

Rwanda National Day Special

60-year-strong relationship built on mutual respect

MUKASINE MARIE CLAIRE
AMBASSADOR OF RWANDA



Rwanda, the “Land of a Thousand Hills,” is known for its breathtaking landscapes, rich culture and extraordinary resilience. Nestled in the heart of Africa, it welcomes visitors with stunning

natural beauty from the misty mountains of Volcanoes National Park, home to rare mountain gorillas, to the ancient rainforests of Nyungwe. But beyond its scenery, Rwanda’s most powerful story is one of transformation.

This year, Rwanda marks 31 years since liberation, an emotional milestone in the nation’s journey of recovery following the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, in which over 1 million lives were lost. From this unimaginable tragedy, Rwanda has emerged as a global symbol of unity, reconciliation and hope.

Guided by visionary leadership under President Paul Kagame, the country has rejected division and embraced a path of healing. Community-based Gacaca courts helped restore justice and social cohesion, while policies centered on inclusivity and dignity have reshaped Rwanda’s national identity. The results are tangible, with life expectancy rising to 70 years from 50; maternal mortality dropping by over 80%; under-5 mortality plummeting; and more than 98% of Rwandans with health insurance. Also, in a historic achievement for gender equality, women make up the majority of Parliament.

Economic growth has been matched by a strong focus on human development. Between 2017 and 2024, Rwanda’s poverty rate declined from 39.8% to 27.4%, improving the lives of around 1.5 million people. Investments in health, education and inno-

vation continue to build a foundation for a prosperous and inclusive future.

In 2025, Rwanda and Japan mark over 60 years of diplomatic relations rooted in mutual respect and shared priorities such as climate action, the U.N. sustainable development goals and youth empowerment. The partnership has deepened through Japanese development assistance via the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Japanese Embassy in Kigali.

This year, Rwanda is participating in two

major events in Japan. These are the Osaka Expo and the ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development. These platforms highlight Rwanda’s investment potential and its role as a gateway to broader engagement with Africa.

Of particular significance is the launch of new youth-centered collaborations, building on successful programs like the African Business Education Initiative and the Africa Tomodachi (friend) Initiative. These efforts aim to empower young leaders through knowledge exchange and innovation.

Rwanda’s youth, who make up the majority of the population, are not just the heirs of its past, but the builders of its future. Their legacy draws strength from the young Rwandan Patriotic Army soldiers who led the country to liberation. Today’s generation continues that journey, shaping a Rwanda defined by courage, opportunity and global connection.

As TICAD 9 approaches, Rwanda looks ahead with optimism. The diaspora, including Rwandans in Japan, is called upon to contribute through investment,

knowledge transfer and innovation. Rwanda’s story affirms that even the gravest challenges can be overcome through resilience, unity and international solidarity.

As it charts its future, Rwanda stands as a beacon of hope not only for Africa, but also for the world.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



Rwanda’s silverback gorillas are a popular tourist draw. EMBASSY OF RWANDA

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