



NEWSLETTER

Rwanda High Commission to Tanzania

Issue Number 2- January-February 2021

President Paul Kagame calls for continued EAC cooperation to tackle Covid-19 effects



Rwanda High Commissioner explains how Rwanda has embraced the use of Kiswahili



RwandAir to be the first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass

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Rwanda hands over EAC Chairmanship and roots for cooperation among Partner States in containing Covid-19 effects

Saturday 27th February marked the end of Rwanda’s two years tenure at the helm of EAC Chairmanship that culminated into the 21st Ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State held virtually in which President Paul Kagame handed over the mantle to his Kenyan counterpart, President Uhuru Kenyatta and Burundi’s Evariste Ndayishimiye took over as Rapporteur of the regional bloc.

During the same meeting, the Summit of EAC Heads of State appointed Kenya’s Dr. Peter Mathuki as the new Secretary General replacing Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko from Burundi whose five-year term will come to an end on 26th April 2021.

The Summit further appointed a couple of judges in the East African Court of Justice and also designated Burundi’s Nestor Kayobera and Tanzania’s Yohane Bakobora Masara as Judge President and Principal Judge, respectively, replacing Rwanda’s Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja and Justice Monica Mugenyi from Uganda whose 7-year terms came to an end in November, 2020.

During his key note address, President Kagame expressed his gratitude to fellow Heads of State as well as the East African Community Secretariat, for the cooperation and support rendered during Rwanda’s chairmanship.

He further implored EAC Partner States to augment cooperation in building resilience in face of the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequent economic challenges.

“Our health systems have been challenged

like never before and the disruption to travel and trade has been significant. This situation had real impacts on the wellbeing and livelihoods of our people.

However, the positive examples of cooperation we have seen through our East African Community institutions, have played a role in mitigating the effects of the pandemic,” emphasized President Kagame. In other considerations, the same Virtual Meeting of the Summit of EAC Heads of State directed the Council of Ministers

to expedite the process of admitting DRC and Somalia into the regional bloc. The Summit also adopted French as an official language of the Community, in addition

to English and Kiswahili and directed the Council of Ministers to expedite the implementation modalities of the directive. In a separate development, the Heads of State recalled their previous discussion



His Excellency President of the Republic of Rwanda, Paul Kagame



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on the EU-EAC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and recognised that not all Partner State are in a position to sign, ratify and implement the agreement.

The Heads of State gave the green-light to those that wish to do so to go ahead and commence talks with the EU, with a view to starting the EU-EAC EPA implementation under the principle of variable geometry which allows Partner States to implement integration projects at different paces.



President Uhuru Kenyatta while addressing the 21st Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State held virtually due to Covid-19 after taking over the chairmanship from Rwanda's President Paul Kagame.



Rwanda High Commissioner explains how Rwanda has embraced the use of Kiswahili



Tanzania's National Television TBC1 crew paid a courtesy call on the Rwanda High Commissioner Major General Charles Karamba and conducted a Television interview for the program named "Lulu za Kiswahili"

In Mid-January 2021, Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC1) crew paid a courtesy call on the Rwanda High Commissioner to the United Republic of Tanzania, Major General Charles Karamba in Dar es Salaam and conducted an exclusive television interview which was aired on the National broadcaster on 30th January, 2021 during the 'Lulu za Kiswahili' morning breeze Program.

The 'Lulu za Kiswahili' Program treasures and promotes the use of Kiswahili language among the locals and foreigners in and outside Tanzania and the TBC crew normally conducts interviews in Kiswahili with influential/opinion leaders to share their experiences on the use of Kiswahili language.

The interview sought from the High Commissioner to share Rwanda's experience on the use of Kiswahili language and its role in socio-economic and political dispensation as well as diplomacy with neighboring countries in East Africa.

Kiswahili in Rwanda's Schools and Colleges.

In 2017, the Rwanda Parliament adopted a law that made Swahili an official language along with English, French and Kinyarwanda which is the National Language.

