



Special Edition: **Sudanese Community in Rwanda**

RWANDA Dispatch

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AN INSIGHT INTO RWANDA

From Sudan to Rwanda: The Rise of a Strategic Economic Alliance

ONE-ON-ONE WITH HE KHALID MUSA DAFALLA
AMBASSADOR OF SUDAN TO RWANDA



UMST SHAPES AFRICA'S FUTURE THROUGH MEDICINE AND INNOVATION | PG26
FINDING HOME AGAIN: THE SUDANESE REBUILDING LIVES IN KIGALI | PG44

■ RWANDA: RWF10,000 ■ UGANDA: UGX25,000 ■ KENYA: KES900 ■ TANZANIA: TZS17,000 ■ OTHERS: \$6.99



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AN INSIGHT INTO RWANDA

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Publisher's Note

As Rwanda continues its steady march toward economic transformation, one story that stands out is the increasing contribution of African investors. Among the largest foreign national groups today are Sudanese who have arrived as investors, students, professionals, and members of the African diaspora seeking not only better economic opportunities but also safety.

Numbering around 6,000, their integration into Rwandan society and their expanding footprint across key sectors reflect a partnership built on trust, opportunity, and shared aspirations. Sudanese investments have grown remarkably in education, health, real estate,

manufacturing, and general trade. From schools and clinics to factories, construction ventures and services, their enterprises are creating jobs, improving services. These efforts have contributed towards supporting Rwanda's efforts to strengthen local industrial capacity and boost homegrown production.

Rwanda's reputation for stability, good governance, and a clear regulatory framework has made it a natural destination for Sudanese entrepreneurs and families. Yet this partnership goes beyond economic interests. As conflict continues to destabilize Sudan, many Sudanese leaders have called on Rwanda to support peace efforts—drawing

inspiration from Rwanda's own journey of rising from one of the world's darkest tragedies. For many, Rwanda represents a model of recovery, unity, and state-building.

On a human level, Rwandans have shown remarkable hospitality, welcoming Sudanese families fleeing uncertainty and conflict, as well as those seeking new opportunities. This reflects Rwanda's enduring belief in African solidarity and shared resilience. As a result, Sudanese students, professionals, and families are not only building new lives here but also actively contributing to Rwanda's growth.

Meanwhile, expanding trade—ranging from coffee and tea to

other products—continues to strengthen this south-south cooperation, enriching both nations through deeper economic and cultural ties.

In this edition, we explore the Sudan-Rwanda relationship as a powerful example of what African cooperation can achieve when grounded in peace, mutual respect, and shared development goals.

As 2025 draws to a close, we extend heartfelt wishes for lasting peace in Sudan and continued progress for all.

May the year end on a hopeful note and may the next one begin with even greater promise.

Editorial

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said and Quoted



"Education is about serving people." – **Dr Mamoun Homeida, Founder - University of Medical Sciences & Technology (UMST)**



"As Africans, we must define our own direction and not entirely depend on external contributions."

Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda



"As long as women are bound by poverty, and as long as they are looked down upon, human rights will lack substance."

Sindisiwe Chikunga, S. African Minister for Women and Youth.



"One of the most important things that will help you build your business ... it's called competition."

Strive Masiyiwa, Zimbabwean-born telecoms billionaire



"True leadership is not just about generating profits, it's about generating progress."

Tony O. Elumelu, a Nigerian economist, banker and philanthropist.



**46,000,000
TRANSACTIONS**



On the
scene

Revellers covered in tomato pulp carry a Palestinian flag in solidarity during the annual 'La Tomatina' food fight festival in Bunol, near Valencia, Spain. [REUTERS]

Numbers that speak volumes

**42.9
PER CENT**

PERCENTAGE DECLINE IN IMPORTS FROM TANZANIA. RWANDA'S IMPORTS FROM TANZANIA DROPPED TO US\$52.91 MILLION IN SEPTEMBER 2025, DOWN FROM US\$92.64 MILLION A YEAR EARLIER—A STEEP 42.9% FALL, ACCORDING TO NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS.

**88.18
DOLLARS**

SPECIALTY COFFEE FROM RWANDA REACHED AN UNPRECEDENTED \$88.18 PER KILOGRAM DURING THE 2025 ONLINE AUCTION—14 TIMES HIGHER THAN THE COUNTRY'S AVERAGE EXPORT PRICE AND 22.8% ABOVE THE PREVIOUS NATIONAL RECORD. THE AUCTION UNDERSCORES COUNTRY'S RISING GLOBAL REPUTATION FOR HIGH-QUALITY COFFEE AND THE GROWING ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS. COFFEE EXPORTS EARNED \$116 MILLION IN THE 2024/2025 MARKETING SEASON.

**200
PYRAMIDS**

SUDAN'S HIDDEN ARCHITECTURAL EMPIRE BOASTS OVER 200 PYRAMIDS - TWICE EGYPT'S TALLY OF ABOUT 100, THIS MAKE SUDAN WITH THE MOST PYRAMIDS IN THE WORLD. THOUGH SMALLER AND NARROWER THAN EGYPT'S, THESE ANCIENT NUBIAN STRUCTURES FORM ONE OF THE LARGEST PYRAMID CONCENTRATIONS ON EARTH, A MONUMENTAL LEGACY OFTEN OVERSHADOWED BY GIZA.

EKASH SYSTEM IN RWANDA HAS SINCE 2022 PROCESSED MORE THAN 46 MILLION TRANSACTIONS WITH A 99% SUCCESS RATE, UNDERSCORING ITS ROLE IN ACCELERATING THE COUNTRY'S SHIFT TOWARD A CASHLESS ECONOMY. NOW CONNECTING 22 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND MORE THAN 21 MILLION ACCOUNTS, EKASH IS EXPANDING INCLUSIVE ACCESS TO DIGITAL PAYMENTS—COMPLEMENTED BY THE NATIONAL BANK'S EFFORTS TO BRING OVER 120,000 WOMEN INTO THE DIGITAL FINANCE ECOSYSTEM THROUGH MOBILE-BASED ACCOUNTS.

SUDAN

A LAND OF ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS, DIVERSE CULTURES AND ENDURING RESILIENCE

The Republic of Sudan, a North-East African nation stretches from West Africa to East-Central Africa and shares borders with seven countries: Ethiopia and Eritrea to the east, Egypt and Libya to the north, Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) to the west, and

South Sudan to the south. The name Sudan means “land of the blacks” in Arabic, and the region was previously known as Kush, especially by the Greeks.

Before the secession of South Sudan in July 2011, Sudan was the largest country in both Africa and the Arab world, and the tenth

largest in the world. Today, it is the third-largest country in Africa, with a population of more than 50.4 million.

Although Sudan is predominantly Muslim, with most citizens practising Islam, the country is also home to

significant Christian, Coptic and indigenous religious communities.

Sudan’s rich history has seen many ancient civilisations flourish, especially along the Nile. Travelling across its vast landscapes, one can immerse themselves in centuries-old heritage preserved in the form of majestic monuments. From the legendary pyramids of Meroë to the captivating wilderness of Dinder National Park, Sudan’s attractions reflect a civilisation shaped over millennia.

