

## RALGA attends 7<sup>th</sup> EALGA Conference



## Districts' revenues and fees targets for 2021/2022 increase by 2.0 Billion Frw



# Ralga Newsletter

The Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities | Jan-February 2022



## RALGA hosts Somali Mayors' Forum in Rwanda



## FOREWORD

**Dear Members, Partners and Friends;**

It is my pleasure to introduce to you this issue of our newsletter, with major highlights from our achievements. I thank our members and partners who made it happen. The support from all sides allowed us to stay relevant in a changing environment.

During the last two months, we confirmed our commitment to promote South-South Cooperation and African integration as embedded in Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation and RALGA's Strategic Plan 2020-2025. In collaboration with UN Habitat and the Government of Rwanda, we organized and successfully hosted the Somali Mayor's Forum in Rwanda, from 14th to 18th February 2022. Our gratitude goes to the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation of Somalia and UN Habitat, for having facilitated this important activity.

In the same context, we have strengthened the East African Regional integration. Together with the Ministry of Local Government of Rwanda and with the support from the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, our representatives attended the East African Local Government Forum and the Executive Committee meeting of the East African Local Government Association. The Representatives of RALGA at the EALGA Executive Committee were sworn in for the chairmanship term of two years.

RALGA got strengthened and encouraged by the visit from the Commonwealth Local Government Forum Chairman and Secretary General. Discussions focused on the preparations of the Commonwealth Local Government Conference due in Kigali in August 2022.

The Association did not miss its advocacy mandate. In conformity with the Organic Law Governing State Finances and Property, Local Government

Councils need to approve their revised budget by 31st January. In the same line, RALGA convened and chaired a technical forum for local public finance management. Participants from Local Governments, Rwanda Revenue Authority, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and Ministry of Local Government, agreed on revised targets for local government own revenues with an increase of two billion francs, which translates hope for economic recovery from COVID19.

The Rwandan Local Government Family has embarked on the recovery process. Umuganda has resumed, and citizens got their missed platform to participate in their own development. It is also an opportunity to voice their needs and to inform national planning processes. Besides, Umuganda serves for social cohesion and mutual assistance, particularly for the vulnerable persons.

As the Government started distributing energy saving cooking stoves to citizens in order to protect both environment and climate, local government capacity building continued with distribution of laptops to Cells Executive Secretaries in Bugesera District.

And the good news came out that, the City of Kigali scooped the Global Mayor Challenge Award from Bloomberg Cities Network, focusing on informal settlements upgrading, rainwater harvesting and waste management.

As I conclude, I wish to commend all our members, partners and friends, who support us in different ways. RALGA remains committed to its mandate of advocacy and capacity building for the members, representation and promotion of twinning and partnerships. Our success shall always be your pride.

Enjoy the reading.

**NGENDAHIMANA Ladislas**  
**Secretary General of RALGA**

# MEMBERS OF RALGA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**UWIMANA**  
**Innocent**  
Chairperson



**NGENDAHIMANA**  
**Ladislas**  
Secretary General



**NUWUMUREMYI**  
**Jeannine**  
First Deputy  
Chairperson



**GASANA**  
**Richard**  
Head of Commission  
in Charge of  
Decentralisation



**BANAMWANA**  
**Bernard**  
Head of Commission  
in Charge of Finance  
of Local Government  
Entities



**KAYITARE**  
**Jacqueline**  
Head of Commission in  
Charge of Social Welfare  
Development



**NDAHIRO**  
**Ndawula Donald**  
Head of Commission  
in Charge of Local  
Economic Development

## SOMALI MAYORS CONCLUDE A STUDY VISIT IN RWANDA



*Somali delegates exploring the Kigali city master plan as they paid courtesy call to the Kigali City Mayor*

From 14th to 18th February 2022, a delegation of Mayors and senior government officials from the Federal Republic of Somalia conducted a study visit in Rwanda and held their Mayors' Forum. Hosted by the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA), the forum was organized by the Somali Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) with support from UN-Habitat and the UN Joint Program for Local Governance (JPLG).

Themed "Developing effective Local Government and sustainable services in Somalia", the Mayors' Forum provided a platform for participants to reflect on the governance structures of the Federal Republic of Somalia and pressing governance and development issues such as urbanization, decentralization, displacement, disaster management and localization of services.

