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President Paul Kagame and Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa during the COP27 - Climate Summit Africa

First group of Zim teachers arrives in Rwanda

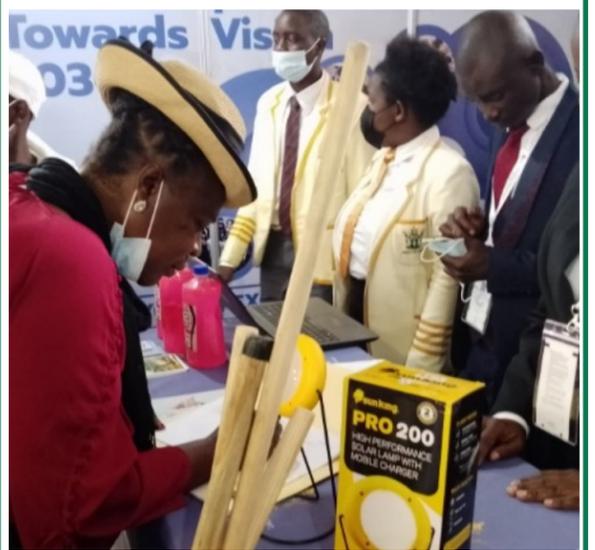


Rwanda, Zimbabwe private sectors seek to strengthen ties



President Mnangagwa toured Kigali Memorial permanent exhibitions that give insights into the causes and consequences of the Genocide against the Tutsi and Rwanda's ongoing efforts in fostering peace, unity, and reconciliation.

Zimbabwean youths seek business ties with Rwanda



Rwanda participated at shanganai World Tourism Expo Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (Visit Rwanda)



Rwanda Energy Group has partnered with ZESA to install new street lighting system in Harare



Zimbabwean teachers set to share knowledge with Rwandan educators, students

Rwanda: Kagame urges collective efforts to end inequalities in digital access



President Paul Kagame has called for collective efforts to tackle inequalities seen in digital transformation by prioritizing public-private partnerships to expand affordable digital access and equip vulnerable citizens with digital literacy skills.

He made the call during the 8th edition of World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2022, which kicked off in Kigali on June 6, under the theme “Connecting the unconnected to achieve sustainable development.”

WTDC gathers young leaders, entrepreneurs, social change-makers, engineers, policy specialists, students, business leaders and others from across the world to find solutions to the challenges of connecting the unconnected in order to achieve sustainable development.

In Rwanda and the rest of the world, the pandemic has accelerated the adoption of digital technologies but challenges remain,

Kagame observed.

“Access to high-speed internet has not kept up with the first pace of digital transformation and digitization of the economy in general. If such inequalities are left unchecked, development will accelerate more and more in some parts of the world while elsewhere it slows down.”

The numbers speak for themselves, he added, “one-third of the world remains offline and the majority are women in developing countries.

The responsibility to shape the future of digital economy and ensure no one is left behind lies with us and everyone working together.”

The Head of State echoed that no company, country, or institution has the resources to do it alone. He emphasized that the youth should be at the forefront in the fight to achieve universal and affordable connectivity.

“Young people are already the most connected members of society but that also means they are most exposed to online safety and privacy risks. In the case of Rwanda, for example, last year, we passed personal data protection and privacy law to create a safe enabling environment for both consumers and entrepreneurs.”

The conference was also an opportunity to deliver the Generation Connect call to action entitled “My Digital Future”, to which the President responded: “Some of us have heard you very clearly.”

Despite the huge cost imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic on every country in the world, Kagame said that one of the only silver linings has been the demonstration of the power of digital connectivity as a tool for resilience, knowledge transfer and economic growth, and “we cannot let that go to waste.”

Houlin Zhao, Secretary General of the International Communication Union

(ITU), reiterated the obligations to connect the unconnected and drive the development of the new technologies which is central to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The WTDC will also feature the Partner2Connect Digital Development Roundtable, an open global event spanning over three days from June 7 to 9.

Through the roundtable, participants will be informed about the needs, commitments, and resources available from each stakeholder to bridge the digital divide and be able to forge new partnerships for universal meaningful connectivity.

The conference is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), through its Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) every four years to consider topics, projects and programmes relevant to telecommunication development.

Zimbabwean youths seek business ties with Rwanda

HARARE- A Zimbabwean youth entrepreneurs’ hub, the Young Africa Network, has embarked on a campaign to lobby for increased engagement and collaboration between youths in Zimbabwe and their Rwandan counterparts.

