Taxpayers commended for resilience in crisis | PG13
Rwandan industrialist Placide, Musanze’s Model Investor | PG21
DECEMBER is here and we were almost seeing the last of 2020, the year of big expectations as far as Rwandans are concerned largely due to targets the country had set itself. Let’s appreciate the milestone that Rwanda reached in the last twenty years guided by a clear vision and now we brace for vision 2055.

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Before we see the last of 2020, Rwanda Dispatch magazine navigates you into the countrywide to one of the country’s top tourist destination – Musanze. The district is also getting back to its feet after tourism is also getting back to its feet after tourism

The business community in Musanze says all is not back but healing there and the future is brighter. To our loyal readers, clients and public, indulge us to wish you a Merry Christmas and prosperous Happy New Year 2021.

Publisher’s Note

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The progress we see today didn’t come easily but through collective hard work of Rwandans to overcome challenges. The resilience of Rwandans has manifested in the progress we see and unity of the people.

The year 2020 most were expectant no one knew would be dominated by Covid-19, that would ravage lives and strike economies world over. For Rwanda, the leadership has done well to control this novel coronavirus to lesser spread as compared to its intensity elsewhere.

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EDITORIAL
**Ethiopia’s Tigray Crisis**

Ethiopia’s military is fighting the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), the battle-hardened troops in the north of the country in a war that is threatening stability around the Horn of Africa.

TPLF dominated Ethiopia’s political scene for more than 25 years until Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came in 2018 with popular support, introducing sweeping reforms to end the repression and corruption in the country.

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**IN CASE YOU MISSED THEM (QUOTES)**

The fight against the AIDS epidemic can be won, but it requires unwavering global partnerships.

JEANETTE KAGAME, FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

“I pledge to be a President who seeks not to divide, but to unify.”

JOE BIDEN, PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

“We may be poor but we are not a country that will negotiate our sovereignty.”

MINISTER ABIY AHMED, PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

“Anyone, who engages in criminal acts, however small or big the crime is, affects the rights and wellbeing of the people.”

JOHNSTON BUSINGYE, RWANDA’S MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

We are finally coming to the end of 2020, the year has been hard to many economically after Covid-19 interrupted businesses, jobs and life in general. As we head into the festive season, many will not be able to feast as they used to do years ago.

To those less fortunate this period will rather be the difficult season, therefore I would like to appeal to everyone who is fortunate to look out for those who need compassion so they can also have a festive season.

I hope many people now have come to know how dangerous Covid-19 is and are very mindful of the preventive measures, so please enjoy this season while respecting the measures to prevent the spread by washing hands frequently, wearing your facemask and other measures advised by health officials. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

KALEMA GIDEON
KIGALI.
No to structural gender disparities – Kagame to G20

President Kagame attended the G20 Leaders summit where he delivered a statement on behalf of the NEPAD. Kagame highlighted three key aspects of building inclusive, sustainable, and resilient societies.

He said that we cannot continue to accept structural gender disparities as the status quo in a truly inclusive and sustainable future. He also noted Africa’s appreciation for the special consideration for the continent, as demonstrated by the Compact with Africa and the results of the Extraordinary Summit on Covid-19 earlier this year.

Three new automobile inspection centres open

Three new automobile inspection centres were recently opened across the country by Rwanda National Police (RNP). The new facilities worth over Rwf3 billion were opened in Hope town (South), Musanze town (North) and Rwamagana town (East).

To improve and extend services closer to the people the facilities were constructed in less than two years and each has two fixed lanes with capacity to inspect at least 200 vehicles per day.

During the launch, the Minister of Justice, Johnston Busingye said that the facilities were pledged by President Paul Kagame and they reflect the government’s commitment to further build the capacity of police to improve road security.

Police Chief, IGP Dan Munyuza said that the inspection facilities provide three crucial services; fighting and preventing road accidents, gas emission and providing advisory services to owners of automobiles that are found with mechanical fault.

The three centres will supplement the five fixed lanes at Romera Automobile Inspection Centre in Kigali as well as the Mobile lane, which were overbooked and overloaded. This increases the daily inspection capacity from 500 to over 1100 vehicles.

Drivers from provinces will no longer make the journey to Kigali to only acquire automobile inspection services.

Sniffer dogs to join Rwanda Covid-19 fight

The fight against Covid-19 in Rwanda will soon be joined by trained sniffer dogs to detect suspected cases. The move will supplement other measures like robots and drones among other innovative ways to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus.

According to the Director General of Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC), Dr Sabin Nsanzimana, a memorandum of understanding was signed to this effect between the Rwandan government and Germany.

“Odor identification of Covid-19 using dogs” is the new approach that will be adopted in the fight against the pandemic in Rwanda, drawing in particular from the experiences of Germany and Finland, he said.

The use of sniffer dogs aims to identify positive cases for Covid-19 but people are likely to buy and exhibit makes sales.

During the expo cashless payment is expected, from entrance fees as well as other shopping and Covid-19 protective measures will be enforced like hand washing and wearing face masks.

The expo is expected to attract more local exhibitors while foreign participants are expected to come from countries like Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Benin, Madagascar, Ethiopia, and Turkey among others.
Cardinal Antoine Kambanda: Task of leading a church that nurtures spirit, builds the body, develops the nation

By Thomas Kagera,

For the first time in her long history, the Rwanda Catholic Church has a Cardinal. His Eminence Cardinal Antoine Kambanda, along with twelve others, was officially created Cardinal by Pope Francis on 20th November 2020 during a consistory in Vatican. He celebrated his first mass on 6th December at Kigali Arena, attracting several celebrities including President Paul Kagame, bishops from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, diplomats accredited to Rwanda and representatives of different faith based organizations, among others.

The ascendance of Cardinal Kambanda to one of the topmost positions in the Catholic Church is a symbolic representation of Rwanda’s positioning in the religious world, where the church can be represented during the election of the next Pope. It is also a show of trust and confidence the church have in Cardinal Kambanda in general.

Show of Trust
President Kagame explicitly appreciates this show of trust and confidence the church has in Cardinal Kambanda and the people of Rwanda in general. "Today, all of us Rwandans have great joy because the Catholic Church of Rwanda has a Cardinal. It’s the first time this has happened in the last 120 years. When a Rwandan rises through the ranks because of his or her proven courage and commendable performance, be it in Rwanda or on the international stage, we are all happy. The trust and dignity that the Pope has given you is also ours as Rwandans," the President considered.

International Relations
In terms of international relations, Rwanda-Vatican relations which heretofore were poor owing to the church’s refusal to acknowledge participation of its clergy in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi are steadily evolving into normalcy. Since Pope Francis ascendance to the Holy Seat, there has been good progress towards mending the same with clear demonstration on the Pope's side, relentlessly proving commitment to boosting relations and correcting what went wrong over the past.

Considering the involvement of Catholic Church members during the genocide, Pope Francis made a step further and apologized on behalf of the church. The appointment of Cardinal Kambanda will cement the relationship even further. Monsignor Kambanda also has to demonstrate continued efforts to restore the faith that Rwandans lost in the church owing to its failings during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Building Body and Spirit
Despite the downs that befell the church when its members participated in the heinous acts, the long and rich history of Rwanda shows that the Catholic Church has been a partner in improving the wellbeing of Rwandans through education, health, and development.

That is why President Kagame concurs when he emphasizes that the willingness of Pope Francis is considered. "His Eminence the Cardinal, you are adding another bloc to a long sequence of Christians and clerics Rwanda has ever had," says Rukamba.

His Brief History
Monsignor Kambanda was born on 10th November 1958 in Kigali. He attended Primary school in Buurndi and Uganda and continued with secondary school studies in Kenya. He graduated in theology at Grand Seminaire Nyakibanda in Butare Diocese.

Most of the members of his family were killed in the 1994 war except for one of his brothers, who at present lives in Italy.

After his Ordination, the Cardinal-designate held a number of offices. From 1990 to 1993 he was Professor and Prefect at the Minor Seminary of Ndera (Kigali), before taking up higher studies again in Rome from 1993 to 1999 at the Redemptorists’ Alphonsian Academy — whose teaching is inspired by Saint Alphonsus Mary Liguori —, where he received a Doctorate in Moral Theology. He resided at Saint Paul’s Pontifical College.

He was Director of Kigali’s diocesan Caritas from 1999 to 2005; Director of the diocesan Justice and Peace Commission; Professor of Moral Theology at the Grand Seminary of Theology at Nyakibanda and Spiritual Director of the Grand Seminary of Rutongo, in the province of Kigali.

