

MINECOFIN Newsletter

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Change in Management:

On December 24, 2024, we welcomed Mr. Godfrey Kabera as the new Minister of State for National Treasury, while bidding farewell to his predecessor, Richard Tusabe. Despite this transition, our mission remains unchanged: to actively contribute to the sustainable development and transformation of Rwanda.



Welcome to the Second Edition of the MINECOFIN Newsletter!

We are thrilled to present the second edition of the MINECOFIN Newsletter, your go-to source for the latest updates and insights from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. This edition is packed with exciting developments that are shaping Rwanda's economic landscape.

In this issue, we spotlight the launch of the **National Climate Finance Strategy**, a crucial initiative aimed at fostering sustainable development and addressing climate change challenges. We also introduce the **Pathways to Sustainable Growth in Rwanda program**, which outlines our strategic vision for a resilient economy.

Additionally, we delve into the importance of **integrating climate finance and responsible spending**, ensuring that our fiscal policies align with our commitment to sustainable growth. We are also pleased to highlight **pension reforms** designed to enhance benefits for retirees, reflecting our dedication to supporting our citizens in their later years.

Furthermore, we highlight the **UN pledge to raise US\$ 1 billion** to support the implementation of NST2, a significant step towards achieving our national development goals.

As we wrap up another productive year, we wish all our readers a joyful and festive season! Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing more insights in our future editions. Happy holidays!



The National Climate and Finance Strategy: Paving the Way for Sustainable Development

In October, Rwanda unveiled the Climate and Nature Finance Strategy (CNFS), a bold and innovative framework aimed at transforming our approach to climate action and nature conservation. This strategy is not just a roadmap; it's a vision for the future, positioning Rwanda as a beacon of sustainable development in a rapidly changing world.

At its core, the CNFS seeks to accelerate investment in initiatives that enhance climate resilience and protect our natural environment, all while fostering economic growth and improving social well-being. Imagine a Rwanda where thriving ecosystems coexist with

robust industries, where communities flourish alongside flourishing forests and vibrant wildlife.

The CNFS is built on five key pillars that form the backbone of this ambitious initiative:

1. **Resource Mobilization:** Scaling up financial resources to fund innovative climate solutions.
2. **Private Sector Engagement:** Collaborating with businesses to drive sustainable practices and investments.
3. **Nature-Based Solutions:** Utilizing the power of nature to address climate challenges and enhance biodiversity.
4. **Institutional Strengthening:** Building the capacity of institutions to effectively implement and manage sustainable initiatives.
5. **International Cooperation:** Fostering partnerships with global allies to share knowledge and resources.

The CNFS is not just a strategy; it's a commitment to a greener, more resilient, and prosperous Rwanda for generations to come. Read more about the strategy [here](#)

New Report Outlines Pathways to Sustainable Growth in Rwanda



In a significant collaboration, Government of Rwanda and the World Bank unveiled the Rwanda Country Economic Memorandum (CEM), titled “Pathways to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in Rwanda.” This insightful report not only celebrates Rwanda’s impressive economic achievements but also lays out a strategic framework to sustain and enhance growth in line with the second National Strategy for Transformation (NST-2).

The CEM identifies key opportunities for Rwanda to build on its successes. By expanding private sector engagement, strengthening human capital, and enhancing agricultural resilience, the report emphasizes the critical drivers needed to propel the nation toward high, sustainable growth.

More than just a reflection of past accomplishments, the report serves as a comprehensive roadmap to tackle current economic challenges and capitalize on emerging opportunities across vital sectors, including private investment, education, agriculture, and climate resilience. It equips policymakers, stakeholders, and development partners with actionable insights to support Rwanda’s ambitious goals for growth and inclusivity.

Discover more about these pathways to sustainable development in the full report [here](#)

GDP AT CURRENT MARKET PRICES

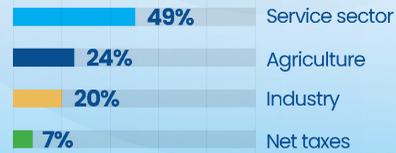
Q3 2024 Frw **4,806** billion

Q3 2023 Frw **4,246** billion

GROWTH BY SECTOR



CONTRIBUTION BY SECTOR



Rwanda Registers 8.1% Economic Growth in Third Quarter of 2024

The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda this month released the growth figures for the third quarter of 2024 indicating that the economy grew by 8.1%. This development follows 9.8% in the second Quarter and 9.7% in the first quarter, indicating an average growth of 9.2% for the three quarters. This growth is in line with Government expectation.

