

RWANDA Dispatch

AN INSIGHT INTO RWANDA

JULY 2021, ISSUE 72 PRICE: RWF 1,500

RECOVERING FROM THE WOUNDS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

KIGALI CITY
HUGS
ITS VISITORS
AGAIN

FOCUS ON CITY
OF KIGALI



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Publisher's Note

TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS have passed since Rwandans were liberated, a time people had to rethink their future and decided to build a better nation. This month of July represents a special time for the people of Rwanda to reflect on the past and carry-on.

This year the country was not able to mark the occasion with public celebrations due to Covid-19 pandemic. As the storm that came with pandemic rages on, the country has been trying to adapt to the situation like the innovative tourism offerings, this being one of the most affected sectors yet the most significant of the economy.

In this issue we look at how the Rwanda's capital Kigali has been

resilient in the face of the pandemic. The City of Kigali plays a leading role in the Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions (MICE) component which has shaped Rwanda's tourism sector.

Kigali, among its many initiatives to level up to a world class destination also adopted the green city concept and wants to play a leading role and be a model for the region, as well as the continent in general.

Besides, the City of Kigali has played a leading role for the last 27 years and continues to be a model for others to emulate and we believe this will continue as Covid-19 storm settles down.

EDITORIAL



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IN CASE YOU MISSED THEM (QUOTES)



said and Quoted



"Every human being, regardless of gender, should be able to live the life that they choose."

PAUL KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



"Power is very rarely given. You have to take it."

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS



"In an interconnected world, if we do not address common global threats with a multilateral approach, no one will win."

DR. VINCENT BIRUTA, RWANDA'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



"We should always endeavour to honour the contribution of workers to our economies in both words and deeds."

DR. PETER MUTUKU MATHUKI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY



An Afghan security forces member keeps watch in an army vehicle in Bagram air base in Parwan province, Afghanistan. (Photograph: Internet Image).

On the scene

U.S. MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

The U.S. military said on July 6, 2021 that it completed approximately more than 90 per cent of its withdrawal from Afghanistan, officially handing over seven facilities to the Afghan ministry of defense.

The US said it had vacated Bagram, effectively completing its 20-year military campaign in Afghanistan ahead of the official end date of 11 September, announced by President Joe Biden earlier this year. As the US hands control to a much less well-equipped Afghan force there are fears of Taliban takeover, which has made swift advances in recent weeks across the country.

Numbers that speak volumes

50

THE NUMBER OF CELLS THAT CURRENTLY REMAIN WITHOUT A HEALTH POST OUT OF 2,148 CELLS THAT MAKE UP RWANDA. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS A TARGET OF HAVING AT LEAST A HEALTH POST IN EVERY CELL BY 2024 IN ORDER TO IMPROVE CITIZENS' ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES. MOST OF THE HEALTH POSTS HAVE BEEN BUILT IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS SINCE THE MINISTRY SET THE TARGET WHEN IT HAD ONLY 831 HEALTH POSTS.

1,172

FROM 2017 TO 2020 AT LEAST 1,172 GENOCIDE IDEOLOGY CASES WERE PROSECUTED ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST GENOCIDE (CNLG). MOST OF THE CASES PROSECUTED ARE RWANDANS AGED BETWEEN 36 AND 45 YEARS WHILE WOMEN ARE 288 REPRESENTING ONLY 24.5%. THOSE BORN AFTER 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI REPRESENT 8% OF TOTAL CASES.

80,000

THIS IS THE NUMBER OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS IN THE SOUTHERN PARTS OF RWANDA THAT ARE EXPECTED TO BE CONNECTED TO ELECTRICITY AS A RESULT OF \$84.22 MILLION FINANCING FROM THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP (AFDB). THE PROJECT IS IN LINE WITH THE RWANDA UNIVERSAL ENERGY ACCESS PROGRAM (RUEAP), WHICH SEEKS TO SUPPLY ELECTRICITY TO 100% OF THE POPULATION - 52% THROUGH AN EXPANDED ELECTRICAL GRID AND 48% THROUGH OFF-GRID TECHNOLOGIES BY 2024.

149 million

RECENT ESTIMATES FROM WHO, UNICEF AND THE WORLD BANK SHOW THAT, IN 2020, 149 MILLION CHILDREN UNDER 5—MORE THAN THE POPULATION OF FRANCE AND GERMANY COMBINED—WERE STUNTED DUE TO LACK OF BASIC NUTRIENTS, COMPARED TO 39 MILLION CHILDREN WHO WERE OVERWEIGHT. AND THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS EXPECTED TO GREATLY INTENSIFY UNDER NUTRITION.



DEAR EDITOR,

RECENTLY, there was a social media outcry following a photo of a woman poorly carrying a baby on a motorcycle, which lacked safety for the child. Police went on record to warn citizens against carrying children on motorcycles.

It's indeed very risky and can endanger the life of a child riding on a motorcycle without safety precautions like wearing a helmet mostly as we have seen them riding as second passengers or even lone passengers.

However, looking at the alternatives in Rwanda's public transport is a challenge. Parents moving with children but without

their own cars and can't afford special car hire can only use public buses. The challenge is when the distance is very far from where they can get the bus or have matters of urgency.

One automatic idea I see is these three-wheeled vehicles which can be built to provide a safe and cheap transport option, we have seen them used in Asian countries they call tuk-tuk or introduce electric Rickshaws.

Government can study some of these ideas to solve the affordable public transport that some of these parents face and many other people of our population. This kind of transport would help many as the taximotos are moving thousands in Kigali.



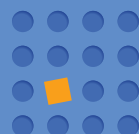


**THERE ARE MANY
BUSINESS FINANCIERS OUT THERE.
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SO, WHO ARE WE?

We're **THE TEAM** that **TAILORS OUR FINANCE** to offer business owners a **FAIR DEAL** and meet their **UNIQUE NEEDS**. We're the team that works with business owners to **UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL** of their businesses.

**WE ARE PROUDLY
BUSINESS PARTNERS
INTERNATIONAL.**



BUSINESS/PARTNERS

Three agreements inked between Rwanda and DR Congo to strengthen bilateral ties



Presidents Paul Kagame and Felix Tshisekedi

RWANDA and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) in late June signed three agreements on mutual collaboration following a meeting between Presidents Paul Kagame and Felix Tshisekedi in Rubavu and Goma.

President Kagame welcomed his

Congolese counterpart Tshisekedi in Gisenyi on June 26 and the next day the visit was reciprocated in Goma, capital of North Kivu province.

The two leaders had time to tour the towns of Gisenyi and Goma to assess the damage caused by the eruption of Nyiragongo volcano and

concluded the visit with the signing of the agreements before holding a joint press conference.

The first agreement signed concerns the promotion and protection of investments, while the second one relates to the avoidance of double taxation and tax evasion between the two countries. The third agreement is a memorandum on gold mining cooperation.

"We signed a number of agreements. I believe this is just the beginning. There are many areas in which we cooperate to build a solid relationship but also the basis for cooperation between our two countries," President Kagame said.

The two leaders valued the good cooperation that has existed for several years between DRC and Rwanda as well as their peoples. This comes to strengthen bilateral relations which have over the years been seen as antagonistic.

Burundi, Rwanda announce normalisation of relations

DURING CELEBRATIONS to mark the 59th anniversary of independence on July 1, 2021, Burundi's President Évariste Ndayishimiye, declared in the presence of the Rwandan Prime Minister who was among distinguished guests that his country was ready to "turn a new chapter" with his northern neighbour.

President Ndayishimiye said was time to bury the hatchet for the two countries to work together. He conveyed a thankful message to President Paul Kagame

for delegating the PM during the independence celebrations.

Prime Minister Édouard Ngirente promised a consolidation and promotion of existing relations of friendship and cooperation for the benefit of two countries.

Since 2015, this is the first high profile visit between the countries and it follows several diplomacy engagement as well as military and intelligence talks on how to improve relations between the two neighbours.



Prime Minister Édouard Ngirente during the celebrations to mark Burundi's 59th Independence day

EU, Rwanda partner in readiness to vaccine manufacturing

THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) and Rwanda Development Board (RDB) signed a Rwf 3.6billion agreement to promote the Rwandan tourism and health sectors. The funds will primarily strengthen the capacity of Rwanda Food and Drug Authority (RFDA), which is key to enhancing the attractiveness of the country for investments in vaccine manufacturing.

Dr Daniel Ngamije, the Minister of Health welcomed the support saying that, "Upgrading Rwanda's



Dr Daniel Ngamije, the Minister of Health

regulatory capabilities to the required international standards is a

critical step on our journey to vaccine manufacturing. The European Union is a central partner in our efforts to bridge the gap in vaccine equity in Africa by building pharmaceutical production capacity."

The European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen said Europe will continue to support Rwanda and Africa in strengthening the regulatory framework and attracting investment in the pharmaceutical sector."

It was also announced that the EU and European Investment Bank were in discussions to partner with Rwanda to facilitate and promote investment by pharmaceutical and biotech companies in the country.

New Heart Centre for construction in Masaka, Kigali

MASAKA IN KICUKIRO District is set to be home to a new heart research centre that is planned for construction, courtesy of Heart Care Research Foundation Rwanda (HCRF-R).

The construction works, facilitated by the recent signing of an agreement between Health Minister, Dr. Daniel Ngamije and the Egyptian ambassador to Rwanda, Ahmed Samy Mohamed El-Ansary, will start before end of this year.

According to Gisele Gatariki, chairperson of HCRF-R, construction works for the first phase of the project, which is backed by the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), are expected to last for 18 months after which equipment will be installed.

The project, whose cost has not been revealed, will be subsidized through



funds raised in the form of grants from partners such as Chain of Hope, Magdi Yacoub Foundation, Sawaris Foundation, and other philanthropy organizations.

The facility with start capacity of about

1,000 people will feature a research wing, clinics, operation theatres, radiology rooms, laboratories, pharmacies, accommodation and an administration block.

Kigali gets first public vehicle electric charging station



SAFI UNIVERSAL LINK recently launched the first public electric vehicle charging station in the City of Kigali. The company's charging station infrastructure called EVPLUGIN was



built in Kacyiru, 19 more stations are expected across the city to be followed by others in Musanze and Rubavu in phase 1 of the project that will see a total of 26 stations.