Then, from 2005 to 2006 he was Rector of the Grand Seminary of Philosophy of Kahgai, in the Southern Province. From 2006 he was Rector of the Saint Charles Grand Seminary of Nyakibanda.

Pope Francis appointed him Bishop of the diocese of Kibungo on May 7, 2016, and Archbishop of Kigali on November 19, 2018.
Town for his daily activities said that he uses the internet but he has not yet seen this facility in the buses.

“I use the internet quite often when I am in the bus, I have not yet found it since they introduced the initiative. Only one transport company ‘Ritco’ tries to offer this free internet service, which is also slow. There is a need for improvement because passengers need to interact with their friends and families or business partners while in the buses.” He said.

Investigation revealed that passengers using public transport buses within the capital Kigali have been fleeced billions of francs worth of internet they pay for but cannot connect to and doesn’t exist in these buses.

Emima Uwineza, 22, is also a citizen of Remera sector in Gasabo district. She said she doesn’t care about this free internet because she has not yet seen it in the bus.

“I can’t spend a single moment thinking of this free internet because I did not see it since it was said to be introduced in the public buses five years ago, I buy and use my internet bundles.” Uwineza noted.

Commuters said they did not access the internet for five years in over 400 buses owned by three transport companies yet a mandatory Rwf10 for internet is deducted from every passenger whether they use it or not.

In 2015, under the new innovation with Tap&Go cards, all three bus agencies were required to be fitted with WiFi that passengers would connect to with their smartphones and laptops or any other gadgets that require the internet as they enjoy their ride.

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risk to lose many other benefits as you are losing time; and “Time is Money.” Hakizimana added.

Claudette Uwera, 26, is a young lady from Kimororokoro Sector, Gasabo district. She told this medium that long queues have become a routine and worse when going to town and returning.

“I am a trader in Kigali Town and I use public buses every morning and evening. I always find the queue in the morning and evening, this is a routine and we complain a lot but nothing has changed.”

CALL FOR MORE BUSES

Maurice Kaberuka, 37, is a citizen from Gitega sector in Nyarugenge district. He said that the government should allow more investors to bring more transport companies to compete with current ones in order to tackle the queues that delay commuters.

“The buses are not enough while passengers are many and keep increasing. The government needs to look into this scenario and allow more investors to bring the buses on roads in order to complement current transport companies.” He said.

For a couple of years, city commuters used to wait in long queues during peak hours and public transporters struggled to live up to their contractual obligation of providing efficient and timely services.

In October 2019, the Rwanda Utility and Regulation Authority (RURA) invited new bids from interested operators in order to address the concerns of the members of the public.

This move came after the expiry of the contracts signed by three public transport companies that first won the tender back in 2013.

In the same year, the city public transport needed about 200 more buses to cater for the surging urban population and still the problem remains unsolved as no other bus operators are in the sector.

There are nearly 500 public transport buses in the city owned by Rwanda Federation of Transport Cooperatives (RFTC), Kigali Bus Services and Royal Express.

Both lack of Internet among the Kigali public transport buses and long queues at the bus stations involve negative impacts to their socio-economic development.

Some of commuters ask themselves if anyone is responsible for helping them to recover these billions of francs they lost over the ghost internet.

“We do not know where this money has gone and who is controlling it, it would have been used for other development activities which are known.” Said James Murindabigwi, a citizen from Gatenga sector, Kicukiro district.

Statistics show that the city has an estimated 200,000 commuters daily.

Taxpayers commended for resilience in crisis

To fight against the social-economic impact of this pandemic, 2020/2021 National Budget shall focus on implementing national economic recovery measures.” The Prime Minister said.

Government put in place the Economic Recovery Fund with its first batch of Rwf100 billion to support companies that were mostly affected by the pandemic. This Fund supports any private company whose income reduced by 30% due to Covid-19.

The impact of the pandemic on the private sector also forced Rwanda to exempt VAT on some products, removal of tax penalties and other delay related taxes.

New Ombudsman takes oath of office

As we all know, injustice and corruption are amongst the things that impede Rwandans’ rights, destroy the social fabric, and slow down the country’s progress. We want to fight this and we have institutions tasked to do just that, and equipped to deliver. We need to see them working and implementing their mandate as they should,” President Kagame said during the swearing in ceremony.

He added that in this fight, all institutions complement each other, and should work together in everything.

Madame Nirere is the fourth to hold the office of the Ombudsman since it was created in 2003. Previously, she was the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission and served in both chambers of the parliament before.
Galilee Satellite Estate at the center of providing affordable housing

The Government of Rwanda has embarked on reconstruction and infrastructure development among which priorities is the construction of modern residential and commercial houses.

Across the country, several projects are coming up with special attention given to low and medium income residential houses. Several technologies are being considered to provide cost-effective, but efficient modular solutions, which can be replicated at numerous sites in order to solve the problem of low cost housing in Rwanda.

Many companies are involved in real estate development by constructing houses and selling them and also by providing both short and long term accommodation and office space. Though there are companies involved into these activities it is on a small scale and most of the infrastructure they develop is scattered and targets high income earners. This makes them expensive, leaving very few for the local market who have low and medium incomes.

According to Harmony Kunu, the CEO of Workers Affordable Property Rwanda (WAP), a company that is building low income houses in Rwanda, the need for infrastructure and real estate has been attributed to recent remarkable growth in population and foreign investments which imply that there will be continued growing demand for residential as well as commercial buildings.

“Growth in demand for low and affordable houses has been driven by many factors, a growing population (2.64 per cent per annum), an emerging and growing middle class, increased Diaspora investment in Rwandan property markets and government investment in infrastructure expansion and modernization of urban and rural infrastructure” he says.

He also attributes the increased development to many factors that include: - a number of key materials which are manufactured locally, whereas others are imported.

According to him, it is good to be innovative and to take advantage of the locally manufactured materials like cement, metal roofing sheets, clay and ceramic building materials (bricks, blocks and tiles) which are sold at fair prices.

“At our construction site at Gahanga, we are partly using hydroform bricks that are molded entirely from moist soil to build the Galilee Satellite Estate security wall. It is beautiful and less costly as they require no cement and are environmentally friendly,” says Kunu.

Kunu says he chose to build an affordable housing estate here in Rwanda because of the most obvious reason for why homeowners choose homes in estates.

“We chose to pioneer the building of estates in Rwanda because there are few or no estates here yet they offer much better security. Most estates enforce access control and have security personnel who work day and night to guarantee the safety and security of residents,” he explains.

He adds that besides the obvious additional security, estates offer much more great option for families.

Living in an estate, promises that kids can enjoy the same carefree lifestyle. Galilee Estate will attract its own (likeminded) residents with amenities that are child-friendly.

“Our estate has plenty of leisure activities, from kindergarten to gyms and swimming pools. At Galilee, we try to be as convenient as possible to our residents and we will offer additional amenities that include gyms, shops, and clubhouses.

“We have a nursery school that has been established within the estates to offer the residents with the comfort of being completely catered for within its walls” he adds.

Eng. Harmony Kunu, CEO of WAP

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MAYOR NIWUMUREMYI TOLD RWANDA DISPATCH SHE SWITCHED POSITIONS BUT HER WORK HAS REMAINED, TO SUPPORT PEOPLE DEVELOP BUT AS MAYOR SHE CARES FOR EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE FOR HER PEOPLE.

WHAT ARE MUSANZE’S EXPERIENCES USING PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS TO PULL CITIZENS OUT OF POVERTY?

There is a lot of interventions we have undertaken for example we set targets to create new jobs from rural to urban areas, new jobs for the youth, through VIP programme and this is as good as giving people money. We ensure financial services are working well to provide loans to citizens to undertake small income generating activities that will raise people’s welfare. We support the most vulnerable build them houses, toilets, repair provide farmers with agricultural inputs like fertilizers, seeds and advise them to increase productivity. With our district’s tourism potential we encourage and equip residents with skills to exploit opportunities in tourism, for example artisans who have started shops selling tourists art objects and souvenirs.

Through the use of Imihigo we have set goals every year and achieved them, leading to aim higher while looking at every aspect of citizens’ development starting with social welfare, good governance, service delivery, infrastructure development, electricity, water and the general economic development of our district.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF YOUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS?

We work with different stakeholders to achieve our development agenda, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, faith based organisations and citizens in general. The high rise structures coming up in our city are built by partners like ORDCO, local and international hotels are servicing our tourists, and Gorilla Research Centre are among other development initiatives that we forge together with our stakeholders.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF YOUR PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS, ‘IMIHIGO’ HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?

