

RWANDA Dispatch

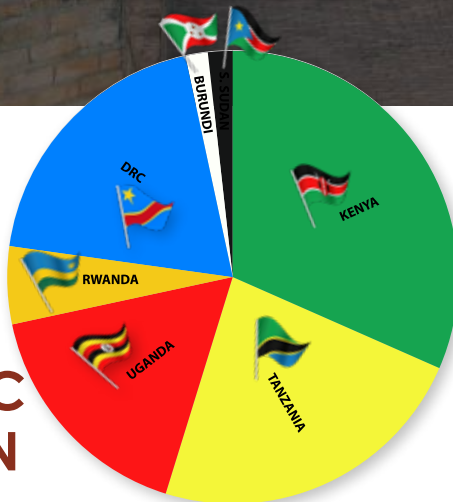
AN INSIGHT INTO RWANDA

JULY - SEPT 2023, ISSUE 77



HUYE TOES PATH TO GREEN CITY

EAC
BUDGETS
TACKLE
ECONOMIC
DOWNTURN



Rwanda celebrates 29th Liberation Day



FOUR STEPS HOTEL

FORMERLY KNOWN AS «LE PETIT PRINCE», THE NAME STILL USED DEARLY IS DEPICTED FROM A BIG STATUE OF THE LITTLE PRINCE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE HOTEL.



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AN INSIGHT INTO RWANDA

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Publisher's Note

July 4, 2023 marked exactly 29 years since Rwandans were liberated from genocide regimes on which bad governance, genocide ideology, divisive politics and all kinds of sectarian tendencies thrived.

Liberation Day is mainly a moment for the citizens to celebrate the gains, pay tribute to liberators and reflect on country's vision.

Today, Rwandans determine their future through upholding democratic values like regular and fair elections.

In 2024, Rwandans will vote their next leader in the fourth Presidential election, which the ruling RPF-Inkotanyi party is likely to win according to political pundits. The widespread opinion is premised on the impressive performance of the RPF Chairman, H.E Paul Kagame during his tenure as President. Kagame has presided over security, unity, stability and socio-economic transformation. Political temperatures have started rising and political party preparations are in high gear.

This special edition focuses Huye District's dev't trajectory and social, economic and political gains that speak volumes of Rwanda's milestones since it was liberated. Huye is one of the secondary cities fast tracking ambitions to reposition themselves

as tourism hubs through vast investment in expansion and modernisation of hospitality and tourism sectors.

Meanwhile, EAC nations read their 2023/24 budgets June 15, 2023. However, since the Coronavirus pandemic outbreak, EAC bloc has recorded poor performance in its seven economies.

EAC states demonstrated political will to accelerate economic recovery, growth to achieve their respective economic visions by allocating apple resources to key sectors such as Manufacture, Mining, Agriculture and Industrialization.

Most economies including Kenya, the biggest economy in this resilient bloc, are facing recurring economic issues such as public debt with growing debt distress blamed on persistent economic global shocks that have worsened liquidity ratios.

Notably, all budgets come against a backdrop of slowing economic activity reflected in persistently high costs of basic commodities including food, and a remarkably slower speed of revenue collection than predicted in the previous budgets..

Editorial



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said and Quoted



"We all need to view ourselves as shareholders in the development of our country."
JEANNETTE KAGAME, FIRST LADY OF RWANDA



"Our administration shall govern on your behalf but never rule over you."
BOLA TINUBU, FIFTH NIGERIA'S DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT



"The global supply chain is reliant on a limited number of countries."
KOEN DOENS, EU DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



"Equity Group's acquisition of CobeBank reflects the trust and confidence placed in Rwanda's economic prospects,"
DR JAMES MWANGI, C.E.O EQUITY GROUP HOLDINGS PLC



"Rwanda has ambitious green development goals that will support the country to counter the effects of climate change on people and the economy."
HANS PAULSEN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA, VIVO ENERGY



On the scene

Fighters of Wagner private mercenary group cross a street as they are deployed near the headquarters of the Southern Military District in the city of Rostov-on-Don, Russia, 24th June 2023.

President Vladimir Putin survived an armed mutiny in a dramatic insurrection by the Wagner Group that saw a convoy of mercenary fighters headed to Moscow. Wagner's Boss, Yevgeny Prigozhin blamed Russian army for mistakes in the Ukraine war.

Numbers that speak volumes

4
per cent

AFRICA ONLY MAKES UP LESS THAN 4% OF THE WORLD'S AIR TRAVEL MARKET, DESPITE HAVING 1.4 BILLION PEOPLE, OR 16.75 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION. DATA FROM A 2018 REPORT FROM THE AU'S SINGLE AFRICAN AIR TRANSPORT MARKET SHOWS.

2.2
million Tonnes

SAUDI ARABIAN COMPANIES BOUGHT MORE THAN 2.2 MILLION TONNES OF CARBON CREDITS, BILLED AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST SALE OF ITS KIND. THE SALE TOOK PLACE IN AN AUCTION IN NAIROBI, KENYA IN JUNE 2023. DEMAND FOR CARBON OFFSETS, GENERATED THROUGH PROJECTS SUCH AS TREE PLANTING OR USING CLEANER COOKING FUEL IS EXPECTED TO GROW AS COMPANIES SEEK TO USE THE CREDITS TO HELP MEET NET-ZERO EMISSIONS GOALS. SAUDIS PAID 23.50 SAUDI RIYALS (\$6.27) PER METRIC TONNE OF CARBON CREDITS.

1.4
Billion People

THERE ARE 1.4 BILLION PEOPLE WHO ARE UNBANKED TODAY, ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BANK WHICH SAYS THIS PRESENTS A GREAT AND PURPOSEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE NEW TYPES OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD IN A WAY THAT WORKS FOR THEM.

2,240
Billion Dollars

TOTAL GLOBAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE INCREASED BY 3.7 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN 2022, TO REACH A NEW HIGH OF \$2,240 BILLION. THE THREE LARGEST SPENDERS WERE THE UNITED STATES (39%), CHINA AND RUSSIA WHO ACCOUNTED FOR 56% OF THE WORLD TOTAL, ACCORDING TO DATA ON GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2023 BY THE STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SIPRI). THE INVASION OF UKRAINE AND TENSIONS IN EAST ASIA DROVE THE INCREASED SPENDING.



Rising sugar prices affecting households

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to highlight the inconvenience caused by rising retail prices of sugar.

It is alarming to see how sugar prices have reached high peaks in the last three weeks.

The rise in retail prices at shops and markets has left us with a sour taste in our month. It has seriously hit the common man's pockets.

For some of us, we have given up sugar, because it is expensive, we can't afford the price using our little salary yet it is common in every household.

Sugar has constantly pressured our household budgets. And this price rise has made it extremely difficult to manage monthly budgets.

Looking at the present situation, the government must take serious actions on this.

I request you to highlight this issue in your editorial column

Thank you.

KENNEDY HAVUGIMANA

KIGALI.





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VW, Gov't sign MoU on GenFarm Project



(L-R) Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Dr. Ildephonse Musafiri, Martina Biene, Chairperson and managing director of Volkswagen, South Africa and Serge Kamuhinda, CEO of Volkswagen Mobility Solutions, Rwanda.

VOLKSWAGEN recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Rwanda (GoR) to establish a modern farm with electric tractors.

Dr. Ildephonse Musafiri the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources represented the GoR while Serge Kamuhinda, CEO represented the Volkswagen Mobility Solutions Rwanda during the MoU signing ceremony

Witnessing the ceremony were: Martina Biene, Chairperson and Managing Director of Volkswagen South Africa and Imelda Labbé, member of the Brand Board of Management of Volkswagen for Marketing, Sales and After Sales.

The objective of the GenFarm Project is to make positive sustainable socio-economic and environmental impact on the community by creating a carbon neutral business ecosystem.

Government will provide land in Gashora, Bugesera District for the project, as well as assist with permits and licenses. The pilot project is steered by Volkswagen Group Innovation in partnership with Volkswagen Mobility Solutions Rwanda.

eSIM technology arrives in Rwanda

MTN RWANDA launched eSIM technology service for all customers with compatible smart devices. eSIM, short for embedded SIM, is a revolutionary virtual SIM technology that replaces the physical SIM card with an integrated chip within the smart device.

Mapula Bodibe, CEO of MTN Rwanda said, "the days of struggling to insert tiny SIM cards and the hassle of transferring them between devices are long behind us."

The new technology allows customers using smart devices to activate their SIM profiles digitally, eliminating the need for a physical SIM card.

Dial *#06# to check if your smart device is e-sim compatible. However, customers are required to present their ID/Passport to activate eSIM at MTN Service Centers.



**Stay Connected
It's that SIM-ple!**

Upgrade to the **MTN eSIM**, and enjoy seamless connectivity.

For more information call 100 or visit your nearest Service Centre.



PRESIDENTIAL RECAP



Kwibohora29 Party | Kigali, 2 July 2023



Inclusive FinTech Forum | Kigali, 21 June 2023



Meeting with Students and Faculty Members from Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania | Kigali, 25 May 2023



BAL Finals 2023 | Kigali, 20 May 2023



BAL Finals 2023 | Kigali, 20 May 2023



Visit to Rubavu District and Interaction with Residents affected by recent floods and landslides | Rugerero Sector, 12 May 2023



Meeting with Mahmoudi Ali Yousseuf, Djibouti Minister of Foreign Affairs and delegation | Kigali, 10 May 2023



Meeting with Ms Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre | Kigali, 9 May 2023



Commonwealth Leaders Meeting | London, 5 May 2023

I&M Bank Rwanda appoints Mutimura as CEO

RECENTLY, I&M BANK RWANDA PLC announced the appointment of Benjamin Mutimura as the new C.E.O replacing Robin Bairstow, who had been instrumental in leading the growth of the bank for over seven years.