Sudan gained independence from British colonial rule on 1 January 1956 but the country has faced decades of ongoing civil conflict. The current conflict since April 2023, is very worrying and devastating. What began as a power struggle between the country’s top military leaders quickly escalated into a nationwide war between





ABOUT SUDAN

the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti). It has escalated into a nationwide war, displacing millions and creating one of the world's worst humanitarian crises and continues to fragment the nation.

Despite these

challenges, Sudan boasts numerous tourist destinations, shaped by its diverse ethnicities, geography, history and culture. In the north lie the remnants of the ancient Nubian kingdoms — the cradle of human civilisation — with their pyramids and Pharaonic temples. To the east, the waves of the Red Sea meet Sudan's golden sands, home to colourful coral reefs that delight diving

enthusiasts. In the west, the Sahara stretches endlessly, dotted with volcanic peaks and featuring a climate similar to that of the Mediterranean. Cultural tourism also flourishes through the traditions, music and customs of Sudan's many tribes and ethnic groups.

The capital city, Khartoum, is a vast and vibrant metropolis with historic, cultural and religious sites spread

throughout the country. Many of Sudan's most iconic landmarks are found in Omdurman, which, together with Khartoum and Khartoum North, forms the nation's "triangular capital."

From Khartoum to the ancient city of Meroë, Sudan offers an abundance of sights and experiences. Here are some of the country's most notable landmarks.



The Pyramids of Meroë

Meroë features over 200 pyramids—distinguished by their narrow bases and steep angles are the most iconic archaeological site.



Dinder National Park

Located along the Ethiopian border, this wildlife reserve hosts lions, leopards, hyenas, antelopes and hundreds of bird species.



Jebel Barkal (Mount Barkal)

A sacred sandstone mountain near Karima, surrounding it are temples and pyramids that reflect both Egyptian and Nubian architectural influences.



Nile Street:

Nile Street or Nile Avenue stretches along the Blue Nile River in Khartoum, it overflows with cafes and restaurants and monumental buildings.



Suakin Island

Suakin is known for its coral-stone buildings and Ottoman-era architecture.



The National Museum of Sudan (Khartoum)

Located where the White and Blue Niles meet, the Museum houses collections of various periods of Sudan's history.



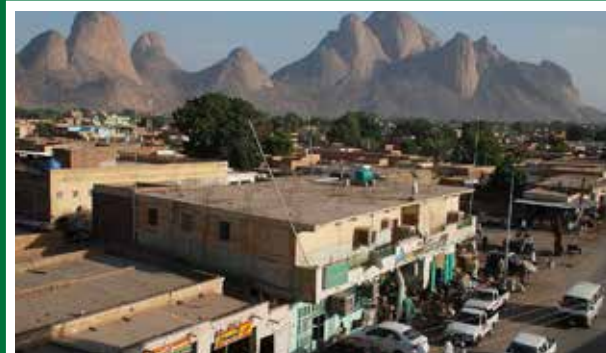
Omdurman City

Known as Sudan's cultural heart, Omdurman hosts the Mahdi's Tomb, the Khalifa House Museum and the country's largest traditional market. It is the centre of Sufi music, dancing and cultural ceremonies.



The Confluence of the Blue and White Nile (Khartoum)

A striking natural attraction where the two Niles meet, creating a visible colour contrast. This confluence is central to Sudan's identity and riverine culture.



Taka Mountains

Kassala is renowned for its dramatic granite peaks, vibrant traditional Beja culture and unique market. The Taka Mountains provide stunning landscapes and trekking opportunities.

Rwanda secures \$100M to modernize Revenue Systems

The World Bank approved \$100 million to help Rwanda strengthen domestic revenue collection and improve how public funds are managed and delivered. The financing, channelled through the IDA-backed Revenue Improvement and Spending Efficiency Program,

will modernize tax administration, expand electronic billing machines, and upgrade property tax systems.

The funding also aims to make public spending more efficient by improving project planning, procurement, and oversight

of state-owned enterprises. At the district level, the program will support better financial management and evidence-based development plans. The investment aligns with Rwanda's NST-2 vision of a transparent, citizen-focused public sector.



Brazil, the commitment highlights Africa's urgent need for clean, reliable power, with 600 million people still lacking electricity.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) projects Africa's nuclear capacity could triple by 2030 and grow sixteen-fold by 2050, but achieving this requires stronger policy frameworks, financing, skilled workforces, and harmonised regulations.

At COP30, the IAEA showcased how nuclear science already aids climate resilience—from wastewater treatment using electron-beam technology to blue-carbon monitoring, pest control, glacier observation, and fusion research.

Senegal, Rwanda join global push to triple nuclear power

Senegal and Rwanda joined 31 countries in endorsing the global pledge to triple nuclear energy

capacity by 2050, despite currently having no nuclear generation. Announced at COP30 in Belém,

Small modular reactors (SMRs) were also promoted as flexible options for emerging economies. A coalition of nuclear industry associations urged governments to uphold the tripling pledge, expand financing, and strengthen global nuclear supply chains.

Rails of integration as East Africa push for seamless connectivity

East Africa is set for a major connectivity boost after President William Ruto confirmed that construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) extension from Naivasha to Kampala — and later to Rwanda and the DRC border — will begin early next year. Speaking

in Tororo, Uganda in presence of President Yoweri Museveni, Ruto said the Kenya-Uganda joint project will officially launch in January 2026, marking a pivotal step toward deeper East African Community (EAC) integration. The SGR is expected to cut transport costs, ease regional

trade and unlock new economic corridors from the coast to inland markets. It will be reinforced by a jointly extended petroleum pipeline linking Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and the DRC, backed by new cooperation agreements between Nairobi and Kampala.

RSE unveils multi-currency trading platform



Pierre-Célestin Rwabukumba,
CEO of RSE

The Rwanda Stock Exchange (RSE) launched a Multi-currency Denominated Securities Market Segment (MDS), allowing investors to issue and trade securities in multiple currencies for the first time in the country. Announced during the 28th African Securities Exchanges

Association (ASEA) Conference in Kigali, the platform marks a major step toward positioning Rwanda as a modern, globally competitive financial hub.

Pierre-Célestin Rwabukumba, CEO of RSE said the new window will attract both

diaspora and foreign investors by enabling investments in foreign currencies—an option few African markets currently offer.

The initiative is expected to draw more foreign participation and give local issuers access to broader capital pools.

Central Bank digital currency pilot set for next year

Rwanda is set to enter the future of finance with the pilot launch of its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) next year, announced by National Bank Governor Soraya Hakuziyaremye. The initial phase will focus on financial sector employees, before expanding to the public and commercial traders, including testing cross-border transactions with markets like China, Nigeria, and Ghana.