Ike Erharbor, President of EVPLUGIN said they are launching the station in line with the country's carbon neutral initiative where Rwanda aims to reduce 38% of emissions by 2030.

"Rwanda has proven to be a leader when it comes to innovativeness and readiness to do business climate. It's for these reasons that we have set base here and are ready to roll out such exciting and futuristic initiatives in e-mobility." He said.

The multipurpose charging station comes at a time when the government of Rwanda has made commitment to invest \$1 billion to convert 20% of vehicles to electric automobiles by 2030.

This new fast charging technology enables all electric vehicles to charge on the go, at a relatively cheaper than fuel consumption, which enhances ways to reduce fuel dependency and curb on CO2 emissions.

Most East African regions expected to dry

FOR THE MOST OF JUNE TO JULY many parts of the Eastern Africa are forecasted to be dry except some parts of Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) said.

ICPAC predicts warmer temperatures than usual conditions expected over the eastern and northern parts of the region.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall (top 10 to 5% on record) expected in western Ethiopia and southern Sudan. Moderate rainfall between 50 - 200 mm is expected in northern and western Ethiopia, north-western South Sudan, south-western Sudan, and limited areas in western Kenya.

Light rainfall less than 30 mm is expected in parts of central and south-eastern Sudan, eastern and southern South Sudan, central parts of Ethiopia, Eritrea, eastern Uganda, western and coastal Kenya, northern and southern



coastal Somalia, southern and coastal Tanzania.

Dry conditions are expected in northern Sudan, eastern and southern

Ethiopia, southern and northern Eritrea, Djibouti, central Somalia, much of Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, and much of northern and western Tanzania.

Kinigi locals receive model housing



The project in Kinigi was undertaken by Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) in collaboration with other Government Institutions.

TO MAKE the 27th Liberation Day Celebrations, a model village in Kinigi, Musanze District was inaugurated in an event officiated by the Minister of Defence, Maj Gen Albert Murasira and the Minister of Local Government, Jean Marie Vianney Gatabazi.

The IDP Model Village that will accommodate 144 families consists of six block apartments, a school named Groupe Scolaire Kampanga, an Early Childhood Development centre (ECD), Kinigi Health Centre and other welfare support facilities such as cowsheds for 102 cows, poultry cages for 8,000 chicken, livestock hall and Agakiro among others.

Josiane Mukamwiza, a mother of three expressed gratitude to the government for catering of vulnerable families. “What we have been given today calls for a sense of responsibility to develop ourselves and also develop fraternity among ourselves.”

Mukamwiza urged other locals to stay united and work hard for their development as the government has set an example by giving them all the necessities.

The project in Kinigi was undertaken by Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) in collaboration with other Government Institutions.

Minister Murasira underlined that RDF will remain at the forefront in contributing to the socio-economic development of the country. “As the country was liberated from bad leadership, we remain with the struggle to develop our country and RDF will keep the lead in collaboration with citizens,” he said.

He called on the beneficiaries of the new infrastructures to maintain them appropriately.



ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME ON CELEBRATING 27 YEARS OF LIBERATION

Rwandans, Friends of Rwanda

I greet you all and wish you a Happy Liberation Day.

Twenty-seven years ago, Rwandans joined hands to liberate our country.

Ever since we have worked together every day to renew our society and make Rwanda the best it can be for each one of us.

I want to thank you for this.

Today, Rwanda is not just a place on the map.

For us, it means something that we can all identify with and be proud of, and in which we feel valued.

Rwanda means hope. It means that we care for one another.

The Kinigi Model Village being launched today, and other community projects that our armed forces have delivered, in partnership with other institutions, is a demonstration of our Rwandan solidarity, and we have made it a habit.

I also want to thank you for this.

This year we could not celebrate Liberation Day in the usual manner.

This is why we must continue our fight against the current surge in Covid-19 cases.



We want every Rwandan to be healthy and free to pursue all the opportunities available to them, including in education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

It is now more important than ever to follow the measures put in place by the Ministry of Health and other institutions to curb the spread of Covid-19 and save lives.

We want every Rwandan to be healthy and free to pursue all the opportunities available to them, including in education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

Our work for Rwanda's economic and social transformation must continue and accelerate.

Beyond our borders, we want to continue fostering mutually respectful and beneficial cooperation with our neighbours, with the region, and globally.

Fighting and overcoming Covid-19 is a continuation of the work of liberation.

Some relief is on the way, in terms of vaccines, to raise the level of protection, starting with those most at risk, and eventually reaching as many Rwandans as possible.

In keeping with our goal of self-reliance, we are working to build our capabilities to manufacture vaccines and other medications in Rwanda.

This will reduce our dependence on supply sources that are unpredictable or dependent on other interests. But this will take time and we have to be patient.

In the meantime, each one of us has an important role in strengthening vigilance and adapting our habits to minimize the risk of transmission of this airborne virus.

We must understand the urgency to protect ourselves and each other and get our country out of this danger as quickly as possible.

Rwandans have a lot to do together and much to look forward to. Let us make sure we can continue on this journey together.

Once again, I thank you and wish you all a safe and Happy Liberation Day.



Recovering from the wounds of Covid-19 pandemic

Kigali City hugs its visitors again

BY DIAS NYESIGA

GRACE MITCHELLE HAD PLANNED for a vacation in Africa at the beginning of last year, unfortunately, Covid-19 pandemic ravaged the world locking down economies and restricting movements.

As she passed time during lockdown searching through different destinations in Africa she opened a channel and a message popped up;

“The world will open for business once more, and when it does, we’ll be waiting with open arms. We can’t wait for you to visit Rwanda soon. Stay home. Stay safe. Travel tomorrow.”

It is from Visit Rwanda Youtube channel. Despite lockdown which saw the economy shutdown completely after the first case on 14 March, 2020, Rwanda continued to keep in touch with the world virtually.

“As it became more and more obvious that events and travel would come to a standstill due to the virus, destination marketers were faced with quite a challenge: staying connected (virtually) to visitors without seeming to be overly promotional during a time when so many around the world were suffering,” said Blair Potter, managing editor, The Meeting Professional.

Like other sectors of the economy, Rwanda’s tourism which is the country’s leading foreign

“The world will open for business once more, and when it does, we’ll be waiting with open arms. We can’t wait for you to visit Rwanda soon. Stay home. Stay safe. Travel tomorrow.”



exchange earner was severely affected losing Rwf 79billion from 70 meetings alone that were suspended last year.

This loss, Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente said was as a result of cancellation of meetings which contribute to Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions (MICE) component which has shaped Rwanda's tourism sector as well as aviation which recorded Rwf 8billion in losses.

Nevertheless, with government putting in place measures to curb down the spread of the virus, controlling numbers of infections, Rwanda opened again for tourism in mid-June, 2020.

"I felt hope that at least my plan of visiting the continent is still positive and there I opted I will have my vacation in Rwanda," said Mitchelle.

As a result, the country's tourism is healing and the flamboyant clean, green and attractive city of Kigali is now hugging its visitors again with over 3,000 visiting by July 2020 barely a month after the opening of the initial lockdown.

"Rwanda has prioritized MICE tourism as one of the drivers of its economic growth," said Belise Kariza, head of tourism at Rwanda development Board (RDB).

Like other sectors of the economy, Rwanda's tourism which is the country's leading foreign exchange earner was severely affected losing Rwf 79billion from 70 meetings alone that were suspended last year.

The International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) says MICE industry is one of the fastest growing segments within the tourism industry with an annual increase of around 9 percent, indicating Rwanda's best choice to boost the industry.

The country, she says is ranked as the safest in Africa and fifth-safest in the world in Gallup's 2018 Global Law and Order report.

The City of Kigali plays a leading role in the MICE component and has been ranked second in Africa by the International Congress and Convention Association (2018 report) to host association meetings.

The city features 10,000 guest rooms, including many internationally recognized brands such as Marriott, Radisson Blu and Park Inn by Radisson, and plans are in offing to double the country's room capacity by 2025.

To further harness its position, Kigali has also adopted the green city Kigali concept that is aimed at responding to emerging issues and a pioneering project for Africa's rapidly growing cities, making it the first green city on the continent and thus pushing it to number one destination for tourism.

"Taking a holistic approach to integrate green building and design, efficient and renewable energy, recycling and inclusive living, the green city Kigali will become a blueprint for other cities, for the region, for the continent," a statement from the city of Kigali read in part about the project.

The city hosts the historic and cultural sites and sounds; memorials such as Kigali Genocide Memorial, the Richard Kandt House-Museum of National History and various other memorials, the splendid hikes, city tours that usher the visitor in the warming milieu of Kigali that is beautifully covered with green, the art and craft as well as made in Rwanda shopping that entices most visitors.

The transparent dome shaped Kigali Convention Centre that holds multi-functional conference halls which is set to be the most recognized modern structures on the continent has been

an attraction both for domestic and international tourists.

“Most visitors are enthusiastic to take a city ride and see the beautiful flowers by the road side, the green parks, hiking on the hillsides of the city suburbs because sometimes they don’t believe such things can happen in a city in Africa. We are back in business and the sector is healing,” said Theogene Rukundo, a tour guide.

GOVERNMENT PRIORITISES HOTELS SECTOR FOR THE RECOVERY FUND

The Hotels and hospitality sector is expected to take the lion’s share (Rwf 50billion) of the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) set up by government to help in reviving the economy hit-hard by the pandemic.

Whilst, Rwf 30billion will be allocated to larger enterprises with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) taking 15 billion of the fund, government expects more funding to further reach all businesses.

The fund will help in loan refinancing for the hotels sectors which lost over 90% of revenues from cancellations of events and bookings due to global lockdown and travel restrictions. Others include; businesses in the agro- processing, manufacturing, transport and logistics.

The ERF, a two-year facility to cushion businesses affected by COVID-19 Pandemic is expected to amount to Rwf 200billion in total with the fund already giving out loans from the initial Rwf 100billion facility.

The fund will be channelled to the sector through Savings and Credit Cooperatives, Microfinance Institutions which will be easier for small and medium players in the sector to access as well as commercial banks.

The growth of the economy that had

shown positive outlook for the past decade averaging to 7.2% slumped by 2 percent in 2020 auguring a sluggish outlook with World Bank recommending the need for recovery strategies to help the economy to bank on its growth path.

If this is not done, the World Bank says it would reverse some of Rwanda’s hard won socio- economic and health achievements but a ray of hope glimmers on the account that Rwanda took a swift action to stem the spill over with strategic recovery approaches which are expected to bend the curve on the pandemic and get back on track.