“Our economy has registered good momentum from the first quarter of 2024. The numbers for the fourth quarter are yet to be disseminated. However, with an average of 9.2% over the three quarters, our outlook going forward should be good,” The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Yusuf Murangwa stated.

In the third quarter, Growth was driven by agriculture which registered 4%, services 10% while industry recorded 8% growth. In terms of GDP share by sector, services registered 49% agriculture 24% industry 20% while net direct taxes recorded 7% share. [Read More](#)

Rwanda's Economic Growth Momentum: Resilience Amidst External Challenges



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently concluded its latest mission to Rwanda, and the outlook is promising. Despite navigating a challenging external environment, Rwanda's economic growth momentum remains strong, showcasing the country's remarkable resilience.

At the end of their mission, the IMF team highlighted an impressive projection: Rwanda's Real GDP is set to grow by 8.3% in 2024. This robust growth is fueled by good performances in the services and construction sectors, alongside a welcome recovery in food crop production. The country's inflation remains well within the central bank's target range, a testament to sound monetary policies.

The IMF team visits Rwanda twice a year, to discuss policies, priorities, and the progress of reforms. Their work is part of a collaborative effort involving the Policy Coordination Instrument, the Resilience Sustainability Facility, and the Standby Credit Facility arrangements between Rwanda and the IMF. [Read more](#)



Government and Stakeholders Consider Integrating Climate Finance and Responsible Spending

Rwanda has long been a beacon of commitment to sustainable development and climate resilience, fully aware of the impact climate change poses to its economy and society. The nation recognizes that achieving climate goals is not just an environmental imperative; it is also an economic necessity.

The implementation of a comprehensive Climate and Nature Finance Strategy, aims to mobilize and manage financial resources for tackling both climate change and biodiversity conservation while promoting sustainable development that benefits both people and the environment.

However, a crucial question arises: Can climate finance align with fiscal responsibility? Scaling climate finance is essential, but maintaining fiscal responsibility is equally vital. Rwanda's strong governance framework and commitment to transparency guide its financial strategies, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to achieve both climate and economic objectives. As Richard Tusabe, the Minister of State for National Treasury, emphasized, responsible spending is key to balancing these critical priorities.

[Read More](#)



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Save & Invest



The Importance of Making Savings and Investing a Habit

In the last week of October 2024, we launched a savings week campaign aimed at educating and raising awareness about the importance of saving and investing. The overall objective was to increase access, uptake, and usage of financial services that can secure our futures.

Mobilizing savings is a key priority outlined in the five-year National Strategy for Transformation (NST2). Currently, under NST1, savings represent only 12.5% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, the ambitious goal for NST2 is to raise this figure to 26% by 2029. This shift is more than just a statistic; it represents a vital step toward building a more prosperous and resilient nation.

Increased savings and investments offer numerous benefits. They help offset high interest rates and ensure access to low-interest credit, enabling individuals to achieve their financial goals. Moreover, fostering a culture of savings contributes to both individual and national wealth, enhancing our dignity as a self-sufficient nation.

For Rwandans, making saving a habit is crucial. It safeguards our financial futures, supports our families, and plays a significant role in driving sustainable economic growth. By prioritizing savings, we not only secure our personal finances but also contribute to the broader economic development of our country.

International Rating Agencies Project Rwanda's Economy to Grow by 8% in 2024

International rating agencies, including Fitch, Moody's, and S&P Global, have maintained Rwanda's credit score at B+/B2 with a stable economic outlook following a recent assessment. This decision reflects the anticipated robust economic growth in Rwanda and ongoing fiscal consolidation efforts, such as initiatives to boost domestic revenues. The agencies project that Rwanda's economy will grow by approximately 8% in 2024, with inflation expected to remain contained at around 5-6%.

The positive credit rating is reinforced by Rwanda's strong political stability, adherence to the rule of law, and effective governance. These factors are considered highly relevant by the rating agencies and play a crucial role in shaping the country's creditworthiness.

TRANSFORMATIVE POLICYMAKING



President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Visits Rwanda



Rwanda at the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings

It was a busy week for Rwanda's delegation at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual meetings, led by Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Yusuf Murangwa.

During the meetings, the delegation focused on important topics such as sustainable development, climate resilience, gender equality, and navigating global financial markets. They also held bilateral and multilateral discussions with various development partners to strengthen Rwanda's development partnerships.

