

Rwanda Development Board (RDB), through the Visit Rwanda campaign signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Veteran Clubs World Championship last weekend where Rwanda will host the next three editions of the football tournament.

The first championship scheduled for next year, is expected to bring 150 football legends from around the world and will be hosted at Amahoro Stadium, currently under renovation.

Visit Rwanda branding will be visible in the stadium and on marketing collateral such as the jerseys and tickets. The games will also be broadcast on live television to global audiences.

Speaking after signing the agreement, Clare Akamanzi, Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Development Board said:

“Hosting this event puts Rwanda on the world map as a fast-growing sports tourism destination. This is a championship that is expected to attract thousands of not only global football spectators but also leading brands and partners looking to create impact through sports. We are excited at the income and job opportunities the tournament will create for Rwandans and encourage more people to come and host their sporting events in Rwanda.”

On his part, Fred Siewe, Chairman of Veteran Clubs World Championship said:

“We want the world to come to Rwanda not only to enjoy the tournament but to also visit its wonderful attractions and establish businesses and invest.”

Following the signing, a Leading Legends Gala Dinner was organised to announce the team captains of the 8 competing regions. They are:

- North America team: Captain is Charmaine Hooper from Canada
- South America team: Captain is Maicon Douglas from Brazil
- North Africa & Middle East team: Captain is Wael Gomaa from Egypt
- West & Central Africa team: Captain is Patrick Mboma from Cameroon
- East & South Africa: Captain is Jimmy Gatete from Rwanda

- North & West Europe team: Captain is Robert Pires from France
- East & South Europe team: Captain is Gaizka Mendieta from Spain
- Asia team: Captain is Tzuneyasu Miyamoto from Japan

In the lead up to the championships, roadshows will be conducted around the world encouraging people to visit, meet and invest in Rwanda.

In addition to the roadshows, five high-level forums on peace, education, investment and business, health and tourism will be organised during the tournament to address social, economic, cultural and environmental opportunities.

A special drone show was held after the Leading Legends Gala Dinner welcoming the legends who will participate in the championship with a Visit Rwanda, home of legends message.