The Director General in the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, Mr Said Abdullahi Alasow, led the delegation. In his remarks, he said that they decided to host their Mayors' Forum in Rwanda because it is a country



*Mr Said Abdullahi Alasow delivering his remarks*

with success stories in terms of local governance, decentralization and reconciliation. He added that, it would be a relevant case study for Somalia.

"Rwanda is a good case study that can inspire Somalia in the areas of reconciliation, peacebuilding, Local economic development and decentralized service delivery among other areas", he said.

Welcoming delegates from Somalia, the Secretary General of RALGA, Mr Ngendahimana Ladislas thanked Somali Mayors for choosing Rwanda to host their Forum and he expressed gratitude to UNHABITAT for trusting RALGA as a partner in the organization of this Forum. Ngendahimana Ladislas reiterated the commitment of RALGA to support strengthening Local Government in Somalia while promoting South-South Cooperation.

“RALGA is open to South-South cooperation, experience and knowledge sharing and stands ready to contribute in any way possible to strengthen the local governance in Somalia”, he said.

Rwanda’s Minister of Local Government, Honorable Jean Marie Vianney Gatabazi who officiated the opening of the forum, expressed gratitude of the Government of Rwanda to the Federal Republic of Somalia for choosing Rwanda to host the forum. He stressed that Rwanda and Somalia share many historical commonalities that they can share



experiences and learn from each other.

“I urge our brothers and sisters from Somalia to remain united and resilient as they build their nation. These are the weapons that have led Rwanda through its reconstruction journey”, he noted.



**Rwanda's Local Government Minister, Gatabazi JMV delivering key note speech at the official opening of Somali Mayors' Forum in Kigali**

During the forum, Somali Mayors and other officials received presentations from different Government institutions covering various subjects such; (1) Rwanda's reconstruction journey, achievement and vision; (2) overview of Rwanda's Local governance; (3) Community engagement and Social Work (Umuganda); (4) the governance and functioning of the City of Kigali, (5) Fiscal Decentralization, Resources Distribution and Public Private Partnerships, (6) the role of sector Ministries in Local Governance and delivery of social

services as well as (7) unity and reconciliation in Rwanda.

Participants held special sessions to learn about the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA) and its functioning with focus on its mandate of capacity building, advocacy and representation. Both sides committed to keep sharing experiences and to explore ways to formalize their partnerships and collaboration.

## Field visits

Somali delegation visited different places to learn more about Rwanda's socioeconomic progress, policies and programs implementation.



*Visit at Mpazi modern housing project*

Delegates visited Mpazi Modern housing in Kimisagara Sector, Nyarugenge District, a place that is being renovated to address risks induced by unplanned settlements. They also visited Karama



*Visit at Karama Integrated Development Program Model Village*

Integrated Development Program Model Village in the City of Kigali where 240 families relocated from high-risk zones were settled.



*Visit at Bishenyi solid waste Treatment plant*

They also visited Bishenyi solid waste treatment plant in Kamonyi District in the Southern Province. This facility operates under a public private partnership framework to make various products like manure & construction materials from recycled waste.

The Somali delegates also witnessed service delivery at grassroots level when they visited Gahanga Sector in Kicukiro District to see how citizens acquire online services through Irembo, a public-private partnership owned platform.

Mr. Ngendahimana, the Secretary General of RALGA



*Visit at Gahanga Sector to learn about online service delivery through Irembo platform*

while bidding farewell to Somali delegates, stressed that such visits are important because they are not only about strengthening cooperation between local governments, but also contribute to building and branding Africa as a continent.

“We have learnt a lot from hosting our colleagues from Somalia. The image of the Somali people we hosted is different from the image that has been for long portrayed by the media about Somalia. We have hosted friendly, polite, responsible and socializing people contrary to what media has been spreading about Somalia. Rwanda is happy to have hosted you

as Leaders in Somalia, and you are always welcome. You have a home in Rwanda, and RALGA is from now onward, your second home. It is therefore important for Africans to share experience and learn from one another in order to build our continent”, underlined Ngendahimana.

During the wrap up session which was conducted in Nyamata, Bugesera District, participants shared the lessons learnt and they set their own challenge. Basing on the experience of Rwanda, they developed an action plan, and they committed to replicate the lessons learnt during their study visit in Rwanda.

