

ISSUE

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# RWANDA<sup>FUL</sup>

## The Hague

Monthly roundup of  
Rwanda's  
stories and news  
about the Embassy's  
activities

Kigali City Guide  
<http://kigali.mobi/>

### Rwanda's Pyrethrum Revenues Increase by 380%

Last year, Rwanda's pyrethrum flower production increased from 209 to 700 megatons, while export revenues rose by 380% as global market share surged from 6% to 15%. According to *Karisimbi Business Partners*, a Kigali-based consulting firm that works with *Société de Pyrèthre au Rwanda (SOPYRWA)*, a Pyrethrum processing company, this increase in revenues has significantly contributed to the household incomes of over 8,000 farmers and increased land under pyrethrum cultivation.

Introduced in 1936, pyrethrum is a safe natural pesticide alternative to harmful synthetic pesticides currently used to control a wide range of insects.

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### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual National Children's Summit

Once a year, the seats of Rwanda's parliament are filled with children for an annual National Children's Summit, youths from all over the country gather to discuss and issue recommendations on how to make the country a better place for children. Organized by the National Children's Commission, in partnership with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, UNICEF, and other partners, the summit was designed to empower children and to enable them to contribute to the country's second Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS). This year, the 7<sup>th</sup> National Children's Summit was attended by over 500 youths, as well as some of the nation's top policy makers, including the Prime Minister, various ministers, governors, religious leaders, mayors and vice mayors...

...While the National Children's Summit has been held annually since 2004, this year's summit was special: It was the first summit to include children with disabilities, those from orphanages and from the country's refugee camps as representatives of Rwanda's 416 sectors.

In the weeks leading up to the event, thousands of children around the country participated in pre-summit consultations. At the end of the summit, participants' recommendations to the government emphasized the need to include children with disabilities in all fora and the need to put in place more robust social protections for vulnerable children. Their deliberations and recommendations also focused on ending violence against children, eliminating malnutrition, and guaranteeing the right of all children to grow up in a family environment. Additionally, they recommended to the government to make sports a requirement and electricity available in all schools.

Like all large national events, the Summit was carried live on Rwandan television and radio, was streamed online, accessible by social media and open to questions and suggestions via hotline and text messaging.

### Kivu Islands To be Surveyed by Experts

In an epic effort 93 islands on the scenic Lake Kivu are being surveyed by a team of experts in order to determine those to be earmarked for environmental conservation and touristic purposes and those to be used for settlement and agriculture. The survey is in line with the government's drive to conserve the environment and natural resources and create a balance and symbiosis between human development and nature conservation. The exercise is being conducted by experts and officials from the land centre, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) Tourism and Conservation, and local leaders. Once the exercise is completed, the team will proceed to other lakes in the country such as Burera and Ruhondo. These islands in these lakes present an attractive and unique investment opportunity for those interested in eco-tourism and living in harmony with nature, and in peace and tranquillity.



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## Qatar Airways Launches Doha - Kigali Route

From March 2012, Qatar Airways will start the Doha-Kigali route offering three flights per week (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays) with an intermediate stop in Entebbe. The Doha-Kigali route is to strengthen the promotion of Rwanda as a business and leisure destination. This route will be followed in April this year by another direct route operated by Turkish Airlines that will connect Istanbul and Kigali.

*Air Traffic to increase by 50 % in 2012*

Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority has projected a growth in flight movements in and out of Kigali's Kanombe International Airport by 50 percent in 2012, suggesting that the present level of around 200 flights per week might rise to 300 flights per week. The positive announcement is based on the number of new airlines which will be flying scheduled services to Kigali.

Qatar Airways joins an already established long list of airlines flying directly in and out of Kigali such as Air France/KLM that operates six flights per week from Amsterdam, Brussels Airlines, Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways, South African Airways, Uganda Airlines, Air Burundi and the national carrier RwandAir. There are more other flights to Rwanda through connections from neighbouring countries. Such as the British Airways, US Airways and Lufthansa.

Like Qatar Airways, South African Airways, and Turkish Airlines, while carriers already coming to Rwanda are expected to add more frequencies during the course of the year. National airline, RwandAir, is also set on an expansion path and expects to take delivery of more state-of-the-art jets by mid-2012, allowing the airline to further roll out new destinations and add frequencies in the region and across the continent. To cater for all this traffic, a new airport at Bugesera is now in the tendering stage, likely to be ready by 2016.

## Rwanda Vindicated: French Report Clears Rwanda Government

A French inquiry headed by Judges Marc Trévidic and Nathalie Poux commissioned to probe the 1994 downing of the plane carrying Rwanda's former President Juvenal Habyarimana have confirmed what Rwanda has said all along, that the missile that downed the plane was fired by Habyarimana's own forces.