Imihigo is an important tool indeed, when you’re aiming at certain targets that you have even committed formally or publicly it gives you more strength to achieve them. Imihigo as a development tool in Musanze as well as other districts has accelerated development and His Excellency President Kagame emphasized this mechanism which speeds-up progress when people commit and work with others to reach their targets.

We have a new master plan to be launched soon, it will help improve investment opportunities and pave way for the industrial park we are developing in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade where 164 hectares have been reserved for industries, and we are developing Agakiriro ka Musanze.

ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT IS PART OF THE DISTRICT’S PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS, ‘IMIHIGO,’ HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?

With our district’s tourism potential we encourage and equip residents with skills to exploit opportunities in tourism, for example artisans who have started shops selling tourists art objects and souvenirs.

WHO IS THE MAYOR OF MUSANZE AND WHAT ARE YOUR EXPERIENCES?

I am Jeanine Niwumuremyi, born here in Kimonyi Sector in Musanze District where I also started my education and graduated from the University of Rwanda in Butare. I am an agricultural engineer graduated from the University of Rwanda where I also started my education and graduated from the University of Rwanda in Butare. I am an agricultural engineer with a masters in development studies. Previsously, I worked in the coffee sector before joining Rwanda Agricultural Board as head of the Western Province and had been transferred to the office in the Northern Province when I was elected mayor.

I love people and was lucky to work in the agricultural sector interacting with farmers. My profession twinned with my nature. The same I have found in my current position which requires to love people if you are to achieve any meaningful transformation for the people.

We are developing Lake Rubondo and the numerous caves in the district as touristic attractions. Virunga National Park, the home to the popular Gorillas has many more attractions that people need to know, there is a beautiful landscape, the volcano mountains, wild animals like Buffalos, reptiles, insects and birds of different species some that are endemic to the park. The park is also historical where our liberation struggle was fought, all are being considered for development.

WHERE DO YOU SEE MUSANZE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

I see Musanze with residents who are developed, farmers as our baseline who are commercial farmers after they have enough in their homes. I see developed citizens in terms of money, hygiene, good housing, informed farmers and generally a citizen that exploits the available opportunities and a more developed tourism sector.

WHAT ARE MUSANZE’S ATTRACTIONS?

Tourism in Musanze has focused on Gorillas but we have many attractions that need developing and some are in the pipeline like mountain climbing which we are working with Enabel to complete and we in the process of creating an artificial lake near the city.

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WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENTS?

Musanze has established strategic partnerships in countries like China, Netherlands and on the national level there is RDB which supports us to attract investments. We have had investors coming from Netherlands and the Chinese are supporting us to build IPRC Musanze in Nyakinama and we have a list of other foreign investors in the hospitality sector.

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Thank you.

THANK YOU.
The luxurious Best View Hotel in the centre of Musanze city is a wonder and testimony to what Rwanda’s touristic region has to offer in the hospitality sector. The 3-Star urban hotel has the grandeur observed as you approach the facility and once inside you can enjoy restful comfort with sumptuous, luxurious meals and drinks.

The Beautiful, grandeur and luxurious facility doesn’t limit guests with budget expenses because the hotel adopted an arrangement to offer friendly rates to all that come to their doorsteps.

Fabrice Kwizera, the General Manager of the hotel notes they enjoy outing there with the feeling and entertainment of the hotel.

Fabrice Kwizera, the General Manager of Best View Hotel was also among the founders. He was born in Musanze, grew up in Kigali and attended his university in the United States of America.

Kwizera explains the idea to build a hotel was conceived after completing his studies in the USA and had returned to his home town where he spotted opportunities because of the booming tourism.

Musanze as Rwanda’s top touristic centre offered various opportunities with natural attractions, Gorilla trekking, Volcano Mountains, Caves, Crater Lakes to mention a few. Kwizera with partners tapped into the opportunities and have never regretted the decision.

They built a 3-star urban hotel which opened doors in 2014 starting from an idea of a small hospitality facility that had only 13 rooms, small bar and restaurant and relatively a small conference hall.

Best View Hotel wants to create an atmosphere where every guest is entertained at affordable price and residents of Musanze gets to dine & wine at the hotel.

“We provide affordable luxury,” Kwizera emphasizes the objective is not to seek more hotel stars-status but be the best 3-Star urban hotel. He explains the need to promote local tourism by offering luxury to citizens.

The concept started by Best View Hotel has already made the place a very popular hangout in Musanze, through their affordable bar and restaurant where many residents have incorporate local tourism by offering the best services at affordable rates.

The property is situated in a serene part of the upcoming city, very quiet away of the bursting of the city activities yet in a reachable distance to various popular shops and outing hotspots.
The concept of their business idea was smaller than the current investment, according to Kwizera. Initially it was to build a simple lodge but the available opportunities forced them to go big.

Two years into their initial venture they had neither made any loss or profit, but when an opportunity presented itself in form of land for expansion the directors of the hotel seized the opportunity to move from the lodge into a hotel in 2016. The land bought offered an expansion to build 60 rooms with a modern bar and restaurant along with service amenities like a swimming pool, GYM, Spa and Steam among other facilities for the comfort of clients.

Today, the hotel has 73 spacious rooms each fitted with a wardrobe, flat-screen TV and come complete with a private bathroom equipped with a shower and free toiletries, while some units have a seating area and a continental breakfast is offered every morning to guests.

The reception services include guidance and can facilitate guests where they wish to visit given that Musanze has a lot of attractions to offer.

Best View Hotel also has conference facilities that were added during the expansion phase boasting two conference halls with capacity of 200 people and two more small conference halls.

The General Manager notes that the vision is to add on other service amenities and create a resort with recreational amenities. Best View Hotel is not only changing the hospitality sector in Musanze but the community as well through recruitment of local workforce. According to testimonies some of staff members are experiencing transformational change working at the hotel.

The venture which started with only five workers including the founder, chief cook, receptionist and multi-purpose workers has grown. Management decided to prioritise employment of local labour where staff grew to 75 before the Covid-19 crisis and currently have 43 workers since the resumption of business.

Employing the local workforce has helped change people’s lives through salaries, pension, health insurance and taxes.

However, creating jobs is not the only intervention Best View Hotel makes but also invests in corporate social responsibility by working with local government starting from the village level up to the district.

The hotel located in Ruhengeri village supports at least 100 households in the neighbourhoods by fully paying their health insurance and contributes to social needs as well as development initiatives in the district.
Musanze is a city on the move, so are the residents. Arguably the country’s second largest city, Musanze has fast become one of the most vibrant cities thanks in part to its tourism potentials and the city is experiencing a construction boom.

IN THE EARLY 2000s, WHEN THE RWANDAN ECONOMY WAS STARTING TO RECOVER FROM THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI, TUYISHIMIRE PLACIDE WAS COMPLETING HIS SECONDARY EDUCATION AND BEGAN HIS JOURNEY AS AN ENTREPRENEUR.

Musanze is a city on the move, so are the residents. Arguably the country’s second largest city, Musanze has fast become one of the most vibrant cities thanks in part to its tourism potentials and the city is experiencing a construction boom.

Tuyishimire Placide, 41, came to Musanze ten years ago to study but choose to do business when he spotted some opportunities in

**Banana & Ginger**

**Alcoholic beverage**

**Improved banana and Ginger beer**

The process is made more hygienic and the quality of product improved by following a typical method for making a fermented beverage, pasteurisation to stop the fermentation. The product made by this improved method has a great taste and appearance to the ‘live’ beer produced by the traditional method. The improved beer is bottled and stored and is consistent from one batch to the next.

**Hygiene and quality assurance**

Heating or boiling the raw material would kill these natural yeasts and spoil the traditional flavour of the beer. Strict attention is paid to cleanliness of the equipment and processing area and to personal hygiene to avoid contamination of the beer with other bacteria that may form acid rather than alcohol.

We sterilise the equipment prior to use with boiling water.

**CETRAF Ltd**

**Musanze - Rwanda**

Rwandan industrialist Placide, Musanze’s Model Investor
MUSANZE DISTRICT REVIEW

Musanze and today is one of the youngest billionaires in town. Born near the Catholic parish in Rushashi Sector, Gakenke District south of Musanze District in Northern Rwanda, Tuyishimire liked to pray when he was still young. This is also explained from a staunch Catholic family and a predominantly Catholic community with close proximity to the parish.

His father, a banana and coffee farmer was also known for his empire, as they say the rest is history.