The Director General in MOIFAR, Mr Said Abdullahi Alasow commended Rwanda and RALGA for good hospitality and for accepting to share their experience

with Somali officials and Mayors. He invited RALGA to visit Mayors in Somalia in order to strengthen their partnerships. The invitation was accepted.

Since 2008, the UN Joint Program for local governance has been supporting the implementation of several local government reforms in Somalia, including the formation of the Association of Local Government Authorities in Somaliland (ALGASL) and the Association of Local Government Association in Puntland (ALGAPL). This program, in close collaboration with relevant Somalia authorities, is facilitating the creation of the Somali Mayors’ Forum to consolidate its interventions in the Federal Republic of Somalia.



Group photos of somali delegates with Rwandan officials (SG of RALGA, Ngendahimana Ladislas and Mutbazi Richard, the Mayor of Bugesera District)

## Stakeholders speak about Somali Mayors’ Forum in Kigali

Mr Paul Simkin is the Senior Program Manager at JPLG, at the United Nations in Nairobi. He attended the first two days of the Somali Mayors’ Forum in Rwanda. Back Home, he expressed his feeling. We share it with our partners.

“Dear Ladislas,  
Please allow me to thank you for the excellent work you and your team are delivering this week. The presentations and substance being shared is of excellent quality. To truly absorb it all we need six months.

Rwanda Local Governance framework is an outstanding example of what can be achieved. I have many ideas and plans knocking around my empty head.

I must apologize, as I am now returning to Nairobi to meet other obligations and did not get a chance to thank you and your team. I will certainly be back in contact and I leave you in the competent hands of Abdirahman, Mohamed, Muse and Ifrah along with Somali delegation led by Said.

We potentially have launched something powerful. I believe we do need to send the participants home with a challenge on what they will do with the links established, knowledge built and desperate need for improved governance.

Please relay my thanks to the Minister of Local Government, the Governors, the Mayor of Kigali, the different institutions and other local government institutions. You are together doing a fantastic job. Congratulations.”



Mr Paul Simkin, Senior Program Manager, JPLG

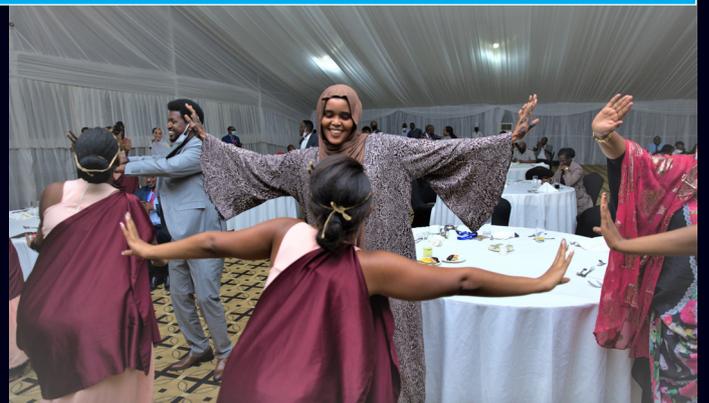
# SOMALI MAYORS' FORUM; KEY MOMENTS IN PICTURES



Opening ceremony of Somali Mayors' Forum held in Kigali Serena Hotel



Entertainment by Rwandan cultural troupe at the Gala dinner held on the first day of the forum





Visit to Kigali Genocide Memorial



Somali delegates in Kigali Car Free Zone



Pudence Rubingisa, Mayor of the City of Kigali handing a gift to the head of Somali delegation



Visit to Karama Integrated Development Model Village



Visit to Bishenyi Solid Waste Treatment Plant



Visit at Gahanga sector to learn about online service delivery through Irembo platform



The study visit winds up in Nyamata, Bugesera District in the Eastern Province



## DISTRICTS' REVENUES AND FEES TARGETS FOR 2021/2022 INCREASE BY 2.0 BILLION FRW

Revised Districts targets for revenue and fees collections for July-June 2021/2022 are set to increase to 88,477,843,355 FRW from 86,384,703,507FRW initially set, which means an increase of 2,093,139,848 FRW. This was agreed upon in a technical forum for local government officials and stakeholders on revenue collection targets and local public finance management held on 28th January 2022.

The technical forum brought together, City of Kigali City Manager and Chief Economist, Districts' Executive and Corporate Services Division Managers, Directors of Finance and revenue accountants as well as representatives of RALGA, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) and the Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA).