The digital franc, fully backed by



legal tender, aims to reduce cash-handling costs, enhance transaction speed, and boost financial inclusion. Rwanda's success with cashless systems, including a 301% surge in mobile money usage, underscores the potential of

CBDC. Developed in collaboration with Rwanda Finance Limited and international fintech partners, the initiative represents a bold step toward innovation, efficiency, and positioning Rwandan businesses competitively on the global stage.

Kenya secures \$1 Billion U.S. debt swap to boost food security



Kenya will move forward with a \$1 billion debt-for-food security swap backed by the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), President William Ruto announced during his visit to Washington. The deal will allow Nairobi to replace expensive debt with lower-cost financing, with the

savings directed toward food security programs — mirroring the structure of recent debt-for-nature swaps in countries like Ecuador, Belize, and Gabon. Ruto said the agreement comes as Kenya faces heavy public debt pressures and is seeking new ways to free up resources for development and infrastructure.



Rwanda and DRC sign historic Washington accord, to end conflict

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame and DRC's President Félix Tshisekedi joined U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington to sign a landmark peace agreement aimed at ending more than 30 years of conflict between the two countries. The Washington Accord, finalized on December 4, 2025, follows months of U.S.-led negotiations and builds on earlier commitments signed in April and June.

The deal confronts the core issues that derailed previous agreements: Rwanda's security concerns over the FDLR militia operating in eastern DRC, and Congo's accusations that Rwanda backed rebel groups like M23. Under the new pact, the DRC

commits to neutralizing the FDLR and halting support to armed groups, while Rwanda agrees to withdraw forces and end any backing of proxies. A Joint Security Coordination Mechanism will monitor compliance alongside a new economic framework to stabilize border regions and secure mineral supply chains.

Trump hailed the accord as a "great day for Africa," crediting a wide coalition of regional and international actors for helping deliver a deal that eluded diplomats for decades. Kagame and Tshisekedi praised the U.S. role, saying the agreement marks a fresh start built on sincerity, accountability, and a shared vision for lasting peace.

Sudanese in Rwanda urges global action as crisis worsens

Sudanese nationals in Rwanda gathered in November to express solidarity with civilians trapped in their country's escalating conflict and to call for stronger international intervention. The event, organized by the Sudanese Embassy and community leaders, brought together students, investors and diaspora members.

Ambassador Khalid Musa Dafalla described the situation back home as a deepening humanitarian crisis, with thousands killed and millions displaced while famine is spreading. Fighting in El Fasher alone has forced over 60,000 people to flee.

Speakers highlighted grave abuses against women and children and condemned foreign backing for the Rapid Support Forces and called to protect civilians. They urged unity within the diaspora and renewed global attention to the crisis.

End to Ebola outbreak, DRC declares after swift response

The Democratic Republic of Congo officially ended its 16th Ebola outbreak on December 2 after going 42 days with no new infections. The outbreak, which began in September 2025 in Kasai Province with a pregnant woman, led to

53 confirmed cases and an estimated 45 deaths, including four health workers.

Rapid vaccination, intensive surveillance, and strong community engagement were key to containing the virus.

More than 44,400 people — from frontline staff to high-risk contacts — received vaccines.

Africa CDC Director General Dr. Jean Kaseya cautioned that ending transmission was only the beginning.



Rwanda, Sudan deepen diplomatic and economic ties

BY AIMABLE TWAHIRWA

For decades, Rwanda and Sudan have shared a quiet but resilient bond—one shaped by liberation struggles, humanitarian solidarity, and peacekeeping missions far from the spotlight.

Today, that relationship is undergoing its most profound transformation yet. In Kigali and Khartoum, a new diplomatic energy is reshaping old alliances into modern engines of trade, investment, and cultural exchange. From Sudan's growing stake in Rwanda's economy to Rwanda's peacekeeping legacy in Darfur, the two nations are crafting a blueprint for African-led cooperation at a time

Inside the fast-growing trade, people-to-people links, and \$50m investment boom



The Ambassador of Sudan to Rwanda, Khalid Musa Dafalla.

when the continent needs it most. This is the story of how history, ambition,

and shared values are forging a powerful partnership across the

Nile Basin and the Great Lakes region.

Sudan and Rwanda have enjoyed excellent diplomatic ties for now decades and the opening of embassies was a landmark achievement along the diplomatic journey of the two AU nations. Sudan opened its embassy in the capital, Kigali in 2011 as Rwanda reciprocated by opening its embassy in Khartoum in 2015.

The relations between Sudan and Rwanda trace to the Continent's decolonization era when Sudan supported liberation movements across Africa.

Moreover, Sudan was one the countries in the region to provide humanitarian assistance to Rwanda during the



“In the past six months, the trade value for coffee exceeded four million dollars, making Sudan one of Rwanda’s major buyers of these products.”

1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Rwanda significantly contributed to peace efforts in Sudan in 2003 through its peacekeeping mission in Darfur.

Both countries share common values including commitment to peace, stability, and African integration, and Sudan lauds Rwanda’s role promoting African-led solutions to continental challenges. President Paul Kagame championed and popularized the creation of one African market dubbed African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Now the relations are stretching to greater movement of people, trade, and cultural and educational exchange with an increasing number of Sudanese people living and working in Rwanda. The trade has led to growth in investment by the Sudanese business community, and integration of the peoples from the two AU nations.

Sudan’s investments in Rwanda have experienced significant growth in recent



President Kagame received Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan in August 2024 during the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony in Kigali.

years, reflecting a deepening economic partnership and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Building on this solid

foundation, the Sudanese government has expressed keen interest to further penetrate the fast-growing Rwandese coffee market as the Northeast African



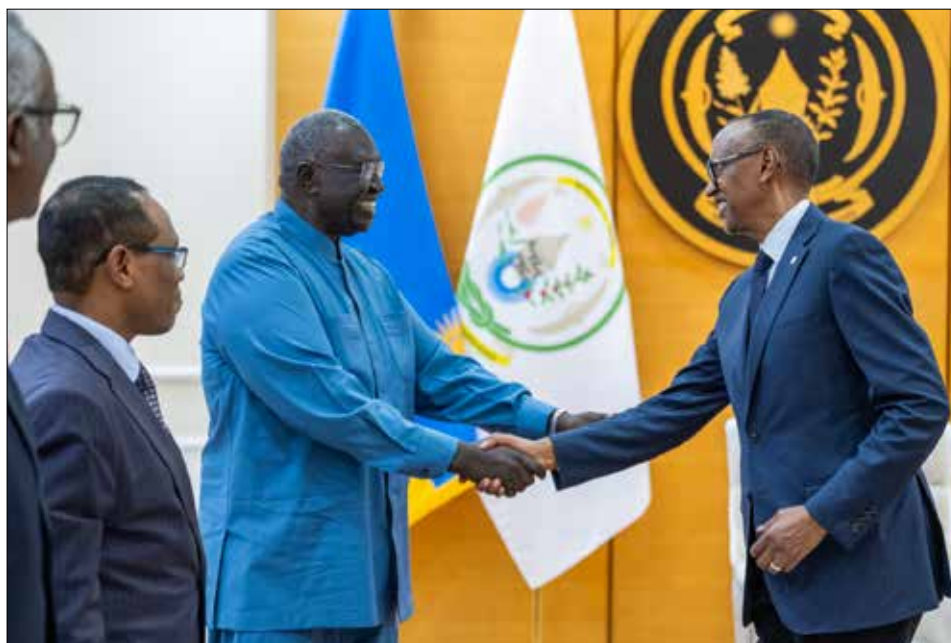
country becomes one of the top destinations for Rwanda coffee export.