With the recovery fund targeting the hotel sector, experts deduce will fast track the recovery of other sectors, given the position of the sector within the economy.

“Considering hotels and hospitality sector was the best approach to speed up recovery, first the sector links direct to the lower person within the income chain who is a farmer,” Davis Mukiza, a business analyst says.

“Again, it has a capacity to create jobs that are permanent and casual which means employment gap created by the pandemic can be closed easily and secondly, it creates a platform for other sectors to meet”, he adds.

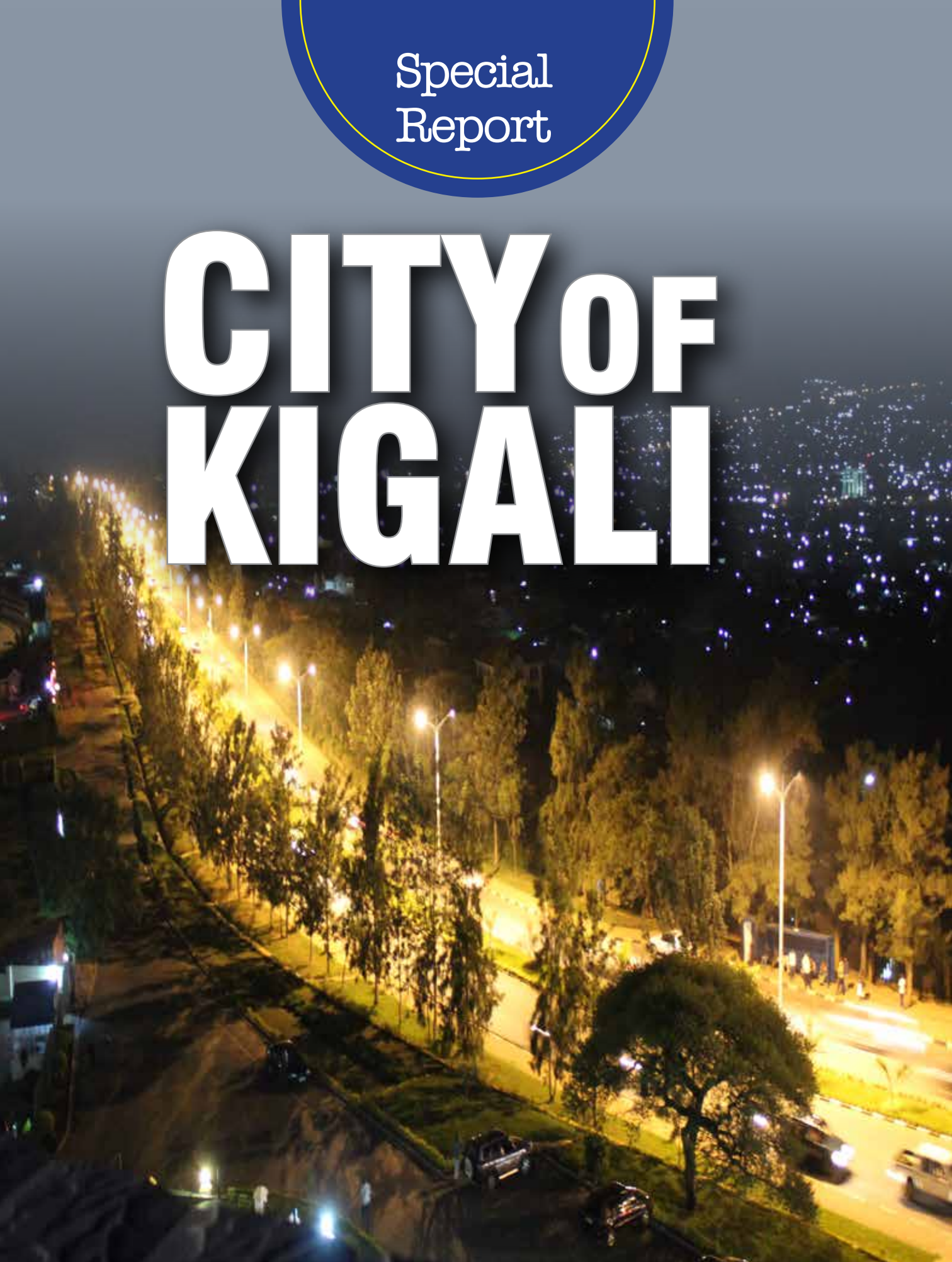
In fact, Central Bank says hotels and restaurants recorded a very high value loan with the sector’s loan value increasing to Rwf 95.3billion in the first quarter this year to Rwf 6.1billion in the same period 2020 accounting to 14.60 percentage increase. This contributed to the rise in new authorised loans in the first quarter 2021 to 49.7 percentage from -10.6 percentages in the same period last year, painting a positive outlook for the sector’s recovery.

Experts are optimistic that strengthening the private sector will help in reviving the economy something that has seen the government allocating 58.7 % of the total budget (Rwf 2,234 billion) to economic transformation a pillar that has the economic recovery fund in its docket.



Special
Report

CITY of KIGALI





Rwanda seeks to relieve traffic congestions in the Kigali city with smart solutions

BY AIMABLE TWAHIRWA

A NEW KIGALI MASTER PLAN, which lay out the city's development roadmap for the next 30 years, is designed to increase the use of public transport means by at least 70 per cent in urban area.

With a population density of 4,403 residents per square kilometre, Rwanda's Capital Kigali is among the most crowded city in Africa by quite a distance with experts predicting that as the size of population grow faster, the congestion level experienced by drivers will also experience exponential growth.

Experts say traffic congestions not only lead to economic and time losses but contribute to air pollution and climate change in fast growing city like Kigali facing many environmental challenges.

Official estimates show that the annual increase in population vehicles will reach 16.5% from the current 12% while light duty vehicles will increase 20% by 2030.

It has now been a year since the proposed Kigali City Master Plan has started to be implemented in five phases and each phase has been aligned with specific development activities expected to generate at least 1.7 million jobs in the next 30 years.

HIGH CAPACITY BUSES

Among other new features, the proposed master plan also caters for affordable

housing units on the periphery of the central business district, which was one of the inputs from the citizens, who said that in the current master plan, low-income earners were being pushed away from the urban settings.

"The new master plan takes into account the aspect of inclusion to ensure that everyone feels included and be motivated to implement the master plan," Pudence Rubingisa, the Mayor City of Kigali said.



Rwanda is set to drive a surge in urbanization with the high percentage of the population living in urban areas increasing with a high demand to support the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure, according to estimates by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

GREEN TRANSPORT INITIATIVES

While part of the new solutions aim to introduce high capacity buses that will transport large volumes of passengers to reduce air pollution by limiting use of cars in the city, the city authorities consider that road infrastructure quality is also needed to improve urban transportation systems.

Among other strategies to reduce the use of private cars that overcrowd the roads, solutions consist on introducing rapid system for public transports that target where many people reside to be able to carry as many passengers as possible.

According to officials, the rapid bus transit initiative is part of green transport initiatives that also include controlling and testing air emissions by vehicles and others.

LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES

The shift towards relieving traffic congestions in the city will also see Kigali authorities construct 17 km bus rapid transit main corridor and six modern interchanges which will result in greenhouse emissions reductions.

The plan includes the construction of dedicated “rush hour” high speed bus lanes, improvement of traffic, pedestrian controls and street lighting using solar panels, use of higher fuel efficiencies and low carbon technologies for new vehicles, as well as integration with international Airport and business centres.

The out-dated master plan the City of Kigali was adopted in 2013 by



Rwandan authorities to improve the city's environment while also trying to promote social inclusion.

Meanwhile, some experts in infrastructure development argue that reducing traffic congestion in the city is not the only reason why low carbon technologies for new vehicles should be encouraged.

“Air pollution which is now the biggest environmental risk for early death is another powerful reason, because most of our transport system are not relying on fuel-efficient vehicles that use less oil,” Cyprien Mungwarakarama, a Kigali-based transport engineer told Rwanda Dispatch in an interview.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

In January this year, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) presented the first ever electric vehicle with a charging station with the aim to demonstrate the potential of low emissions technologies and encourage public and private institutions as well as individuals to transition to electric vehicles especially in urban areas like Kigali.

This July, the first public electric vehicle charging station in the City of Kigali was launched where 19 more stations are expected across the city to be followed by others across the country. The move follows other charging infrastructures established by Volkswagen Mobility

Solutions for its own cars.

The 2018 Inventory of Sources of Air Pollution in Rwanda showed that vehicle emissions are the leading cause of air pollution in Kigali and other urban areas. Using electric vehicles in its daily work is, therefore, part of REMA's long-term plan to contribute to Rwanda's green growth, according to Juliet Kabera, Director General of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA).

Currently, Rwanda aims to reduce emissions by 38% compared to business as usual by 2030 and electric vehicles are estimated to represent 9% of potential energy-related emissions mitigated under the country's climate action plan (NDC).

Along these lines, the initiative is a collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), seeks to promote sustainable mobility, including these retrofitting of 80 motorcycles from combustion engines to electric power.

Jean Damascene Mapendo, one of the transport engineers in Private sector based in Kigali said that “in Rwanda the decision has already been taken to move public transport towards electric mobility especially in City of Kigali.”

“But there are many aspects that make it easier to start with public buses than private cars if the city authorities seek to ease traffic congestion,” Mapendo said.

Evangelising a nation while addressing the needs of the people



The Most Reverend Dr. Laurent Mbanda, the Archbishop and Primate of The Anglican Church of Rwanda

“

“Many times people may misunderstand me or what I do because what I do is a combination of evangelism, preaching, social activities and development activities,” underlines Archbishop Mbanda.

”

Between 1914 – 16, two missionary doctors of the Church Missionary Society travelled to the eastern parts of Rwanda, they evangelised the region which led to setting-up of the first mission in 1925 that become the foundation of the Anglican Church of Rwanda.

The early work of the Anglican Church in the country grew with the revivals of the 1930s and 1940s. The spiritual journey started almost a century ago has seen the Church grow and establish 12 dioceses across Rwanda to cater for the 1.2 million believers.

To complete the spiritual mission, The Anglican Church of Rwanda (ACR or EAR in French) adopted three fundamental pillars which include evangelism as the key pillar, education and health.