Since then, the Government through Rwanda Education Board embarked on developing a progressive mechanism to conduct Kiswahili lessons

from Primary to Secondary level and some universities, in a bid to prepare Rwandese nationals to learn and understand the language in order to be able to communicate effectively with other people from neighboring countries within the East African region where Kiswahili is widely spoken, explained the High Commissioner, Maj. Gen. Charles Karamba.

Kiswahili in Business Affairs

The High Commissioner further expounded that Kiswahili language is a communication tool which has helped Rwandan businessmen and women to expand their business potential to transact freely with their EAC Partner States' counterparts unlike in the past where they needed interpreters

Rwanda High Commissioner explains how Rwanda has embraced the use of Kiswahili

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to communicate and conclude business deals with their regional partners.

Kiswahili in Exchange of knowledge and skills

In a globalized society Kiswahili facilitates citizens to effectively participate in technological development such as the use of mobile phones and social media, like on WhatsApp groups where experts exchange knowledge and skills while communicating in Kiswahili language.

Kiswahili in Entertainment sector

Kiswahili is being used in broadcasting by various radio stations including National Radio Station (Radio Rwanda) and other private owned radio stations which normally play entertainment songs from many East African artists including those from Tanzanian.

Some Rwandan artists have also been performing using Kiswahili in their songs, but also there are Kiswahili songs which have helped musicians to reach

out to their fans easily and bring unity among them in different areas.

Kiswahili in Diplomacy

The High Commissioner Major General Charles Karamba also asserted that Kiswahili plays a great role in enhancing diplomatic relations since it is an official language in the East African Community whereby people from the six EAC Countries speak it, thus strengthening relations and social cohesion between our countries.

Through the use of Kiswahili, our people are able to travel from one country to another and conduct business activities, investment, tourism or work easily as they are able to communicate effectively, which strengthens our economic and diplomatic relations.

Kiswahili has helped to ease communication in various African leaders' meetings by speaking this language to forge unity and African Identity.



What to expect at CHOGM 2021?

A Rwandan proverb says: "Two people working together are better than eight fighting against each other".

As a landlocked country, we know that regional and international cooperation is an imperative to thrive and succeed. Even more so, since COVID-19 has highlighted that in an interconnected and interdependent world, countries share a common destiny.

The accelerated international response to the current public health emergency is an illustration that when we combine our efforts, we have the capacity to prepare for future threats but also, to act on pre-existing ones.

In that context, the Commonwealth, which has been leader on environment and climate change that continue to affect communities around the globe, could also play a key role in ensuring equitable access to and distribution of fairly priced COVID-19 vaccines.

The 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) scheduled to take place in June 2021, in Rwanda, under the theme "Delivering a common future: connecting, innovating, transforming", will be an opportunity for Commonwealth Leaders to reflect on new forms of global governance while also raising ambitions on key decisions taken during CHOGM 2018.

It will also be the occasion to build unified positions ahead of key upcoming events, including the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) scheduled for early November 2021, in Glasgow, UK.



It is indeed time to put our words into action, by making our governance models more inclusive; by making our health systems more resilient; by ensuring our economies and trade attain sustainable growth; by strengthening our social protection systems; by taking bold action on climate and by unlocking the advantages of technology for development.

We must adapt our national, regional and international systems to respond to both current and pressing challenges and as our talented and innovative young people will inherit this world, we shall do it with them, rather than for them.

Let us build on CHOGM's momentum, to strengthen existing strategic partnerships and alliance as well as build new ones towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other major international commitments designed to preserve global common goods.

As we look ahead with optimism that the global health situation will improve over the next few months, Rwanda, as the youngest member of

the Commonwealth family of Nations, is looking forward to welcoming all of you in your extended home.

Our national COVID-19 response has been focused on multi-sectoral collaboration and built upon regional and international responses.

As we continue to strengthen our capabilities, be reassured that we will host you in a safe environment, in respect of all World Health Organization recommendations.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vincent Biruta:

Currently Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.



Dr. Biruta has previously been in charge of key cabinet portfolios including Environment; Natural Resources; Education; Public Works, Transport & Communication; and Health. He also served as President of the Senate and President of the National Transitional Assembly.



CHOGM 2021

25-26 JUNE - KIGALI, RWANDA

Rwanda looks forward to welcoming you for the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in June, in Kigali.