Latest official figures released by the Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC) show that Rwanda exported \$6.23M to Sudan where the main export products were Tea (\$5.54M), Coffee (\$443k), and Other Oily Seeds (\$139k).

Estimates show that exports from Rwanda to Sudan have increased at an annualized rate of 3.74%, growing from \$5.19M in 2017 to \$6.23M in 2022.

In U.S. dollar terms, the total estimates of Sudanese investments in Rwanda has today reached about \$50 million, since the opening of Rwanda's diplomatic mission in Khartoum and the formal opening of Sudanese diplomatic representation in Kigali in 2013.

The Ambassador of Sudan to Rwanda, Khalid



In March 2025, President Kagame also received Malik Agar, Vice President of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of Sudan, who delivered a message from Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan.

“The exceptional stability and clear investment policies [in Rwanda] are among key factors driving Sudanese investments in the country”

Musa Dafalla, told Rwanda Dispatch that Investment links between the two countries are also growing where by Sudanese investors have of recent injected over \$20 million into Rwanda's economy, particularly in sectors like education, healthcare, construction, and infrastructure.

“In the past six months, the trade value for coffee exceeded four million

dollars, making Sudan one of Rwanda's major buyers of these products,” Ambassador Dafalla said in an exclusive interview.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR TRADE

Currently, Sudan and Rwanda are leveraging major projects to steer their cooperation, develop exemplary south-south cooperation projects, and promote



Rwanda has since 2005 deployed peacekeepers in Sudan's Darfur region as part of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

deep-level integration of interests.

The two countries are both members of a number of regional and continental blocs including the African Union, ICGLR, COMESA, EAPCCO, Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), Africa's longest river that brings together 10 upstream and downstream countries many other platforms.

As Africa's third-largest country by area and among the top five with natural and agricultural resources such as mineral, livestock and other kinds of resources, Sudan is currently seeking to strengthen its trade ties with Rwanda through various initiatives.

During the visit to Rwanda in March 2025, Rwandan President Paul Kagame and the Vice President of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of the Republic of Sudan Malik Agar agreed to activate joint cooperation mechanisms to achieve the mutual interests of the two countries and peoples.

Reaffirming the significance

of bilateral ties, the two leaders agreed to meet in person to further develop relations, whereby authorities in Khartoum are also calling on President Paul Kagame to intervene and lead an African effort to end the current conflict in Sudan.

Rwanda has since 2005 deployed peacekeepers in Sudan's Darfur region as part of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and before that, Rwanda was the first country to deploy peacekeepers in Sudan under AMIS.

The African Union and the international community have warned against the prospect of a parallel government over fears that it could further split the country into two.

Despite current prevailing security situation, the readings speak volumes for Rwanda-Sudan ties. Apart from huge investments across different key sectors in Rwanda, Sudan currently ranks among the top on list with the largest diaspora

population in Rwanda with about 6,000 Sudanese living in the country, where half are students which represents around 25 percent of all international students in Rwanda.

According to the Sudanese Ambassador to Rwanda, the two countries with great cultural affinity, have in recent years, expanded collaboration in tourism, education, medical care and trade to enhance the well-being and mutual learning of the two peoples.

"The exceptional stability and clear investment policies [in Rwanda] are among key factors driving Sudanese investments in the country," he said.

Rwanda and Sudan are proving that history can be a foundation, not a barrier. With trade, investment, and people-to-people ties flourishing, the partnership between the two offers a bold vision of African-led progress. Together, they are not just shaping bilateral relations — they are shaping the future of the continent.



One-On-One with HE Khalid Musa Dafalla

Ambassador of Sudan to Rwanda

Sudan and Rwanda have enjoyed strong diplomatic ties for many years, with Sudanese investors contributing significantly to Rwanda's development. That cooperation has steadily deepened across a range of sectors. Kigali and its outskirts are now home to a Sudanese community of around 6,000 people, whose presence is felt in trade, construction, education, hospitality and other key industries.

In this exclusive interview with Rwanda Dispatch's Steven Nsamaza, **His Excellency Khalid Musa Dafalla**, Sudan's Ambassador to Rwanda, speaks about the growing partnership between the two countries, the role Sudanese businesses are playing in Rwanda's economy and his vision for closer cooperation in the years ahead.

Here's an excerpt from the interview.

How would you describe the current relationship between Sudan and Rwanda?

HE Khalid: The relationship between Sudan and Rwanda is deeply rooted in historical ties that date back to Africa's decolonization period. Sudan played a key role in supporting liberation movements across the continent, and even during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, it was among the first countries in the region to provide humanitarian assistance to Rwanda.

Later, Rwanda reciprocated by contributing to peace efforts in Sudan in 2003, particularly through its peacekeeping mission in Darfur, where Rwandan troops earned high respect and trust from local communities.

These mutual acts of solidarity have strengthened the bond between our two nations and peoples. Over the years, our



His Excellency Khalid Musa Dafalla, Sudan's Ambassador to Rwanda.

cooperation has expanded across political, diplomatic, and social fields. Sudan opened its embassy in 2011 and Rwanda opened in Khartoum in 2015, further institutionalizing our bilateral relations.

Today, our priority is to deepen these diplomatic and political ties at the highest level. There have

been high-profile visits and exchanges between President Paul Kagame and General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council, reflecting a shared commitment to collaboration in economic, political, and regional matters.

What areas of cooperation are delivering tangible

progress in recent years?

HE Khalid: Economically, trade has become a key area of progress. Since early this year, we have begun importing Rwandan tea and coffee directly, bypassing auction intermediaries. In just six months, the trade value exceeded four million dollars, making Sudan one of Rwanda's major

buyers of these products. Conversely, Sudan is also exporting goods to Rwanda, strengthening two-way trade flows.

We have a growing Sudanese community of about 6,000 people in Rwanda, making it one of the largest African diaspora here. Interestingly, Sudanese students represent around 25 percent of all international students in Rwanda. This shows how academic and cultural exchange has become another pillar of our cooperation. A branch of a Sudanese university operates in Rwanda, and education remains a vital bridge between our nations.

Investment links are also growing. Sudanese investors have injected over \$20 million into Rwanda's economy, particularly in sectors like education, healthcare, construction, and infrastructure. Every day, more Sudanese professionals — engineers, doctors, and entrepreneurs — arrive to explore opportunities. They are drawn by Rwanda's political stability, business-friendly environment, and zero-tolerance on corruption.

What makes Rwanda such an attractive destination for the growing Sudanese community?