During his primary school days, Tuyishimire liked art a lot always wanted to go back to class. He saw an opportunity where he would make some side cash as an informal trader in food crops like sorghum, Irish potatoes and started building his empire, as they say the rest is history.

The entrepreneur he is, started making banana and ginger beer, later built a brewery in Musanze that has grown over the years with very popular drinks.

Placide notes that when you start something on your own you will achieve something and reach somewhere creating employment for others along the way but you need to save on every earning you make.

“Self-employment has a lot of benefits and luck, all you need is to be confident and determined to start doing something with whatever capital you have,” Placide emphasizes. “I believe self-employment is always better than to think you have to look for employment.”

He observes that self-employment doesn’t only give you financial rewards but is also a satisfying experience because of job creation. “I am most proud of what I do because it has created hundreds of jobs for others.”

Starting the brewery plant was not easy as Placide explains that there was not even enough capital but was determined to make it work and the business atmosphere was promising.

The business environment in Rwanda is another catalyst for people who want to start or invest in any sector as Placide says. The country has a lot of opportunities and encourages investment, this can be shown with the number of businesses that have been born and grown as well as factories manufacturing diverse products that were not there before.

Placide challenges people who say doing business is not easy in Rwanda, saying that those would be lazy to start one or those who feel they can’t get their hands dirty will definitely fail to get a breakthrough into business.

He is very proud that his business finally took off and today employees hundreds of Rwandans as a local company and promotes made in Rwanda. Placide lists creating employment as the top most component in his capacity as an investor and is proud that his investments directly employ about 600 people not mentioning those indirectly benefiting from his ventures and their beneficiary families.

The married father of two loves to spend time with his family, advises that its important to always be there for your family and provide for them, sharing with them whatever you have.

His business success at a young age have afforded Placide some things that he says many may not have been lucky. He is happy that has been able to build a good family home and embarked on commercial buildings in Musanze.

The important thing is the undertaking of activities that are supporting and will continue to support more people in future. He says that he is building a multi-storied commercial complex in the City of Musanze that will serve a lot of people for years to come.

“The construction project am undertaking will serve a diverse part of Rwandans which makes me proud but again will help my family when am no longer around because its an investment that will outlive me,” underlines Placide.

He advises the youth if they are to become successful entrepreneurs will require them to be more confident, determined, work hard and make savings. Importantly is to start working on something with whatever you have instead of waiting for a larger capital.
FOR DECADES, URWAGWA (BANANA ALE) HAS BEEN AMONG MAJOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN EAST AFRICA REGION. IN RWANDA, THIS POPULAR ALCOHOL DRINK STILL PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FULFILLING SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS LIKE MARRIAGE AND CONSTITUTES A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF INCOME FOR MANUFACTURERS AND NATIONAL ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY.

Like most traditional skills, the recipe and process for brewing Urwagwa was mostly handed down from father to son. When Tuyishimire Placide, born to a father who brews the banana ale, saw the increasing demand and deteriorating quality of the drink on market he spotted a business opportunity.

Tuyishimire had returned to school at INES Ruhengeri University in Musanze when he saw the opportunity to start a trade he grew up seeing. Equipped with some savings and a loan he paused his studies and started building Centre de Transformation Agro-Alimentaire en Afrique (CETRAF).

CETRAF Ltd modernises brewing of Urwagwa

The company started small producing at least 200 crates daily of Urwagwa with about 30 workers and the first 3 to 4 year was for building capacity before CETRAF would break even and started making profits after five years.

The CEO of CETRAF explains that even as they were making losses in the first years, he saw a promising future for the company.

The nature and size of the factory was one of the factors that the business would not make immediate profits and whatever was made would be washed away in factory overheads as they built capacity.

But with the initial investments of about Rwf 15 to 20 million francs in about ten years of operations the company has progressively grown to over Rwf 800 million and directly employs over 500 workers with 130 depots across the country.

The company has also invested massively into production raising the 200 crates they started with to about 45,000 per month and plans are to increase this capacity to at least 65,000 crates by next year.

The CEO of the company says Rwandans now enjoy the great Urwagwa taste with quality standards and a fresher taste because of local production.

The company is certified by Rwanda Standards Board for quality assurance which was given before its products were put on market. This confirms the standards set by RSB that contain a number of requirements that are put in place to make sure that whatever is for sale is fit for consumption.

CETRAF has maintained the originality of Urwagwa while keeping the required quality standards and packaging as well as branding necessities.

The head of the company says to maintain a quality and very popular product on market they have a secret ingredient. CETRAF produces two main products from bananas and another from ginger.

The products which are part of the Made in Rwanda initiative are gaining more ground each day as more Rwandans realise the quality when they taste CETRAF products. But it’s a challenge because locals haven’t appreciated that quality can be made by local companies.

Another challenge is the raw materials that are sometimes scarce to get and packaging materials that are mostly exported in the country. However, Tuyishimire emphasizes that there is a political will to promote locally made products as well as investments in the country which mitigate some of these challenges.

CETRAF, a local brewing company was founded in 2010 by Tuyishimire Placide with the aim of modernising the manufacture and packaging of a traditional alcoholic beverage.
Hotel Muhabura
A home away from home

Built by a Belgian colonial in 1954 and 1956 as Hotel Mimosa, the facility was later bought by a Rwandan businessman Otto Rusingizandekwe in 1968 who named it Hotel Muhabura that has since been in the family.

Hotel Muhabura was the first in Munzane and is no doubt one of the oldest hotels still operating in the country. The facility features historical moments and has kept Dian Fossey’s room as she left it, while her life is showcased outside her room.

Built by a Belgian colonial in 1954 and 1956 as Hotel Mimosa, the facility was later bought by a Rwandan businessman Otto Rusingizandekwe in 1968 who named it Hotel Muhabura that has since been in the family.

Located in the centre of Munzane, Rwanda’s top touristic and fast growing city in the Northern Province, Muhabura is renowned for superb care and highest quality services.

Focus Niyitegeka, the Marketing Manager of Hotel Muhabura explains that the super services they provide are the secret for the hotel’s success staying atop all these years and its historical relevance.

According to Niyitegeka, the hotel offers an experience that makes guests live home away from home. This is supported by the royal customers who always advise on the services which helps on improvement.

He highlights Hotel Muhabura’s belief that ‘to lose of one client, you have lost 1,000 clients,’ with this in mind services are kept at their best and beyond customer expectations.

The facility with magnificent architectural designs dating back almost 70 years present signature structures still standing. Expansion for more space at the hotel has ensured the original buildings are not touched which includes the front building.

Hotel Muhabura also has conference facilities for meetings, events, and special occasions like weddings, birthday parties and corporate gatherings among others. The hotel has five conference halls with different capacities ranging from 30 up to 120 persons.

The hotel is set in the calm of Munzane town surroundings with 30 rooms and very spacious apartments at very reasonable rates. The facility offers a cozy environment to relax after busy schedules or adventurous experiences in this part of the country.

The rooms at Hotel Muhabura are mainly in three categories: singles, doubles and twins as well as apartments. The hotel also offers camping on site in the beautiful gardens with compound green grounds and verandas.

“Our bungalows are in a very calm setting where you can enjoy meals, drinks and hold your meetings in a quite environment,” says Niyitegeka.

If years can teach something, the restaurant at Hotel Muhabura has learned to master the cuisine. The kitchen here is distinguished by the fineness of its cuisine that ranges from continent to another with traditional dishes inspired from hosted guests who have come from across the world.

The spacious gardens of the facility also hold special and entertaining events for local as well as international guests.

Hotel Muhabura has not only served clients from afar but has been a very important development partner in Munzane where it has touched people’s lives ranging from staff who have worked there for decades, local suppliers, local consumers and the authorities.

Niyitegeka observes that the hotel’s relationship with the local community has been one of the most rewarding experience whereby people have supported the hotel and the leadership has helped in navigating through challenges over the years.

FACILITIES

• Self-contained with warm shower and some with a bath
• All ground level.
• Direct access to the garden
• Own access with a small individual balcony.
• Equipped with satellite TV
• Free Wi-Fi-internet access
• Table and chairs
• Laundry service is available.

ADDRESS: Avenue Du 5 Juillet
Ruhengeri, Munzane, Northern Province

RECEPTION PHONE: +250 788 364 774
EMAIL: info@muhaburahotel.com
WWW.MUHABURAHOTEL.COM
The one stop shopping destination in Musanze

As one enters into Musanze what catches your attention is an imposing complex in the heart of this upcoming city in northern Rwanda. The gleaming arcade, complete with shops, food courts, banks, insurance companies, telecom service centres and offices, sits on the site that once stood Ruhengeri market.