Events' dates

- Commonwealth Youth Forum:
20-22 June 2021 –
Intare Conference Arena
- Commonwealth Women's Forum: **21-22 June 2021**
– **Serena Hotel**
- Commonwealth People's Forum: **21-23 June 2021** –
Ubumwe Grande Hotel
- Commonwealth Business Forum: **22-24 June 2021** –
Kigali Conference and Exhibition Centre
- CHOGM Opening ceremony:
25 June 2021 –
Kigali Convention Centre

COVID-19 measures

Rwanda has been observing all COVID-19 preventive measures as recommended by the World Health Organisation.

For CHOGM, the country will implement additional measures, including COVID-19 green zoning areas for participants throughout their stay in Rwanda. These precautions include among others:

- Limiting CHOGM green areas only to participants and service providers with proof of negative test results.
- Establishing strict infection prevention control (IPC) measures within CHOGM green areas.

For additional information on COVID-19, kindly visit:
www.rbc.gov.rw

Travelers' information

Citizens of all Commonwealth countries get a 30-day free visa upon arrival to Rwanda.

Rwanda, also known as the Country of a Thousand Hills, is open for tourism. While in Rwanda, make sure you plan a tour and discover the country and its people. For more information: www.visitrwanda.com.

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Rwanda's High Commissioner condoles with the family of the late Nyerere

Following the untimely demise of Rosemary Nyerere, the 7th child (daughter) of Tanzania's founding President Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Rwanda's High Commissioner in Tanzania, Maj. Gen. Charles Karamba on January 4th 2021 visited the family of the late Nyerere at Msasani in Dar es Salaam, and conveyed Rwanda Government message of condolences and sympathy to the family, Government and people of Tanzania.

The High Commissioner Maj. Gen. Karamba met with Mwalimu Nyerere's family members including Mr. Makongoro Nyerere who is the son of the late President Nyerere and conveyed his condolences and sympathy on behalf of Rwanda's Government.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda also sent a solidarity message to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania conveying a message of condolences that the Government of the Republic of Rwanda addresses to the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The statement noted "It is with profound sadness that the Government of the Republic of Rwanda learned of the passing of Ms. Rosemary Nyerere, the daughter of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Government of Rwanda extends its heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the Nyerere family as well as to the Government and people of the



The Rwanda High Commissioner to Tanzania, Maj. Gen. Charles Karamba signing the visitor's book and giving condolences to the Late Tanzania's President Mwalimu Nyerere's family residence at Msasani in Dar es Salaam.

United Republic of Tanzania during this moment of grief.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time of sorrow." Rosemary was born on October 27, 1961. She worked as a part time lecturer

at the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) in Dar es Salaam from 1991 to 1999.

This was one among other undertakings during her life-time.

Rwanda Community in Tanzania celebrates National Heroes' Day 2021

The Rwanda High Commissioner to the United Republic of Tanzania Major General Charles Karamba presided over a virtual ceremony which brought together Rwanda Embassy Diplomats, Staff and the Rwandan Community Abroad (RCA) or Diaspora living in Tanzania to celebrate and reflect on the concept of Rwandan Heroes, national pride and dignity as the country marked National Hero's Day on February 1, 2021

National Heroes' Day is an annual event organized to pay tribute to the people who extremely exemplified and defended the highest values of patriotism and sacrifice for the wellbeing of the Country and its citizens. This year the National Heroes' Day was celebrated virtually due to measures in place to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The national Heroes of Rwanda are celebrated in three different categories namely: IMANZI, IMENA, and INGENZI.

The Rwandan Community Abroad used the opportunity to exchange on the importance of the day for their nation as well as every one's role to uphold the achievements registered in the country.

One of the community members explained about the categories of the National Heroes' Day.

The IMANZI is the highest decoration of honor for national heroes; this category features the supreme Hero who demonstrated utmost achievements at the expense of everything, including their own lives.

Heroes in this category includes the "Unknown Soldier", who represents all Men and Women in uniform who lost their lives during the liberation struggle and Major General Fred Gisa RWIGEMA, who died on the frontline the day after the launch of the country's armed liberation struggle in October 1990.



