The Rwandan government has received a new fleet of electric buses worth over Rwf1.36 billion (approximately $1 million), marking a significant step in its efforts to promote sustainable urban transport and reduce air pollution. The buses, delivered on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, were provided with the support of South Korea.

Charles Kalinda, Head of Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA), highlighted that the buses form part of the government's broader push towards sustainable development under the National Strategy for Transformation (NST2) and Vision 2050. These initiatives prioritize environmental protection, particularly by reducing vehicle emissions.

"This support is especially beneficial for Kigali City, where the buses will be used for public transportation," Kalinda stated. "By increasing the number of electric vehicles, we are taking a critical step toward reducing air pollution."

The initial delivery includes two electric buses, with plans to expand the fleet in the future. Kalinda noted that the introduction of these vehicles will help assess their performance, reliability, and durability in Rwanda's context, guiding future expansion plans.

MININFRA also urged private investors to consider purchasing electric buses as part of the country's efforts to transition towards green transport. Rwanda aims for 20% of all buses to be electric by 2030, which is projected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 72,000 tCO2eq.

Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente, during a presentation to Parliament in September, outlined the government's five-year development acceleration program (NST2) for 2024-2029, which includes plans to cut national greenhouse gas emissions by 38%.

Rwanda and South Korea share similar visions, particularly in promoting green growth and advancing e-mobility solutions. Rwanda is eager to learn from South Korea's expertise in electric mobility and apply these lessons to develop consumer-centric, innovative public transport solutions that enhance both convenience and national competitiveness.