The network says their campaign aims at giving an impetus to the current efforts by the governments of Zimbabwe and Rwanda to enhance and strengthen bilateral trade.

The Young Africa Network comprises young Zimbabweans who are involved in various sectors of Zimbabwe’s economy.

“As young Africans, we need to start aligning ourselves with the frameworks being developed by our leaders in an effort to increase intra-Africa trade through the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, COMESA and bilateral relationships as the one shared with Rwanda,” said Takudzwa Chiweza, Founder of the network.

“As such it is imperative that we begin to foster long term relationships with our counterparts in Rwanda to fully take advantage of the gains of such policy infrastructure put in place”

Chiweza said Rwanda is Africa’s upcoming economic hub with a strong agricultural sector and developing technological space.

He said ease of doing business has been highlighted as one of the main contributors to the boom in economic activity in Rwanda with company registration taking as little as



Members of Zimbabwe Youth Council during an open Day to explain their activities in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe Youth have recently announced that they need die business ties with Rwanda. Courtesy

24 hours.

“Opportunities exist in developing value additive products and services to complement the unique endowments of both countries including while visas for Zimbabweans to

Rwanda are not required,” he said.

The Young Africa Network currently provides networking opportunities to link leaders through workshops, events and digital platforms facilitating forums for cross

pollination of ideas and generation of new markets.

“We are an open organization that is focused on working together with all interested stakeholders in Zimbabwe and Rwanda to achieve the mutual goals of both nations to create an economic environment conducive to the attainment of our long term national objectives through collaboration,” said Chiweza.

The Young Africa Network will bring a delegation of young Zimbabwean entrepreneurs to Rwanda in early 2023 to explore possible opportunities in Rwanda’s fast growing economy including partnerships.

Last month, Zimbabwe’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Fredrick Shava, bemoaned the current low levels of trade and economic cooperation with Rwanda saying this does not match the levels of friendship the two countries enjoy.

Shava said there is an urgent need to enhance trade and economic cooperation between Rwanda and Zimbabwe in line with the cordial relations the two countries enjoy.

Both countries have held reciprocal trade and investment conferences aimed at identifying and exploiting opportunities presented by each of the two countries.

Africa is not a continent of problems - Kagame

President Paul Kagame told over 9,000 young people who attended the fifth edition of the Youth Connekt Summit in Kigali that they are Africa's powerhouse and the future.

He also stated that Africa may have some problems but it's not a continent of problems.

Youth Connekt summit serves to realize the potential of Africa's youthful population at the same time it celebrated a decade-long anniversary since it was conceptualized.

"Youth Connekt has become a powerhouse that brings thousands of youth together to contribute solutions and learn from each other. With your insights and innovation, you are leading the way to a more resilient Africa. Youth Connekt helps us to tell these success stories, network and build solidarity," said President Kagame

"Africa is not a continent of problems, not at all. Yes, there are problems but where don't you find problems, world over there are problems. We have to deal with our problems but we are not a continent of problems."

The summit was held amid a climate of excitement among youth.

In his address, Kagame focused mainly on the role of youth in shaping Africa as well as encouraging them to work hard.

"As leaders, we must recognise that young people are our partners in our development agenda. We have a duty to listen to you and work with you. Whatever your purpose, don't be discouraged by doubts, begin by not doubting yourself," he said.

The fifth edition of Youth Connekt was also attended by Kenya's Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua who testified that the best way to empower youth is to engage them and give them more space to learn and voice their opinions and needs and be part of the decision-making process.

"The people of this continent are in the hands of the youth and the youth have what it takes to turn this continent around. It's time for the youth to take their rightful place, occupy their space, and set the continent in motion," said Gachagua

Youths who attended the summit highlighted the need to restore trust between institutions and themselves and to make policies that are more inclusive, accommodating people with disabilities.

Senegalese president who is also the chair of the African Union, Macky Sall said that "caring for our youth is the best investment we can make for the present and the future."

Sall was speaking virtually just like Namibian President Hage Geingob.

Geingob said "Young Africans are the



President Paul Kagame

hope and future of our great continent. Your countries and governments are relying on your individual and collective contributions in order to realize the vision of a prosperous and peaceful Africa. This is the time to uphold our enduring value of solidarity. This is the hour to extend empathy and spread hope. This is the hour to provide the drive and direction needed to establish the Africa we want."