Mutimura returns to I&M where he started his career in 2007 as Finance Officer and rose through the ranks to senior positions until 2020 when he moved to Bank of Kigali (BK).

Most recently, he was Chief Commercial Officer at BK and has been serving as a board member of BK, Capital.

“We believe Mr Benjamin Mutimura is the right leader to drive the delivery of the ambitious growth plans for our next cycle under our Imara 3.0 strategy,” Mr Kihara Maina, Regional CEO, I&M Group Plc said.



Benjamin Mutimura

Over 200 electric buses earmarked for Kigali City



THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA and Vivo Energy signed an agreement for the supply of over 200 electric buses to operate the City of Kigali public transport.

The deal was concluded between Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Ministry of Infrastructure, City of Kigali and Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB). Vivo Energy Rwanda will procure the buses and build a charging and maintenance depot.

This follows a feasibility study by Vivo Energy on the electrification of the public bus fleet and now pending implementation.

Clare Akamanzi, C.E.O of RDB welcomed the partnership to improve public transport in the capital as a fast-growing city and committed to making it happen.

Everything that's required for the seamless delivery and introduction of the electric buses will be in place in the coming months," observed Pudence Rubingisa, the Mayor, City of Kigali.

“We are pleased with this partnership to invest in electric buses to improve public transport while prioritising sustainability,” the C.E.O of RSSB which will finance the project noted.

The introduction of electric buses in Kigali will not only contribute to the development of sustainable transportation but also serve as an exemplary initiative for other cities in Africa to follow, according to Hans Paulsen, Executive Vice President East & Southern Africa, Vivo Energy.



Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana, Rwanda's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning

REGIONAL BUDGETS COME AGAINST A BACKDROP OF SLOWING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

BY GEORGE KALISA

Does the high increase in government spending signify a correspondent increase in military expenditure? Is it a response to the growing need to deal domestically with the devastated humanitarian situation?

Some East African Community (EAC) partner states that recently hosted violence like South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi increased their budgets by over 30%. The budget increases for South Sudan, DRC and Burundi are 33%, 46% and 65% respectively.

South Sudan, which primarily depends on crude oil sales for pretty much of its revenues, is still gradually emerging from the damages of the civil war (2013-2018).

Some East African Community (EAC) partner states that recently hosted violence like South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi increased their budgets by over 30%.

The speculations are premised on the history of South Sudan, which is characterized with high military expenditure. In 2022, this young nation spent USD 0.379 bn compared to Rwanda and Burundi which spent USD 0.177 bn and USD 0.101bn in the same year according to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

“The maximum level was 2085 USD million and minimum was 174 USD million,” adds SIPRI.

South Sudan's expenditure stands at 2.1 trillion South Sudanese pounds (\$2.1 bn) year 2023/4.

Commenting on the budget, Finance Minister Dier Tong Ngor said: “Our economy continues to suffer from numerous external shocks and internal structural weaknesses, which have created acute macroeconomic instability and suffering to our people.”

DRC Finance Chief Boris Mbuku presented a budget of \$16 billion indicating a 46% increase.

Last August, fighting between M23 rebels and Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) erupted and to date no peace deal has satisfactorily been respected by warring parties.

The mineral-rich nation is Africa's top producer of copper and world's leading producer of cobalt. Its economy is expected to grow 6.3% compared to 6.6% in the previous year according to the International Monetary Fund.

Analysts in the region attribute the huge increase in public expenditure in the two nations, the latest entrants to the bloc to violence that reached worrying levels recently. Citizens of DRC ushered in 2023 experiencing war, and mediators have not made a tangible breakthrough despite peace deals after peace deals.



South Sudan accession to the EAC Treaty happened in 2011 while Kinshasa officially joined the EAC bloc in July 2022. DRC never complied with the EAC Treaty that obliges the Finance Ministers of the partner states to read their budgets simultaneously under a common theme. The mineral-rich, violence-ravaged African nation read its budget last December.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY RECEIVES GREATER ATTENTION

All EAC states read their 2023/24 budgets precisely on June 15, 2023, which is a constitutional requirement. Since the novel Coronavirus pandemic broke out in late 2019, the EAC bloc has recorded poor performance in its seven economies.

Evidently, through the 2023/24 budgets, EAC member partners have demonstrated the political will to effect economic recovery by allocating staggering amounts of money to key sectors where multiplier effect is assured such as Agriculture and industrialization. Thus, increased investment in these sectors means a positive trend in job creation and tax base.

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Most economies including Kenya, the biggest economy in this resilient bloc, are facing recurring economic issues such as public debt with growing debt distress blamed on persistent economic global shocks that have worsened liquidity ratios.

Notably, all budgets come against a backdrop of slowing economic activity reflected in persistently high costs of basic commodities including food, and a remarkably slower speed of revenue collection than predicted in the previous budgets.

For instance, in Kenya the depreciation of the Kenya shilling against major currencies coupled with the rise of interest rates inevitably elevated the cost of debt service.

“Further the depreciation of the currency has increased the size of the public debt stock as half of the public debt it actually denominated in foreign currency,” said Kenya’s budget statement.

Depreciation of local currency also cuts across the region and this partly explains the reason why public spending went up in all the partner states.

By and large, national government spending rose fiscal year 2023-24 with percentage changes oscillating between 5.5% and 9.6% for Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda with the exception of South Sudan and DRC.

However, Kenya’s budget stirred mixed reactions from Kenyan citizens with opposition politicians crying foul after underlining loopholes, calling the budget controversial. The government of United Democratic Alliance party coalition under Kenya Kwanza that brought President William Ruto to power last year doubled tax on petroleum products from 8% to 16%, introduced a new housing tax of 1.5% for every employee plus a tax on digital content creators.

On the new taxes, President Ruto maintains his government’s ground of introducing fiscal discipline as one of the strategies to relieve the largest economy of the regional bloc of the current rapid accumulation of debt.

“This is the most controversial finance bill I have ever seen,” Junet Mohamed, the opposition chief whip in the national assembly told reporters.

Currently, Kenya’s total public debt stands at 67% of GDP. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have described the situation as a high risk of distress.

FY 2023/2024 Key Priority areas (Value in Frw)



Looking at the large picture, Kenya's and Rwanda's budgets allocated ample funds to mitigate effects of climate change. Kenya hosted a drought that led to famine while floods and landslides caused by heavy storms killed more than 100 residents early this year in Rwanda.

Since then, the GoR has been looking everywhere to mobilize resources to help victims catch up with the devastated situation by availing humanitarian assistance to them, as well as strengthening and empowering the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) to prevent such natural calamities.

Rwanda allocated more than half of its budget to the Economic Transformation pillar citing increasing appetite "to accelerate inclusive economic growth and development founded on the Private Sector, knowledge based economy and Rwanda's Natural Resources. This pillar was allocated Frw 2,811.3 billion that makes 55.9 % of the total budget for 2023/2024."

Increased investment in climate change, part of this pillar, was widely welcomed due to horrors the country has faced in recent days due to torrential rains especially in the Northern and Western Province.

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In May 2023, at least 131 residents died following floods and landslides that swept through these high risk provinces, prone to natural calamities.

"Environmental protection and Natural resources will be developed through: Environment and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation measures will be strengthened - Restoration of degraded forests and catchments. Construction and landscaping works for wetlands rehabilitation," said the budget statement.

"Increasing the land under biodiversity conservation. Operationalize IREME

Invest and the NDC Facility to mobilize climate finance. Improving the quality of meteorological services. Forestry resources, water resources management will be enhanced and Meteorological services will be enhanced" it added.

The budget read by the Tanzanian Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, shows that government expenditure reached \$19.23 billion (Tsh44.38 trillion) from Tsh41.48 trillion (\$18 billion) representing a 7.0% increase. While his Kenyan counterpart, Njuguna Ndung'u, a former central bank governor, presented a Ksh3.6 trillion (\$25.75 billion) budget for 2023/24, from the Ksh3.38 trillion (\$24.18 billion) leading to a 6.5% rise.

Uganda's Finance Minister Matia Kasaija presented a Ush52.74 trillion (\$13.9 billion) budget up from Ush48.13 trillion (\$13 billion) in 2022/2023. The landlocked nation whose shilling has recently been performing poorly against the dollar increased public spending by Ush4.606 trillion (\$1.2 billion) indicating a 5.5% increase.

While the budget read by Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana, Rwanda's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning with a 5.6% rise in government expenditure from Rwf4.67 trillion (\$4.1 billion) 2022-23 up to Rwf5.03 trillion (\$4.4 billion).

Economic analysts are skeptical as to whether the increase in public spending will offset the adverse economic conditions, especially those linked to the Russia-Ukraine war. They contend that most countries, especially in the developing world still have tough days ahead because the war has not yet ended.

Much as the issue of accelerating economic growth cut across all the EAC countries, it's noticeable that each allocated ample resources to address individual pressing economic concerns with bias on the strategic missions.



RWANDA CELEBRATES 29TH LIBERATION DAY

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION ON COUNTRY'S HISTORY, PRESENT AND FUTURE

BY GEORGE KALISA

Today, it is exactly 29 years since the liberation of the Rwandan people happened. Liberation Day is mainly a moment for citizens to celebrate the gains recorded in all spheres of life, and to pay tribute to the liberators as well as reflecting on the liberation mission as relentless efforts are directed towards shaping the country's future.

Rwanda emerged from the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi on July 4, 1994 when Gen. Paul Kagame, Rwanda's President since 2000 stopped the

genocide. Kagame commanded the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) to liberate the country from the brutal rule of the genocide regimes.

