

The Government of Rwanda is urging young people to join their parents and community leaders in combating corruption and promoting a future of integrity.

The call came as the country observed International Anti-Corruption Day on Dec. 9 under the theme, *“Uniting Youth Against Corruption for a Future of Integrity.”*

National celebrations took place at Umuganda Stadium in Rubavu District, organized by the Office of the Ombudsman. The events began with an anti-corruption march from the ADPR Church in Rubavu town to the stadium, involving local leaders, security personnel, and residents holding placards condemning corrupt practices. A parade inside the stadium showcased various groups promoting transparency and demonstrating ethical conduct in daily activities.

Justice Minister Emmanuel Ugirashebuja called on parents to instill values of honesty in their children and teach them to reject corruption in all forms. “Let us, parents, educators, leaders, and youth become guardians of integrity,” he said. “Let us teach young people to boldly say no to corruption and build a safe, corruption-free Rwanda that secures the future of our children.”

The event drew large crowds, who expressed support for the anti-corruption message and pledged to continue contributing to national efforts.

The celebration capped a 10-day Anti-Corruption Week that began Nov. 29. Activities included public education campaigns during Umuganda community service, radio and television programs, and social media outreach, all encouraging youth to take the lead in promoting integrity and reporting corrupt practices.

Officials also held discussions on human rights and land management issues and convened meetings on good governance with the private sector to strengthen partnerships against corruption. An “Anti-Corruption Open Day” connected citizens with institutions such as APNAC Rwanda, the Supreme Court, the National Public Prosecution Authority, and the Rwanda Investigation Bureau, highlighting the role everyone can play in prevention and enforcement.

Ombudsman Nirere Madeleine emphasized the pivotal role of youth, who make up more than 60% of Rwanda’s population. “Youth have energy, new ideas, and digital skills,” she said. “You are essential to changing mindsets and preventing corruption.”

Across Kigali and other districts, local advisory councils supported the week with radio talks and community campaigns, reinforcing the national anti-corruption message.