Organized by RALGA, the forum aimed at facilitating the exchange between stakeholders on the status of collection and administration of decentralized taxes and fees as well as other issues pertaining to local public finances management. Participants reviewed the progress made in collection and administration of decentralized taxes and fees during the first semester of the ongoing fiscal year (July-December 2021) and challenges met. They also agreed on local revenue collection targets for the second semester (January-June 2022) and the strategies to achieve them.

It was realized that the performance in district revenue collection in the first semester was achieved at 87.2%, whereby total revenues collected were 23,472.02 billion Frw against 26,917.49 billion Frw. This was due to the fact that some districts were not able to achieve their targets in revenue and fees collection as a result of the effects of COVID19 pandemic outbreak, which paralysed the business' operations and halted some projects' operations.

The Secretary General of RALGA, Ngendahimana Ladislas, thanked participants for their respective tireless efforts in

spite of the challenges imposed by Covid-19.

"Evidently, this pandemic affected significantly business operations, such that extra efforts are needed to overcome this challenge, with everyone's commitment to fully abide by the provided health guidelines. This workshop came at the right time as the Districts and City of Kigali embark on the setting the revenues and fees collection targets for the FY 2021/2022."

Ngendahimana expressed his appreciation to the Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and Rwanda Revenue Authority, for their continued collaboration with RALGA in the organisation of this important forum.

Mr. KUBWIMANA Emmanuel, the Acting Fiscal Decentralisation Division Manager in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) on his behalf thanked RALGA for organising this forum and participants for honoring the invitation.

On behalf of the Ministry of Local Government, Madam RUTAGENGWA Francine thanked all the participants and equally underlined the importance of this technical forum workshop, mainly in reviewing the performance of local revenue collection of taxes and fees and the setting of new revenue and fees collection targets.

In 2016, Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) was given the mandate to collect decentralized taxes and fees on behalf of Districts and City of Kigali. In line with advocacy mandate for its members, RALGA organizes twice a year, a technical forum to set and revise revenue collection targets and review the progress in collection and administration of decentralized taxes and fees. The technical forum also serves a platform to discuss pertinent issues and share experience and/or good practices in local revenue collection and Public Finance Management.



*Cities significantly contribute to local revenues and fees generation*

## RALGA DELEGATES ATTEND THE EALGA CONFERENCE IN ARUSHA



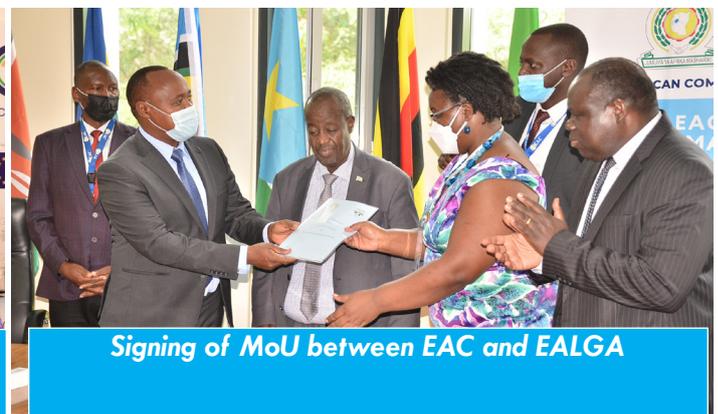
The 7th meeting of the East Africa Local Government Forum was held in Arusha, Tanzania from 7 to 9 February 2022. RALGA was represented by Innocent UWIMANA, the chairperson of RALGA who is also the chairperson of EALGA, Ladislas Ngendahimana, Secretary General of RALGA and other members namely; Bernard Banamwana, Akimpaye Christine and Jeannette Nyiramasengesho. The Rwandan Country delegation also included the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government Mr. Samwel Dusengiyumva.

The Forum was also attended by delegates from across the East Africa region and representatives of Commonwealth Local Government Forum. At this occasion, representatives of RALGA were sworn in as EALGA Executive Committee

members. The meeting focused on empowering devolved and decentralized sub-national entities for an effective East African Community integration process. Participants reviewed the recommendations of the 6th EALGF meeting held in Kigali in 2021 and discussed other pertinent subjects including the role of Local Governments in the implementation of EAC action plan for 2022/2023. The delegates also discussed and shared experiences on regional and global integration development policy and priorities. At this occasion, EAC and the EALGA signed a memorandum of understanding which aims at providing a cooperation framework for developing, implementing and promoting programs aimed at achieving people-centered development within the Community.