Thus, every July 4, Rwandans celebrate Liberation Day and this year's (Kwibohora29) celebrations included one of the latest innovations - Liberation Run and inaugurating a model village in Rugerero, Rubavu District.

Remarkably, after 29 years Rwandans are still indebted to the liberators who sacrificed own lives to liberate their homeland from authoritarian regimes

that orchestrated the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi that left more than a million dead.

This is mainly the motivation behind the uncompromised stance by Rwandans to safeguard the peace and unity which are some of the invaluable fruits of the liberation.

**RWANDA'S STORY WAS WRITTEN
WITH OUR BLOOD**

In his message, President Paul Kagame reproached Western media obsessed with trading lies about Rwanda, calling



on Rwandans to confront the lies they use to tarnish the country's image other than fighting them.

"When you look at what is written about Rwanda you wonder whether they are talking about the Rwanda we know whose story we wrote with our blood," said Kagame.

"We cannot let other people write our history. We cannot accept. It's our history, our life, our country,"

The essence of liberation is to bring about total liberation of the Rwandese people and build a nation where unity, security, development and other democratic values are promoted, and ensure citizens lead dignified lives. Thus, the 29 years have witnessed continuously enormous government's efforts towards increasing access to the basics of life - shelter, food, water, health services, education, habitable environment and transport network alongside promoting fundamental human rights and freedoms.

As part of Kwibohora29, Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) showcased a model village with basic services as water and electricity - built for vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens some of whom trace their situation to the genocide. Such efforts are motivated by the country's mission enshrined in the 2003 Constitution of uplifting citizens' wellbeing and turning the country into a middle-income economy by 2050.

Also, RDF provide free medical examinations and treatment to common diseases such as Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like blood pressure, diabetes and heart related diseases. It is a moment when the Army scales up mass awareness campaign about the prevalence of different diseases alongside sensitizing masses on preventive measures. They empower health personnel and community health workers with skills of dealing with new health challenges in communities through free capacity building training and coaching.

Meanwhile, peace lovers in the region and beyond condemn the violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

(DRC) based on ethnicity lines. The first half of 2023 ended when violence was still the main cause of deaths, internal displacement and exodus of hundreds of Congolese into neighbouring countries. The most affected are the Kinyarwanda-speaking Congolese reportedly persecuted for their cultural heritage they share with Rwandans though they are Congolese by nationality.

In his previous Liberation Day address, Kagame said the failure of Kinshasa and the UN to offer a political solution instead of a military one, and blaming own weaknesses on Kigali is the reason peace has taken long to return to this region.

One of the main highlights of Kwibohora29 is Rwanda's fast infrastructural development that has significantly changed the country's image, which proudly hosts six secondary cities aspiring to become modern green cities.

Besides ensuring security along its borders and for her people, Rwanda has responded to the cause of peace in the region by vastly contributing to peacekeeping missions of the African Union as well as UN in South Sudan, Mozambique, Central African Republic (CAR) and Haiti.



HUYE CASTS BRIGHTER FUTURE AS A REGIONAL PRO-GREEN CITY

Cities world over tend to work towards promoting identities to grow their economies, at the same time attracting other actors to take up existing potentialities in form of investments. Often times, such undertakings are successful to varying levels with some factors derailing needed resources for sustainable development.



Huye Mayor Ange Sebutege

Catching up with Mayor Ange Sebutege, Rwanda Dispatch's Steven Tumusime talked to him about Huye's current performance and developments to reclaim its position as the true secondary city.

Mayor Sebutege asserts that, the resolve to work together with all stakeholders as a team was the catalyst that propelled them to greater performance and intends to continue stir forward for more achievements in the face of challenges that still derail the city to claim its iconic position in the South.

He shares what truly endeared Huye's recent high performance and what lies ahead especially achieving goals as aligned in Imihigo and guided by the District Development Strategy paper. Huye was ranked the 2nd best performing district in Imihigo 2022/2023.

Huye District has always been a popular mention by many, at times referred to as second to the capital Kigali. However, much is not known given that there are no official ratings of cities in the country.

BY STEVEN TUMUSIME

Cities world over tend to work towards promoting identities to grow their economies, at the same time attracting other actors to take up existing potentialities in form of investments. Often times, such undertakings are successful to varying levels with some factors

derailing needed resources for sustainable development.

For Huye District, not much will seem to hold back as a green growth led Secondary City given its enormous advantages, most especially the strategic location that puts it in a better spot for socioeconomic transformation.



However, it was chosen as one of Rwanda's secondary cities to relieve urban pressures on Kigali and promote urbanization expected to reach 35% by 2024. This was aimed at stirring economic development, job creation, and poverty reduction in the country's journey to development.

Huye is on the right track to guarantee a brighter future that will ensure sustainable economic growth helped by factors like the district's strategic location, its potentialities in scaring up skills development, trade and industry, agriculture, heritage and culture based tourism. .

COMMANDING STRATEGIC POSITION IN THE SOUTHERN REGION

According to the Mayor, the dominating factor for future

Huye is on the right track to guarantee a brilliant future that will ensure sustainable economic growth helped by factors like the district's strategic location, its potentialities in scaring up skills development, trade and industry, agriculture, heritage and culture based tourism.



Much as it was historically known for hosting the country's highest education center, Butare University that has since changed to University of Rwanda (UR), the National Institute of Scientific Research, IPRC South, PIASS and Nyakibanda Major Seminary, among others..

growth is drawn from Huye's strategic location in the wider space of the country's Geo-positioning. The district is literally at the center of adjacent districts in the southern province as well as strategically closer to some of trading hubs in the neighboring countries of Burundi and DRC.

The district has a competitive edge to explore positioning itself as trading hub for the South and beyond.

The Mayor emphasizes that this strategic position has proved to be a game changer in bid to grow the district's economy as they look to be a commercial and trading center linking neighboring districts and countries to Rwanda's finest products especially those manufactured in Huye.

Illustrated in it's infrastructure development, hospitality establishments are sprouting while road networks have improved, for example the connection to Burundi's capital Bujumbura is the closest commercial point for Rwanda's southern neighbor. Interestingly, South Kivu capital Bukavu in the DRC is also better positioned to trade with, all in same time range as traveling to Kigali.

With the established industrial park, merging of resources by local investors such as Huye Trading Company to put up needed structures like construction of a modern mall is underway. Huye city will no doubt stand as an iconic trading hub and this is expected to contribute to the economic growth that is currently driven by coffee production whose brands such as Malaba Coffee, Huye Mountain Coffee continues to feature on international markets.



its green growth undertakings and provide guidance on best practices in land use management.

The Master Plan only awaits gazetting for its implementation. But even before that, the city has already set in motion initiatives that align to green growth policies. They include setting up of open green spaces, afforestation, protection of natural resources, especially water sources and catchment areas, as well as encouraging sports and city walks instead of relying on vehicles that emit lots of carbon gases.

So far the City is known for its walk lanes, that have improved city ambient life and sports among its dwellers. This complements historical attractions in Huye like massive cathedrals and churches, some architectures in the city centre going back to the colonial era, an Arboretum on Ruhande Hill, 'gene bank' adjacent to UR, Kwa Nyagakecuru Mubisi bya Huye and the excellent National Ethnographic Museum among others.its dwellers.



learning potentially provide the needed momentum for the district's aspirations as a center of excellence in skills development.

GREEN BASED CITY PROMOTES SPORTS AND HOSPITALITY

Green based economies have gained momentum in the face of climate change challenges that gradually affect the quality of life for populations. Rwanda is ensuring a green growth led economy as one of its priorities in view of contributing to greater public good and support quality life for citizens.

For Huye District, all must be done to go green. The target is full implementation of the new city's master plan meant to guide

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Huye has always been uniquely identified as an exceptional center of education given the various presence of higher institutions of learning and great performances at all levels. It was historically known for hosting the country's highest education center, Butare University that has since changed to University of Rwanda (UR), the National Institute of Scientific Research, IPRC South, PIASS and Nyakibanda Major Seminary, among others..

This positions the city as a centre of academia for housing these famous institutions and some of the leading and first training schools and colleges established in the country.

These higher institutions of





KEY TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN HUYE DISTRICT

Founded during the colonial era, as still evident in some architecture of the city centre, Huye changed names from Astrida to Butare until it became the seat of Huye District. Its one of the six secondary cities located on the main highway to the Rwanda's border with Burundi.

The city is also home to one of the main campuses of the University of Rwanda, as well as various training schools and colleges, to be regarded as a centre of academia.

A popular destination from the early days, Huye is commonly known as the cultural hub of the country. Its rich history and strategic location mean Huye has some intriguing places and destinations that attract many to flock the city.

Thanks to the World Bank-funded Rwanda Urban Development Projects (RUDP), the new infrastructure have not only changed the image of the city in terms of new, clean and planned settlements with green beauty and security for citizens, but also in terms of value for land

NATIONAL ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

The excellent Ethnographic Museum, also known as the National Museum, houses the finest ethnographic collection in Africa. Its modern exterior is elegant and attractive, displaying traditional artifacts and antique monochrome photographs that provide an insight in the pre-colonial era as well as Rwanda's transition into a modern state.

This popular tourist attraction as you enter Huye City has an excellent collection with historical and cultural significance that help add greater weight to the architectural achievements of the city.

HUYE MAIN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

The red brick Catholic Cathedral constructed in the 1930s is an imposing presence in its surroundings.





An oversize cross right above the entranceway of the cathedral can't be missed and while it may not be the most traditionally spectacular structure, it is still impressive and well worth paying a visit as well as attending mass.

UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA, HUYE CAMPUS

Founded right after independence and initially National University of Rwanda (NUR) since 1963, the University of Rwanda – Huye Campus sits on the hill of Ruhande. It has since changed the name to University of Rwanda (UR). Due to the large number of university students and student-centered activities in the city, Huye is often regarded as a university city. This, with other famous higher institutions of learning like Nyakibanda Seminary and research institute established long ago made Huye to be regarded as the intellectual capital of the country.

ARBORETUM OF RUHANGE

Strolling through UR campus in Huye is a pleasant diversion, but finding yourself at the Arboretum de Ruhande that surrounds the

campus is quite thrilling. Started by the Belgians on Ruhande Hill in 1933, this attractive and peaceful arboretum is a great place to learn about African flora while indulging in a bit of leafy shade.

Planted with a mixture of exotic and indigenous species, the 200-hectare forest was recently dedicated to the Commonwealth Canopy project, chosen because it is a research forest and a 'gene bank' of the forests found in Rwanda, which hold a tremendous importance to the country's conservation. It has deciduous species, conifers, encompassing a mixture of exotic and indigenous species. It is also home to a number of animal species including monkeys, gazelles, birds, bats, and lots of insects.

KWA NYAGAKECURU MUBISI BYA HUYE

According to Legend, an old woman known as Nyagakecuru lived and ruled in ancient Rwanda at the top of Mt. Huye and was feared by many kings. On top of this mountain where she lived is one of the topographies that make Ibisi bya Huye, a chain of hills standing at 2,400 meters of altitude with spectacular scenery that lie astride Huye, Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru district.

HUYE STADIUM

Huye Stadium is the second biggest in Rwanda. The 10 000-seat facility which has been under renovation most recently is used mostly for local and international football matches and is the home ground of Mukura Victory Sports FC.

SPECIALITY COFFEE

Huye District is popularly known for speciality coffee having had the first international brand in the country as 'Maraba coffee' originating in the district. The development of coffee brand has continued, where there are places like Maraba and Huye mountain coffee that have established agro-tourism, where enthusiasts can track and follow the agricultural and value chain processes.

The central and strategic location of Huye has boosted the district to be a gateway for other attractions in the region. Some of these include the nearby King's Palace in Nyanza that brings the old ways to life, Nyungwe National Park Butare extending for 1,000 Square kms across the majestic hills of southeast Rwanda and Our Lady of Kibeho Shrine in Nyaruguru to mention but a few, shows the district to be a hospitality treasure.





INGENZI ZA HUYE COOPERATIVE

Easing business through infrastructure development

INGENZI ZA HUYE is currently soliciting for more interventions to reduce the growing poverty levels that continue to pose a potential threat to the development of Huye. The cooperative exclusively owns and manages Huye City Modern Market, the first of its kind in the Southern Province and recently completed another commercial complex to facilitate trade in the city.

The storied building that houses Huye City Modern Market is one of the landmark buildings that make the skyline of Huye city, one of Rwanda's six secondary cities. Its historic significance in the country, however, presents this city as a potential centre for education, research and tourism hub.

Huye, which has changed names from Butare and Astrida before



Francine Murekatete, the President of Ingenzi za Huye

that served as the administrative capital of the Belgian colonial administration until Rwanda gained independence in 1962. King Kigeli V Ndahindurwa and Burundian

Prince Louis Rwagasore studied from Groupe Scolaire Officiel de Butare popularly known as Indatwa - the oldest school in Rwanda. The city was first in the east African community to host a stadium, university, swimming pool and medical school (1937).

Francine Murekatete, the President of Ingenzi za Huye, says that the dwellers of this historic city are optimistic that the government of Rwanda will sooner than later move into action to deliver on its promise to boost the city's economic development through several strategies.

Huye's economic development started relapsing following the relocation of principal faculties of the University of Rwanda (UR) to other districts and residents continue to feel the pinch to the day.



The current development level of the area doesn't resonate with its vantage location. Huye is a border city near the Burundian border with unmatched historic significance in the country.

Murekatete illustrated the direct link between Huye city and the market, and hence, the regression of the southern city, directly negatively impacted the progress of the cooperative, which particularly ventures in trade and investment.

To address the situation the cooperative continues to invest in infrastructures here they recently completed another commercial complex to facilitate businesses in the city.

On the other hand, she says that, "any increase in support

by the government and district administration, will change the face of tourism in the area. Besides natural resources like forests, the district has already embarked on the development of sports so that our stadium is put to maximum use."

As the leaders, she said, they were grateful to government for the on-going efforts, put in place during the COVID-19 aftermath to fast track and propel economic recovery.

Officials revealed recently that conversations involving different players including local leaders, traders and Private Sector Federation (PSF) were ongoing to ensure promotion of tourism.

The reforms of the High Council of Education included the relocation

of key public institutions like UR, Agriculture Research Institute (ISAR), Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (IRST) among others.

Murekatete says unlike other cities, Huye isn't well-endowed with economic resources like agricultural land and tourist attractions.

In addition, the business community leader blames the slow pace of development the southern city recorded in the last decade or so, on recent events that include the cold relations between Burundi and Rwanda, and the reforms in the education sector that led to relocation of some faculties.

"The University of Rwanda relocated nearly all principal faculties, and this affected us

variously – even as government tried bringing the institutions back to the city is no longer as it used to be because many have migrated to other regions in the country,” said Murekatete.

According to 2022 population census, Southern Province where Huye is located was one of the provinces that recorded a high rate of migrants that moved to other provinces with fifth of the total out-migrants.

Observers say that university dons, researchers and students formed a formidable market as they depended on the city market for food and other commodities.

Management of the city market says that the complex has 65 spacious rooms that can be portioned according to customers space requirements plus open-air spaces, two of them host wears’ stalls and foodstuffs. The building that houses more 700 businesses has 95% of its capacity occupied.

COOPERATIVE’S ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT

Ingenzi za Huye variously contributes towards the progress

700 - 65
Management of the city market says that the complex has 65 spacious rooms that can be portioned according to customers space requirements plus open-air spaces, two of them host wears’ stalls and foodstuffs. The building that houses more 700 businesses has 95% of its capacity occupied.

of Huye through various ways - investments, creating jobs and facilitating traders that pay taxes increasing tax base and government’s revenue.

They contribute money annually towards district’s vote for public health insurance for the most vulnerable subscribing to the first category of Ubudehe.

The cooperative is also responsive to government programmes and partners with district authorities in implementing

programmes aimed at uplifting citizens’ welfare. They’ve been at the forefront of rolling out Girinka programme among others.

Management of the cooperative extends gratitude to H.E President Kagame for his undying commitment to mobilize Rwandans along the journey of delivering themselves from poverty as well as improving living standards.

Established in 2007, Ingenzi za Huye commenced with three major objectives - construction of commercial buildings to facilitate traders and develop the city, build residences and import basic commodities not available on local market.

The completion of Huye City Modern Market became the first venture exclusively started by Ingenzi za Huye cooperative that brings together members subscribing to the private sector and became a model for the business community in other regions of the country.





FOUR STEPS HOTEL ASPIRES FOR 5-STAR RATING

THE FOUR STEPS HOTEL located in the Southern Province's city of Huye is aspiring to become a 5-Star

Hotel in a grand project to expand and increase services offered. The hotel wants to typify luxury across all areas of operation to allow guests enjoy an extensive range of facilities and comprehensive or personalised services.

Madam Symphrose Mukamazimpaka, the Founder and Proprietor of Four Steps Hotel revealed that visitors to Huye District will soon find an excellent design in quality while looking for conference services, lodging, entertainment as well as learning experiences.

This grand scheme will add to the already existing services



This grand scheme will add to the already existing services like the beautiful garden, mini-olympic size swimming pool, bar, restaurant, 25 spacious rooms each with a terrace among others.

like the beautiful garden, mini-olympic size swimming pool, bar, restaurant, 25 spacious rooms each with a terrace among others.

The Four Steps Hotel is located in Huye's high end locality, a short distance from the city centre. Formerly known as «Le Petit Prince», the name still used dearly is depicted from a big statue of The Little Prince at the entrance of the hotel.

Guests at the property can enjoy pool site views in the rooms and access to an outdoor pool, every room has a terrace with beautiful sights of gardens. At the hotel, rooms come with a desk and a TV. Every room is fitted with a private bathroom with a bath or shower. A continental breakfast can be enjoyed in the breakfast area or at the terrace.

Visitors seeking to do business, looking for a great way to relax or rest, spend a day, come to the swimming pool at the Four Steps Hotel. It's conveniently located while in the amazing City of Huye.

The Four Steps Hotel has a good restaurant that serves a continental breakfast and an extensive menu customized to suit all guests.



visiting Huye often lacked hotel services. She immediately switched embarking on offering hotel services which she wants to upgrade further.

A self made businesswoman, Mukamazimpaka started business after losing her husband in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. She survived with her four children and had to provide for them as a widow.

“When you don’t have a husband providing for you, as a woman you have to stand up for your family and raise your children,” she observes.

She says that right after returning to from exile in Burundi in 1994, she started trading in food commodities, buying food supplies from villages to urban areas mainly to Butare town. When her capital grew she was able to establish a hardware shop, from a previous experience as a housewife who also attend a hardware shop.

As her business ventures prospered, she wanted to enter into real estate but luckily found herself as a hotelier.

Four Steps Hotel is regarded as one of the best in Huye, this is also attributed to its strategic and vantage location, uniqueness, splendid services as well as well excellent conference facilities.

The hotel plans to expand conference facilities to have a conference hall that can sit at least 1600 people, this is intended to attract more people coming to Huye for MICE tourism (Meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions tourism).

The place is historical and indeed for princes, it has hosted high profile dignitaries visiting the area, some of these include the presidents of Rwanda, Burundi and Germany, who visited at different occasions.