The Most Reverend Dr. Laurent Mbanda, the Archbishop and Primate of The Anglican Church of Rwanda explains that as much as evangelism is the heart of the ministry, I like to do evangelism that is combined with addressing the needs of the people, social action is key and part.

“Many times people may misunderstand me or what I do because what I do is a combination of evangelism, preaching, social activities and development activities,” underlines Archbishop Mbanda.

The belief here is that when you are in

education and health you are also in social development because you can't talk about the two without talking about development.

Archbishop Mbanda as an entrepreneur and development oriented person brought into the church a new impetus towards social development. He has about 28 years working in non-profit and corporate organisations focusing on community and human development where he worked in about 26 countries and had exposure to more than 66 countries around the world which encompasses a rich experience of different countries, people, culture and backgrounds.

Becoming the leader of ACR in 2018, Archbishop Mbanda embarked on building the church through evangelism combined with addressing the needs of the people. To navigate the new course he came equipped with five key pillars for strategic direction.

These guiding pillars have provided a basis to operate and they include; i) equipping leaders, ii) evangelism, iii) early childhood education, iv)



Umurage Medical Clinic appreciates Muhanga District working relations because they support the private sector. They work together during the health week to educate communities, the clinic contributes mutuelle de Sante (medical insurance) to vulnerable families and offers free health care across the district.

financial literacy, management and accountability and v) sustainability.

Focus was put in equipping leaders, the pastors and

lay people of the ministry. It's under this pillar that the East African Christian College (EACC) in Masaka was established and was accredited in December 2020. The university opened in March 2021 with 254 students in theology education undertaking bachelor's degree and others will do post graduate diploma.

The goal is to build one of the best Christian Universities in the region and there are plans to start



more programmes soon like education, monitoring and evaluation to which assessment has already been conducted by HEC while nursing and midwifery programme is still in the pipeline.

Evangelism as another pillar is the heart of the ministry, as the Archbishop explains from the example of what Jesus Christ did, this' an integral mission with social action combined. The focus here is on person in total, who is more than a soul, with intellect, social dimension, cognitive, the physical and who should be looked at it from a holistic approach.

Early Childhood Development (ECDs) as the third pillar is an area The Anglican Church of Rwanda has majored in. The church has started ECDs centres across the country and currently supports at least 614 centres.



Financial literacy, management and accountability are very important to ACR and this category is one of the main tenets of this ministry when it comes to managing money, accountability and integrity. The ministry wants to equip pastors and lay people to understand financials, gain financial literacy to be able to manage and be accountable. ACR has introduced financial software in all dioceses to be used to help improve financial management and how to be accountable to the people in all churches.

Sustainability; to maintain what has been gained there is need for self-sustenance as Rwanda has demonstrated in terms of 'Kwigira' meaning self-sustaining. Under this

pillar the Church had made commendable developments like building commercial buildings that generate income to support the Church's operations.

The Archbishop notes that a business mind-set has set them on a course to uplift the church through social entrepreneurship. "The City of Kigali challenged us to change and transform Remera (Giporoso) because there were some houses that





Today, ACR has established early childhood centre, elementary schools, higher schools and polytechnics at Hanika, Muhabura as well as the Christian University in Masaka. centres.

The Anglican Church of Rwanda continues to be a strong partner with the Rwandan government in areas of education, health and development uplifting the living conditions of Rwandans and the communities in general.

The church has a vision, its guided by the key pillars and to continue prioritizing human development, keep developing leaders, contribute to the development and transformation of Rwanda through education, health and other relevant sectors.

were not looking good for the city. This also inspired us and we agreed to do something to contribute to the development of the city and today its beautiful.”

The Anglican Church of Rwanda has made many investments across all dioceses becoming one of the top partners in implementing the country's vision. Magnificent complexes put up by ACR like the complex in Remera (Giporoso), the Anglican Trinity plaza in Kibagabaga and mega complex under construction at the headquarters of ACR are among the latest additions to the on-going modernisation of the City of Kigali.

Some of these investments are fundamental to the operations of the church and to fund projects in the education and health sectors to which The Anglican Church of Rwanda has made many commitments.

“We are also looking for other investments so that the Anglican Church of Rwanda is able to support itself and it's the same case you will find in other dioceses, with a strong desire for self-sustenance,” notes Archbishop Mbanda.



However, evangelism and discipleship continues to be the anchor, the strong hold of what ACR chose, its like the launch pad of everything from the early days of the church when schools were established.





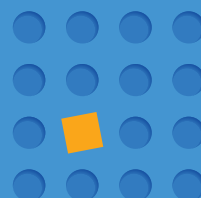
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BUSINESS/PARTNERS
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La Croix du Sud Hospital offers World-Class Care

La Croix du Sud Hospital is a leading private Hospital in Rwanda that provides world-class healthcare care services. Founded right after the liberation of the country in 1994, it commenced as a clinic specializing in gynaecology-obstetric which has remained as the backbone of the hospital.

'KWA NYIRINKWAYA' is the popularly known and spoken name in reference to the hospital which coined by the locals after the

Founder and CEO, Dr. Jean Chrysostome Nyirinkwaya. As a gynaecologist he started the hospital from a small private clinic in Kigali upon return to his motherland.

The high demand of medical services offered at the small clinic forced Dr. Nyirinkwaya to upgrade to Polyclinic La Croix du Sud. In 1998, it shifted to a new larger location, broadening its services like starting surgical operations and by then was performing more than 1,000 deliveries per year.

In 2009, La Croix du Sud took another major step forward

when it completed its own modern building and moved to new premises in Remera, Gasabo District, officially became a hospital.

"Since 1995, we chose to customize every aspect of our service," according to Dr. Nyirinkwaya, who emphasises excellence in offering the best services as the top priority at his hospital.

The hospital has a vision to become one of the best health institutions in Rwanda and in the region by strengthening both preventive and curative medical care services. This will be achieved by offering quality medical care with good service delivery to patients or excellent customer care while employing modern medical technology and professionalism.

La Croix du Sud Hospital has adopted five guiding principles in order to achieve excellence in health care services which are: Integrity, Respect, Determination to offer the best quality services, Empathy towards patients and Reinforcing teamwork spirit.

La Croix du Sud Hospital Founder and CEO, Dr. Jean Chrysostome Nyirinkwaya





HEALTH SECTOR

Democratic Republic of Congo prompted La Croix du Sud hospital to open La Croix du Sud Polyclinic in Gisenyi town.

The capacity of the hospital has increased over the years, today there is a team of 34 medical doctors in different specialties including 8 Gynaecologist Obstetricians, 4 Internists, 1 General Surgeon, 1 Urologist, 6 Paediatricians, 1 Anaesthesiologist Intensivist, 1 Radiologist, 8 General Doctors, 1 Gastroenterologist, 2 Dental Surgeons and 1 Orthodontics.



The growing number of people seeking medical services from Western Rwanda and the Eastern parts of the Neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo prompted La Croix du Sud hospital to open La Croix du Sud Polyclinic in Gisenyi town.

La Croix du Sud Hospital has adopted five guiding principles in order to achieve excellence in health care services which are: Integrity, Respect, Determination to offer the best quality services, Empathy towards patients and Reinforcing teamwork spirit.

STATUS, RESPONSE AND GROWTH

To respond to the growing needs for medical care

among the population in Rwanda, La Croix du Sud Hospital has kept up the promise of expanding and increasing its capacity in existing services, introducing new services and has established a second branch in Gisenyi, Rubavu District in the Western Province.

The growing number of people seeking medical services from Western Rwanda and the Eastern parts of the Neighbouring

In other disciplines there are 5 Anesthetists 65 Nurses, 30 Nurse Assistants, 14 Lab Technicians and 2 Physiotherapists. These are equally supported by other staff in administration, finance, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), restaurant, cleaning and security among others.

The inpatient capacity at the main hospital in Kigali has also grown and now has 104 beds (including



emergency beds), sometimes this changes depending on number of inpatients. The hospital serves approximately 350 Out Patient per day.

La Croix du Sud Polyclinic in Gisenyi is also growing and currently has the capacity of at least 40 beds.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND THE FUTURE

La Croix du Sud Hospital has a vision to continue enhancing health care in all avenues and going beyond curative medicine to preventive medicine where different services are already on offer like screening of cervical cancer and breast cancer, prostate as well as general screening.

Vaccinations have also been enhanced, children can be vaccinated TB, Polio, PENTA, PNEUMOCOCCAL, ROTAVIRUS, MEASLE, RUBELLA and TETANOS. For adults, they can be Vaccinated cervical cancer (Cervarix), Hepatitis B, Tetanos (serum antitetanos and vaccine).

The hospital has big plans to continue its expansion policy and this time has already started construction of a larger modern complex that will ensure the extension of the current capacity by increasing wards, consultation offices, theaters and many more services that are currently not available.



SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE MAIN HOSPITAL IN KIGALI

- Gynecology-obstetric
- Internal medicine
- Pediatrics & neonatology
- ICU
- ORL/ENT
- Surgery (General surgery, Plastic surgery and mini invasive surgery)
- Dermatology
- General medicine
- Dentistry & Orthodontics
- Oral & Maxillo Facial
- Physiotherapy
- Emergency service
- Family planning
- Prevention Medicine
- Hospitalization
- Laboratory
- Imagery(X-Ray, U.S)
- Pharmacy
- Urology
- Catering

SERVICES PROVIDED (GISENYI)

- Gynecology-obstetric
- Internal medicine
- Pediatrics & neonatology
- Surgery (General surgery, Plastic surgery and mini invasive surgery)
- General medicine
- Physiotherapy
- Emergency Service
- Family Planning
- Preventive Medicine
- Hospitalization
- Laboratory
- Imaging (Ultrasound)



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AMACO Paints: Producing high quality products to ensure Customer satisfaction

Amaco Paints is Rwandan based company owned by Rwandans that manufactures colour paints and related products targeting the growing construction industry. The overall goal of Amaco is the inclusive production and development of paints products that meets the construction needs in the region.

Headquartered at Gahanga industrial park in Kicukiro, Amaco Paints is fast becoming a leader in producing quality paints through the use of modern technologies. Invention and innovation is what the company employees to meet the expectations of the clients.