The multi-purpose modern structure was built by Musanze business community grouped under Gorilla Investment Company Ltd (GOICO) which laid down an example for big joint ventures and high rise structures in Musanze. The building is the first fully enclosed climate-controlled retail space with multiple shops, and the first to gather several top-tier corporate entities under one roof. The facility locally known as Musanze modern market has a water recycling system, an elevator, and facilities for people with disabilities, fire extinguishers in case of a fire outbreak and alarms for any problem with a closed-circuit cameras for a surveillance system.

Strategically located, the complex attracts an array of people signifying the bustling of Musanze town, it draws crowds flocking to access all kinds of goods essential to the daily life of the local residents as well as tourists.

Laurent Nsengiyumva, the Chairman of the Board of GOICO explains that they started this investment group as an idea from HE President Kagame who continues to encourage and advise them.

He observes that the project was also in line with the government plan to transform Musanze into a city at the same time profiting local traders.

GOICO which initially started as a cooperative with 20 members in 2011 turned into an investment company in 2014 when the members conceived an idea to build a modern market.

Members mobilized the local business community, businessmen originating from Musanze but working in others parts and friends or interested investors with the same desire to be part of Musanze development.

The desire was to uplift their home area by investing strategically.

““Our city lacked a modern market for vendors which was in line with the development plan of Musanze, so we decided to put together resources and construct a modern complex large enough to accommodate various business activities,” Nsengiyumva notes.

According to Murengera, the five-floor building space occupancy stands at 95%, which leaves limited space for business who wish for a strategic location with conducive environment.

Businesses in the building are organized according to activities, the underground space serves as a parking lot and storage, the first level has wholesale shops, warehouses spare parts and construction material shops. The second floor houses financial institutions like banks and insurance companies, telecoms, restaurants, salons and bookshops.

The third floor includes retail shops while the fourth level has boutiques for clothes and the fifth has tailoring and clothing.

“Murengeza explains that activities are organized as any modern market for efficiency and to appeal to visitors to have a rich shopping experience with the best services.

This one stop shopping centre has all home basic needs, electronics, financial services, tailoring services, shoe and garment shops to mention but a few. In line with the government policy of Made in Rwanda, shoppers can enjoy different locally made durable and high quality products.

Available shares in GOICO

Murengeza observes that investing in the modern market has been a rewarding experience and profitable to shareholders generarating over Rwf80 million every month. GOICO still has about 5,000 shares ready to sell to investors who seek to invest in risk free and profitable ventures.

The Chairman of GOICO revealed that the group now wants to invest in more projects to develop Musanze. As one of the major development partners the group seeks to venture into hospitality sector to further exploit tourism potentials in Musanze.

He emphasizes GOICO’s commitment to continue playing a role in the national development by working with local leaders to boost infrastructure and investing in big projects in Musanze as well as other parts of the country.
Among the guests was Pierre Habyarimana, a local entrepreneur who picked the President’s advice to be confident in what they do and seek financing from banks to fund innovative projects. Habyarimana heeded the President’s advice, got a loan and constructed Classic Hotel in Kicukiro, City of Kigali.

Seven years later, the Classic Brand has grown and Habyarimana, the entrepreneur he is has opened another, the Classic Lodge in the Northern Province, a 4-Star hotel outside Musanze town in.

Habyarimana appreciates the advice given by President Kagame which inspired his new idea to build a 4-Star hotel using local materials. Classic Lodge was constructed using 90% local materials and built by Rwandans which is also partly an eco-lodge.

After conceiving the idea, the founder of Classic Lodge thought to take the eco-friendly hospitality investment back to his home district in Musanze, a region known as a top tourism destination in Rwanda.

Classic Lodge is an eco-friendly facility built seven kilometres outside Musanze town in a serene environment with natural vegetation. The facility sitting on a small hill features various amenities that offers accommodation, conference facilities, best dishes and health facilities in made in Rwanda atmosphere.

Services offered include conference facilities, rooms, eco-lodges, cottages, restaurant, sauna, stream bath, massage parlour, sports facilities like GYM, basketball court, volleyball court, football pitch, handball pitch, tennis court and an Olympic size swimming pool free for guests.

There is a variety of different rooms with banda type cottages (made of volcanic rock) that can accommodate families, presidential suites, superior rooms and standard spacious rooms among others. They are all well-equipped with modern style furnishings, self-contained, flat TV screen, working table, locker and each room has a balcony.

The gardens at Classic Lodge are spacious thoughtfully planned with locally available volcanic rock and bamboo. The different facilities or amenities are separate from each other that none can interfere with guests seeking a restful environment, health activities or sensitive meeting going on.

The setting of the place is filled more with nature, flowers, bamboo trees and there are plenty of birds seen around and the hotel is developing an eco-park.

The kitchen at the hotel offers a menu with a wide choice that can be served at the restaurant with spectacular view of the mountains as well as the adjoining bar but also the club house area offers a great view.

The spacious meeting rooms at Classic Hotel are ideal for conference and events, from wedding ceremonies and cocktail parties to local and international business meetings, state meetings and functions.

Today the local development of Musanze has been boosted by a hospitality venture that has created jobs for the locals. During construction over 50 local jobs were created daily and the proprietor supported the local community buying livestock.

The hotel boosts beautiful landscaped lawns, 24 hour room services and the facility is accessible to Kigali’s landmarks, popular attractions as well as Kigali International Airport.
Clinique Du Mont Nyamagumba
Good and fast services fulcrum of healthcare

Dr Cyrille Dusengamungu, the Medical Director of Clinique Du Mont Nyamagumba explains that they started the clinic to provide quality healthcare services to the growing population that couldn't be served by only Ruhengeri hospital.

The district hospital was the only one in the area and was overwhelmed where many would not be served on time because of the growing population it received while those who wanted good and fast services had nowhere to turn.

“Our clinic started in 2013 and was the first one in this district. We started it here having realised the high population rate and what was only available was the main hospital of Ruhengeri with a big number of patients, so we decided to open up a private clinic to be of service to the people of Musanze,” Dr Dusengamungu said.

He notes that it was realized that the public needed the services and when they opened a big number turned up and before long two more private clinics opened. “Many couldn’t get the services they wanted in the public hospital and the wait was too long.”

“There are those who also required private attention within their financial means, but most important for us is to provide high quality services required within a short period of time,” he adds.

The clinic started with services that are much sought after and kicked off with general consultancy services, laboratory, and paediatrics. As the clinic got more means and resources more services were gradually added like dentistry, echography, minor surgery and hospitalisation.

The Medical Director says they started by handling minor cases and would not hospitalise patients because they lacked enough room but as resources grew the clinic expanded and started providing hospitalisation.

With the current health crisis, Covid-19 has affected many but as frontline healthcare providers, Dr Dusengamungu observes that they have worked closely with government authorities, like district officials, the police to heed to the preventive measure.

He says that the pandemic came as something new no one had known about but thanks to the leadership in Rwanda for the quick measures enforced to counter coronavirus.

Clinique Du Mont Nyamagumba has a vision to improve healthcare in the country with a belief that every Rwandan citizen should have access to healthcare and better health standards as stipulated by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

This health facility aims to continue fighting child mortality in the country by supporting government which has done a wonderful job. Initiatives by the Rwandan government has improved healthcare where many Rwandans have access to healthcare services reduced child mortality, pregnant women dying while giving birth and citizens now live longer.

Dr Dusengamungu urges partners to work together in improving healthcare and calls upon the public to approach health facilities for check-ups and know their status for a healthy living, at Clinique Du Mont Nyamagumba you will be assured of the highest service.
Besides mountain gorillas, the Volcanoes National Park is home to buffaloes, elephants, golden monkeys, Spotted Hyena, black-fronted duiker, and bushbuck among others. The park also harbours reptiles, amphibians, insects and bird species including a variety endemic to the park.

Twagirimana who also represents private operators in tourism and hotels in Musanze and Burera advocates for the development of the general tourism outlook of the Volcanoes National Park so that people can come visit all these animals, birds and landscape to have a complete Rwanda safari experience.

His advocacy has even influenced his strategy to business ensuring that his hotel can welcome, provide comfort and a great experience to every tourist visiting the region.

The New Buffalo Mountain Lodge offers excellent services for lodging, bar and restaurant at uniquely friendly rates that can fit well in budgets of many of the travellers to the area.

Neighbouring many high end hotels, Twagirimana chose a different marketing strategy and approach to allow tourists with less budget but would rather stay in the proximity of the Volcanoes National Park.