The Government of Rwanda welcomed this report that identified Kanombe Military Barracks as the launch site of the missile that brought down the plane carrying former President on 6 April 1994. The plane was shot down as it prepared to land at Kigali International Airport, bringing back then President from negotiations over the Arusha Peace Accords. The crash served as a pretext for the masterminds behind the Genocide to execute a meticulously planned agenda to exterminate the Tutsi of Rwanda.

The findings constitute a vindication for Rwanda's long-held position on the circumstances surrounding the events of 6 April 1994. "With this scientific truth, Judges Trévidic and Poux have slammed shut the door on the seventeen-year campaign to deny the genocide or blame its victims. It is now clear to all that the downing of the plane was a coup d'état carried by extremist Hutu elements and their advisors who controlled Kanombe Barracks." Said Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

## Carnegie Mellon University – Rwanda Campus



Many American universities have opened campuses abroad, but most of these have been in Middle Eastern or Asian nations, not in Africa. Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), a renowned US university is extending its global academic footprint in Africa as the first major higher education institution in the U.S. to offer graduate engineering degree programs in Rwanda.

In partnership with the Government of Rwanda, Carnegie Mellon has embarked on an exciting opportunity to transform graduate education in Rwanda. With a history of excellence in higher education and as a track record as global leader in technology innovation, Carnegie Mellon is the first U.S. research institution to offering graduate degrees in Africa with an in-country presence.

### *Why Rwanda?*

In 2007, Rwanda was named East Africa's leading information and communication technology (ICT) nation by the United Nations (UN). Rwanda's has since made leaps and bounds in ICT and is bent on actualizing its national strategy to become a knowledge-based economy by 2020. Rwanda has placed heavy emphasis on education and made substantial investment in technology infrastructure in order to achieve this ambitious goal. As Rwanda continues to lay the foundation and move forward to create of a knowledge-based economy, it recognizes the crucial role associated skills development and has prioritised and incorporated the development of ICT skills in all national education programs.

Cooperation with CMU is poised to provide synergetic catalysing partnership that will transform the ICT industry in Rwanda and in East Africa by developing new models of education, research and development, and the commercialization of ICT in a region booming with opportunities in technology innovation.

## Rwanda at Vakantiebeurs 2012



From 10-15 January 2012, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) in collaboration with the Embassy of Rwanda in the Netherlands and two Rwandan tour operators, Access Rwanda Safaris, and Amahoro Tours, participated in *Vakantiebeurs*, an annual Dutch tourism fair that was held in the centrally located town of Utrecht. *Vakantiebeurs* is the Netherlands' biggest and most important international tourism exhibition. In 2011, the fair attracted more than 122,100 visitors and 1,688 exhibitors from

approximately 160 countries, more than 14,000 travel and press professionals. This year, the fair attracted over 130,000 visitors every year.

At the Rwandan stand, Ms. Rica Rwigamba, Head of Tourism and Conservation at RDB and Rwanda's Ambassador to the Netherlands, H.E. Immaculée Uwanyiligira were on hand to interact with the public, meet the media and answer various questions posed about Rwanda's booming tourism sector. A number of Embassy staff were also present to interact with the public and distribute promotional materials on Rwanda. The Rwanda stand attracted throngs of people curious to learn more about the country. They were enchanted by the Rwandan dancers, *Abeza*, who entertained them throughout the event. Freshly brewed Rwandan coffee was also served at the Rwanda stand, much to the delight of the public.

Since 2009 there has been a steady 7% increase in Dutch travellers to Rwanda. From January to September 2011, there was a remarkable growth by 30% of Dutch visitors to Rwanda, or 3,376 tourists, of whom 33% (1,098) travelled to Rwanda for Business. Leisure was the second purpose of travel, accounting for 29% (975) visitors. This corresponds to 6% of the total European travellers to the country.

KLM opened its route to Rwanda in October 2010 with five direct flights per week from Amsterdam to Kigali and vice-versa. This new route offers ease of access for the Dutch travellers to Rwanda. With ease of access, the noted upward trend in business and leisure travel is likely to grow.



## Rwanda's Pyrethrum Revenues Increase by 380%

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Australia, Kenya and Tanzania are the other major pyrethrum producers. The rise of low cost synthetic pesticides (Pyrethroids) in the 1980s and 1990s, however turned the market's attention from pyrethrum and led to a slump in the industry. Rwanda has been actively working to revive this once nearly-collapsed industry.

The global pyrethrum market has picked up again and with one of only three refineries in the East African Region, SOPYRWA is strategically positioned to play a major role. Rwanda's rich volcanic soil has the potential to produce some of the world's best pyrethrum with a concentration of up to 70% to 80% of the pure active ingredients. Consequently, Rwanda's pyrethrum is fetching higher prices compared to the same products in the region because of its good quality and modern processing.

Demand still outpaces supply by a factor of 4 and the trend toward organic pesticides puts Rwanda's pyrethrum industry at an advantage. Given the ideal climate in Rwanda, both in terms of Rwanda's improving business environment and its rich volcanic soil, the potential for Rwanda's pyrethrum production and refinery is vast.