THE BIRTH OF FOUR STEPS HOTEL

The Four Steps Hotel was officially opened in 2007 and became one of Huye’s hot spots because of the services on offer.

Madam Mukamazimpaka notes that the original idea was not to build a hotel but as an entrepreneur, she spotted a business opportunity the city offered at the time. The city was very vibrant and regarded as the main educational and home Rwanda’s cultural heritage.

Having acquired land, she had commenced to build some residences or apartments as



was the norm back then, after investing in the construction she realized that people

.....
Visitors seeking to do business, looking for a great way to relax or rest, spend a day, come to the swimming pool at the Four Steps Hotel. It’s conveniently located while in the amazing city of Huye.
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Revolutionizing public transport in Rwanda

Transport difficulties were some of the hardships Olivier Mugabo Nizeyimana encountered for a bigger part of his university days. The proactive and industrious young man pursued his studies at the National University of Rwanda in Huye.

Travelling to the university with the old public buses that plied Kigali-Huye route was so hectic that many times travelers depended on God's mercy to reach their destinations, explains Nizeyimana.

There was no fixed departure time for these public buses. Besides, the journey would take twice the time it takes under normal working conditions. They were

often crammed, loaded above the passenger maximum capacity, and would make erratic stops enroute to Huye picking up commuters.

It was against this background that Nizeyimana conceived an idea of finding a solution to the disturbing transport situation. As the English adage goes necessity is the mother of invention, he was determined to improve public transport means by introducing innovations.

"My idea was very simple – to raise the quality of services for passengers by fixing departure time, introduce ticketing system and respect the seating capacity of the buses to the letter, and make stops at only gazette areas," recalls Nizeyimana.

"My idea was very simple – to raise the quality of services for passengers by fixing departure time, introduce ticketing system and respect the seating capacity of the buses to the letter, and make stops at only gazette areas,"

His dream became a reality in 1999 when Volcano Ltd started operations. The ticketing service changed the image of transport in the country to the extent that many passengers have forgotten the untold suffering blamed on the remote transport systems.

Before, passengers struggled to enter the buses, fought for seats and stampedes at the entrances had become normal. Yet, passengers would lose their properties, get injured and stressed to levels that made them hate traveling by public means.

Passengers would indefinitely wait in the bus for hours without a single idea about departure time.

Volcano Express redefined reservations through ticket booking. The firm introduced stress-free, safe and effective services for commuters implemented in an organized system to ensure buses depart on time.

The unprecedented invention guarantees travelers a seat on the bus on a specific date at specified departure and arrival times. The company purchased a fleet of buses that operate interchangeably to ensure maximum efficiency.

The Founder of Volcano Ltd, Olivier Mugabo Nizeyimana started the company before graduating with barely any capital but with a great idea, two loaned buses from Akagera Motors and support from his family.

Today, Volcano Express is arguably one of the country's top public transport firms with a big name to its high-quality road transport services.

The firm provides transportation for passengers, cargo and courier services between Rwandan cities plus Uganda's Capital, Kampala and Burundi's Capital, Bujumbura.

The 'revolutionary' public transport model plies most routes countrywide and regulators commended it.



Nizeyimana acknowledges that 1999 was a special year. He says, it has been a bumpy journey to have the company win such a recognition. Like any young student and entrepreneur, his dream has revolutionized transport in the country.

The 24-year transport company has quickly become a brand name in the country's transportation industry with its recent penetration into the East African region.

The company does not only enjoy presence in the whole of Southern Province, but also in the Western Province with routes to the districts of Rusizi and Rubavu to Kampala route. The company also operates Kigali town service as well as cross border routes to Kampala and Bujumbura.

Besides operating public routes, Volcano Express also charts buses, offers courier services, including express parcels, packages, and has ventured into the information technology sector specifically bus ticketing.

It has created employment for hundreds as permanent and casual laborers. More than 380 are employed on a permanent basis including Booking Agents, Cashiers, Drivers, Bus Conductors, Mechanics, Security, Cleaners and Managers.

Volcano Express has created social impact in the country and specifically in Huye District where the idea was hatched. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the company distributed relief to travelers and residents.

Nizeyimana's company passionately supports Mukura Victory Sports, where he served

as the club President for 10 years and as a big football fan was formerly the Head of Rwanda's Football Federation (FERWAFU).

Volcano Express has built trust and a positive reputation among travelers in Rwanda due to excellent customer treatment on all routes. They are famous for their punctuality, flexible rescheduling policy and excellent customer services.

THE HYUNDAI FRANCHISE IN RWANDA

For group travelers, students and tourists, Volcano Express' fleet of reliable Hyundai buses best known for comfort, offers free Wi-Fi, power charging outlets, air conditioning and reclining seats.

These buses have unique interior custom designs to make travelers feel fresh to and from their destinations.

To upgrade the comfort and efficacy, Volcano Express switched from operating Toyota coasters to Hyundai models.

Volcano Express has built trust and a positive reputation among travelers in Rwanda due to excellent customer treatment on all routes. They are famous for their punctuality, flexible rescheduling policy and excellent customer services.

Nizeyimana explains that the idea to incorporate Hyundai models into Volcano's fleet of buses happened because they are comfortable and reliable.

It's from this background, that Hyundai Motor Company approached Nizeyimana to be their agent in Rwanda, which makes the Franchise to sell Hyundai models, spare parts and maintain Hyundai automobile brand in the country.

Hyundai as a global mobility brand has gained good reputation on the Rwandan roads and gradually claimed a niche for its unique technology and mobility experience.





TOWERING HEIGHTS FOR MATER BONI CONSILII HOTEL AS IT ACQUIRES 4*STAR RATING

BY STEVEN TUMUSIME

As Huye City takes position as an iconic business hub of Southern Rwanda, so are the new and old establishments and investments. One such business is Marter Boni Consilli Hotel, one of the exquisite hospitality facility you can find in Huye and among the best on the Rwandan tourism landscape.

Hotel Mater Consilli has a unique background and purpose that is not a common finding like other purely profit oriented hospitality establishments.

The hotel was founded by the congregation of Abizeramariya, a group of Catholic Nuns as 2-Star hotel in 2009. It was granted 3-Star status later on in 2016 and 4-Star Hotel in 2023 following more services upgrade and quality assurance



Sœur Gerimen Mukakanyarwanda,
the Managing Director of Marter
Boni Consilli Hotel

Among the new key capacities, the hotel can now host big number of guests after expanding the number of rooms from 52 to 97. The hotel is also able to host high profile guests with it's state of the art executive

and presidential suites that offer unequalled comfort and is boosted by conference facilities that can host over 500 guests, two restaurants with world class kitchenware and decors that add beauty to the already magnificent architectural structure.

Other upgraded facilities include a high end gym, massage and sauna services and looking forward to add a swimming pool that compliment on sports facility needs.

For people looking for a peaceful environment the hotel is uniquely rewarding in many senses. To recognize its impressive quality services, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) recently granted it a 4-Star status, a position the management prides in and seen by the public as a vote of confidence that reflects on its unique identity that not only ensures ambient and serene experience but also best price offers for high end facility.

Such friendly offers and exquisite experience have endeared many guests to choose Mater Boni Consilii Hotel as their preferred home away from home destination in Huye.



HOSPITALITY



Having worked at the hotel for over six years, first as the finance manager and internal auditor, now at the helm of it's management, Sœur Mukakanyarwanda is among the brains behind developments seen at the hotel today.

She notes that staying in Mater Boni Consilii Hotel is a primo choice for those who seek high quality. And it's helping Abizeramariya whose ministry is taking care of marginalized people.

With expected developments in the Huye District such as it's status as a Secondary City and the drive to position itself as a sports tourism city, Marter Boni Consilii Hotel can only think of how to potentially tap into such opportunities.

Given it's location, near the National Museum and recently constructed stadium that has been hosting regional games and ready to host other International games, the hotel is poised to be the best destination to get a hospitable experience for guests traveling to Huye City for tourism, vacation or sports adventures.

FACILITY OF COMPASSIONATE HEARTS

From the outlook, not much will suggest the brains behind Mater Boni Consilii. However, its an establishment purely born out of entrenched compassion from the congregation of Abizeramariya to help the socially vulnerable such as people with mental or physical disability, the elderly, abandoned people and orphans.

With a purpose to spread love and care for the marginalized,

Abizeramariya have carried out such activities ever since their establishment in 1956. Today, they operate more than eight facilities that care for the socially vulnerable countrywide.

Sœur Gerimen Mukakanyarwanda, the Managing Director of the Hotel puts the number under their care to more than 200 people. However, more are catered for from their places of residency through collaborations with local authorities at the district or sector level.



MISAGO'S RISE TO KEY PLAYER IN HUYE'S REAL ESTATE SECTOR

Misago narrates that they opened a shop at 'Kwa Gitera' a popular location in the town and continued their trade. Business flourished because this town served as the region's main trading centre, and its vantage location, which is in close proximity to Burundi and South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



BY STEVEN NSAMAZA

Before the 1990s, Rwanda's public job market was very narrow and reduced to a privilege of a few as nepotism was the order of the day. The vice had found refuge in the education sector as well. Consequently, the perpetual situation compelled many to engage in subsistence farming as the only option.

It is against this background that Aphrodis Misago decided to work with his elder brother who operated a small shop in Butare market to make ends meet. After joining his brother, he started catching up with life challenges, including access to necessities.

In 1986, the duo opened a bigger shop at a prime location in the centre of the present day Huye city in a bid to position themselves as progressive merchandise dealers.