HE Khalid: First of all I want to extend my profound appreciation to the government of Rwanda for open doors to all Africans — specifically for

Sudanese who are facing difficulty during this time of war. As you know, over 13 million Sudanese have been displaced, and 5 million have become refugees due to the war. Fortunately, the Sudanese when they are coming here they don't come as refugees but as students, businessmen, skilled workers, and investors. They feel at home here because of the safety, hospitality, and inclusiveness of Rwandan society.

The factors that make Rwanda particularly attractive, first is they feel at home, its exceptional security, ease of doing business, and clear investment policies. For instance, it takes only a few days to register a business, and the process is transparent and free of corruption. Importantly, Rwanda's

strong commitment to Pan-Africanism creates a sense of belonging for Sudanese people here.

Sudanese investors are active across different sectors of Rwanda's economy. Which areas are attracting the most attention right now — and why?

HE Khalid:

Tangible progress has been achieved in the construction sector, considered to be among the most active. Currently, there are about six real estate Sudanese companies that are active in infrastructure, with projects worth millions of dollars. Agriculture is another area of growth, as investors take advantage of Rwanda's high-quality, organic

tropical produce for export. We have seven or eight companies investing in agriculture for both local and export market because

of Rwanda's advantage in agriculture.

There are also investments in financial services, education, pottery, and general trade. In manufacturing, a new glass-processing factory — the first of its kind in Rwanda — stands out as a symbol of growing industrial collaboration between the two countries.

Overall, Sudan and Rwanda enjoy a strong, multidimensional partnership — built on shared history, mutual respect, and a forward-looking vision of African cooperation.

How does the Sudanese diplomatic representation provide support to these initiatives?

HE Khalid: Before they come, they always call, directly or through their friends seeking advices, guidance. Because you know investment needs stability, stable policies and regulation, trust and credibility. So we give them assurances and encourage them to come to invest.

We currently have around 6,000 Sudanese living in Rwanda, and more than half of them are students. The younger generation, in particular, is actively engaging with the community



On the student side, any family calls first to bring their daughters and boys, so we encourage them to come. So we are promoting Rwanda for more Sudanese to come because this received advantage and secondly will also promote our bilateral relations, economy and cultural spheres.

Beyond trade and investment, how are Sudanese nationals integrating into Rwandan society — in education, culture, or everyday life?

HE Khalid: That's a very important question. I believe Sudanese nationals are integrating quite well into Rwandan society. We currently have around 6,000 Sudanese living in Rwanda, and more than half of them are students. The younger generation, in particular, is actively engaging with the community — many are even using social media to promote Rwanda as a great destination for foreigners.

Most Sudanese here are eager to learn from Rwanda's remarkable experience in social reconciliation, nation-building, and the rule of law. They see Rwanda as an inspiring model for Africa. We are all Africans; we share similar traditions, rhythms, and even music. The only real challenge is the language barrier, but many Sudanese are learning Kinyarwanda to better integrate. I was proud to see one Sudanese student recently win a national Rwandan football

competition in high school — and another perform traditional Rwandan dance with excellence. These are small but powerful examples of cultural connection and mutual respect.

Of course, newcomers may face initial adaptation challenges, but within two or three months, they adjust and feel at home. Overall, Sudanese nationals deeply respect Rwandan traditions, history, and values — and we truly celebrate their growing integration into Rwandan society as brothers and sisters.

What role does the Sudanese Embassy play in promoting cultural exchange between the two countries?

HE Khalid: The embassy plays an active role in strengthening cultural and academic ties between Sudan and Rwanda. Before the conflict in Sudan, many Rwandan students studied at Sudanese universities. Now, for the first time, we are seeing more Sudanese students and professionals

coming to Rwanda — which is a very positive sign of mutual exchange.

We are currently focusing on three key areas. First, we are promoting academic partnerships between universities in both countries. In the near future, we expect to sign cooperation and twinning agreements between Sudanese and Rwandan higher learning institutions.

Second, we are encouraging student exchanges and scholarships. Our Africa International University, which hosts about 50,000 students from across the continent, has agreed to offer scholarships to Rwandan students starting next year.

In addition, we are exploring collaboration in areas such as genocide documentation and memorial preservation, learning from Rwanda's remarkable experience in using culture and history to promote unity and reconciliation.

On a regional level, how do Sudan and Rwanda

collaborate within the African Union or other regional frameworks?

HE Khalid: Sudan and Rwanda enjoy strong cooperation within the African Union and other regional and international forums. Both countries share a commitment to peace, stability, and African integration. We deeply appreciate Rwanda's leadership within the AU, particularly its role in advancing reform initiatives and promoting African-led solutions to continental challenges.

Together, we work to strengthen African unity and ensure that issues such as human rights are addressed constructively — not used as political tools against African nations. At the UN and other multilateral platforms, Sudan and Rwanda often coordinate positions on key continental priorities. Both nations believe in Africa's potential as the continent of the future, driven by its young population and shared vision for self-reliance and sustainable development.



What are some of the main challenges facing the Sudanese community in Rwanda today?

HE Khalid: Most of the challenges we see are among students. Many of them come from conflict-affected areas in Sudan, so some arrive a bit traumatized and need time to adjust to a peaceful environment. Adapting socially and emotionally can be difficult at first, but with support from local institutions and the Rwandan government, these issues are usually managed well.

Another challenge is the language barrier. Many Sudanese students come from Arabic-speaking backgrounds and need time to adjust to Rwanda's English-based education system. However, most are making good progress and adapting gradually.

For other Sudanese like businesspeople and professionals — the main issues are administrative or immigration-related, though generally minor and handled efficiently with the help of Rwandan authorities. Overall, the Sudanese community feels well-supported, and the environment for business and study remains positive.

What is your assessment of the current situation in Sudan, and what efforts are being made toward peace and national reconciliation?

HE Khalid: The fall of Al-Fashir as the historical



capital of Darfur in late October 2025 by RSF reveals how far the brutality and atrocities committed by the militia against civilians including women and children. Its not just a mass killing, its an ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity that are well documented by the international community and well reputable media outlets.

The regional power funding this war and paying for mercenaries that belong to 17 countries in Latin America and Africa wanted to apply Libyan scenario by dividing Sudan into two spheres and two governments. Sudanese people will continue fighting for their territorial integrity and national unity. We are open to the peace process that is based on Jeddah declaration.

Furthermore, the Gov. of the Sudan welcomes the US administration efforts to put an end to this war and produce just peace that will hold those perpetrators accountable for their crimes and halt the external aggression against my country. There is no doubt that we will restore our dignity and unity of the country on the basis of last and durable peace by all means possible.

Rwanda in peace making, national unity and social reconciliation remains an inspiring African model that will give us hope and wisdom to follow accordingly to our own circumstances and social specification..

Looking ahead, what will be your main priorities as Ambassador to deepen bilateral relations between Sudan and Rwanda?

HE Khalid: My main priority is to build on the already strong political and diplomatic relations between Sudan and Rwanda by expanding cooperation at the people-to-people level.

Government-to-government ties are excellent, but we now need to strengthen direct engagement between our citizens — through greater movement of people, trade, and cultural and educational exchange.