The founder, Jean Claude Gahunga is a Rwandan entrepreneur who started Amaco Paints from a small furniture workshop in Rusizi



Jean Claude Gahunga, a Rwandan entrepreneur and the founder Amaco Paints

District. Gahunga as a chemist and businessman spotted an opportunity due to lack of quality and affordable raw materials such as varnish, glue and paints for the furniture sector.

"I owned a furniture workshop in Rusizi and always required products like varnish and paint but the local market lacked quality products. I resolved to set up a manufacturing plant for these products to help all those who needed quality products to be able to access them," he observes.

"To establish Amaco Paints was to create jobs for the youths that I was working

with in furniture workshop," Gahunga explains. He felt he had to do something to create more jobs because many youths had the potential yet lacked employment.

When production started, there was high demand for Amaco products across the country which forced the company to relocate to Kigali as a central location to serve all. The company started building a plant in Gahanga industrial park in Kicukiro District, City of Kigali.

Amaco Paints has also established three major commercial outlets of its products in Remera, Nyabugogo and Rusizi. The company has selling outlets across the country in almost all trading centres that are operated by private individuals.

The company has ambitions to start exporting its products



MANUFACTURING SECTOR

to the neighbouring countries and already started with Bukavu in the DR Congo served by the Rusizi outlet and very soon will be selling to Goma through Rubavu.

ENSURING HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS

Products manufactured at Amaco Paints include a wide range of automotive, industrial and special application paints and coatings.

Customer needs at Amaco Paints are satisfied in several ways like the customized services where products like house paints, auto paints, wood paints, road paints and related products are available at affordable rates.

The CEO of Amaco Paints underlined that quality is a major concern and the company's products have already acquired standards mark to show the credibility and quality of the products.

With the introduction of innovative techniques and modern technologies installed at the new plant, local demand has been met head-on and has also promoted made in Rwanda.

The plant at Gahanga is equipped with a modern laboratory which helps to ensure that standards are maintained



as well as set safety conditions for both workers and the factory.

The development and empowerment of communities are among top interests of Amaco Paints which employees more than 80 permanent staff. The company continues to ensure that Rwandans, mostly those living in its neighbourhood benefit through employment at all levels and other social benefits.

The company supports social initiatives like supporting survivors of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, building social infrastructures like houses or roads. Amaco Paints works hand in hand with local authorities to support social initiatives.

To further develop Rwanda, the CEO of Amaco Paints notes that there is a need to reduce imports like raw materials to

.....
With the introduction of innovative techniques and modern technologies installed at the new plant, local demand has been met head-on and has also promoted made in Rwanda.
.....

feed the manufacturing industry. This could be done gradually through collective means with the help government because such ventures require massive investments but doable.

He also points out the high interest rates as a big challenge to businesses which drives the costs of doing business in the country.

VISION

To be the leading producer and supplier of innovative paints with colour technology in the greatlakes region and to be respected and acknowledged as the best quality paints manufacturing company.

MISSION

To provide high quality products and provide premium quality automotive, industrial and special application paints coatings all at the reasonable and affordable prices.

The company seeks to provide these services in timely manner with a comprehensive quality-control program and to build a reputation among local businesses focusing on customer satisfaction.

CORE VALUES

- We focus more on customersatisfaction
- We grow through continuousimprovement, invention andinnovation
- We integrate honest, accountabilityand responsivenessinto all aspects of ourbusiness functioning.





Polyclinique La Médicale brings services closer to the people

POLYCLINIQUE LA MEDICALE IS LOCATED IN KIGALI CITY CENTRE NEAR ST FAMILLE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NYARUGENGE, RUGENGE AT MUHIMA AND IS POPULARLY REFERRED TO AS 'KWA KANIMBA' AFTER ITS FOUNDER.

When private practise in the health sector was liberalised in the early 1990s, Dr Pierre Célestin Kanimba was among the first to apply to establish a health facility. His wish was granted setting up a clinic by January 1991.

This was never an easy feat at the time given the difficult years the country was going through. The following



Dr Kanimba, the founder and proprietor of the Polyclinique la Médicale says that after 1994 it was difficult to operate because everything had been destroyed but looked for any equipment he could find to help people.





years after setting-up, the genocide against the Tutsi struck devastating everything in its wake including the health sector.

After 1994, Dr. Kanimba picked-up himself to continue the journey he had started which had become very difficult after losing everything including human resource as well as material to carry on his work.

Dr Kanimba, the founder and proprietor of the Polyclinique la Medicale says that after 1994 it was difficult to operate because everything had been destroyed but looked for any equipment he could find to help people.

He commenced with looking for personnel to support him and slowly started procuring medical equipment to support his work.

That marked the new beginning of Polyclinique la Medicale found in Nyarugenge, Rugenge Muhima near St Famille that is popularly known as 'Kwa Kanimba' after its founder.

The need to improve health services for Rwandans has inspired the growth of

The vision to expand and increase medical services is big, according to Dr. Kanimba this is intended to uplift healthcare in Rwanda by taking quality services closer to the people and it will be achieved gradually with or without him.

Polyclinique la Medicale which now has set-up branches in all the four provinces of the country. The branches were started and can be found in Huye in the South (2003), Ngoma in the East (2005), Musanze in the North (2015) and Rubavu in the West (2017).

Dr. Kanimba is happy that his polyclinic has been able to bring services nearer to the people and endeavours to continue on this journey. Plans in the pipeline are to upgrade to a hospital that will be built in Kigali city centre where land has already been acquired.

The planned hospital will further enhance the services offered at Polyclinique la Medicale as well as support





HEALTH SECTOR

least 245 workers including 96 at the main polyclinic in Kigali.

Polyclinique la Medicale continues to effectively work together with other stakeholders in the health sector including the Ministry of Health to enhance medical services delivery.

Dr. Kanimba as a physician with over 40 years' experience in both public and private practise recommends the efforts of the Rwandan government towards Community Based Health Insurance or Mutuelle de Sante to become more stronger and be able to support healthcare for all Rwandans.

the efforts of the branches established across the country. Dr. Kanimba says they are still raising capacity to be able to build the hospital as well as upgrade the facilities in the provinces.

The growth of Polyclinique la Medicale over the years has been gradual and experienced in all categories, modern equipment has been acquired and personnel has grown to at

The vision to expand and increase medical services is big, according to Dr. Kanimba this is intended to uplift healthcare in Rwanda by taking quality services closer to the people and it will be achieved gradually with or without him.

Currently, Polyclinique la Medicale offers medical services including; General Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Endoscopy, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Dental services, Ophtalmology, ENT, Radiology, Immunization, Physiotherapy, Screening, Laboratory and Hospitalization among others.

To support these services, the private polyclinic partners with different insurance companies like with RSSB, MMI, SORAS, SAHAM, RADIANT, UAP, BRITAM, MIS UR. The polyclinic wishes and always seeks partners to work with for a healthy nation.





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Wolfram Company

leads in sustainable mining activities

Wolfram Mining and Processing Ltd (WMP Ltd) is a leading

mining and processing company in Rwanda with an ambitious programme of improving its business operations directed at sustainable and fair working environment as well as the development of the communities.

Since 2006 when the company commenced operations, it has ensured the use of modern equipment that has allowed mining operations to level up and decrease risks both to the miners and the environment.

The company has set up various programmes which not only helped the workers but contributed to the development of the community.

The company has also evolved in so many things, starting

with 300 workers the number kept on increasing and today employees over 2,000 workers.

Employment at Wolfram Mining and Processing has ensured the promotion of gender, as mining has so far been known to be a





affect the environment and people.

Wolfram Mining and Processing Ltd operates two main mining concessions in Gifurwe, Burera District in the Northern Province and at Rwinkwavu, Kayanza District in the Eastern Province near Akagera National Park.

The Gifurwe concession produces Tungsten (WO₃) while Rwinkwavu concession produces SnO₂.

Currently, mining at Wolfram Mining and Processing Ltd is semi-industrial, although the company's goal is to invest more to become industrial.

The company has come far and the vision is big to raise the mining sector in Rwanda. Future plans and the on-going operations take into account how the company can further contribute to the development of the country.

male-dominated sector, the company has put a lot of effort into training women and showing them that they are also capable. The company has also set-up child facilities at workplace and established breast feeding rooms for mining workers.

To recognise its contribution of being one of the leading companies in the country that promotes gender balance in contributing to its sustainability, Wolfram Mining and Processing was awarded a certificate of recognition by the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO).

WMP Ltd has been at the forefront in contributing to social developments in communities like construction of roads, schools and building houses for the most vulnerable persons. The company also pays Community Based Health Insurance (Mutuelle de Santé) to the most vulnerable and survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

With some mining activities known to affect environment, Wolfram Mining and Processing actively participates in the protection of the environment by planting trees and taking safety measures that does not





Legacy Clinics heightens specialized healthcare services



Established in 2015 in the spirit of helping the Rwandan community especially those who were missing some specialized medical services in the country, Legacy Clinics & Diagnostics continues to enhance services and is currently in the process of upgrading into a fully-fledged hospital.

The medical facility has a clinical plaza with a variety of specialized units and a dental department ably supported by the state-of-art imaging, laboratory facilities and Diagnostics Department. Legacy Clinics' unique model is embedded in the ability to offer a range of medical services under one roof by an array of experienced medical specialists in medicine.

Located at KK3, Nyarugunga

(popularly known as Cumi nagatanu) in Kicukiro, this speciality private medical facility is currently operating as an Out Patient Clinic (OPC) working all days from 7am to 9pm, until the completion of construction of its phase II that will upgrade the facility into a hospital.

Dr Ndizeye Ntwali, the Medical Director at Legacy Clinics notes that,

the main purpose of Legacy Clinics is to give patients and their loved ones the most advanced services in their journey to health with the channel of a professional medical establishment.

The need to build a world class hospital has increased healthcare services and staff at Legacy Clinics where the number of medical doctors presently stands at four General





HEALTH SECTOR

The Chairman of Legacy Clinics and Diagnostics Ltd, Jean Malic Kalima says that, at legacy clinics and diagnostics, we commit to providing world class medical services in the quickest time humanly possible. To this end, we leverage on the state-of-art medical equipment, facilities and personnel to provide a feel-at-home environment for both our patients and personnel.

"We envisage establishing a fully-fledged one-stop-centre of medical services, where patients can obtain all medical services in the shortest time possible under one roof. We have embarked on implementing the next phase that will include, among others; establishment of a maternity ward, modern theatres, admission wards, Paediatrics unit, Orthopaedics unit, emergency/intensive care unit (ICU) etc," Kalima revealed.