**RALGA members taking an oath as members of EALGA Executive Committee**



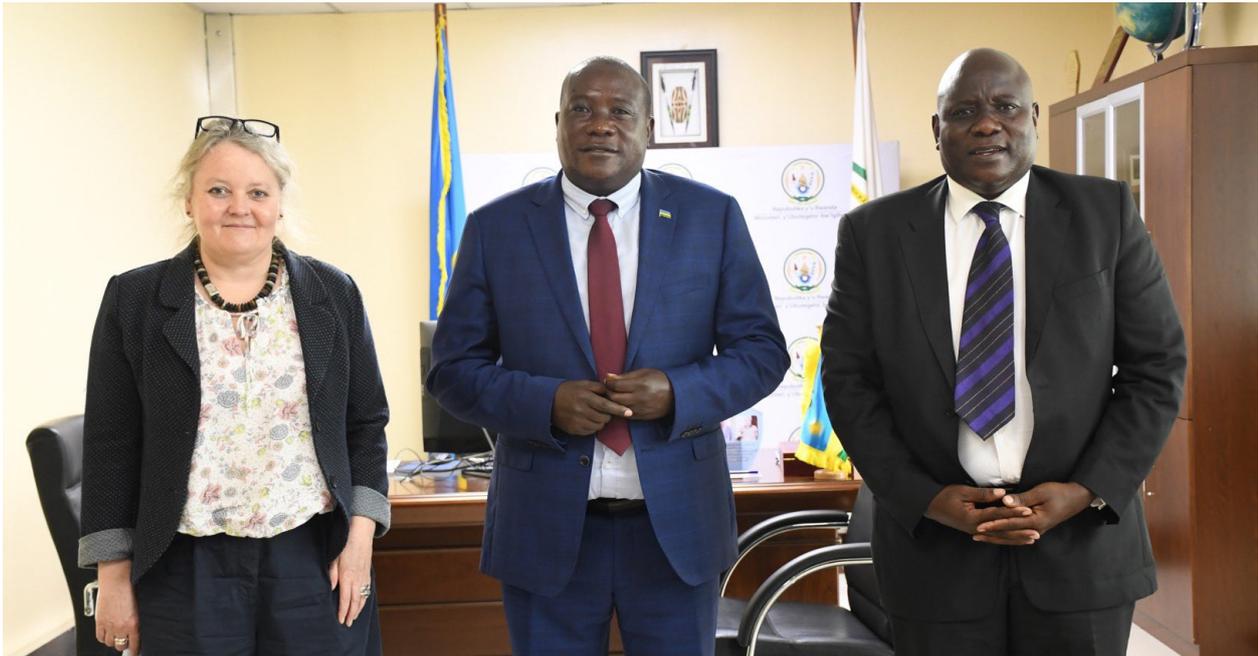
**Signing of MoU between EAC and EALGA**



**Rwanda delegation with EAC Deputy SG**

Rwanda delegates were also received in a courtesy visit by Honorable Bazivamo Christophe, the Deputy Secretary General of East African Community.

## CLGF Chairperson and Secretary General visit Rwanda for the preparations of upcoming CLGF conference



*Minister Gatabazi JMV poses with Mr Mmachakga Mpho Moruango and Lucy Slack respectively chairperson and Secretary General of CLGF.*

On 11 February 2022, Rwanda's Minister of Local Government, Gatabazi JMV received in his office Mr Mmachakga Mpho Moruakgomo and Lucy Slack, Chairperson and Secretary General of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) respectively. The officials were in Rwanda for the preparation of CLGF Conference scheduled to be held in Kigali in August 2022.

During their meeting, officials on the side of Rwanda and CLGF committed to work to working closely to ensure the successful organization of the conference.

The same day evening, at Kigali Convention Center, the Secretary General of RALGA Ladislas Ngendahimana hosted & bid farewell to CLGF Chairman Rev Mpho Moruakgomo & SG Lucy Slack who concluded their visit to Rwanda.



*Secretary General of RALGA with CLGF Chairperson and Secretary General as he bids his farewell to them*

The Commonwealth Local Government Forum is among key international networks to which RALGA belongs. CLGF supports RALGA in capacity building, advocacy and local economic development. RALGA appreciates the good leadership and commitment from CLGF.