Rwanda High Commissioner to the United Republic of Tanzania Major General Charles Karamba presiding over a virtual meeting with the Rwanda Community Abroad (RCA) or Diaspora living in Tanzania.

The IMENA category comprises of heroes known for their extraordinary heroic acts for the country marked by sacrifice, high importance and example.

This category includes King Mutara III Rudahigwa Charles Léon Pierre, Michel Rwagasana (special adviser to late King Rudahigwa), and Agathe Uwilingiyimana, the female Prime Minister who was slain by genocidal government forces within just hours of the start of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Others in this category include Felicite NIYITEGEKA, a Catholic nun who offered shelter to fleeing Tutsi during genocide.

She was killed by the Interahamwe Militia along with other people who she had hid in her house at her Parish, in the Northern Province.

In the category of IMENA are also the Nyange Secondary School students whose school was attacked by the remnants of the Genocidal militia in 1997, in which six students were killed.

The INGENZI category also comprises of living heroes who are known for their good ideas or outstanding achievements characterized by sacrifice, great importance and high example.

However, their list is yet to be published. As Rwandans celebrate Heroes' Day, also heroic values including proven integrity, patriotism and sacrifice, acts of bravery, setting good examples and love for others are celebrated.

It is in this regard, that during his closing remarks while addressing the Rwandan Community Abroad living in Tanzania who celebrated the National Heroes' Day virtually, the High Commissioner commended the heroic acts of the Rwanda Community in Tanzania and for their continued support to the various government initiatives which include among others, the recent Connect Rwanda campaign in which they afforded a good number of unprivileged Rwandans back home with smart phones.

RwandAir to be the first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass



RwandAir will become the first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass to enable safe and seamless international travel.

The airline will begin a three-week trial in April for customers travelling between Kigali and Nairobi in Kenya.



Yvonne Manzi Makolo, Chief Executive Officer of the RwandAir

IATA Travel Pass is a digital platform to help passengers easily and securely verify that they comply with COVID-19 test or vaccine travel requirements, in turn giving governments the confidence to reopen borders.

Developed by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the trade association for the world's airlines, the platform is designed to be incorporated into airlines' own apps, so travelers by air easily understand what they need before they fly.

Yvonne Manzi Makolo, CEO of RwandAir, said: "RwandAir is proud to be the first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass, which could reinforce all the health and safety measures and protocols which we have put in place to restore customer confidence to fly once more. We are incredibly proud to be part of IATA's Industry Advisory Panel,

to ensure we guide the technology development in a way that covers the unique requirements of our passenger profile.

"IATA's innovative solution simplifies and digitally transmits the information required by countries and governments around the world into our airline systems, in a secure and efficient manner.

"Travel Pass will make it easy for our customers to resume flying – and just as easy for RwandAir, and airlines around the world, to accept them.

Alexandre de Juniac, IATA Director General and CEO, said: "RwandAir is showing its industry leadership in Africa by becoming the first airline on the continent to trial IATA Travel Pass.

RwandAir has long used IATA products as the most reliable source of information on entry requirements.

RwandAir to be the first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass

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This trial will build on that history of working in partnership and takes us a step further in the context of COVID-19.

IATA Travel Pass will give governments the confidence to re-open their borders knowing that arriving passengers are in full compliance with any testing or vaccination requirements.”

The trial app has a range of features, including a registry of testing centres and labs at the departure and/or arrival location which can conduct COVID-19 tests in accordance with the type

of test required for the journey.” RwandAir customers participating in the trial will create a ‘digital passport’ which verifies that their pre-travel COVID-19 test or vaccination meets the requirements of the destination they are travelling to.

They will also be able to safely and securely share their test and vaccination certificates with participating authorities and airlines around the world to ensure smooth and seamless travel.

For more information about RwandAir, please visit www.rwandair.com



“RwandAir is proud to be the first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass, which could reinforce all the health and safety measures and protocols which we have put in place to restore customer confidence to fly once more”.

-Yvonne Manzi Makolo, CEO of RwandAir