Misago narrates that they opened a shop at 'Kwa Gitera' a popular location in the town and continued their trade. Business flourished because this town served as the region's main trading centre, and its vantage location, which is in close proximity to Burundi and South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Unfortunately, as business started to prosper, the 1994

● ● ● ● ●
The Genocide reversed Misago's achievements and the loss of his brother and business created a regrettable impact. The aftermath of the genocide against the Tutsi was a very challenging period.
● ● ● ● ●

Genocide against the Tutsi struck, destroying everything they had built. The elder brother was killed together with many family members, and Misago fled to Burundi for dear life. Over one million Tutsi were killed and the East African nation was devastated.

The Genocide reversed Misago's achievements and the loss of his brother and business created a regrettable impact. The aftermath of the genocide against the Tutsi was a very challenging period.

Increased responsibilities and experience became a catalyst to drive Misago back to his earlier business. He went back

to the same town and reopened a shop from scratch.

The soft-spoken Misago recalls that shouldering new demands including supporting his family impelled him to work hard, and there was a lot of problems he had to deal with at the time. Shortly, he was motivated by the progress of his business.

However, all was not merry, a few years after resuming business a strange fire destroyed his shop to ashes and lost everything again. But, his fate was not at all a factor to discourage him. Instead, he gathered guts to pursue his dreams with renewed momentum.

DIVERSIFYING INVESTMENTS

Notably, the government of national unity set up after 1994 provided hope to many Rwandans. After stopping the genocide, a conducive business environment was established and the country recorded accelerated development in general.

When an opportunity came around in real estate, Misago was able to acquire the very building that housed his shop for decades. He secured a bank loan, bought the building and demolished it to build a storied commercial complex.

● ● ● ● ● ●
When an opportunity came around in real estate, Misago was able to acquire the very building that housed his shop for decades. He secured a bank loan, bought the building and demolished it to build a storied commercial complex.
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The 3-storied building is located opposite the City Modern Market in the heart of Huye city's commercial district. The building completed in 2011 changed the face of the city's skyline as well as facilitated development of the area.

Misago, also, a founding member of Ingenzi za Huye, a cooperative that is an engine of development that took the first step to build the biggest commercial structure in the city, Huye City Modern Market. To date, this progressive cooperative continues to invest in developmental initiatives.

Trade and real estate are not the only areas where Misago has invested, he is also into agro-processing where he owns a maize factory which is located in the neighbouring district, Gisagara.

His businesses are very important to the area because they employ a large number of locals as well as accommodating different businesses in his buildings. He contributes to the economy of the country through tax contributions.

As an experienced businessman, Misago served as the Chairman of the Private Sector Federation (PSF) of Huye District until 2020. During his tenure, he worked closely with the district authorities to promote the interests of the private sector and development in the area.

He advises the youth to embrace the values such as hard work, patience, and stay focused in whatever they settle on their hands, which can lead them to success.





Galileo Stadium Hotel

Ecstatic sculptures offer uniqueness, competitive edge

BY GEORGE KALISA

As early as seven years of age, Huye based businessman Theophile Mutabaruka, had started nursing a dream of promoting tourism in the area commonly known then as Butare in the Southern Province.

Mutabaruka worked in his father's shop whenever he came back from school and continued with the kind of work after his secondary education was disrupted due to the challenges related to its access.

He recalls that the electricity course he was pursuing never



Theophile Mutabaruka

resonated with his dream. He dropped out of school after two years of studying in Rugunga, a Kigali city suburb. When he returned to Huye, he resumed working from his father's shop for three years. Shortly, his elder brother also a trader and father

contributed initial capital that helped him to start his journey as an investor.

Commenting on the significance of the name and history of Galileo Stadium Hotel, Mutabaruka as its Founder and Proprietor observed that it came into existence in 2015 when Rwanda hosted CHAN competition.

He had started doing business far back in 1982 as a dealer in second-hand items including wears for all age groups and sexes. He started from scratch when he returned from Burundi where he had fled from the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

"All my property was looted and I had to depend on the wholesale traders dealing in merchandise in the early days of the aftermath of the genocide," he notes.

Mutabaruka pays tribute to the Indian wholesale traders who helped when restarting his business by letting him enjoy

Mutabaruka worked in his father's shop whenever he came back from school and continued with the kind of work after his secondary education was disrupted due to the challenges related to its access.

ON-GOING AND FUTURE PROJECTS

Mutabaruka says that every five years he unveils an innovation, and his propensity for trying to provide new services explains why the hotel provides numerous services. He is into agro-processing and owns some of the progressive rice processing plant in the Southern Province.

A proud fan of Mukula FC and Arsenal, Mutabaruka plans to invest massively in Sports activities. Currently, he says the hotel management is mobilizing resources to install a modern swimming pool, GYM equipment, Sauna, Massage, and build a Night Club.

Lack of such services has posed challenges to the hotel but the existing collaboration with Huye District and line Ministry have enabled them achieve a lot in the past and are hopeful for more in expansion plans of the hotel.

Meanwhile, Mutabaruka decried the widespread mindset among youth to loathe hard work and called the government to make efforts to cultivate the spirit of work and promote work ethics that are wanting on the job market.

"Imagine one getting a job and resigns or moves to another one after three months, this is a challenge we face in the hospitality sector and I call on the government to intervene," observes Mutabaruka.

the privilege of paying for the items after selling until the time he could independently raise enough capital.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The hotel, located in close proximity with Huye Stadium, symbolizes a blissful life that induces gratification and pleasure.

"Galileo Stadium Hotel was chosen based on the vision I yearned to pursue. From the beginning I wanted to contribute to the development of tourism in my home area, a reason why I embarked on beautifying the hotel premises with a variety of sculptures," says Mutabaruka.

A variety of art sculptures are dotted on the premises, they include fish farming, fruits, animals as well as humans, and guests will not miss to see a variety of ornamental trees that

characterize the environ of the hotel. The beautiful cranes at the hotel upgrade its serenity.

Mutabaruka is a passionate artist who inspires beautiful designs and revealed to Rwanda Dispatch recently that a great deal of the design of the hotel is his innovation.

The serenity and tranquility created by the uniqueness of the striking views induces a great sense of peace, hope and calmness in the visitors and hence the name Galileo.

Galileo Stadium Hotel enjoys strength in infrastructural and technical development. The modern and furnished standard rooms, highly qualified and experienced staff, vantage location nearly at the gateway of Huye City and proximity to the Stadium and Airstrip make it an appropriate destination for hundreds of visitors annually.

Galileo Stadium Hotel enjoys strength in infrastructural and technical development. The modern and furnished standard rooms, highly qualified and experienced staff, vantage location nearly at the gateway of Huye City





Located in close proximity with Huye Stadium, symbolizing a blissful life inducing gratification and pleasure.

Galileo Stadium



OUR CONTACTS

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RESERVATION

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HOTEL MONT HUYE ENTICE VISITORS TO THE REGION

LOCATED in the middle of Huye City, Hotel Mont Huye is a prime facility in close proximity to the commercial hub/CBD, all historic establishments in Huye like the Ethnographic Museum, the National University of Rwanda as well as other famous schools.

Started as Motel Mont Huye, the facility has come of age and today offers a rich experience with a superb cuisine, stocked bar where you enjoy your favorite drink at the lounge and the spacious rooms with cool and restful atmosphere.

Vicent Semuhungu, the founder and owner of the hotel explains that they provide an excellent experience to guests and this is because they have everything one needs while staying at the facility.

The father of five is a local businessman with over 50 years in carpentry which remained his primary career while investing in construction, real estate and hospitality.

Semuhungu started a carpentry



Vicent Semuhungu, the founder and owner of Hotel Mont Huye

business in 1978 after working for 10 years in Economa Generale as a carpenter where he had joined after graduating in 1967.

"When I started my own carpentry business, there were a few who provided services that I was offering and got lucky to get a lot of work supplying materials for a road construction company and some Catholic Church based institutions," he observes.

When business grew, Semuhungu started venturing into other sectors starting with real estate where he built rentals in the town of Butare as it was

Vicent Semuhungu, the father of five is a local businessman with over 50 years in carpentry which remained his primary career while investing in construction, real estate and hospitality.



called. But no business would ever deter Semuhungu from carpentry, and his main office is still located at the very workshop.

However, in the early 1990s came his biggest challenge when he was imprisoned as a political spy, life was never the same and the subsequent 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi greatly affected him because it robbed him of family members and property.

Coming back from Burundi where he had sought refugee, he found all machinery and materials in the workshop had been looted. With nothing, he sought for a loan from Bank of Kigali to restart his business.





EXPANDING HOTEL MONT HUYE

In 2006, when a prime property in the center of Huye city was auctioned it presented an opportunity for Semuhungu to expand his hospitality ventures by acquiring a bigger facility.

The 40-room hotel wants to expand, modernize, increase services and upgrade, by adding more facilities that are still lacking. The vision is to upgrade the hotel's star status and become a global destination.

INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE

After the genocide against the Tutsi, Semuhungu reorganized his businesses, bought modern machinery for the workshop and seized the available opportunities brought by peace and good leadership in Rwanda.

Business thrived, Semuhungu built a motel and a four storied commercial buildings in Huye City. Today, he owns two commercial buildings located in the city centre, one is opposite Huye City Modern Market, an investment where he also has shares.

Huye District officials attest that Semuhungu has been instrumental in the development of the district where he has massively invested and has created employment to many.

Etablissement Semuhungu Vincent operates and has interests in different sectors including hospitality, real estate, trade and construction. These play a significant role in development and employs hundreds from Huye.