I want to see more partnerships between our business communities, universities, and cultural institutions. Sudanese and Rwandans share many common values and interests, and by deepening these human connections, we can further promote mutual prosperity and understanding between our two nations.

If you had to name one legacy you'd like to leave at the end of your term, what would it be?

HE Khalid: Definitely, if I can leave one legacy, I think it would be for Rwanda to become a peace partner for Sudan — through its support, encouragement, and assistance in whatever is required to achieve peace in Sudan, based on Rwanda's historical achievements as a successful African model.

I also want Rwanda to be an economic partner and one of the top countries for cultural exchange and cooperation between our peoples.

FROM SUDAN TO RWANDA: HOW MEDAT IS SHAPING AFRICA'S SKYLINES



When Wail Ameer Nour walked out of university in Khartoum with a degree in engineering, he could not have imagined that his journey would one day lead him to the rolling green hills of Rwanda. What he did know — even then — was

that his path would be tied to construction, shaping skylines, and leaving a mark on the African continent.

In 2013, with little more than determination and a vision, Eng. Nour helped establish Medat Construction & Real Estate Development Ltd.

What began as a modest local company soon grew into one of Sudan's most dynamic construction and real estate groups. Within a few years, the company had completed tens of projects — from residential complexes and commercial towers to hospitals and

mosques — earning a reputation for reliability and ambition.

Eng. Wail Ameer Nour, Managing Director of Medat Construction & Real Estate Development Ltd set up a highly skilled engineering and management team



supported by a fully integrated organizational structure to cover the entire project lifecycle — from concept to delivery and this became the company’s main ingredient to success.

By 2020, Medat’s horizons had expanded beyond Sudan. Under the brand Petra, the company set foot in Dubai, taking on major projects, including luxury villas in Hor Al Anz. It was a bold step that confirmed Eng. Nour’s belief that his work was not confined to one city or one country, but part of a broader vision to build across regions and cultures. But for Eng. Nour,



Eng. Wail Ameer Nour, Managing Director of Medat Construction & Real Estate Development Ltd

the Gulf was not the final destination. His vision was broader, rooted in a belief that Africa itself was the next frontier for growth and

innovation. Stories about Rwanda fascinated him and one friend confirmed the potential of the East African nation.

“From 2021, I started following news about development in African countries” he recalls. “I wanted to start projects on the continent — projects that uplift communities, create jobs, and inspire innovation.”

Why Rwanda? A Strategic and Personal Choice

Eng. Nour’s entry into Rwanda was both personal and strategic. A friend

affiliated with the Sudanese Embassy in Kigali had encouraged him to explore the country, praising its safety, transparent business environment, and systematic governance. He listened carefully, and by March 2023, he was ready to establish Medat’s Rwandan branch.

“Rwanda feels like home, we have much in common” Eng. Nour says. “people are welcoming, the systems are clear, and there’s a sense of order. It’s the kind of environment that allows a business to thrive while contributing to the community.”

Today, the company has eight active construction projects in Rwanda, with three more in the pipeline having concluded Memorandums of Understanding (MoU). With a total portfolio of 176 projects, the company's scope covers the entire spectrum of real estate and construction services: landscaping, interior design, demolition, civil works, as well as residential and commercial property development. Of the company's 270-plus workforce, the majority are Rwandan engineers and technicians.

The Managing Director of Medat Construction & Real Estate Development considers Rwanda not merely as a market but a strategic partner that can also be a launchpad for regional growth.

"We have established our headquarters here in Kigali, with plans to expand into East African region. We have already started work in Zanzibar and opening in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This is where we build our future."

This approach reflects Medat's broader corporate strategy: to establish itself as the preferred partner in contracting and real estate development across East Africa and the Gulf, driven by quality, commitment, and innovation.



Building with Innovation while Investing in People

Innovation lies at the core of Medat's operations. The company has plans to begin local production of eco-friendly red bricks made from sustainable materials.

This is meant to contribute to the value chain and make housing more affordable while aligning with Rwanda's environmental

and urban development goals.

Eng. Nour envisions the rollout of this initiative by 2026, complementing the government's drive toward sustainable urbanization and contributing to the global movement for green construction practices.

While Medat prides itself on its infrastructure projects, the company's greatest

investment is in human capital. From Sudan to Rwanda, Medat has made training and capacity building central to its mission.

In Sudan, the company trained hundreds of graduates — many of whom now work in the Gulf and Europe. In Rwanda, Medat is replicating this model, equipping local technicians and engineers with skills to independently manage complex projects.

"We aim to create a generation of Rwandan experts," Eng. Nour explains. "Sustainable development begins with people. Our goal is to provide not only buildings but also skills, jobs, and opportunities for local communities."

Overcoming Challenges in a New Market

Establishing a business in Rwanda has not been without challenges. Eng. Nour notes that his first months in the country were spent observing, learning, and adapting. Success in Rwanda required visible commitment and tangible progress before trust and opportunities materialized.

Communication styles and business expectations initially required adjustment, but Medat's reliance on local engineers and technicians helped bridge gaps.

In terms of skills, the local workforce excel in structural design and project execution, while finishing works often benefits from external expertise — a gap that Medat is bridging with specialized training and knowledge transfer.



Opportunities in Rwanda's Real Estate Sector

Rwanda's hilly terrain presents unique challenges for construction, especially in terms of land availability. Vertical development, Eng. Nour argues, is the practical solution. Despite these constraints, he sees strong opportunities for housing projects across all income levels.

"The cost of building here is lower than and return on investment can be realized in as little as five years. It's attractive for investors committed to sustainable, long-term projects."

Through these initiatives, Medat Construction & Real Estate Development directly supports Rwanda's Vision 2050, contributing to sustainable urban growth, architectural identity, and environmental preservation.

Looking Ahead: Building Africa's Future

From its humble beginnings in Khartoum, Medat Construction & Real Estate Development has grown into a regional powerhouse with operations in Sudan, the UAE, Rwanda, and Zanzibar. Its journey reflects the resilience, ambition, and community spirit that define African enterprise.

"Our work is about more than concrete and steel," Eng. Nour says. "It's about people, communities, and the potential of Africa. Rwanda is just the beginning."

With projects rising across Kigali and plans to expand further into East



Africa, Eng. Wail Ameer Nour's vision is clear: to build structures that last, empower communities, and leave a legacy of innovation and sustainability.

For a company that started with a single project in Sudan and now bridges continents and cultures, the message is simple: when ambition meets

opportunity, Africa's future can be constructed — brick by brick.

A Comprehensive Service Portfolio

Medat Construction & Real Estate Development services cover the full lifecycle of construction and real estate development, including:

Real Estate Development: feasibility studies, market positioning, execution, and sales/leasing.

General Contracting: concrete structures, finishing works, and public facilities.

Engineering Design & Consultancy: architectural drawings, bills of quantities, and client meetings.

Procurement & Logistics: supply chain, clearance, and shipping.

Industrial Services: aluminum and steel fabrication, limestone quarry operations, and brick manufacturing.

