of the inequalities that continue to bedevil our world.” Watch the full remarks [here](#).



March 29th, 2021

Minister of Foreign Affairs Vincent Biruta received H.E Amira Elfadil, African Union Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Devt. and her delegation. They discussed among other things the Gashora Emergency Transit Mechanism, AU Domestic Health Financing, and the progress of AU's Africa Medicine Agency.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

April 1st, 2021

H.E. President Kagame participated in the Tony Blair Institute panel on the impact of COVID-19 in Africa alongside Former Prime Minister Tony Blair, Director General of World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, and Director of Africa CDC, John Nkengasong, moderated by Awo Ablo, Executive Director for External Relations at Tony Blair Institute. President Kagame highlighted that “The COVID19 pandemic magnified some institutional weaknesses across Africa. But it also uncovered some hidden strengths, which we can build on [...] There is no doubt that the pandemic has set the whole world back in terms of development progress. But the fundamentals that were driving Africa’s strong growth before the pandemic, such as urbanization, digitization, tourism are just as relevant today.”



April 6th, 2021

On behalf of H.E. The President of Rwanda, Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Biruta joined the Leaders’ Dialogue on the Africa COVID Climate Emergency organized by African Development Bank Group and Global Center on Adaptation and expressed Rwanda's support to the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP).

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



April 7th, 2021

Rwanda marked the 27th Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi. H.E. President Kagame accompanied by First Lady Jeannette Kagame, presided over the ceremony where he reminded the nation and the world that “Kwibuka27 is a time to Remember the over one million victims, Unite through the strength of our nation, and Renew our determination to build a prosperous future. [...] Rwanda may not yet be wealthy and we have vulnerabilities and limitations, like any country. But we also know how to deal with our problems. Rwandans are resilient and we are full of purpose and hope.” You can watch the full speech [here](#).



April 9th, 2021

H.E. President Kagame received French Historian Vincent Duclert, who presented the report titled France, Rwanda and the Genocide Against the Tutsi. The report was commissioned by President Emmanuel Macron two years ago and was done by a team of 13 researchers and historians. The report is believed to represent an important step toward a common understanding of France's role in the Genocide against the Tutsi. Read the full report on our website.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



April 12th, 2021

H.E. President Kagame attended the virtual Conference on Expanding Africa's Vaccine Manufacturing chaired by President Tshisekedi and convened by the AU Commission and Africa CDC, a technical institution of the African Union strengthening the capacity of Member States to respond quickly and effectively to disease threats. The meeting discussed the strategy for the manufacturing of vaccines in Africa. In his remarks, President Kagame stressed that "Africa needs to expand production capacity for vaccines & other essential medical products. For Africa to move from being very sorry for ourselves, we have to take the blame for that & move from what we know hasn't worked well for Africa to something we can do."



April 19th, 2021

H.E. President Kagame chaired a special cabinet session where Bob Muse of the Levy Firestone Muse law firm presented the report entitled "A Foreseeable Genocide: The Role of the French Government in Connection with the Genocide against the Tutsi." Read the full report on our website.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



April 20th, 2021

H.E. President Kagame attended the ICGLR Mini Summit on Central Africa chaired by President João Lourenço also attended by President Sassou Nguesso, President Touadéra, and Major General Ibrahim Jaber, representing Sudan in Luanda, Angola.



April 26th, 2021

On a working visit to Belgium, Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Biruta met with EU Commissioner for International Partnership, Jutta Urpilainen. They discussed the Rwanda-EU partnership and vaccine production in Africa among other things.

BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



April 29th, 2021

H.E. President Kagame took part in the virtual High-Level Dialogue on Feeding Africa hosted by the African Development Bank Group and the International Fund for Agricultural Development bringing together Heads of State and Government from across Africa. In his remarks, President Kagame urged that “transforming agriculture in Africa is an urgent task. No one can be satisfied with subsistence. Agribusiness can be a pathway to prosperity for African families.” Later that day, H.E. President Kagame received Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, UK Minister for the Commonwealth who is in Rwanda to discuss CHOGM2021 ongoing preparations.



On the same day, Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Biruta met with Serge Brammertz, Chief Prosecutor at the UN International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. They discussed issues of common interest and commended the good cooperation between both parties.

RWANDA IN THE NEWS

March 1st, 2021

Rwanda received the first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX initiative. The first batch of 240, 000 doses of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccines and the second shipment of 102,960 doses of the Pfizer vaccines.