.....
**Started as Motel
 Mont Huye,
 the facility has
 come of age and
 today offers a
 rich experience
 with a superb
 cuisine, stocked
 bar where you
 enjoy your
 favorite drink at
 the lounge and
 the spacious
 rooms provide
 cool and restful
 atmosphere.**

The management of the company encourages workers to participate in all government programmes such as Mutuelle de Santé, Umuganda and others as well as supporting the most vulnerable people jump out of poor living standards by either providing casual jobs or give direct assistance.



HOTEL MONT HUYE

Making your visit to Huye enjoyable.
You can unwind at the bar/lounge, and the
restaurant is the perfect spot to grab a bite.



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CREDO HOTEL

DEFINED BY HIGH QUALITY SERVICES

BY STEVEN NSAMAZA

Just before the turn of the 20th century, the arrival of a new modern facility named Credo Hotel changed the image of the hospitality sector in Rwanda's southern town of Butare.

In 1999, when Credo Hotel started operations in this popular town that later became Huye City, were only outdated hotels with dwindling services established as far back as the colonial period. It goes without saying that Credo Hotel brought in a new breath.

The hotel has again made history to be accorded a 4-STAR Hotel status, becoming the second one in this historic city. The development



François Rutayisire, the founder and owner of Credo Hotel

follows an expansion that involved the construction of a new structure, installation of modern equipment, and scaling up services.

François Rutayisire, the founder and owner of Credo Hotel explains that to improve services, they expanded their structures and added 30 more rooms with all requirements, now the establishment boasts 61 rooms.

“Provision of high-quality services is our objective, we are always looking for ways to improve the services and that is why we expanded leading to the new status of the hotel,” underlined Rutayisire.

The facility is beautiful whereby every room is self-contained having a terrace with a spectacular forest or mountain view, a restaurant that serves a continental breakfast and various global dishes, a bar, room service, free WiFi, a garden as well as an outdoor swimming pool.

Some rooms have been crafted by local artisans to highlight the contemporary



He owns a construction company that builds roads, bridges, and buildings as well as a hardware shop that supplies construction materials, in Huye District and across the country.

In response to its unique natural setting, Huye City is again on the rise and this is attributed to its central positioning to the rest of the region. As the business grows in the city, Rutayisire emphasizes that it's through concerted efforts by all players to attract more visitors to this southern city.

Huye District is positioning itself not only as an educational centre but as a touristic and sports destination. This includes being the gateway to a range of other attractions that can bring travelers looking for transformative and purpose-driven experiences.



The spacious suites at the facility are fully equipped with interactive kitchen, this echoes the hotel's and indeed Huye's readiness to host high profile visitors.

Rwandan traditional appeal which further raises the bar on sustainable luxury while putting on spot Credo's décor and design.

The spacious suites at the facility are fully equipped with an interactive kitchen, this echoes the hotel's and indeed Huye's readiness to host high-profile visitors.

Credo Hotel services also upgraded conference and meeting services from up to 750 people. The upgrades to the hosting capacity include a conference hall with upper levels to make participants following sessions more comfortable.

Rutayisire is honored to be part in the development of Huye District, this includes investments in the hospitality sector, trade facilitation as one of the shareholders in the Huye Modern market, and invests in the construction sector.





cooperatives. But with a small facility of rice millers, less staff, Karamage launched a rice processing factory, Mineterie de Huye to focus on quality and pegging a good price for a rice brand.

"I used to process and sell cassava flour which I processed using small machines. So in 2012, I ventured into rice processing and began with a small facility that processed 2-tones of different varieties of rice per day," Karamage said.

Mineterie de Huye factory, sorts, cleans and grades, whitens and polishes rice and packs the final product in packages of 25 kgs. This factory produces two main rice products, the short rice grain and long grain brand known as 'Kigori'.

As the factory grew, it relocated to a new site at Sovu in Huye industrial area expanding with new modern machinery. The modern rice processing machines (millers) are fast, produce high quality and factory also increased storage capacity.

Today, the new processing facility processes 30 tonnes per day and the business has played part in offering jobs to at least 34 workers including eight permanent employees.

By offering jobs to residents of Huye, it has improved livelihoods and

MINETERIE DE HUYE

PRIORITIZES QUALITY RICE

BY JEJJE MUHINDE

Rice is one of Rwanda's sources of foods, consumed across all zones and social economic classes in the country.

As a priority staple diet which is vastly consumed, it is always in high demand, hence, many investors have realized the immense potential of rice.

Pierre Karamage, a businessman in Huye district has never been a farmer, save for working with several rice



Pierre Karamage, a businessman in Huye district



keeping employees busy, as most are youth, it helps to put them off bad behaviors and illegal activities.

The factory also works closely with farmers through cooperatives by providing them fertilizers, improved seeds and offer them loans among other things.

The owner of the factory said, “we have also assisted over 100 farmers in Gastibo and Kayonza to pay health insurance.” The factory has plans to do the same in Gisagara and Huye district.

Mineterie de Huye sources rice produce from different areas countrywide including areas like the Eastern Province where it is produced in abundance.

Karamage has been doing business since he dropped out of school

in 1986, he started by dealing in second clothes and later joined agro-processing.

He observes that agro-processing is a very significant trade to communities everywhere. Availing quality food is the primary fundamental in development.

Mineterie de Huye Ltd supplies rice through orders, to schools as well as other clients countrywide in the

districts such Huye, Musanze, Rubavu and Muhanga to mention a few.

However, recent economic downturns have affected many businesses and agro-processing has not been left out. The market has been declining especially due to Covid-19 crisis and its aftermath.

Among other challenges, in April this year when government took decisive action to address the country's increased food prices by eliminating Value Added Tax (VAT) on essential food items like rice and maize, some businesses were negatively impacted.

The implemented new pricing structures have not spared rice on the market. The price remains notched.

“We used to sell rice at Rwf25,000 but when the prices dropped, we made losses because we had bought at high rates. Because of falling production, we are expecting prices to go up when buying from farmers,” the factory manager observes.

The management of Mineterie de Huye is however very optimistic to the development of the region. The company wants to expand and introduce new products.

The factory has plans to start production of animals feeds from rice buns and also was to make briquettes from rice husks that can be used in boilers or furnaces.





INVESTING IN TRANSPORT AND HOSPITALITY TO TRANSFORM LIVELIHOODS

CASA HOTEL AND HORIZON EXPRESS are some of the flagship businesses of the Bihira family based in Huye District. Before the family ventured into the hospitality industry, it operated one of the most effective and reliable local transport agencies codenamed Horizon Express.

The transport agency started operations in June 2006 as a response to the high demand for public transport created by inadequate public buses. The shortage in public transport affected many in the Southern



Gertrude Uwizeye, the Managing Director of CASA Hotel

Province particularly the university community and businesses that depended on Kigali for trade.

Gertrude Uwizeye, the Managing Director of CASA Hotel explained that the family ventured into transport because it aids other sectors and interdependency between transport and hospitality was a factor that motivated them to expand into hotel business.

Meaning a "Home", CASA was established as a home away from home in December 2016 and has had a great impact on the development of Huye City.

Uwizeye noted that its location in the heart of Huye City largely accounts for its steadfast progress. The facility takes advantage of the presence of key public services in its vicinity.

Visitors to the hotel have easy access to the City's

biggest market, hospital and pharmacies, banks, police post and transport means. It is a walking distance from the hotel for the visitors to access these essential services, and the hotel management says locality on the prime land of the city's Central Business District (CBD) is one of the factors that make the facility more competitive.

"We give the transporters the hotel clients and some of the passengers that travel with Horizon Express end up becoming our customers," Uwizeye explains.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND AND SERVICES

The family used its limited resources to start a hotel of their dream. Steadily, they began with the basics to provide accommodation, catering, bar and restaurant services. At the time, the site that was later to serve as the premises of CASA Hotel Ltd, hosted a spacious parking yard and car-washing bay.

At the infancy, they had only 24 rooms, three conference rooms and reception area.

Over the time, CASA Hotel Ltd, which is currently graded as a 2-STAR boasts of 37 modern rooms and two well-furnished apartments.

Uwizeye says they have since opening massively invested in infrastructural development and services expansion to catch up



with the ever-growing demand for hotel services in the fast growing hospitality industry in Huye City and country at large.

HOW CASA HOTEL LTD ROSE TO FAME

The hotel started with vigorous publicity after arriving on the market when competitors had won most potential markets. However, the district administration has on many occasions variously supported the facility.

"They direct visitors to our hotel and whenever they need our services we've always felt honoured to serve," observes Uwizeye. "Surely, our relationship with the district administration is healthy and has been strengthening over time," she observed.

Justin Rutikanga, the Hotel Manager says that despite lack of tenders the demand for their services has steadily been growing with a bulging clientele from all walks.

Besides the public service sector community, they have





“We are the first Public Transport Company to operate in all regions of the Southern Province Districts,” Bihira said.

The transport agency that started with Huye-Kigali route has rolled out operations in all the districts in the Southern Province and reaches all areas that were formerly remote.

Among some of the most popular routes that Horizon Express operates are Kibeho as a religious tourism destination, and Mukindo wa Makwaza, a historic site in Gisagara District.

Horizon Express partners with the government in uplifting livelihoods by creating employment for over 400 Rwandans working as drivers and cashiers among others.

The company contributes in the coverage of Community Based Health Insurance (Mutuelle de santé) for its vulnerable clientele as well as supporting sports and entertainment as a way of promoting youths’ talents.

The arrival of the transport company helped users of public transport save time since it has uncompromised time schedules for its buses. The company is no longer Public Transport only, it also has Courier and Parcels Delivery Services operating nationwide through its sister company Horizontal Ltd.

received continuous support from the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who love to use CASA hotel services.

The hotel management attributes growing popularity and progress to qualified and permanent staff plus the reliable mobile catering services the hotel offers.