According to the UNDP Rwanda residence representative, Maxwell Gomera, "42% of Young people don't have access to the funding needed to run their business. Up to 42% of young people fail to get that funding. Sometimes their dreams remain a hobby and are unable to take their dream to the market and reach their customers."

President Paul Kagame interacting with youth during the Youth Connect 2022 in Kigali



Rwanda Energy Group has partnered with ZESA to install new street lighting system in Harare



A massive smart street lighting programme has been rolled out countrywide with a pilot project being carried out in Harare where the installation of over 1200 is underway.

The project falls under the smart partnerships between the governments of Zimbabwe and Rwanda.

The pilot project is covering 35km of the capital city's major road network.

"The project covers Airport Road, Seke Road, Julius Nyerere Way, the stretch of Samora Machel between Reikai Tangwena and Enterprise, Seventh Street and Chancellor Avenue up to Churchill," Harare City Council spokesperson Innocent Ruwende said..

In a statement, City of Harare acting head of mechanical and electrical engineering, Calvin Chigariro said the project is being carried out in partnership with Zesa and Rwanda Energy Group and will see 1 202 street lights being installed throughout the major road network in the city.

"Revamping will include removal of the

old existing cables and refurbishment of the old street lighting poles. The poles we are putting up are not new, they have always been on the road, but we have refurbished and repainted them," Chigariro said.

"As part of the project, we are going to install a back office with a management system that monitors the performance of street lights. The smartec solution also allows us to put in security cameras so that we are able to view what happens on the roads from the same system once we have commissioned it."

Harare Residents Trust co-ordinator Precious Shumba said the street-lighting project was long overdue.

"Street lighting has remained a major challenge that needs to be sorted out and the viability depends on the sincerity of the partners and the responsibility of the citizens in safeguarding the public infrastructure," Shumba said.

First group of Zim teachers arrives in Rwanda



The first group of 164 Zimbabwean teachers who made the final cut in their interviews arrived in Rwanda on October 19.

The group, which consists of 80 female teachers, landed at the Kigali International Airport at exactly 9:45 pm, aboard a RwandAir chartered flight.

Upon their arrival, the teachers were accommodated at La Palisse Hotel, located in Nyamata Sector of Bugesera District, a few miles from the capital.

Speaking to *The New Times* in an exclusive interview, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Charles Karakye highlighted that the educators were to undergo an induction exercise before their deployment.

“The Induction will be about briefing them about our culture, values and history to ensure that requisite information is imparted before their deployment,” Karakye said.

He added that they will also tour the Kigali Genocide Memorial and also be briefed about the liberation journey.

The group, officials say, is understood to kick-start a continuous process through which more professionals are expected to progressively benefit.

The recruitment also follows an agreement reached between Rwanda and Zimbabwe for an exchange of education personnel.

Initially, Rwanda was targeting 500 teachers as part of the efforts to bridge longstanding skills gaps and language barriers.



Rwanda, Zimbabwe private sectors seek to strengthen ties



Stephen Ruzibiza, PSF Chief Executive Officer.

HARARE - A business delegation from Rwanda that was in Zimbabwe on a week-long visit to explore investment and business opportunities is delighted by the prospects of doing business with Zimbabwe.

The chairperson of the Private Sector Federation Robert Bafakulera, and his delegation attended the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industry's annual congress and also travelled around the country exploring opportunities in various sectors.

Some companies from Rwanda exhibited their products which caught the attention of participants at the CZI congress.

Bafakulera said there was scope in doing business with Zimbabweans after visiting several projects.

"We have been moving around and outside Harare to visit some of the projects from mining, agriculture to manufacturing. Most of the things we have seen are very good and are educational and we have admired the projects," Bafakulera said in an interview at the end of the delegation's tour of duty.

The Rwandan business delegation comprised 30 heads of companies which have interests in diversified sectors.

Added Bafakulera: "What we came here to do is mostly find opportunities to network with our colleagues in Zimbabwe to make sure we have something to do here as Rwandese and to call upon the Zimbabwe private sector to come to Rwanda to find what they can do or what we can partner in."

He said the Rwandan delegation was able to fruitfully interact and network with Zimbabwean industrialists and key stakeholders during the CZI congress.

"It was a good conference and networking was good. We will have several meetings internally and see what we can focus on," he said.