March 7th, 2021

The Rwanda National Cycling Team safely returned home from Egypt where they represented Rwanda in the AfroRoadChamps 2021. The team won 14 medals: 1 Gold medal, 8 Silver medals, & 5 Bronze medals. **Congratulations to the team again!**

MOTSEPE FOUNDATION

GENDER EQUALITY, WELLNESS & LEADERSHIP UNIT

5TH GENDER EQUALITY, WELLNESS AND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Harnessing The Role Of Women In The Pandemic Recovery

KEY NOTE REMARKS



Mrs. Jeannette Kagame
First Lady of The Republic of Rwanda



Ms. Maite Nkoane-Mashabane
Minister for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.



Prof. Puleng LenkaBula
Principal and Vice Chancellor University of South Africa (UNISA)



Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas
Resident Coordinator for United Nations and Representative of the Secretary General in South Africa



Mr. Daniel Mminele
Group CEO of ABSA Bank



Mrs. Irene Charnley
Founder and CEO. Smile Communications

On International Women’s Day, First Lady Jeannette Kagame joined the Motsepe Foundation for the 5th GEWAL Summit whose theme was 'Harnessing the Role of Women in the Pandemic Recovery'. The First Lady started her remarks by thanking Dr. Motsepe for his efforts to promote the quality of life for all. In her remarks, H.E. The First Lady addressed the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in particular and talked about Rwanda’s continued journey and commitment to gender equality.

March 8th, 2021

RWANDA IN THE NEWS



March 11th, 2021

As part of the ongoing nationwide vaccination rollout that has seen more than 230,000 people vaccinated, H.E. President Kagame and H.E. First Lady Jeannette Kagame received their COVID-19 vaccines at King Faisal Hospital.



March 19th, 2021

At Urugwiro Village, H.E. President Kagame officiated the swearing-in ceremony of the newly appointed Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Habyarimana Uwamaliza Beata and Minister of Local Government, Hon. Jean-Marie Vianney Gatabazi. **Congratulations on their new appointments!**

RWANDA IN THE NEWS



March 23th, 2021

RwandAir becomes the first African airline to vaccinate all staff against Covid-19, which will position the carrier as one of the safest on the continent. “Rwanda's rapid roll-out of the first consignment of vaccines to arrive in the country prioritized all frontline workers, including RwandAir's staff and crew. The vaccination program has been designed to ensure we provide a safe and secure environment for travelers both in the air and on the ground” RwandAir CEO, Yvonne Manzi Makolo.



March 29th, 2021

The Basketball Africa League announced the inaugural season of the BAL which will run from 16-30 May at the Kigali Arena. 12 Basketball clubs from 12 African countries will participate in BAL. The season will consist of 26 games.

RWANDA IN THE NEWS



April 6th, 2021

The UN General Assembly observed the International Day of reflection of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, where they honored and remembered the victims of the genocide, and renewed their commitment to preventing such atrocities from happening again. Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General in his message of the day: “The genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda remains in our collective conscience as among the most horrific events in recent human history. To prevent history from repeating, we must counter hate-driven movements & push for the full respect of all members of society.” Watch the full event [here](#).

April 21st, 2021

100 academics & journalists signed an open letter against the Cambridge Centre for Geopolitics decision to give Judi Rever a platform to peddle double genocide myth & other egregious revisions of the Genocide against the Tutsi. Read the full letter [here](#).

RWANDA IN THE NEWS



April 21st, 2021

GAERG; Organisation founded by Rwandan Graduate Students Genocide Survivors, in partnership with Imbuto Foundation and Mastercard Foundation have launched a mental health awareness campaign whose aim to address the limited knowledge and use of available mental health services as well as destigmatizing mental health in the Rwandan community.



Minister of State Prof. Manasseh Nshuti signed MoUs on political consultations and cooperation on asylum and migration issues with Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Flemming Møller Mortensen and Danish Minister for Immigration and Integration, Mattias Tesfaye. This signing was part of a 4-day visit by the Danish delegation to Rwanda aimed at consolidating bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

April 27th, 2021

RWANDA IN THE NEWS



April 30th, 2021

Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Biruta joined the EU Delegation in Rwanda in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the European External Action Service. Minister Biruta appreciated the strong partnership between Africa and the EU and reiterated Rwanda's commitment to continuously engage the Union in different areas of mutual interest.

THE EMBASSY



March 3rd, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana held a lecture at Georgetown University School of Law entitled: "International Law, Human Rights & Fighting Impunity". The class explore the role social media can play in preventing genocide and hate speech, and how it can be a tool in fighting extremism.



March 10th, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana together with fellow African Ambassadors of Togo, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Burkina Faso, met with the new Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, Gregory Meeks on cultivating meaningful partnerships.