Construction for the planned hospital is underway and when complete will include a building with one basement, ground plus four floors that shall have four operating theatres, Cath Lab, emergency and ICU units.

The medical facility continues to be a leader in offering specialised services where in some cases it enjoys monopolistic situation in private (CT and Cerac machine) and soon in July will have a high end GE MRI in place.

As the medical services keep going up, the customer care unit is also enhanced to provide skilful care that is unmatched in the country. This unit comprised of the help desk, receptionists, a call Centre and online doctor appointment system are designed to ensure the best patient relation experience.

Legacy Clinics is building a system or model with a rapid access to all medical services under one roof. In this unique model all key medical services will be put together with available teams of experienced doctors and nurses.

Practitioners and 50 Specialists. Overall staff are 180 including Paramedical and supporting staff.

Doctors are of various specialities including; paediatricians, urologists, neurologists, orthopaedics, gynaecologists, internists, chiropractor and oncologists among others.

Expertise has been sourced from different national and international partners to ensure a dynamic, experienced and professional team is in place. This has been done to heighten medical and ethical values while respecting the patient rights and maintaining the international quality standards.





ADARWA keeps Gisozi market alive with excellent woodwork

Men and women in hundreds work ignoring ear piercing sounds hovering over as they turn thousands of imperfect pieces of timber into smoother perfect objects. One will not notice that this excellent woodwork has been perfected by a group of artisans for over thirty years.

Excelling at the craft of woodwork has been the core of operations for Action pour le Développement de l'Artisanat au Rwanda, a cooperative best known from its French acronym as ADARWA.

Cyatwa Ngarambe, the Chairman of ADARWA emphasizes that their core business is the selling and value addition of timber to deliver excellent products as well as related products and services.

He revealed that they started as an association of only 15 furniture dealers who were operating in Gakinjoro, Cyahafi sector in Kigali central district but their activities picked pace after Rwanda's liberation in 1994.

Working from the central district had its challenges including lack of space to expand and the city authorities advised and gave furniture dealers land in Gisozi where they set up workshops and relocated in 2004.

The new place had more spacious space where furniture dealers expanded their workshops and thrived while attracting other dealers with related businesses to the new location in Gisozi. Having grown in number and size they finally registered ADARWA as a cooperative in 2010.

Our new machinery will be a game changer in the industry, it's the first of its kind in the country and will help us as well as others seeking quality wood because it dries wood at the recommended degrees.

Most of the members in the cooperative started by selling wood but proceeded to value addition, bought machines to prepare wood for construction and for other different uses. With the increase in business they continued to make furniture for serving various needs and markets.

Once in the new location, the cooperative bought more land and started building a four-storey building for their businesses with a plan to have a commercial structure that could have all the value chains in one place.

Today their growth is vast, first from members who have increased to 157 persons and resources have skyrocketed from a mere Rwf500,000 capital to multibillion ventures with diversified portfolios in real estate, machinery and workshops.

"Members of the cooperative are now starting to harvest what





they sow,” underlined Ngarambe. Adding that, although they borrowed while building the commercial complex much has already been cleared and even undertaken other ventures.

INSTALLING A STATE-OF-THE-ART WOOD DRYING EQUIPMENT

To enhance value addition and improve the quality of wood produced at Gisozi, ADARWA has procured and installed a state-of-the-art machine for drying timber. The machinery which has so far cost a whopping Rwf.284 million will improve the quality of timber in the country as well as for export market.

“Our new machinery will be a game changer in the industry, it’s the first of its kind in the country and will help us as well as others seeking quality wood because it dries wood at the recommended degrees,” says the Chairman of ADARWA.

The new equipment will further boost locally manufactured products by improving the quality and this cooperative wish for every Rwandan to buy local products which are of good quality and durable.

Members of the cooperative appreciate working together which has led them to many achievements and now want to diversify into other projects.

Ngarambe revealed that during a retreat members decided to invest in forestry where they could collaborate with a certain district and plant a forest. This long term project is intended to benefit the cooperative in at least three ways. First as people who are in the wood business will harvest timber for their own usage, they are also looking at selling carbon credits to offset greenhouse gases and want this project to continue to



bond members as they continue to undertake projects together.

Working as a cooperative has benefited many and also changed and improved life for members as the Chairman boasts, “Many of our members are now driving and have become landlords.

ADARWA has also shaped Gisozi market where its numerous wood workshops continued to attract thousands of furniture buyers and other interests related to this industry with clients from around the city and across the country.

Members of the cooperative are not the only beneficiaries but thousands, more than 3,000 are employed by the numerous workshops at Gisozi market. Besides creating jobs for carpenters, several others have indirect jobs created for instance the transport sector.



Ngarambe attributes the achievement to the visionary leadership of the country and the City of Kigali which has supported them in different ways. Furniture dealers were given a good location to start with and over the years developed infrastructure around the place.

However, as activities at Gisozi market grow old infrastructures like roads pose a challenge that ADARWA calls for the intervention of authorities to improve infrastructure that accommodates the growing needs.

To move the wood industry to another level, ADARWA requests the concerned authorities to help set-up internationally accepted standards in the sector which will help improve quality and locally made products compete on international markets.

“Members of the cooperative are now starting to harvest what they sow.”





SINA Gérard's innovations inspires a generation of entrepreneurs



Enterprise Urwibutso at Nyirangarama in Rulindo District, a brainchild of Sina Gérard has undertaken innovations in various food chains inspiring a generation of entrepreneurs as it continues to gain more ground in Rwanda and outside the country.

His first innovative idea in food products dates back 38 years ago when Sina from his parent's home started making donuts. The donuts called Urwibutso were so unique, delicious and very popular delicacy on the local market that they inspired more products.

The success of Enterprise Urwibutso was facilitated by the popularity of its products following the liberation of the country in 1994 that ushered in a new era liberalising innovation.

Sina Gérard, the founder and proprietor of Enterprise Urwibutso underlines that the enabling

environment brought by the liberation of Rwanda has greatly contributed to the success of the company enabling innovations in food chains and quality products.

"Rwandans claimed back their dignity and whenever people work hard they are dignifying themselves," he observes. Emphasizing that good leadership and deep business reforms from the government which has given businesses the opportunity to boost made in Rwanda products.

Enterprise Urwibutso has maintained value addition plus innovation to improve products ensuring that they are competitive on the local market as well as export so that the country gets foreign exchange earnings.

The company continues to undertake research to get new products and improve quality. The model here is to continue diversifying into different products like juices, flours, pepper,

"My business was a response to the need to transform local products. Every year I have an innovation to introduce. What appeals is that these products are ordinary, they are made in Rwanda and for everyone globally."

alcoholic drinks, water, dairy products to mention a few.

Starting with a few products from the bakery in the early 1980s, many delicacies have been added and improved. Then agro processing initiatives were started that released 'Aka..' line products every time, when ventured into juices as Agashya passion fruit juice it was unstoppable. The passion fruit juice became so popular which inspired production of juices from a variety of other fruits including pineapple, mango, banana, carrots, strawberry and most recent sugarcane juice with ginger and lemon.

Sina Gérard, the founder and proprietor of Enterprise Urwibutso has recieved numerous awards for his innovations





To improve the products Sina attended international study tours which prompted to start producing wine as Akarusho, from banana and strawberry. Then came the popular Akabanga oil chilli that is liked on the local and international market.

The list of products at Sina's Enterprise Urwibutso keeps growing like Akarabo biscuits, Akandi mineral water, Akanozo flours, Akaryoshye yogurt, Akawe milk, Akizewe Natural Honey, Akacu, Aka Mayonnaise, Akiwacu and Akingenzi sanitizer among others.

"My business was a response to the need to transform local products. Every year I have an innovation to introduce. What appeals is that these products are ordinary, they are made in Rwanda and for everyone globally," Sina notes.

The business acumen of Sina's makes many people think that he went to some top business schools but is a self-taught, determined and result-oriented business and social entrepreneur that always has a big plan.

INVOLVEMENT IN PHILANTHROPY WORK

As an entrepreneur, Sina Gérard primarily focused on agriculture and started diversifying even



to social work as he says it's about supporting community development and the next generation.

His philanthropy work has led to the establishment of Sina Gerard Foundation which built a school, Collège Fondation Sina Gérard, clinic and church, all these established at Nyirangarama to benefit the community.

Collège Fondation Sina Gérard provides free education to those from vulnerable families, from nursery level and secondary school level, including the boarding section. The school is built for low-income families, especially the ones Enterprise Urwibutso works with.

The school provide skills and knowledge in the sectors of Agriculture, Veterinary Technology, Food science and Technical skills.

With more than 2,100 students, 700 in nursery and primary level, the school aspires to become a centre of excellence where the young from low-income families can equip and enrich themselves with knowledge to help their communities get out of poverty.

As a staunch Catholic, Sina believes the religious doctrines have guided him and will help the students which prompted him to build the Chapel of St. Gerard at the College. This is meant to help raise the spiritual life, mostly for the students and also the neighbouring community.

Sina's message is primarily directed at the youth to work hard, be patient and will achieve their goals. He encourages innovation among the youth, and his wish is to make a difference in Rwanda by providing farmers with more opportunities.





The Bishop of Shyogwe Rt. Reverend Dr. Jéréd Kalimba

Shyogwe Diocese embarks on enhancing healthcare services

The first Anglican missionaries to preach the word of God in Rwanda were medical doctors and are known to have broken ground for the present-day hospitals in Gahini, Kigeme and Shyira among other health facilities like in Shyogwe Diocese. Their initiatives laid a foundation for health as one of the key pillars of the Anglican Church of Rwanda.

Located in the Southern Province, Shyogwe is among the 12 dioceses of the Anglican Church of Rwanda and continues to be steered by the three fundamental pillars of the

Church that include; Evangelism, Education, and Health.

When the missionaries came to central Rwanda they settled at Shyogwe at around 1944 and within a period of two years they had built a school. The school would become so popular attracting many believers among the Protestant community in the country and beyond.

The school here became legendary after attracting many which led to Shyogwe to become a centre of education excellence. Over time, the missionaries realised that the school required a medical treatment centre hence building the first small infirmary to cater for the

students and the neighbouring communities.