## CITIZENS GET PLATFORM TO INFORM DISTRICTS' PRIORITIES AS UMUGANDA RESUMES

On 26 February 2022, Umuganda resumed across the country. The Umuganda was suspended for the past two years since March 2020 when the first case of covid-19 was registered in Rwanda.



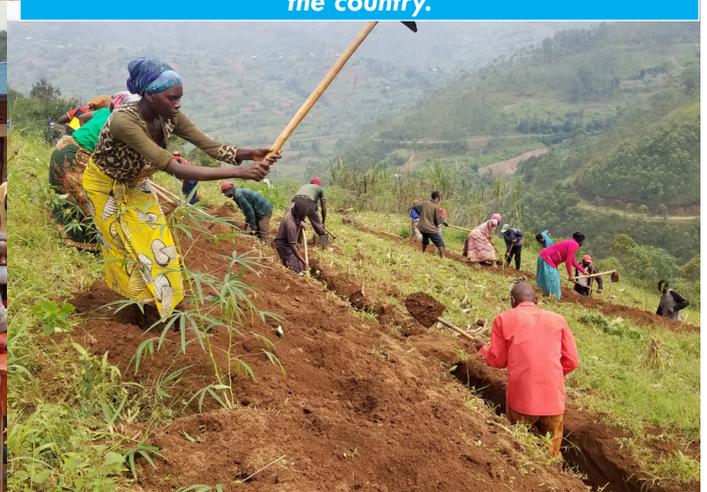
State Minister in the Ministry of Local Government, INGABIRE Assumpta joined residents of Burera District in Umuganda to build houses for the vulnerable



Cleaning roads and terracing for mitigating soil erosion are among activities that shaped Umuganda across the country.



Citizens gave their views on districts' priorities for the next fiscal year.



Normally, Umuganda is conducted every last Saturday of the month where citizens gather to undertake activities of common interests in their neighborhoods and find time to talk about critical issues affecting their daily lives. Umuganda is also a Home-Grown Solution that significantly contributes to fostering citizen participation, accountability and social cohesion.

The latest Umuganda particularly provided a platform for citizens to discuss with local leaders priorities to be

considered in the districts' plans for the coming fiscal year.

The main activities which characterized resumption of Umuganda included construction of houses for the venerable persons, maintenance of public infrastructures and community cleaning, terracing and other activities meant for mitigation of soil erosion and disasters among others.

## KIGALI CITY SCOOPS GLOBAL MAYOR CHALLENGE AWARD



On January 18, 2022, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced the 15 winning cities of the 2021-2022 Global Mayors Challenge, a worldwide innovation competition that supports and spreads cities' most promising ideas. These 15 winners were recognized for designing the boldest and most ambitious urban innovations to emerge from the global COVID-19 pandemic. The winning ideas address one or more of four current issue areas in cities including economic recovery and inclusive growth; health and wellbeing; climate and environment; and gender and equality.

The winning project of the City of Kigali is **"Introducing a smart-waste system that improves sanitation and water quality in the city."** The project consists of adopting proven rainwater-harvesting technologies in informal communities to provide an alternative water source and smart waste solution for green and resilient recovery in Kigali informal areas as well as improving resident livelihoods.

The \$1 million grant awarded by Bloomberg Philanthropies will support bold action to protect 1,405 households in Busanza and Mpazi against these threats. It will help the City of Kigali to implement circular, nature-based, and tech-enabled solutions to alleviate the impacts of flooding.

The Winning cities receiving \$1 Million and Multi-Year Technical Support are **Amman, Jordan; Bogotá, Colombia; Butuan, Philippines; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Hermosillo, Mexico; Istanbul, Turkey; Kigali, Rwanda; Kumasi, Ghana; Paterson, New Jersey, USA; Phoenix, Arizona, USA; Rochester, Minnesota, USA; Rotterdam, the Netherlands; Rourkela, India; Vilnius, Lithuania; and Wellington, New Zealand**

Mayors from 631 cities in 99 countries submitted their boldest ideas to the 2021-2022 competition, nearly twice the number of cities that applied to the last Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Challenge in 2018.

The competition was launched in 2021 and seeks to highlight and support the most promising urban innovations to come from the pandemic.