THE EMBASSY



March 28th, 2021

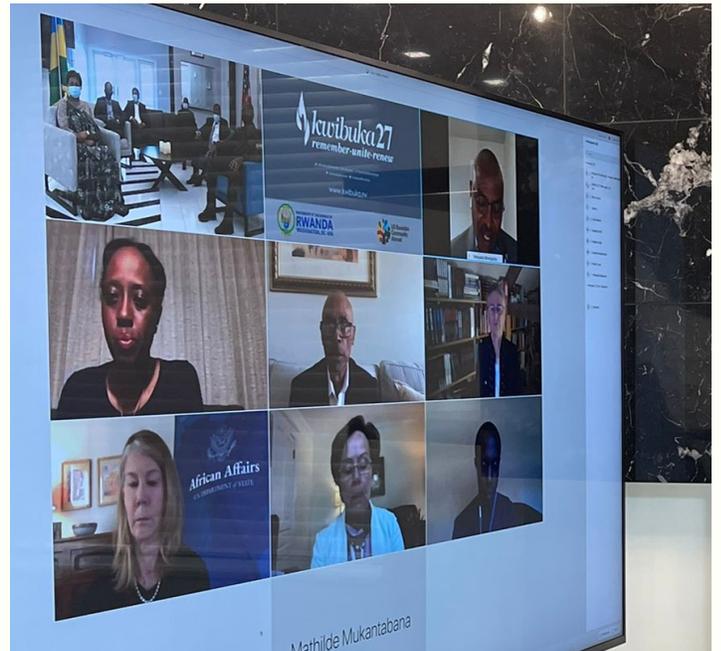
Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana participated in the 25th Annual Women Ambassadors Conference at Howard University and Women Ambassadors Foundation. Reflecting on the event, Ambassador Mukantabana said that “Africa is increasingly speaking with one voice & promoting an integrated view of development in important fields such as trade, the economy, peace, and security.”



April 2nd, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana chaired the African Ambassador’s Group meeting to discuss the theme of Africa Day 2021: “Arts Culture & Heritage”. The development of arts, culture and heritage are valuable and essential sectors for African economies were among the many topics the meeting aimed to highlight.

THE EMBASSY



April 7th, 2021

The Embassy of Rwanda in Washington DC in collaboration with the United States Rwandan Community Abroad, Friends of Rwanda, Ibuka-USA, and other partners joined efforts to organize the 27th commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi event in the US. A moment of silence in honor of the victims was held, the audience heard from a survivor and their story of survival and resilience, and distinguished speakers discussed the ‘fight against denial’. Watch the full event [here](#).

April 8th, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana joined distinguished panelists live on Rwanda TV for a discussion on the fight against the denial of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Northern America. Watch the full discussion [here](#).

THE EMBASSY



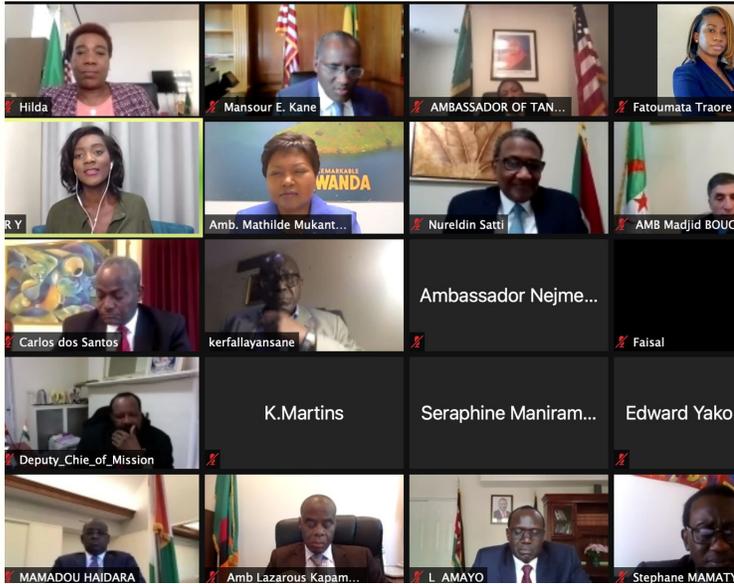
April 14th, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana participated in the “Equity for Africa” Summit hosted by Liberty University School of Business where the Ambassador enlightened the audience about investment opportunities in Rwanda. In her remarks, the Ambassador highlighted that “The Government of Rwanda unveiled its new vision for economic transformation; Vision 2050, which aims to transform Rwanda into an upper-middle-income country by 2035 and a high-income country by 2050”.