“We welcome anyone who would like to have a great experience but working under a restricted budget, we offer a variety of services to cater for different categories of clients and can’t fail to accommodate clients coming to this region and particularly to our hotel,” emphasizes Twagirimana.

Opened in September 2016, when many conservationists and tourists descended on Kinigi for the annual Kwita Izina, the baby gorilla naming ceremony, the New Buffalo Mountain Lodge got its first clients.

This laid down the first network of customers for the new hotel that had opened after three years of construction. Twagirimana built the hotel from an initial idea he had from 1999 when he had visited the area and dreamed of building a hotel.

The dream came before he had attended his university, when he left for studies in West Africa would always return; the beauty and potential of the area reinvigorated his dream to enter into hospitality sector in Kinigi.

Upon returning to his motherland, he got a job and saved until was able to buy land in Kinigi and started building his dream hotel.

Working and investing into hospitality has not been Twagirimana’s preoccupation but also support to the local communities. Through small projects the hotel facilitates local youth by equipping them with technical skills.

The youth who are not able to continue their formal education are trained to acquire skills like tailoring free of charge. New Buffalo Mountain Lodge also pays health insurance to at least five households every year.

New Buffalo Mountain Lodge works closely with Musanze District to promote the development of the area and contributes to the local economy through job creation and taxes. Twagirimana appreciates the role played by the district and the national government in general. A network of public infrastructures has been erected in the area and authorities are always available to facilitate operators in the hospitality sector.
Diocese of Shyira
Transforming lives in the Northern Province

The Diocese of Shyira in northern Rwanda was established on the 20th January, 1984 as the third Diocese of the Anglican Church in the country after Kigali and Butare. The Anglican presence in the region is historical as the first missionaries arrived here before spreading to other parts of Rwanda.

First established at Shyira hill by Anglican Church missionaries in the 1930s, when the diocese would later acquire its name, the diocese grew and became one of the most dynamic in the 12 dioceses of the Anglican Church of Rwanda covering four districts of Burera, Gakenke, Musanze and part of Nyabihu.

Rt. Rev. Dr Mugisha Mugiraneza Samuel, the Bishop of Shyira Diocese explains that the Anglican Communion in northern Rwanda became unique and dynamic because of its historical impact. The region that can be referred to as the Bible belt was the first to receive the Anglican missionaries.

This history laid a firm foundation of the Anglican Church in this region that saw thousands convert and remain strong in building faith, constructed churches in the diocese together with developmental activities.

There are now 78 Ordained Pastors, 23 deacons, 13 Evangelists and 341 Catechists working in 66 parishes, 16 Sub-parishes and 341 local churches with a population of 107,302 church members.

With the mission of holistic evangelism in Jesus Christ, the Diocese of Shyira is guided by values of love, truth, integrity, enthusiasm and complementarity. To reach its targets the work of the diocese is based on four fundamental pillars; Evangelism, Education, Health and social transformation.

**EVANGELISM**

The vision of the Diocese of Shyira is transforming people into Jesus Christ disciples to disciple others. To achieve this vision the diocese executes its evangelical activities organized through structures like Archdeaconries, Mothers Union, Community Bible Study and Church community Mobilization Program.

To promote the wellbeing of families, in 1998 Shyira Diocese introduced the Mothers Union which aims at demonstrating the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities through the nurture of the family in its many forms.

The archdeaconry plays an intermediate role between the diocese and parishes bringing together parishes, sub-parishes and local churches. To promote the wellbeing of families, in 1998 Shyira Diocese introduced the Mothers Union which aims at demonstrating the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities through the nurture of the family in its many forms.

The vision of the diocese is to preach the gospel and make everybody a follower of Christ through learning the word and be transformed both spiritually and physically for the glory of God. However, given Rwanda’s past the church designed four pillars to which the ministry should be based on to enable preaching the gospel to communities.

**EDUCATION**

“Our biggest intervention is in education, of course as a church we do evangelism but that’s more on a Sunday and then we do the follow-up of evangelism through education and that’s why we have so many schools,” notes Bishop Samuel. “We provide support through compassion projects providing school fees, food and medical care.”

The Diocese considers education as a cornerstone to the development of the nation and opted to a mutual cooperation with the government of Rwanda by strengthening this sector starting from pre-primary, primary, secondary and University Education.

Today, the diocese has 53 schools: 36 Primary Schools, 8 Nine-YBE, (3 Twelve –YBE) 3-Secondary Boarding Schools, two private schools and one college (MIPC).
The Sunrise School, one of the private was opened to help orphans and less privileged children when the country was reconstructing after 1994 Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi. The School is located in Musanze District includes a primary school created in 2001, a high school in opened 2005 while the nursery started operating in 2016.

The school operates both categories of boarding and day scholars’ students and today is among the best schools in the country’s poorest of the poor with love and education, even though they provide eggs to children of prisoners because these children are not able to get such proteins while their parents are still in prison.

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) Program support children in critical early years providing holistic access to early learning and stimulation, good nutrition, good health, hygiene and protection. The diocese provides ECD services to Children in a line with government policies of caring them so that they can grow with Rwandan values and sensitize of water, hygiene and sanitation, child protection and positive parenting. The diocese also ensures that all children from every ECD Centre are learning God’s word and do worship. They know that they are special creation of God who loves them in the same.

Muhabura Integrated Polytechnic College (MIPC) was opened to offer technical and professional skills at high school and University levels. MIPC also located in Musanze District, was established by the Diocese of Shyira motivated by an intention to live and breathe the spirit of entrepreneurship by offering services in response to the demand on the labour market. One example is to provide a flexible range of courses, from short courses, refresher courses, to a full-fledged program leading to the academic awards. MIPC is accredited to offer programs grouped into two Categories: Secondary school level (SSS) and Advanced Diploma Level (A1).

There are 198 pre-school/day care centres engaged with 17,901 with 311 Caregivers in all Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres. 33 of them are under one egg program; plus four at Butandi, Ngarzo, Kimonyi and Buhuga health centres.

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The Bishop of Shyira notes that they also started the one egg programme in prisons where they provide eggs to children of prisoners because these children are not able to get such proteins while their parents are still in prison.

Healthcare

The objective of health services in Diocese of Shyira is to focus on health promotion and prevention, improve quality, safety and performance of primary health care system.

The diocese has built health facilities like health posts, health centres, and hospital. Shyira Hospital located in Nyibuhu District was built by Anglican Church missionaries, first as a dispensary in 1930 and was later upgraded to a hospital by the diocese.

Bishop Samuel says that they have worked hand in hand with the Local Government in all the Archdeaconries where they have paid for members of the local community with Health Insurance (Muituelle de Sante).

The diocese also initiates income generating activities that provide services to the diocese as well as generate revenues to fund other activities. For example the Garden Place Hotel which has been in operation since January 2015.

Some of these programmes include Compassion international, and saving and credit association. In order to create opportunities, the diocese decided to create some jobs which do not require academic qualification by starting with low economical Christians.

The diocese also initiates income generating activities that provide services to the diocese as well as generate revenues to fund other activities. For example the Garden Place Hotel which has been in operation since January 2015. It offers different services including accommodation, restaurant, conference service and outside catering.

In the implementation of rapid development of the population, the Diocese of Shyira has built business infrastructures in Musanze District and intends to extend those activities in its surroundings. Nova Complex Market is a business building inaugurated in 2013, it is composed of 36 rooms including shops and offices.

Enthusiastic about development and passionate about changing people’s lives, Bishop Samuel observes that the diocese is instrumental in the development of Musanze and the northern region in general. The diocese is also part of the Joint Action Development Forum of the district which plans, initiate and promote development programs in the district.
Fatima Hotel offers satisfying experience

The Volcanic Terrace atop Fatima Hotel offers a spectacular view of Virunga mountain range, Musanze town and amazing landscape. The elevated seating area with great views is unique and guests loves relaxing with joyful atmosphere in the backyard of the airport runway.

The strategic location of Fatima Hotel in the heart of Musanze City incentivizes guests to have easy access to the delightful City, the hotel provides easy access to the delightful City, incentivizes guests to have the new property positioned at the airport runway.

Fatima Hotel was established by Ruhengeri Diocese of the Catholic Church to offer hospitality services, one of its principles in welcoming and hosting of visitors.

Fr Celestin Nizeyimana, the Managing Director of Fatima Hotel revealed that they started operating a hospitality establishment in 2003 as Centre Pastoral Notre Dame du Fatima (CPNDP). The growing number of customers prompted building a bigger and better facility with unique services.