Innovation: 3D-printed homes, a forward-looking solution for affordable housing.

CSR & Capacity Building: training and skill development for young engineers and technicians.

Backed by a robust organizational structure with clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), time-cost tracking systems, and weekly reviews, the company ensures that every project meets international standards of quality, safety, and timely delivery.

FRONTIER DIAGNOSTIC CENTER: WHERE INNOVATION MEETS COMPASSION

HOW DR. SUSAN HOMEIDA IS HELPING SHAPE A WORLD-CLASS MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL HUB IN KIGALI.

BY JOHN MUGISHA

On a warm Kigali morning, sunlight spills over the manicured greens of the city's golf course, overlooking this serene landscape stands a sleek building in Nyarutarama — home to a quiet revolution in healthcare.

Frontier Diagnostic Center is more than a medical facility. It is a modern clinical facility and a symbol of what can be achieved at the intersection of Sudanese medical expertise and Rwanda's ambitious vision for progress. For many, it represents hope and a new chapter in the transformation of African healthcare.

At the heart is Dr. Susan Mamoun Homeida, the Managing Director and a consultant haematologist. Her journey across continents has shaped a mission rooted in excellence, service, and the belief that every community deserves access to world-class care.

Dr. Susan was born in Bristol, UK, and moved to Sudan at age 10, where she grew up and completed



Dr. Susan Mamoun Homeida

her medical degree at the University of Khartoum. She later returned to the United Kingdom

to specialize in clinical hematology and worked there for 14 years before relocating to Sudan in 2015 to manage one of the country's largest hospitals and teach at a leading university.

"It was an opportunity to serve my own people," she says. "But I knew my mission would one day extend beyond Sudan."

Sudan's political upheaval brought uncertainty to institutions and professionals alike. "We anticipated it and the most important thing was to rescue the university.

It was a major concern for the founder of the University prof. Mamoun who built this institution through the years," she notes.

In 2020, she accepted an invitation from a Sudanese colleague to explore investment opportunities in Rwanda. What she found left a lasting impression: order, cleanliness, security, and a sense of collective discipline. "Rwanda stood out immediately," she said.

Beyond these qualities, it was Rwanda's national ethos that resonated with her. "Rwanda is a living example of how leadership can unite a people," she observes. "With good governance, it rebuilt itself through discipline, unity, and purpose. That inspires



RWANDANS DESERVE WORLD-CLASS HEALTHCARE AT HOME. OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS ACCESSIBLE, ACCURATE, AND RELIABLE."



HEALTH

us.” Our family’s vision aligned naturally with Rwanda’s long-term strategy of building a knowledge-driven economy, advancing digital innovation, and strengthening its healthcare system.

The Homeida family is no stranger to institution-building. For over two decades, their University of Medical Science and Technology (UMST) in Sudan educated thousands of doctors, nurses, and different medical practitioners from across Africa and the Arab world. Professor Mamaoun Homeida, the family patriarch and former WHO consultant spent decades traveling through rural African communities, delivering healthcare and training. Frontier Diagnostic Center represents the continuation of that legacy, now taking root in Rwanda.

PATIENTS ENCOUNTER HIGH STANDARDS OF MEDICAL SERVICE.

The center is equipped with state of art modern equipment and specialized medical units like; MRI machine, advanced CT-scan technology, fully automated laboratory, FDR Smart digital X-rays, and modern echocardiography,



ultrasound, Mamography, new EEG and EMG machines . Its specialized clinics includes: Pediatric, Obstetrics & Gynecology with 4D Ultrasound, Cardiology, Gastroenterology with advanced Endoscopy unit, ENT, Neurology, Neurosurgeon, Rheumatology, Orthopedic, Physiotherapy, e.t.c.

For many Rwandans, such services previously required traveling abroad.

“Rwandans deserve world-class healthcare at home,” Dr. Susan said. “Our mission is to make advanced diagnostics

accessible, accurate, and reliable.”

Yet technology alone doesn’t define this health facility but also the people behind it.

“

HEALTHCARE MUST BE ACCESSIBLE, NOT CENTRALIZED. IF A MOTHER IN MUSANZE HAS TO WAIT HOURS FOR A SCAN, THAT IS A FAILURE. WE WANT TO FIX THAT”

Janvier Munyaneza, One of Frontier staff who joined the center during its construction phase describes Frontier Diagnostic Center as life-changing. Frontier continues to contribute to our development as staff financially and professionally.

“I achieved many things since I joined Frontier Team . I got married and acquired different assets while working here,” he said. The staff is multicultural, including Sudanese, Rwandans, Filipinos, Egyptians, and British consultants. Janvier says this diversity makes





have received advanced intensive care training in Sudan, with expanded programs on the horizon.

The Center also aims to extend its reach beyond Kigali so that all Rwandans can access health care services near their homes. “All Rwandans should have access for excellent health care near home,” Dr. Susan emphasized. “A mother in Rusizi deserves to be scanned near home. We want to contribute in this.”

Running a high-quality facility comes with challenges. Modern equipment is costly, specialized staff are scarce, and training programs require significant resources. But Dr. Susan remains unfazed. “Every day brings a challenge,” she said. “But challenges are opportunities in disguise.” Frontier is also investing in digital systems to improve communication and efficiency.

“If you want to go far, go together,” Dr. Susan Mamoun Homeida notes. “Rwanda is a nation determined to go far.” Her mission remains clear: to build institutions that endure, train generations of future health workers, and ensure that every Rwandan and African can access the care they deserve.



the health facility feel like a family.

Dr. Susan stresses the importance of inclusion and respect. “We give space for opinions. Our team helps shape decisions.

We grow together,” she said. The Center’s strong staff retention reflects this culture with a few leaving once they join.

Beyond clinical care, Frontier Diagnostic Center

is nurturing a broader vision: medical education. Plans are underway to build a large teaching hospital in Kigali-Busanza and will serve as a referral center and educational institution. Already, Rwandan nurses



UMST SHAPES AFRICA'S FUTURE THROUGH MEDICINE AND INNOVATION



In Kigali, a new generation of African doctors is taking shape at the University of Medical Sciences and Technology (UMST), where decades of Sudanese experience meet Rwanda's promise for the future.

BY JOHN MUGISHA

Under the leadership of Dr. Mamoun Homeida, the Sudanese founder and chairman, UMST is more

than a university — it is a bridge between nations, a catalyst for healthcare improvement, and a home for students displaced by conflict.

“Universities must maintain the highest academic standards. Education should be excellent, never compromised,” says Dr Mamoun Homeida. “Our strength lies in our 30-year

heritage from Sudan. We came to Rwanda not to start from scratch, but to build on decades of proven excellence.”

Dr Mamoun Homeida's

journey began decades ago in Sudan, where he earned his medical degree from the University of Khartoum in 1970 and later became a professor of internal medicine and gastroenterology. He is also a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and previously lectured at Bristol University in the United Kingdom before returning to Sudan. In 1996, he founded UMST in Khartoum — the country's first private university.

