

President Paul Kagame will officially open the second *Inclusive Fintech Forum* in Kigali from February 24 to 26, 2025. The forum will bring together entrepreneurs, government leaders, investors, and financial experts to discuss the future of financial technology and its role in economic growth.

The announcement was made on February 18, 2025, via the event's social media platforms. "We are thrilled to announce that President Kagame will open the second edition of the Inclusive Fintech Forum in Kigali," the post read.

The forum will focus on how technology can drive financial inclusion and create new opportunities for growth. It aims to foster partnerships and share ideas on expanding access to financial services, especially for those who are traditionally underserved. "Our goal is to work together to build strong partnerships and take meaningful steps toward improving access to financial services through technology," the message continued.

One of the key speakers will be Mene Wamkele, Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Wamkele will share insights on the importance of collaboration between government leaders, innovators, and industry executives to leverage fintech in driving economic development across Africa.

Fintech is rapidly changing the financial landscape, particularly in emerging markets where mobile technology is allowing millions of people without bank accounts to make payments and transfer money. Currently, 65% of people who don't have a bank account globally are using mobile phones for financial transactions.

The first *Inclusive Fintech Forum*, held in Kigali in 2023, highlighted the need for investment in infrastructure and affordable financial services. Discussions focused on how to improve service delivery and make financial tools more accessible for everyone.

This year's forum will continue to explore the role of technology in creating cashless economies and expanding access to financial services. Rwanda is leading the way with its push towards a fully cashless society, showing how technology can help more people access banking and financial services.