In 2017, Fatima Hotel was opened as an expansion of CPNDP and the facilities of the new property positioned Fatima as a 5-Star Hotel with more Rooms, two Restaurants, two Bars, five Conference Rooms, Swimming Pool, GYM, Spa and Sauna among others.

There are 65 rooms, all are self-contained featuring flat-screen televisions, refrigerators and private furnished balconies. The rooms are five different categories that include Standard, Double, Family, Deluxe Suites (apartments) and Presidential Suites.

Dining at the facility offers unforgettable experience at the hotel’s two restaurants or in the comfort your room 24-hours. The cuisine spans traditions and continents to cater for all guests with the unequalled Rwandan dish prepared of fresh produce and ingredients from the diocese’s own organic gardens. Vegetarians have a variety to choose made from the fresh produce.

Snacks are also available at the coffee shop while those who wish to relax with a refreshing drink have many options ranging from the poolside bar or at the volcanic terrace with spectacular views nature can offer.

Fatima Hotel puts at your disposal a wide range of entertainment like its own traditional musical troop, live band, sports and relaxing offers, providing an exquisite treat and service. Complimentary wireless internet access keeps you connected while at the premises.

Conference facilities include five halls on site, the biggest with capacity to accommodate up to 150 persons and fully equipped to host modern conferences. Bigger conference rooms with over 300 individuals’ capacity are also available off site where hotel shuttles are used to facilitate participants access the conference site.

Fr Nizeyimana observes that they have raised capacity to conduct conferences in Musanze andFatima Hotel aspires to build even a bigger conference centre that will accommodate about 5,000 people.

SPiritual Enrichment

The spiritual experience at Fatima Hotel is exceptional, a Chapel at the facility offers guests space as respite for prayer. The facility doesn’t cater for Catholics only but all religious beliefs are given the service including all various Christians or Muslims alike.

“I am here as a Priest not to do business because there many more who are qualified to do this but I am here to support people spiritually,” Fr Nizeyimana notes. Those who come at Fatima can choose to go back spiritually enriched and saved.

The diocese’s mission of support to the most vulnerable individuals of the society are facilitated and completed by Fatima Hotel. The hotel also supports the community working with local government at the village and sector levels, for example paying health insurance for poor families.

Fr Nizeyimana underlined that when you give business to Fatima Hotel you are indirectly supporting the most vulnerable people as well as supporting the development of the area. “You get an excellent service while supporting the community.”

POPULAR FACILITIES
• Rooms
• Restaurant & Bar
• Chapel
• Swimming pool
• Fitness club
• Volcanic terrace
• Gardens
• Free! WiFi

FOOD & DRINK
• Soft Drinks
• Wines/Champagne
• Beers
• Special diet menus
• Kids’ meals
• Continental Breakfast

RECEPTION SERVICES
• Concierge service
• Luggage storage
• Currency exchange
• 24-hour front desk

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Tel: +250 252 546 650/
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Email: info@fatimahotel.rw
www.fatimahotel.rw

Dining at the facility offers unforgettable experience at the hotel’s two restaurants or in the comfort your room 24-hours.
BISHOP RUCYAHANA leading a transformational journey in Musanze

Born in the present day Burera District which was under the administrative control of Ruhengeri in Northern Rwanda, Bishop John Rucyahana attended his first school days in the area and his parents left him at school when they were forced into exile in the neighbouring Uganda. He would also follow them in 1963 leaving his beloved homeland for the next thirty one years until Rwanda was liberated. Rucyahana first returned in the country shortly after liberation in 1994 during an Anglican mission sent on a fact finding journey on what had happened to Rwanda. Finding the country as it was, totally devastated by the genocide against the Tutsi was a turning point for him and resolved to immediately return home to be part of developing the country and breath in a new hope.

Rwanda had been destroyed socially, economically and infrastructures like schools, health facilities were all in disarray across the whole country. Rebuilding would require, first humanitarian assistance before any meaning development to commence.

Rucyahana decided to return home but with a heavy heart to improve the situation and went directly to Ruhengeri, the present Musanze district, a region that had an insurgency at the time. The situation didn’t deter him on commencing the reconstruction of education and health as well as the spiritual healing through evangelism.

“When I returned to Rwanda I immediately went into revival of education, repairing schools everywhere and importantly for this region we repaired Shyira Hospital which had been neglected operating as a dispensary and restored it to the level of a district hospital," explains Bishop Rucyahana.

In Musanze town, he built the popular Sonrise School that became a model catering for all kinds of orphans. Survivors who had lost parents in the genocide, orphans of the perpetrators and children who lost their parents in different circumstances all found their way to the school.

According to Bishop Rucyahana, it was a mixture of orphans very innocent, who needed rehabilitation, character development and trauma healing to have focus and emphasize on their future in academic excellence.

The school personally inaugurated by President Kagame turned into an exemplary educational excellence and in a period of four years became the best. The school became a model where many other schools in the country copied a leaf and are prospering because of the philosophy.

The school had an educational mission to set the standard for academic excellence and servant leadership, while at the same time, demonstrating that with love and education, even the country’s poorest of the poor children are redeemable and can be developed into future leaders of Rwanda.

Studying together at Sonrise but from different backgrounds, the students bonded together because of the teachings and the care they received. All were treated the same, feed together and similarly clothed.

Still calling them 'my children' Bishop Rucyahana attests that the students from Sonrise became friends to each other up to this day and are responsible citizens, loving without any trace of hatred because they were the first seed of reconciliation.

While these interventions were being done many people couldn’t comprehend saying it would not work out given the circumstances that the country had passed through, many seeing reconciliation and social cohesion as farfetched but he reasoned them and pushed his reconciliation agenda.

According to Bishop Rucyahana, “the work they did was not only education its parenthood, not only patriarchism its patriotism and not only patriotism its development.”

With the return of many Rwandan exiles from the neighbouring countries, a housing crisis soon ensued. Rwandans exiled in the late 1950s and 1960s had returned and occupied houses of those who fled or run away in 1994 were mobbed by Ex-far soldiers in fear of RPA’s victorious move, they could have stayed in safety.

When the 1994 exiles returned, to avoid another crisis the diocese of Shyira was among the first to set an example in handling the problem by building 650 houses, at Shyira 150, Nyaragikororo 150, Ruhengeri 200, and Kikhado 150.

Bishop Rucyahana notes that as a religious leader you can’t just preach that God saves but do other things that shows God’s grace support people spiritually, socially as well as physically.

He emphasizes that this was done irrespective one’s religious beliefs because as Rwandan were the same people who needed healing from the past events of the country’s history.

Bishop Rucyahana’s interventions in leading reconstruction efforts led him to yet other responsibilities when he was nominated to head the unity and reconciliation processes of the nation, duties he still undertakes.

Contributing to the development of Musanze never stopped after retiring as the Bishop of Shyira but continued through Transformational Ministries which supports historically marginalized people and private investments in the construction sector.

Retiring from the diocese, he started supporting historically marginalized people in Musanze through a non-profit organisation called Transformational Ministries Inc that extends support through evangelism, capacity building and reconciliation.
Supporting historically marginalized people

When the retiring age to step down as the Bishop of Shyira turned, John Rucyahana was not yet depleted of strength or energy to change people’s lives and still on his agenda was a community of people that needed his support.

He notes that history left them behind yet today’s developments are very fast and without support they would forever be marginalized. With the currently spirit of competency everyone is scrambling to make ends meet but the historically marginalized population still beg for food and other necessities or do petty jobs because many never knew any better alternative.

“What I want to is to show them that they also have value in life to teach them the spirit of productivity,” underlined Bishop Rucyahana.

Prior to 1973, when the national parks were created in Rwanda, historically marginalized peoples were displaced from the forest making them among the poorest with no land. Statistics from 2012 clearly illustrate that 77% of the historically marginalized peoples were not able to read, write or count. Less than 1% had completed secondary education and none had completed higher education.

As an educator Bishop John Rucyahana has introduced education to these communities where his project sponsors 168 children. They are provided school tuition, uniforms, sweater, shoes, bags, lunch at school, and other school materials.

Transformational Ministries gives out cows and goats to some families who are able to look after them and help them know the importance of livestock with a policy attached to it that the first...
Evangelism is another important pillar at Transformational Ministries preaching the gospel, according to Psalm 127:1 NIV “Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain”. 

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain”. A ministry without God Conviction – Faith and Hope at its foundations will never accomplish anything of lasting significance.