The PSF Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Ruzibiza weighed in, saying: "The impression is good, different from what one hears or sees on social media. We have discovered that Zimbabwe in terms of agro based sector is good, even manufacturing. We have so many factories around here agro processing, mining and even manufacturing of construction materials so in terms of business it's high."

Ruzibiza said the purpose of the visit was to bring the business operators from Rwanda to touch base with businesses in Zimbabwe.

He said the business opportunities in Zimbabwe are diverse, adding: "The most important is partnerships and cross country investments in all sectors. Lucky enough, the



Rwandan government and the Zimbabwe government are doing much of the work in terms of easing the facilitation.

"A number of MoUs have been signed to create free movement of people, goods and other services. After this kind of arrangement then the flow of things will be much smoother."

Some of the Rwanda PSF members were in Zimbabwe two months ago to partner Zimbabwean firms in agriculture.

Zimbabwe and Rwanda are enjoying cordial bilateral relations which have culminated in the signing of several agreements in many areas of cooperation.



Rwanda showcases tourism offerings at Zim expo



Rwanda participated at this year's edition of Zimbabwe's top tourism exhibition dubbed Sanganai/Hlanganani Tourism Expo, with its exhibition stand attracting heightened interest among international and local buyers.

Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) said there were about 270 international exhibitors that took place in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second largest city.

Exhibitors were drawn from different countries including Germany, UK, US, Middle East, Australia, and India among others.

Other participating African exhibitors were drawn from Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique, and Malawi.

ZTA Chief Executive Officer, Winnie Muchanyuka, told journalists that Zimbabwe managed to surpass the target of exhibitors.

"We had targeted 250 exhibitors, but I can tell you that today we have got 270 that are part of this expo. Some of the African exhibitors are coming from countries such as Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique, and Malawi," said Muchanyuka.

Rwanda's strategic marketing specialist in the Tourism promotion division, Jean Paul Baruhura told Zimbabwe's top private commercial radio station, ZiFM Stereo, that Rwanda wants to increase awareness about being a tourism destination and attract tourists visiting southern Africa.

"Coming here, we are looking at increasing awareness about Rwanda as a tourism destination," Baruhura told the popular radio station in an interview.

"We want to attract a number of tourists who are visiting southern Africa to extend their trip to Rwanda. We have many things to offer. We have ecotourism, we have adventure, we have culture, yes and a vibrant city, Kigali," he said.

Baruhura added that Rwanda's private tourism operators should as well engage with industry players from Zimbabwe, the southern Africa region, and international operators and sell packages.

Rwanda's tourism sector is on a path to full recovery following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions with more than 80 per cent of the players reporting a rebound.

The Sanganai/Hlanganani Tourism Expo was held after a three-year disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Last year, Zimbabwe's flagship tourism expo was held in a hybrid format with some exhibitors attending physically while others followed proceedings virtually.



Mukabalisa elected chair of Global Inter-Parliamentary Union (145th IPU) assembly



The Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Donatille Mukabalisa (pictured), has been elected as the chairperson of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) assembly which was held in Kigali.

Mukabalisa was elected by a unanimous decision of the assembly's governing council on Wednesday, October 12 during the recently ended 145th IPU assembly.

Her name was suggested by different heads of parliamentary delegations and approved by acclamation.

"I would like to thank my colleagues, brothers and sisters, heads of different delegations...for putting forward my name to be the chair of the IPU assembly," Mukabalisa said in her speech after assuming the new position.

"I am grateful for the governing council for believing in my capacity to carry out such an important mission."

It is tradition for the speaker of parliament of the host country to become the assembly's chairperson.

However, according to Duarte Pacheco, the IPU president, the election for the assembly president is not only based on tradition, but also on merit.

The Kigali parliamentary assembly convened under the theme "Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world."

Attended by over 1000 delegates from over 100 countries, the assembly made different resolutions.



Amb. Prof. Charity Manyeruke and Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe Jacob Mudenda during the Inter-Parliamentary Union assembly in Kigali



Amb. Prof. Charity Manyeruke and Zimbabwe President of the Senate Mabel Chinomona during the Inter-Parliamentary Union assembly in Kigali



President Paul Kagame and Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangangwa during Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2022 Summit in Kigali



Amb. James MUSONI meets Mr. Jacob A R. Thamage the coordinator of Diamond Hub of Botswana



Business delegation from Rwanda Visit Rwanda Embassy in Zimbabwe



Business delegation from Rwanda Visit Rwanda Embassy in Zimbabwe