## Rwanda's Economy Grew by 8.8 % While Exports Rose by 31% in 2011

According to figures released by the Trade and Industry Ministry Rwanda's exports of goods and services increased by 31.7 percent in 2011, driven mainly by mining, tea and coffee.

Industrial production grew 15 percent led by construction, mining and manufacturing. In 2011, the government worked hard to curb the inflation that was rampant in the region. As of the end of September the inflation rate was 6.6% in Rwanda compared with 28% in Uganda, 17.3% in Kenya, 16.8% in Tanzania and 11.7% in Burundi.

Meanwhile, Rwanda is the only African country to have ratified a bilateral investment treaty with the United States that gives it an edge in attracting American investors. Rwanda has also boosted its exports to China, a more recent trading partner.

During her three-day visit to Rwanda, World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development Rachel Kyte commended Rwanda's vision and commitment for implementing successful growth-driving policies.

**Rwanda is the World Top Reformer for 2009,2010 and 2011**

*World Bank*

## Mutuelles de Sante, Another Best Practice

In 2003 Rwanda's Community-Based Health Insurance system (CBHI) was expanded from a pilot project to a national system. CBHI is comprised of three parts: Mutuelles de Sante; Military Medical Insurance; and Rwanda Health Insurance Scheme. The first, known by its French name as *Mutuelles de Sante*, is a version of social health insurance that provides health coverage through voluntary and affordable contribution. Healthcare coverage in Rwanda through *Mutuelles de Sante* increased from 1% in 2000 to 90% in 2009 and is today nearly universal.

Rwanda has developed a comprehensive financing framework for health care that includes risk pooling, cross-subsidies, and substantial support from development partners, NGOs, and tax-generated funding from the formal sector.

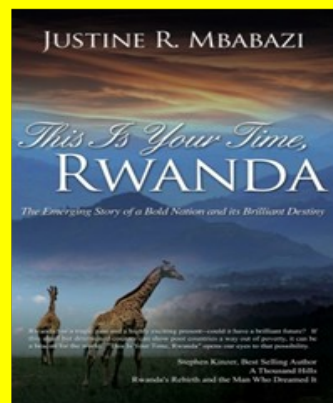
*Mutuelles de Sante* contributions accelerated sharply in 2004–2005 with the adoption of a national policy on *Mutuelles* and a roll-out of with financial and technical support of development partners. Every Rwandan is obliged by law to have some form of health insurance.

There are currently several health insurance programmes in Rwanda tailored to suit specific segments of the population. Under the *Mutuelles de Sante* system, funding is comprised of annual membership premiums organized on a per household basis, with an annual payment of 1000 Rwandan francs (equivalent of approximately Euro1.70) per family member, and a 10% service fee or deductible, paid up-front for each visit to a health center or hospital.) This makes pooling of resources has rendered the program affordable and has improved healthcare for all citizens.

The growth of the *Mutuelles de Sante* has been a great success from the point of view of the affordability and wide coverage and made Rwanda is the only country in sub-Saharan Africa in which nearly all of its population participates in healthcare coverage.

## This is Your Time Rwanda

A new book titled: *This is Your Time, Rwanda; The Emerging Story of a Bold Nation and its Brilliant Destiny*, will be launched on 26 February 2012 at Serena Hotel, in Kigali. Over the last 18 years, the global community has defined Rwanda by the Genocide. It never seems to forget that over 18 years ago over one million people were slaughtered in 100 days. The author, Justine Mbabazi, a Rwandan national, is determined to write a new definition for the global community to behold. In the book, Rwanda is defined as an emerging giant, rapidly developing economically, socially and technologically. Under the brilliant leadership of President Paul Kagame, the government and its citizens are jointly working to build a new Rwanda no longer plagued by the atrocities of the past. It is a renaissance that has gone unnoticed. The book will be available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) from 1 March 2012. For more information please visit [www.thisisyourtimerwanda.com](http://www.thisisyourtimerwanda.com)



## Diaspora Corner

### Rwandans and Friends of Rwanda Get Together for the New Year



Embassy of Rwanda celebrated the New Year with over 160 Rwandans, and friends of Rwanda in The Hague.

In her address, Ambassador Immaculee Uwanyiligira thanked the Rwandan community for their active participation in Embassy or Diaspora initiated projects and events. She recognised volunteer teachers' among the members of the Diaspora who have given generously of their time to conduct culture and Kinyarwanda classes to Rwandan young people and their non Rwanda friends throughout 2011.

She encouraged everyone to be more engaged in the Rwanda's development process in their various capacities and from where they are.

The Ambassador also informed the gathering the major activities of the Embassy during 2011 and urged the community to cement their existing good working relationship with the Embassy in 2012. Guests were entertained by Abeza traditional dancers and Intore.