**RUBINGISA Pudence, Mayor of the City of Kigali**

**“ I am deeply honored to receive this \$ 1 Million Grand Prize from the Global Mayors Challenge 2021, on behalf of the City of Kigali. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Awards Committee for believing in the potential of our sustainable and innovative solutions to improve the quality of life for Kigali's informal dwellers while enabling them to adapt to the impacts of Covid-19.**

**Our project will actively engage residents in ongoing informal settlements upgrading projects, helping them to leverage green technology to harvest rainwater as an alternative source to meet their daily water needs in addition to providing them with smart waste management facilities. ”**

**Mayor Rubingisa Pudence**

## BUGESERA- Executive secretaries of cells get laptops to improve service delivery



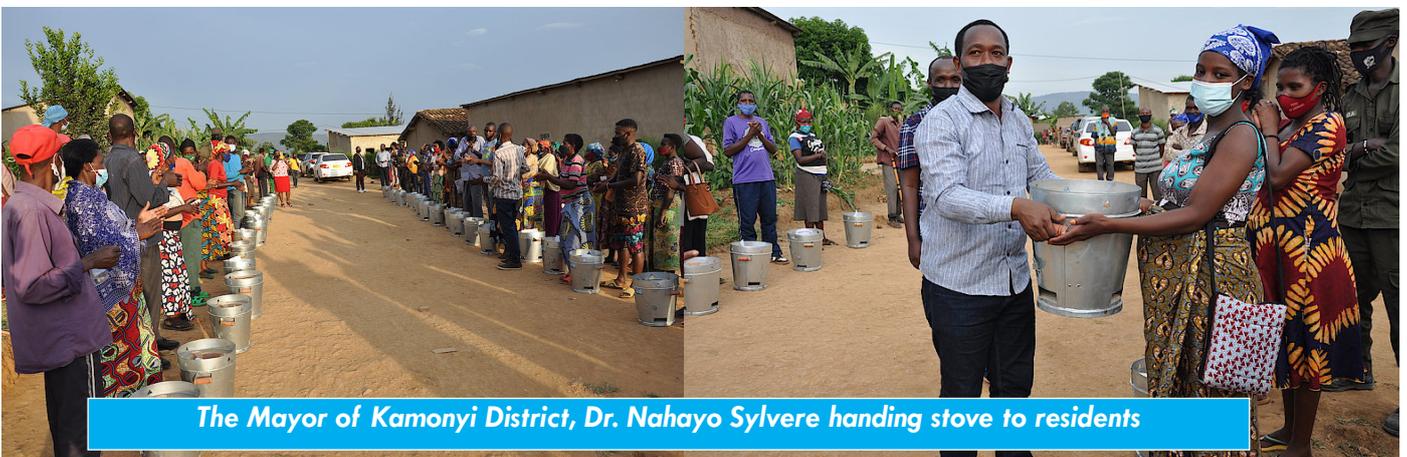
*some of cell executive secretaries pose with their laptops*

On January 4, 2022, executive secretaries from 71 cells constituting Bugesera District were given laptops as part of enhancing their capacity to deliver quality services to citizens.

The laptops were donated to help cell staff to discharge their duties of birth and death registration, de-registration of the deceased which were added to usual civil registration services offered at cell level.

## KAMONYI

### Energy-saving stoves donated to over 800 families in a bid to protect environment



*The Mayor of Kamonyi District, Dr. Nahayo Sylvere handing stove to residents*

The energy-saving stove were donated to 803 families in Kamonyi , Rugalika Sector on 11 January 2022 through “Green Amayaga” Project aimed at enhancing environment protection. Donated energy-saving stoves are expected to reduce the quantity of firewoods normally used as the primary source of cooking energy by residents of Kamonyi.

Green Amayaga Project is implemented by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA). The project’s core objective is to increase the surface covered by forests in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and generate clean air in the covered areas. Through this project, 6,900 families are set to be give energy-saving stoves in four sectors in Kamonyi District namely; Mugina, Rugarika, Nyarubaka and Nyamiyaga.



***Who we are:***

RALGA is a membership organization that brings together local government entities in Rwanda.

***Mission:***

To assist local Government entities in achieving their mission, complying with principles of good governance and decentralization.

***Vision***

To have efficient local Government entities where people and stakeholders are involved in development.

***Responsibilities***

To represent local Government entities, carrying out their advocacy and capacity building in the following sectors :

- Decentralization
- Increasing finances of local Government entities
- Local economic development
- Increasing the social welfare.

To strengthen collaboration between Rwanda local Government entities among themselves and with foreign local Government entities.