The beginning of December marked a significant visit by Jin Liqun, President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), to Rwanda. Over the three-day trip, President Jin aimed to enhance collaboration between the AIIB and Rwanda. He toured several key projects funded by the bank, including the electrification of the IDP model village, showcasing AIIB's commitment to improving infrastructure and access to essential services.

A highlight of the visit was President Jin's exploration of Norrsken, where he observed how the ecosystem supports young startups and emphasized the importance of innovation in driving economic growth. His discussions with senior government officials focused on strengthening development cooperation, reviewing ongoing projects, and identifying new collaboration opportunities that align with Rwanda's goals for sustainable development and climate resilience.

This visit not only reinforced the partnership between AIIB and Rwanda but also highlighted a shared vision for a prosperous future grounded in sustainable practices and economic growth.



Government Announces Pension Reforms to Raise Benefits for Retirees

Starting in January 2025, the monthly pension contribution in Rwanda will increase from the current 6% to 12% as part of a broader reform initiative by the Rwanda Social Security Board, the country's pension fund.

These reforms aim to enhance the living conditions of current retirees and ensure social security for future generations. Additionally, they are designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the pension fund while also contributing to the country's efforts to create a resource pool for socioeconomic development.

Over time, the contribution rate is expected to rise further to 20% of an employee's gross salary by 2030. This increased contribution will be shared equally between employers and employees.

UN to Mobilize Over US\$ 1 Billion to Finance NST-2 Under New 5-Year Cooperation Framework

The United Nations has pledged to mobilize over US\$ 1 billion to support the implementation of the National Strategy for Transformation (NST2) through a new five-year United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

This announcement was made during the One UN-Steering Committee meeting, which includes government officials, UN agencies, members of the diplomatic corps, civil society organizations, and representatives from the private sector. The meeting focused on reviewing the progress made by the UN system in delivering as one in Rwanda. [Read more](#)



NATION

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“The implementation of the FinTech Strategy will create an environment that promotes innovation, fosters collaboration, and ensures sustainable growth in the FinTech sector. This strategy will drive inclusive economic growth that benefits all Rwandans and support the achievement of our NTS2 strategic objectives.”

Former Minister of State for National Treasury, Richard Tusabe, at the launch of the National FinTech Strategy.



Your Personal Information is Valuable: Protect It.



Give Your Phone a Fresh Start

Disguise Your Phone Name

Your phone name should be recognizable to you but not used to discover your identity

Clean Up Your Mobile Browsing

Delete your browser history and use private browsing

Review App Permissions

Turn off location services for apps that don't need it and check permissions on accessing phone services

Rinse and Repeat

Try to make a habit of cleaning your phone every few months



Spruce Up Your Social

Toss Out Those Old Apps

Get rid of those unused, random apps on your phone

Think Before You Share

Don't post personal information; attackers can use it to gain access to your accounts

Reduce Your Public Data

Check privacy settings to limit sharing with the general public

Hashtag #Untag

Untag yourself and make sure friends of friends can't access your photos.



Do You Know Where Your Information Is?



OWN YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE

- Choose your privacy and security settings instead of using defaults.
- If you don't want your employer or landlord to see it, don't post it.
- Use complex passwords and never share them.
- Don't share pictures or information about others that you wouldn't want shared about you.

MINECOFIN Teams Shine in ARPST Championship

As the excitement of the ARPST Championship unfolds, MINECOFIN teams are making a remarkable impression on the field and court. With outstanding performances across multiple sports, our athletes are not only showcasing their skills but also embodying the spirit of teamwork and determination.

Football: A Step Closer to Glory

In football, MINECOFIN has one foot in the finals after securing a narrow victory in the first leg with a 1-0 victory against MINAGRI, setting the stage for a promising showdown ahead. Preparations are high gear as players battle for a spot in the finals, aiming to bring home the championship trophy.



Basketball: Dominating the Court

The basketball squad has also made significant strides, successfully qualifying for the semi-finals. Their journey reflects hard work and dedication and strategic gameplay, especially after losing in the finals of the last tournament.



Volleyball: Rising Through the Ranks

In volleyball, MINECOFIN's team has reached the quarter-finals, demonstrating skill and teamwork throughout the tournament. Each match has been a testament to their commitment and resilience, and they are now poised to advance further in the competition. They indeed look to replicate last season's glory.

As we look forward to the final games taking place in Huye District, Southern Province,

let's rally behind our teams as they strive for victory and demonstrate exceptional talent within MINECOFIN. Together, we can celebrate their achievements and the spirit of sportsmanship that unites us all. Go MINECOFIN!



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