The competitive prices and provision of an international menu with Indian cuisine distinguishes the hotel from many. Dishes from across the Continent and Europe are some of the attractions that make the hotel enjoy a growing demand.

The conducive climate, Albertine forests, Nyungwe forest, fascinating countryside views as well as Kibeho, a pilgrim place for the Catholic Christians altogether make the city a potential gateway to tourism destinations.

HORIZON EXPRESS CONNECTS THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT

To connect different routes with public transport, Bihira family established Horizon Express in June 2006. This was a response to the high demand for public transport created by inadequate public buses.



Gilbert Bihira, the Managing Director of Horizon Express Ltd says they operate all routes in the Southern province and connect it to the Capital Kigali.





LIGHT HOUSE

- H O T E L -

WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO STAY WITH US. OUR COMFORTABLE ROOMS OFFER THE BEST VIEWS YOU WILL FIND IN HUYE.



We can offer great facilities for your conference, with delicious meals provided from our restaurant. If you are here to relax, make the most of Huye's best health spa, complete with gym, sauna, and massage!

Staying at the Light House Hotel not only guarantees an excellent experience,

but also an opportunity to contribute to the Butare Huye community. Just like a traditional lighthouse, the Light House Hotel serves as a symbol of hope and safety for the Huye community. The hotel supports two important local initiatives: empowering female entrepreneurs through sustainable farming, and building houses for Huye families in need.



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LIGHT HOUSE HOTEL

AMONG HUYE'S HOSPITALITY FACILITIES WITH CITY'S MOST ATTRACTIVE SCENIC SPOTS

BY STEVEN TUMUSIME

Turning the Wheels of Fortune; Light House Hotel is now a symbol of hospitality and big investment in the vicinity of Huye District's biggest urban forest Arboretum of Ruhande.

On the outskirts of Huye City center, along beautiful features that act as attractions and greenery along walkways, a well maintained and clean street leads you to Light House Hotel on the boundaries of Huye's urban forest, Arboretum of Ruhande.

Light House Hotel is best known for its scenic spots of Arboretum forest, 'Ibisi bya Huye' mountains and other various historic features in Huye District. Some wild animals like monkeys and birds are common in the vicinity of the hotel.



Light House Hotel is best known for its scenic spots of Arboretum, 'Ibisi bya Huye' mountains and other various historic features in Huye city.

Frank Murenzi, the Managing Director of the hotel says that this hospitality facility came as an answer to the area's unpleasant history characterized by slum life with high crime and a neighborhood that had historical ties to the 1994 perpetrators of Genocide against the Tutsi.

According to Murenzi, also the President of Come and See Rwanda, a Christian based organization that owns the establishment, Light House Hotel was built in this specific area to bring hope to the community with a mission set to change the unpleasant history of such a beautiful neighborhood.

Like the traditional light house which signifies hope for safety, Light House's aim is to instigate a sense of hope in society and guarantee safety for everyone that uses the facility as well as for locals as seen in its efforts to facelift Mukoni suburb through influencing and improving livelihoods of the needy.

The suburban life in Mukoni had incubated crime, but its developments like Light House

On the other hand, the hotel looks forward to supporting the district's Football Club, Mukura FC in a move to solidify what identifies Huye to the rest of the world.

More so, Light House Hotel has always been of quality hospitable services to the District, at the same time offering high quality services to guests including room services, a restaurant with different African and international cuisines as well as extra facilities such as gym, massage and spa services.

Taking pride in being one of the few providers of conference services in Huye City, conference facilities inside the hotel provide convenience to participants. Business seminars and religious meetings have been some of the common conference events hosted at the hotel.

The Light House Hotel caters to tourists, missionaries, families, conferences and groups. It provides an easy access to many travel destinations with a friendly staff that is happy to accommodate and help guests plan their stay.

Hotel has positively expanded the city's boundaries and has since changed to a whole new look that suits urban environment.

To achieve this, the hotel has closely worked with the District administration about development of the area and social activities like helping the needy.

Light House Hotel supports two important local initiatives: empowering female entrepreneurs through sustainable farming, and building houses for Huye families in need.

Some sections of the community have benefited from these social programs such as medical insurance cover while women groups were given land for



agriculture and livestock farming to improve their livelihoods and social standing.

Some sections of the community have benefited from these social programs such as medical insurance cover while the women groups were given land for agriculture and livestock farming to improve their livelihoods and social standing.





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The Hyundai SANTA FE has been hailed ‘Large SUV of the Year’ in the prestigious 2022 What Car? Car of the Year Awards. Providing ample seating for a family of seven, SANTA FE drew praise from the What Car? judges for a raft of improvements, which have elevated the elegantly styled, high-technology SUV to another level.

What Car? Editor, Steve Huntingford, explains: “Hyundai has proven that small changes can make all the difference, with the addition of hybrid and plug-in hybrid power options turning this already good large SUV into a great one. Running costs are reduced and refinement improved. Plus, you still get a well-controlled ride, outstanding value for money and a nicely finished interior with seating for seven.”

For inquiries call: **0786 131 270** or **2356**





THE GENESIS, HAY DAYS AND FALL OF MUKURA VS

BY JEJJE MUHINDE

When it comes to Rwandan football history, Mukura Victory Sports known popularly as Mukura has seen it all. The oldest football club has seen bad and good times and its future is highly unpredictable.

For the fans, 2018 will always be etched into folklore for the

Huye-based side - Mukura VS. It was an unforgettable year for many fans, a time of bittersweet moments and palpable emotions.

After 26 years, the Huye-based club clinched the Peace Cup title, and represented Rwanda at the CAF Confederation Cup. Since winning the trophy in 1992, Mukura had struggled and

muddled through hard times. In its fans' eyes, the club became an example of hubris and self-harm. They won titles in 1978, 1986, 1990 and 1992.

THE GENESIS

Known by then as 'Loisires', the club is said to have been founded in the 1930's during

After 26 years, the Huye-based club clinched the Peace Cup title, and represented Rwanda at the CAF Confederation Cup. Since winning the trophy in 1992, Mukura had struggled and muddled through hard times.



the colonial era by two Belgians; Father Litjens who was the head of Butare (now Huye) diocese and Sir Reisorif who was the Administrator of Astrida territory.

The club changed its name to Victoria FC, when the national league was initiated in the 1940s. However, the name didn't last long and in 1959 it went into obscurity.

After independence, the club

was revived when Commune Mukura was formed, the administration rechristened it Mukura Victory Sports.

Following the birth of other clubs like Rayon Sports, and Rwanda Motor FC in the 1970's, Mukura debuted in first division football.

At that time, it rose to prominence by being the first club to recruit foreign players into its squad, mostly Burundians. Etienne

“
Under the guidance of Father Gratien Vanneste, a Civil Engineer, the Huye Stadium was built in 1974 with the support of Butare Diocese. The construction of the stadium gave the club a home ground and prominence.
 ”

Nakabwa, Sudi Sakata and Gatama were some of the Burundian footballers.

HOME TURF

Under the guidance of Father Gratien Vanneste, a Civil Engineer, the Huye Stadium was built in 1974 with the support of Butare Diocese. The construction of the stadium gave the club a home ground and prominence.



Today, the stadium has been upgraded to an international multi-purpose facility, the 2nd biggest in Rwanda with a 20,000-seat capacity.

However, when the club had started gaining ground competitively the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi hit the club, it remains the worst part in the history of Mukura VS when it lost over 25 members including staff.

REDEMPTION PERIOD

Following the Genocide against the Tutsi, Mukura's road to recovery was surprising thanks to Jean-Damascene Gasarabwe, other surviving members as well as its Huye fan base.

For the fans, the club's dominance in Rwanda continues to be significant, however on the pitch, things have remained turbulent both locally and internationally.

The once-great shakers of Butare stumbled. At one point falling so far from grace that even the grass where they lay down wasn't green anymore.

In the last season the club finished in sixth position with 45 points from 13 wins and 11 defeats. On its last continental championship, they were knocked out in the first round by Ethiopia's Awassa City in 2000.

Once again, the years that followed were depressing for the fans, the club was weighed down by financial restraints.

They operated at a loss, maintained a below average wage budget and rarely spent without selling first. Today, the club's biggest budget contribution comes from Huye District.

Following the Genocide against the Tutsi, Mukura's road to recovery was surprising thanks to Jean-Damascene Gasarabwe, other surviving members as well as its Huye fan base. For the fans, the club's dominance in Rwanda continues to be significant, however on the pitch, things have remained turbulent both locally and internationally.

But, under Olivier Mugabo Nizeyimana's leadership, the club rose up, won its Peace Cup, and featured in the CAF Confederation Cup. Nizeyimana had took up the club when it was flatterring and brought it back to life.

He recruited talented players, a top coach from Burundi, Francis Haringingo now at Rayon Sports and attracted a sponsorship deal from Hyundai Motor Company.

Felix Romario Gakuka, an experienced sports journalist, believes the club needs transformation. "Mukura must fix issues if they wish to return to the fold."

WAY FORWARD

When Nizeyimana's tenure in office ended, the challenges continued. The big question remains, can Mukura VS rise up again, now that they have Yves Nyirigira as the new president?

That is yet to be seen, but already the man holding the broom is ushering in changes to bring fresh life to the club. He has made his first central pledge, to ensure the club returns to where it belongs. Firstly, to boost the club's financial performance.

Talking to Rwanda Dispatch, Nyirigira said he wants to drive the club down the fan-owned route. In that way, he believes that the huge and lively fan base in Huye should be encouraged to support the club financially.

Bringing together small and large businesses from Huye to financially support the club each season, Nyirigira says it will strengthen the club. Will this be successful or not? Let's wait and see.



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