For many years, Kirehe District in Rwanda’s Eastern Province has produced talented volleyball, basketball, and handball players—often competing well beyond the limits of the facilities available to them. The talent was there, but the space and facilities to match that ambition was not.

That gap now has a physical presence. On a quiet stretch of land in Kirehe town stands a new multi-purpose, community-sized gymnasium. The facility completed in November 2025 cost Rwf2.7 billion and was originally scheduled for completion in June but faced delays due to several challenges, including a tragic accident at the site. The gymnasium officially opened on December 6, to support the idea of the Rwandan government to become an African sports hub.

From the outside, the modern infrastructure stands out as one of the most prominent modern structures in Kirehe. It features a simple yet imposing façade, with wide entrances supported by columns and large windows stretching across the upper level.

Located in Nyakarambi, off the Rusumo-Kayonza highway, the facility reflects its role as an open public space designed to host sports, community events, youth activities and other outdoor events. Its clean layout and open frontage make it unique, and notably, the first facility of its kind in the Eastern Province

Inside, a polished court sits at the center, clearly marked for indoor sports and bordered by wide red and blue safety zones. The playing surface can be adapted for different events using alternative materials. Tiered seating lines both sides of the hall, finished in Rwanda’s national colors, giving the venue a strong sense of identity and pride.

Even from the upper level, spectators enjoy clear sightlines across the court, with seating for more than 1,200 people. Natural light filters through the high windows, while the clean layout and muted colors give the venue a calm, professional feel suited for national-level competitions and modern sporting events.

Thirst for the facility was high, the gymnasium began hosting major activities, including fixtures of the National Volleyball League. These events marked the first major sporting use of the facility ahead of its formal inauguration in December.

On December 5, the gymnasium buzzed with energy as it filled to capacity with teachers, government officials, parents, journalists, and Kirehe residents celebrating International Teachers' Day. The atmosphere was electric, marked by applause, laughter, and heartfelt tributes to the nation's educators. Organized by the Ministry of Education in partnership with Kirehe District, the event brought together teachers from across Rwanda, highlighting both their dedication and their critical role in shaping the country's future. Speeches, performances, awards, and traditional dances turned the gymnasium into a stage for recognition, pride, and inspiration.

Beyond celebration, the event called attention to Kirehe District's growing potential as a hub for major national gatherings. The modern facility comfortably accommodated a large crowd, demonstrating the district's capacity to host events of this scale. For many attendees, the day was more than a celebration—it was a reminder of the respect Rwanda places on education and its educators.

Looking ahead, the new gymnasium is expected to become far more than a sports venue. Designed as a multi-purpose facility, it will host a wide range of activities—from competitive indoor sports to cultural and social events—positioning it as a central hub for community life.

Beyond the main structure, additional facilities have been developed, including a handball court and outdoor basketball and volleyball courts. These spaces expand opportunities for both professional and recreational sports and will provide quality training environment for teams such as Kirehe Volleyball Club.

Modeste Nzirabatinya, Vice Mayor in charge of Economic Development said the gymnasium will play a key role in nurturing local talent, particularly among young people aiming for national and international recognition.

"The multi-purpose facility is now fully operational, and the plan is to hand it over to private sector management," the Vice Mayor said. "We are encouraging people around the facility to grow their businesses, so visitors can easily find services such as hotels, restaurants and places to stay."

The Vice Mayor also revealed that plans are underway to revive Kirehe volleyball team through talent development, with the aim of returning to the national league.

The facility will help harness Kirehe's large youth population by offering

constructive opportunities that promote discipline, social cohesion, physical fitness, and excellence in sport, while steering youth away from harmful or illegal activities.

Beyond sports, the gymnasium and the adjacent youth center are also expected to support creative and cultural communities. Young artists, performers, and event organizers will have a platform to showcase their work, creating new income opportunities while promoting local creativity.

As Kirehe continues to grow a city, the new modern gymnasium stands as part of a broader vision, one that combines economic development, youth empowerment, and modern infrastructure into a place where residents can live, work, and play.

Kirehe Gymnasium joins other international standand facilities in Rwanda including EBK Gymnasium in Kigali, BK ARENA and Petit Stade.