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“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain”. A ministry without God Conviction – Faith and Hope at its foundations will never accomplish anything of lasting significance.
Auberge Ikaze aspires for 5-Star Hotel status

The view of Rwanda’s volcanoes mountains on the sundeck terrace of Auberge Ikaze Hotel is spectacular while sunbathing at its terraces gives comfort to any unfamiliar weather changes in this mountainous region.

Auberge Ikaze Hotel located about half a km from the centre of Musanze City, in northern Rwanda offers an extravagant atmosphere with restful comfort and high quality services.

Bernard Ntezilizaza, the owner of Auberge Ikaze Hotel revealed that he established the hotel to improve services in the hospitality sector because he believed the service providers in Musanze were not up to the task.

“I was encouraged to build a hotel because I realised that many places he visited were not giving good services and as he travelled to foreign countries it was different from home. He thought would be part of those to change service provision in Rwanda. Many travellers or tourists who come to the northern region want to see touristic attractions in the area but expect to have a restful, relaxing and enjoy after their adventures which hotels have a big role to play.

For tourists to keep coming the hospitality sector has to offer the best services and that’s what Auberge Ikaze Hotel aspires for.

Hotel Auberge Ikaze officially opened doors in 2012 and can be found at the paved road from Musanze city centre as you head to Nyamagumba suburb.

The facility has room services, bar, restaurant with a modern kitchen offering a continental breakfast, gastronomic restaurant serving local menu with other customized dining options on request.

The hotel with over 20 rooms offers spacious self-contained rooms of different kinds offering a writing desk, fitted with flat TV set, private bathrooms with a shower and toiletries as well as the spectacular views at the balcony.

Guests at Auberge Ikaze Hotel are welcome to take advantage of a hot tub, a sauna and ironing services on site. Business facilities like fax, printing and photocopying are also offered at the hotel.

Conference facilities are also available at Auberge Ikaze Hotel with at least four conference halls and a number of other rooms as well as free, fast and reliable wireless internet connection on the hotel premises.

While at this hotel you can take advantage of 24-hour front desk services, room services, currency exchange for guests and free private parking is possible on site.

Auberge Ikaze has a target to attain a 5-Star Hotel status through increasing more facilities and continue to raise the quality of services offered.

Bernard Ntezilizaza, the owner of Auberge Ikaze Hotel

“We are now working on attaining a five star hotel status though it will take us time as we need to work very hard and expand to accommodate all the features required. Our hotel is really developing well, in the near future we expect it to be at least on a five star level in Musanze,” emphasizes the proprietor.
In Nyamasheke, a district about 200 km southwest from Kigali lies two-hectare cornfields, this is the place where Mariam Nayituriki, a young woman, sees hope for a better life.

The 24-years-old fresh university graduate has been exploiting this farmland inherited from her parents by adopting crops recommended by local administrative authorities in line with official instructions on land use consolidation that was implemented since 2008, with the overall goal to overcome the effects of land fragmentation by increasing the scale of agricultural yields.

With a hope to boost productivity, Nayituriki has been desperately trying to secure a loan with her farmland as collateral in a local microfinance at a low cost.

“In the past, the production was not good for food processing industry and the crops were used for self-consumption,” she says.

A new research conducted by one of the beneficiaries of fellowships awarded this year by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), providing youth with a starting capital regarding their agribusiness project is key to the promotion and boosting of their entrepreneurship.

The lead author of the new research paper, Gilberthe Benimana Uwera says that access to formal credit sources is still very low in Rwanda with the youth engaged in agribusiness blaming collateral requirement for loans.

“Youth still face many barriers in accessing financial services to invest in agribusiness,” Benimana says.

In fact, Nayituriki would not be where she is had it not been the support from Business Development Fund (BDF), a government initiative dedicated to provide funding to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which helped her spontaneously grow her farming business.

Apart from efforts to curb unemployment among the youth, especially university and high school graduates the government initiative has been providing financial support to viable agribusiness projects across all 30 districts of Rwanda.

The initiative focuses on boosting capacity of small and Medium Enterprises to access finance especially for those who lack sufficient collateral when seeking credit, says Diana Karaba the Investment and Portfolio manager at BDF.

The scheme for youth in agribusiness brings together various partners at government level such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal resources, Rwanda Cooperative Agency, women and youth councils, district authorities as well as private sector namely the Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness Forum.

Estimates by IITA show that increasing youth engagement in profitable agriculture and agribusiness is critical for sustainable agricultural development.

Drawing on these trends, a new report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) indicate that Rwanda is a youthful and densely populated country in Eastern Africa where approximately 30 percent of employed people (60 percent of the youth) are underemployed, meaning they work less than 35 hours per week and would be willing to work more.

Rwanda’s agriculture sector already plays a critical role in absorbing the working age population, including the youth, the 2019 UN agency report said.

Rosine Mwiseneza, one of the young Rwandan female entrepreneurs in agribusiness, is the founder and CEO of SnAgri Ltd, a company that develops precision-farming solutions told Rwanda Dispatch that youth sometimes need a variety of appropriate financial services to help them tackle agriculture through innovation.

“A number of options are available for youth financial inclusion but most importantly is about thinking on how they can also leverage technologies for agribusiness innovation,” Mwiseneza says.

SnAgri’s has developed an automated irrigation system, which is embedded with a sensor system package that collects data on soil moisture, temperature, humidity and can automate irrigation when required.

Thanks to these innovations, the company managed to get finance and support from various stakeholders including financial institutions to boost services for remote rural farmers engaged in agribusiness.

However, Benimana believes in her research that access to financial services is key in boosting entrepreneurial activities for the majority of youth.

“In many rural settings young people (and families) across Rwanda see farm work as a last resort, but there is a way to change this mindset once there are appropriate mechanisms to promote their financial inclusion,” Benimana says.

The Youth in Agribusiness Finance to spur job creation and income generation among Rwandan youth, provides youth with agribusiness technical training, work-based learning, saving and internal lending communities, access to formal financial services, business and employment searching and creation.

One of the study conducted by, Gilberthe Benimana, a fellow-researcher with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), has demonstrated that access to credit, extension services, land ownership this has increased the youth agripreneur in farming activities.

Evidence gathered so far shows the pressing need for the government and agribusiness project and other stakeholders should support youth agribusiness training, provide starting capital to them where possible and facilitate them access to credit and extension services.
Balthazar Nshimiyimana, Founder of Virunga Hotel and Virunga Express, a transport agency noted that the company is popularly known for great services. He emphasises that they try to offer the best and always aim to improve.

Nshimiyimana revealed that he started the transportation business in 2001 which mostly worked in the northern and north-eastern parts of Rwanda before it rolled to other parts of the country. At the time there were few transport agencies and the hospitality sector lacked many services in the country.

With few public transport cars people would be stranded in one place and fail to get to their destinations which would necessitate lodging facilities that were also lacking. This presented a business idea to Nshimiyimana to build a hotel.

In 2008, Virunga Hotel was completed and it opened with all services for a three-star hotel. As more services were demanded Virunga continued to expand and aims to upgrade and acquire more stars as more amenities are added.

The hotel provides accommodation with a terrace, a modern restaurant, bar, a business centre, a shared lounge, secure parking to guests and you can access free Wi-Fi while at the facility with a 24-hour front desk services.

There are a total of 65 self-contained modern rooms fully equipped with Satellite TV, Internet access, a fridge for the guest’s refreshment with some room include a seating area while others offer a view of Virunga mountains that the hotel is named after.

The hotel offers a rich experience to guests who are treated to the highest quality service that make many yearn to come back.

The business and conference centre operates facilities for meetings, events, and special occasions like corporate gatherings, workshops, weddings, and parties among others. The hotel has conference halls with different capacities up from 100, 80, 60, 20 and 15 persons. A conference hall of 500 individuals’ capacity will soon be added to its portfolio.

Virunga Group has been at the centre of development in Musanze District as well as the region in general. Apart from contributing to the local economy, the company has created jobs and is involved in social corporate responsibilities to support vulnerable people, for instance last year it paid for 100 individual’s health insurance.

The company employed over 50 workers before Covid-19 paralysed the tourism sector and the Virunga Express which also offers carrier services employees over 60 workers across its destinations.

Virunga Express has perfected the transportation business with its two-decade experience providing excellent services. The company operates different routes, major among these are Kigali – Musanze – Rubera, Kigali – Gicumbi and plans to expand will first be focused on Musanze – Burera.

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The same routes operated by the transport agency also operate the carrier services and the company has offices in every destination it operates.
NEW PRICE LIST FROM OCTOBER 20, 2020
GAUKEE SATELLITE ESTATE, GAKANGA RUGAI

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