April 24th, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana joined the Rwandan Community of Dallas and Fort Worth, in Texas for a Night Vigil organized by survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi to commemorate and honor for the 27th year the victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

THE EMBASSY



April 28th, 2021

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana as the Vice Dean of the African Diplomatic Corp chaired the African Ambassadors Group Meeting. As the main guest of the group, Ambassador Rama Yade, the new Director of the Atlantic Council's Africa Center introduced herself to the group and discussed various ways the center can strengthen its partnership with the group.



On the same day, Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana met with Kent State University Associate Provost for Global Education Dr. Marcello Fantoni to discuss possible areas of growth and mutually beneficial programs with the University of Rwanda.

RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.

March 1st, 2021

One Nation Rwanda, the “Rwanda Diaspora Voice” hosted a virtual discussion on the fight against genocide ideology and denial, in partnership with the US Rwandan Community Abroad, The Embassy of Rwanda - Washington D.C., and the National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide (CNLG).

#HaltToDeniers
"Twibuke Twiyubaka"

FIGHT AGAINST GENOCIDE IDEOLOGY & DENIAL

Hon. Mathilde Mukantabana Amb. of Rwanda in the USA	Professor Gatsinzi Basaninyanzi Genocide Scholar & Professor (Alabama A&M University)	Mme. Jacqueline Murekatete Genocide Survivor & Human Rights Activist	Mr. Ntwali Cyusa Moderator/ Diaspora Member

Join Us for a Special Panel Discussion

RWANDANS IN WASHINGTON STATE CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE: CALL OUT INEQUALITY

MARCH 20th, 2021
3:00PM PST - 6:00 PM ET

SAVE THE DATE

Natacha Karambizi Moderator	Caroline Umukobwa Panelist	Magaly Ingabire Panelist	Pascale Bukize Panelist	Dr. Jean Kagubare Panelist

Participants in the grid include: Amb. Mathilde Mukantabana, Dady de Maximo Mwirira, Magaly Ingabire, Caroline Umukobwa, Mathilde Mukantabana (Rwanda's ambassador to the United States), Emmanuel Muvunyi, and Amb. Mathilde Mukantabana.

March 20th, 2021

The Rwandan Community in Washington State in celebration of International Women’s Day. The community was joined by Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana in celebrating the day.

RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.

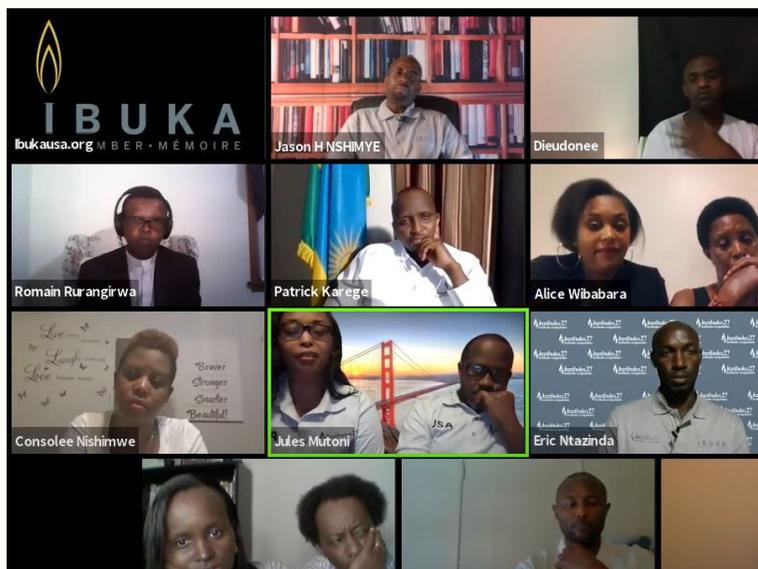
Literature, The Politics of Memory, Countering Oblivion: Itsembabwoko, 27 Years Later

Date:

Friday, April 23, 2021, 12:00pm to 2:00pm

April 23rd, 2021

The Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University held a dialogue on 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi: “Literature, The Politics of Memory, Countering Oblivion: Itsembabwoko, 27 Years Later,” with the Senegalese Boubacar Boris Diop, Dr. Koulsy Lamko, Chadian & Rwandan Dr. Jean Pierre Karegeye. The event addressed the questions of truth, social justice and reconciliation in an effort to counter genocide denial in the aftermath of the recent Duclerc report commissioned by the French President Emanuel Macron on the role of the French government during and after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi



April 30th, 2021

Ibuka USA, a non-profit organization bringing together survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and its allies in the United States, organized a night vigil to remember families, neighbors, friends that were killed during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. Watch the full event [here](#).

Rwandan Communities in Maine, Georgia, Texas, joined other Rwandans all over the world, in organizing and hosting #Kwibuka27 events to commemorate the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.