The Bishop of Shyogwe Rt. Reverend Dr. Jéréd Kalimba observes that education was the first major development initiative implemented here where students from all over this region came to study. But when the school started people realised that there was no medical facility that would provide healthcare to these students and they built a small health facility they called an infirmary.

This small health facility for students began to attract a sway of people from the neighbouring communities who frequented the place for medical services. As people seeking the services increased they expanded and turned the facility into a dispensary.

According to Bishop Kalimba, in the 1940's, 50's and 60's the dispensary became popular for its specialty in treating of human worm infections among other treatments.

In 1996, due to an increase in the number of patients at Kabgayi hospital, the dispensary was expanded with the construction of more buildings and transformed into Shyogwe HC.



Emmanuel Ndengeyinka, the Head of Shyogwe HC





"Health is an important issue and our plan is to upgrade Shyogwe health centre into a polyclinic ready to hospitalise more patients with qualified doctors to offer required medical services, I believe we will achieve this goal," notes Bishop Kalimba.

Emmanuel Ndengeyinka, the Head of Shyogwe HC emphasizes that the facility has remained true to the founding principle of offering healthcare to students and the neighbouring community. "Most of our clients are students from the neighbouring schools both primary and secondary.

The area has at least seven secondary schools without counting primary schools which are more; The HC oversees about 22,270 residents of Ruli, Mbare, Kinini and Nturuka cells that make up Shyogwe Sector.

The journey that started with a small infirmary almost 80 years ago has borne more medical facilities including health centres at Shyogwe, Hanika and, Gikomero while Ndiza is yet to be upgraded but already has a functional maternity ward. Health posts have also been built by the diocese in Mugina, Shaki, Mbayaya, Kirumbuzi and Gahogo that is among the two in Muhanga town.

Gahogo health post located in the centre of Muhanga town was given to the diocese by Muhanga District to run it. This health post which receives more people than

Gahogo believes in offering family planning services to those in need of them and has thus become very important to the people in Muhanga town who seek services like, HIV/AIDS, immunization, TB, malaria, mental health, NCDs, maternity, eye care, circumcision, nutrition, reproductive health, hygiene, laboratory and general consultation.



Aphrodis Muremangango,
the head of Gahogo health post



most health centres was given to the diocese to oversee because it offered services that the church believes can bring community development.

Gahogo believes in offering family planning services to those in need of them and has thus become very important to the people in Muhanga town who seek services like, HIV/AIDS, immunization, TB, malaria, mental health, NCDs, maternity, eye care, circumcision, nutrition, reproductive health, hygiene, laboratory and general consultation.

Aphrodis Muremangango, the head of Gahogo health post

explains that his facility is an extension of Shyogwe HC with comprehensive healthcare services. Gahogo has a team of 14 workers including five nurses and others in administration.

According to Muremangango, since Kabgayi Hospital can't offer family planning services the residents of Muhanga can get those services at his health post. He lists the family planning methods on offer including natural, contraception like oral contraceptive pills, implants, injectables, patches, vaginal rings, Intra uterine devices, condoms for both male and female.



HEALTH SECTOR

Anita Dusabumuremyi, has been coming at Gahogo health post since her first born five years ago and explains that all her children are treated and vaccinated here. She appreciates the services she receives here because it's near her home, good and satisfactory.

The health facilities under Shyogwe Diocese do not only offer curative services but are prioritizing preventive services at its health centres and posts. People and communities are educated and sensitized on healthy living, hygiene, sanitation, advice on family planning, screening of NCDs and vaccination.

Hanika Health Centre in Busasamana Sector, in Nyanza district has been at the frontline of fighting Covid-19 and has a COVAX facility. During the first phase of Covid-19 vaccination, 360 eligible people received AstraZeneca while 60 people received Pfizer jabs at this centre.

Henriette Umubyeyi, the head of Hanika HC underlines that they are responsible for providing



Henriette Umubyeyi, the head of Hanika HC



basic primary healthcare, which includes a complete and integrated array of curative, preventive, promotional, and rehabilitation services.

Umubyeyi attributes the work of the health centre to the strong will of the diocese which ensures that services are tailored to meet the healthy needs of everyone in this region, regardless of their ability to pay.

Hanika HC caters for the residents of Busasamana and Muyira cells as well as the neighbouring schools. The health centre also oversees a health

“The health facilities under Shyogwe Diocese do not only offer curative services but are prioritizing preventive services at its health centres and posts.”

post located five kilometres in Kibinja that serves a population of 5,000.

Improving people's health continue to be central in the mission of Shyogwe Diocese that it has spared no efforts in addressing diseases that had taken a toll on people working with community health workers. Gikomero health centre has invested enormous resources in the fight against infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS.

Jean Marie Vinney Nsabimana who has worked as a nurse since 2016 says that they are grateful to interventions by community health workers who have improved the situation through mass sensitisation on the health hazards.

Another critical intervention by Shyogwe Diocese is on nutrition which is another package among services at its health centres and posts.

Bishop Kalimba believes that the problem is not lack of food, but how to balance the diet by mothers. The diocese has put much emphasis on nutrition to educate mothers on how to breastfeed, immunize as well as timely complement feeding to prevent their born babies from diseases.

The Bishop of Shyogwe underlined the a mission of the Anglican Church of Rwanda as to preach the word of God in order build the spiritual strength as well as the social economic development of Rwandans.



Restoring hope to adolescent mothers through interactions



Angel Nsanzimana

BY STEVEN NSAMAZA

Angel Nsanzimana is seated with a group of adolescent mothers soothing her one-year old baby but the insistent cries of the child forces her to start breastfeeding so she can carry-on her conversation with the group.

Nsanzimana, 19, carries her baby every time when coming to join her colleagues because she doesn't have anyone to leave help her baby with. She juggles between her tailoring classes and caring for the baby and this is also the same when she goes back home.

She is not alone in her

predicament; everyone in the group has almost a similar story like that of Nsanzimana, getting pregnant at a young age and giving birth yet living at their parents' home. Her life dramatically changed when she became pregnant at 17, she dropped out of school and after giving birth she started adapting to motherhood in very difficult situations.

The group meeting for tailoring classes is composed of 16 adolescent mothers including Nsanzimana, they come from Rugendabari sector in Muhanga District and have found a new preoccupation and whenever they meet its also time to reflect on their situations.

They are happy of acquiring new skills and the group has

initiated a saving scheme, but most importantly this initiative has psychologically helped this group of adolescent mothers to feel being part of the society again.

Adolescent pregnancy is a growing concern in Rwanda as well as it is globally where about 21 million between 15 to 19-years old girls become pregnant in developing regions.

Complications of pregnancy and childbirth are ranked second leading cause of death among this age group but also the economic and social consequences are dire to these adolescents, their parents and the community. Stigma, rejection, more violence within families, lower level of education, less employment opportunities and maintained cycles of poverty are among the consequences.

Pastor Sylvester Nkezabera, the head of Rugendabari Parish of the Anglican Church of Rwanda explains that after seeing what adolescent mothers went through after giving birth like Stigma and rejection by their families and friends because of cultural beliefs, they started looking for ways to help them.



The group meeting for tailoring classes

Pastor Nkezabera started talking to the young mothers as a way of bringing them together for counseling because they were becoming desolate as a result of social neglect from families and friends.

"After giving birth while still at my parent's home most of my family and friends rejected me, they blamed me for bringing shame to family and this affected my whole life, I hated myself and would not want to meet or look at anyone," says Valentine Mukanyamibwa.

Mukanyamibwa explains that she was approached by Pastor Nkezabera who invited her to join other young mothers and was surprised to find others with similar situations like hers.

She attests that the meetings and interactions with others mostly in similar situations healed her, today she is living a normal life where she interacts with everyone and goes by her activities without feeling judged as she had experienced before.

This initiative at Rugendabari Parish in Shyogwe Diocese started in 2017 with three groups each composed of 20 young mothers. As life improved for some they would leave and today have only one group.

With no financial support to help the young mothers the plan was to provide physiological support through counseling but the diocese received support from one of its partners who offered to train the young mothers to which 16 from the group agreed to start training.

The benefactor agreed to support a one-year intensive training in tailoring and also provided the group with twenty



Valentine Mukanyamibwa practicing her new learned skills



Pastor Nkezabera

pigs to improve on their farming activities.

Meeting regularly for the training at the parish has helped these young mothers not to be alone because they have gained friends, they now know people care about them and their saving scheme is picking up while helping those who need to borrow.

When Nsanzimana joined this group she could not even find money to buy soap for her baby and her parents were hostile towards her. Through the saving scheme she borrowed Rwf

10,000 to start selling tomatoes getting a small profit of Rwf 2,000 and borrowed another Rwf 20,000 to increase her stock and when she got another profit rented a small shop near her home.

She now has a shop selling milk, doughnuts and bread. She notes that since starting these activities she is on good terms with her parents and able to afford basic necessities for the baby.

Mukanyamibwa never thought that one could borrow money only to worried to pay back, but she started by borrowing Rwf 10,000 to sell airtime and has now saved up to Rwf 50,000 from her small venture.

Pastor Nkezabera observes that they encouraged all the young mothers in area to come join the group to support them through counseling but they see that the initiative is bringing hope. He cautions parents and communities to avoid neglecting and stigmatizing young girls in such situations but rather support them.

This project to help adolescent mothers in Rugendabari has managed to bring some of them from their desperate situations to feel live again but there is need for firm action to help adolescent mothers through sustainable solutions to overcome their predicaments.

Youth volunteers on the frontline to curb the spread of COVID-19

BY JEJJE MUHINDE

At seven sharp on a Monday morning, Elie Nizeyimana dressed in a visible green with reflecting stripes bib is standing at the main entrance of the University of Rwanda's College of Education in Rukara.

Nizeyimana glances back and forth at everyone coming into the university campus, he stands there to make sure everyone is wearing a facemask, clean hands with water or sanitizer and take temperature tests before entering.

The 24-year-old is one of the 30 college youth volunteers at this campus who has been assigned to remind and advice people around to observe preventative and protective health measures against coronavirus.

"I joined the youth volunteer community this year to safeguard our communities and my fellow students from coronavirus by advising them to respect safety measures that have been setup" Nizeyimana explains his role.

"We fight misinformation by sharing lifesaving facts, our work involves distribution of hygiene kits like sanitizers to washing stations at the college and to ensure that face masks must be worn in all university buildings." he said.

The volunteers also raise awareness using their social media platforms about good hygiene, social distancing and they too help other students to overcome feelings of inertia.

If anyone's temperature screening is high or shows mild symptoms, Nizeyimana and his colleagues immediately inform



Emmanuel Ntakimirimbo

the standby health team stationed at campus, which handles the case thereafter.

Last year, the college just like other universities and schools was put under lockdown because of the surge in virus cases among students. In November, more than 200 students were quarantined after testing positive with mild coronavirus symptoms, the main cause was failure to social distance in lecture rooms.

Nowadays, students' perceptions as regards guidelines have changed thanks to volunteers, Nizeyimana says that everyone is washing their hands and wearing masks before entering a lecture room.

As government continued to further strengthen measures and sometimes establish new ones, volunteers help in communicating and guiding people to adapt the new measures.

Still, with such measures in place, these unsung heroes are ensuring a significant role for the population to remain alert and informed about changing outbreak conditions, including community spread of virus, testing availability, and control measures accordingly.

Some people in the public are reluctant to take up health guidelines, a reason why having volunteers stationed in public venues is helping the authorities to clamp down on offenders hence saving time and resources.

The youth volunteer programme in Rwanda was initiated in 2013 by 50 members, today it has seen more than 415,000 fellows join. Kigali City alone has over 43,000 active volunteers involved in different voluntary programs.

The volunteers include unemployed graduates, students, non-students, others are members with jobs but find time for community services.

They are engaged in different community awareness campaigns like fighting malnutrition, human and drug trafficking, malaria, building houses for homeless and before Covid-19 restrictions would meet every month for a community work-Umuganda.

According to a report conducted by the youth group, since 2013 they have built 113 houses and 200 toilets for the vulnerable people, a project valued at Rwf 693million. They are creating a positive change in communities.

Those under the coronavirus awareness programme are stationed in public places like main roads, pathways, on entrances to markets, schools and bus stations.

"We work with local authorities and police at the district, sector, and cell level. We're given protective gear on top of training and capacity building lessons on particular tasks before being deployed" Joseph Mugabo, a student volunteer in Rwamagana district points out.

Emmanuel Ntakimirimbo another youth volunteer from the Eastern province says it is their duty to engage and make a difference when it comes to the civic duty of sensitizing the public about Covid-19.



Masudi Nduwayezu

"We also think we have to play a role when it comes to building and development of our communities and societies" Ntakimirimbo says.

As frontline workers in the fight against the pandemic some have been affected in their line of duty and got infected with Covid-19 while others have gotten into fights with community members.

Masudi Nduwayezu, who works at Rukara community centre, says that he contracted the virus last year and was told to self-isolate for two-weeks. Having recovered from the disease, the 29-year-old resolved to continue volunteering.

"Some people in the public just intentionally don't want to listen; we always come across people who deliberately decide to take off their face mask in public, and when you ask them why, they claim the mask as an inconvenience," he says.

"It is not easy to deal with people since most come from different backgrounds," Nduwayezu adds, "Some people are respectful while others are defiant. They don't even listen when you remind them politely to keep a social distance in queues, sometimes we are obliged to call security to intervene."

"In most cases we're sympathetic, we give a warning and try to educate people to abide by the health protective measures," he points out.

"The job demands a lot of sacrifice without expecting any direct reward but we try to put our hearts into it to the benefit of our community," he observes.

Some of the volunteers claim that they at times burnout because of standing on dusty roadside under the sunshine for over several hours. For student volunteers combining both studies and voluntary work is hectic especially during examinations period.

Annet Mushimiyanana, a resident in Rwamagana commends youth volunteers for the hard work they are doing. She says that there is a change compared with the past.

She notes that volunteers have been more recognizable during the pandemic because they help you like customer care providers to put you in queues, kindly remind to wear your facemask and give you directions.

"I believe without them, the carelessness of people would have led to high rise in coronavirus cases in Rwanda like we have seen in other countries." She observes.

On the other hand, some people claim that volunteers have also turned out to be informants to police and authorities which they despise.

Grace Ingabire, a shopkeeper in Kayonza underlines, "Some volunteers' take-up the job in their own hands henceforth ending up being hated in communities. We have witnessed them fighting with pedestrians."

With the pandemic fight still a stretch out; more serious and practical issues are likely to emerge which youth volunteers may or may not be equipped to deal with.

Eric Bayisenge, the Secretary General of Youth Volunteers in Rwanda acknowledges the group



Some volunteers like Nduwayezu claim that transport is one of the major impediments to work, many have to walk long distances from their homes, first to convening centres usually at sector office before starting their work.

is doing some good work, while facing hiccups.

"Yes, there are challenges in the work that we do, for instance mobilizing the youth is an issue since most of them tend to ask how they will be facilitated, yet it is a voluntary job. Transport is the other concern, if management is to travel countrywide especially during the lockdown period we don't have an operational budget." He explains.

Few youth volunteers were able to be vaccinated against coronavirus leaving a big number still exposed to virus infections.

Some volunteers like Nduwayezu claim that transport is one of the major impediments to work, many have to walk long distances from their homes, first to convening centres usually at sector office before starting their work.

To try and solve some of these problems, government ordered districts to come up with budgets so that the volunteers can be facilitated in order to perform their duties.

Bayisenge is confident with time; such problems will be resolved, "Already districts have mobilized resources to provide volunteers with some money for transport and airtime as well as sanitizers."



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Rwanda banks on Sports to boost tourism sector

BY JEJJE MUHINDE;

Over the last two decades, people traditionally connected with sports by following various sports games from their living rooms.

Nowadays, sports events are no longer only on television— they make crowds move for hours, days, or weeks.

A look at the sporting arena today reveals fans are more interested in watching the games live, while companies, managers, agents and players are making lucrative deals.

The growing focus on sports tourism globally, means the fast growing industry is poised to grow by \$1.38billion during 2020-2024, a report on sports tourism market provides a holistic analysis.

Countries like Rwanda have realized the immense, yet untapped tourism potentials that exist in the industry.

In 2019, the country welcomed 1.63 million international visitors and brought in \$498 million (17% increase

from 2018). Rwanda Development Board (RDB) has set a target to double tourism receipts to 800 million dollars by 2024.

Rwanda has also issued a number of tourism offerings through its new touristic initiatives, aimed to meet her ambition of doubling tourism revenues by 2024. Sports tourism is one of the key tourism products

RDB has announced that focus will be put on sports as an avenue to help recover from the effects of Covid-19 and diversify tourism offerings.

With soccer being the national sport in Rwanda, clubs like PSG or Arsenal have become household names.

Through the “Visit Rwanda’ slogan on the prestigious Arsenal jersey, Rwanda is attracting more visitors because the Arsenal jersey is seen 35 million times a day around the world, which is a real marketing coup for the country’s tourism.

Rwanda also doubled down with another European soccer giant and

French side Paris St. Germain (PSG).

Ever since the deals were inked, the partnerships have been a remarkable journey transforming the East African country into one that is creative and innovative.

Players from both clubs have made special trips to Rwanda for the unique opportunity to experience Rwanda’s breath-taking beauty, creative culture, innovative environment, and modern and distinctive Made in Rwanda products.

A number of events in art, fashion and lifestyles collaborations like the Rwanda Week in Paris have been organized to promote “Made in Rwanda” products.

Yet again, Rwanda has put in place a number of measures to promote sports activities, which could attract tourists while drawing marketing benefits.

The annual Kigali International Peace Marathon draws both foreign athletes and running tourists from countries around like Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia as well as Europe.

The event has grown bigger each year since 2004 and is organized with the intension of using sport in the fight against Genocide at the same time, as a healing and reconciliation process of uniting the people.

This year, over 8,000 participants



including professionals and amateur's both local and international– took part in the one-day multi-category competition.

Cycling tourism is another area that Rwanda is focusing to boost tourism. Annually, the Cycling competition known as "Tour du Rwanda" attracts not only foreign and professional teams plus cyclists but also international media and fans.

The tour has catapulted cycling into arguably the most successful and famous sport in Rwanda.

Since turning international in 2009, the

Tour has risen to become Rwanda's signature sporting event.

Rwanda is now waiting to hear from the world governing body's final decision on their bid to host the 2025 world cycling championship.

Tourists, who come to attend the cycling event, end up with interest in exploring different parts of the country.

Having established itself as Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) destination, Rwanda views its sport industry as one that can also play a significant role in the country's economic development.

Sports infrastructures like the Kigali Sports Arena, have earned Rwanda the opportunity to host the inaugural Basketball Africa League (BAL).

The competition attracted 12 Africa basketball teams and the games were broadcasted live to fans in 215 countries and territories in 15 languages.

BAL is projected to have fetched Rwanda over \$4m (approx. Rwf 4billion) in economic revenues for hotels, hospitality sector, different players and local companies.

The multiplier effect is also expected to continue with hosting more events like the 30th edition of the men's Afro Basketball 2021 Competition from 24 August – 5 September.

The country is also gearing up to welcome the "Ironman Triathlon" in June 2022.

Plans are underway to construct the Kigali Sports Hub at the 21 hectares of land in Remera, in which Amahoro National Stadium and Kigali Arena are located.

The project will similarly include the upgrade of Amahoro national ground capacity from 25,000 to 45,000 seater stadium.

Kigali sports hub will also have a shopping mall and hotel (FERWAFA), funded by a private investor.

Other major tourism product concepts revolving around pleasure sports have also developed in golf to attract tourists who are keen on getting in touch with nature, and interacting with the community to enjoy a healthier and interactive holiday.

Dozens of foreign golfers have visited the shores of Lake Muhazi to play and enjoy golf at Falcon Sports Park in Rwamagana district.

The newly upgraded Kigali International Golf Club at Nyarutarama is also set to boost sports tourism in the country.

The state of the art structure and golf course (55 hectares) was upgraded from 9 holes to 18 last year. Today, it is eligible to host top 300 golfers per day.

Dr. Devis Karegeya Kashaka, the Kigali Golf Club captain reiterates that the ground will help Rwanda to host international tournaments and increase the national tourist incomes.

"The ground will be able to host events and famous golfers at the international level. It will also help us to get many visitors," he added.

"We will manage to get dollars because players will need to stay in hotels. Some of the foreigners will need to visit Rwanda in various parts," he noted.

The facility also has a squash court, swimming pool, gym, changing rooms, an executive bar and restaurant.





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