For Dr Mamoun Homeida, expanding UMST beyond Sudan was a natural progression. “Our vision was to spread our experience across the continent,” he explains.

Rwanda became the first country outside Sudan to host a UMST campus, beginning a journey that combined education, healthcare service, and community engagement.

After acquiring land in Kigali and navigating regulatory processes for nearly four years, the university officially opened its doors. During that period, the Frontier Diagnostic Center was established, becoming a well-known healthcare institution in the city.

“Our decision to come to Rwanda was never about Sudan's political turmoil,” Dr Mamoun Homeida clarifies. “We began planning this four years before the war. The goal was always to expand African education,



Dr. Mamoun Homeida, the Founder and Chairman.

to bring excellence to other countries — and Rwanda was ideal for that mission.”

At the heart of UMST's philosophy is a curriculum that blends global medical standards with African realities. Having worked across the continent since the 1990s, including as a World Health Organization consultant on diseases like

river blindness, Dr Mamoun Homeida believes education must address Africa's specific needs.

“We call it ‘Go Africa,’” he says. “Sudan belongs to Africa. Our teaching integrates tropical medicine and regional health challenges so our students are prepared not just globally, but locally as well.”

Education in Africa, he notes, faces immense challenges. Many countries have too few universities for their growing populations. Tanzania, for example, has roughly one university per six million people.

“Quality higher education is the foundation of national development,” he says. “As Mahathir Mohamad reflected about Malaysia, education transforms nations. Africa must uplift its universities if it hopes to progress economically and socially.”

Rwanda, Dr Mamoun Homeida adds, is uniquely welcoming to investors and educators. “The leadership here is practical and visionary. From the moment you arrive at the airport, you feel the openness and friendliness of the country. Regulations are supportive of genuine development, unlike places where bureaucracy slows progress.”

Within two years of its establishment in Rwanda, UMST began actively contributing to the country's healthcare system. The university assisted the Ministry of Health in combating river blindness, drawing on decades of research and expertise. It also introduced scholarships for Rwandan students and launched community service programs, sending students to schools, prisons, and marketplaces to raise public health awareness.

UMST partners with leading research institutions such as SIKIN, collaborates with the University of Rwanda, and engages its staff as external examiners. These relationships — along with government support for accreditation and scholarships — allow the university to thrive and integrate meaningfully into Rwandan society.

“Education is about serving people,” Dr Mamoun Homeida says. “Some of our consultants volunteer at Nyarugenge Hospital, and we’ve donated modern equipment like a \$40,000 ultrasound machine. We work together because, as the African proverb says, ‘If you want to go far, go together.’”

The university also prioritizes students’ well-being, especially those displaced by Sudan’s conflict. It provides counseling services, a psychiatrist on staff, and a proactive Deanship of Student Affairs that



Mutassim Osama Mohammed Alhassan

supports accommodation, welfare, and mental health. The student union fosters community by organizing donations and supporting peers in need.

Mutassim Osama Mohammed Alhassan, a teaching assistant in pharmacy who arrived in Rwanda from Saudi

Arabia three months ago, praises UMST’s supportive environment.

“The university provides everything a student or teacher needs to succeed. English is our language of instruction, but Kinyarwanda lessons for first-year students help Sudanese students

communicate and integrate into the local community.”

Medical student Alaa Ahmad Mustafa Nourgelir echoes this sentiment. Displaced from Sudan due to conflict, she describes Rwanda as “safe, welcoming, and empowering.”

“Living and studying here has allowed me to become independent, to explore new cultures, and to make lifelong friends,” she says. She advises prospective students to respect local customs, learn the language, and embrace the independence that comes with studying abroad.

UMST’s Kigali campus is fully operational and accredited by Rwanda’s Higher Education Council. It offers state-of-the-art facilities and provides hands-on training through clinical rotations in six



has been exceptionally supportive, and we feel part of this society. UMST is here for the long term.”

From Sudan to Rwanda, UMST proves that education and innovation can cross borders, shape futures, and strengthen communities. With a mission grounded in excellence, social responsibility, and African identity, the university is not just training professionals—it is nurturing leaders who will transform the continent.

Mutassim Alhassan sums it up simply: “UMST gives students the tools to compete globally while remaining connected to Africa.”

Alaa Nourgelir agrees: “It’s more than a university—it’s a community, a home, and a launchpad for our dreams.”

For Dr Mamoun Homeida, that is exactly the point. “We came to Rwanda to sustain excellence, to promote African integration, and to support the development of education and healthcare. This is our vision for Africa’s future, and we are committed to it fully.”

Across Kigali—in lecture halls, laboratories, and community outreach programs—the next generation of African doctors is learning, serving, and innovating. And at the heart of it all is UMST, a Sudanese-born university now shaping Rwanda’s and Africa’s tomorrow.

hospitals across Kigali and beyond. With nearly 2,000 students from Rwanda, Sudan, Congo, and Tanzania, the university has become a “small Africa” that celebrates both diversity and integration.

The university’s vision extends beyond education. A 25–30 bed teaching hospital is under construction in Kanombe, equipped with modern facilities to train students and serve the community.

“We are investing in human capital—producing doctors, engineers, and professionals who will build nations,” Dr Mamoun Homeida says. “Development is the development of minds and skills.”

UMST’s Sudanese heritage, combined with its Rwandan presence, offers a model of cross-border educational



collaboration. Its faculties include medicine, dentistry, medical laboratory science, pharmacy, and programs in healthcare administration and research. The university maintains international recognition while meeting local needs, contributing to Rwanda’s healthcare system and economy. Families from across Africa

and beyond now send their children to study in Kigali, enhancing Rwanda’s reputation as a safe and progressive educational destination.

“Challenges remain, of course,” Dr Mamoun Homeida admits. “Language learning and integration take time. But Rwanda



NEODERMA CLINICA

WHERE MODERN MEDICINE MEETS AESTHETIC PRECISION

On a quiet corner of Kibagabaga in Kigali, a new kind of medical space has been taking shape. **Neoderma Clinica**, founded with a vision of blending science, artistry, and compassionate care, has steadily grown into one of the country's most comprehensive hubs for treatments designed to enhance beauty, improve health, and restore confidence.

Inside Neoderma, patients encounter a multidisciplinary team of plastic surgeons, dermatologists, dentists, nutritionists, and wellness practitioners — each contributing to a model of care to beauty and health. Every patient receives personalized attention through tailored treatment plans that combine advanced technology with modern medical expertise.

Dr. Rosa Mohammed, Co-Founder and Managing Director, recalls the early aspirations that shaped the centre, “our vision was to create a world-class destination where beauty, wellness, and advanced medical care come together in perfect harmony.

“Today, we stand proud as a centre of excellence, offering internationally recognized treatments delivered with precision, integrity, and heartfelt care... Our mission is to empower each patient with confidence through personalized, ethical, and transformative services.”

That philosophy now runs through every department in the clinic's growing

ecosystem. Comprehensive services at the clinic include the following:

DERMATOLOGY & ADVANCED SKINCARE

The dermatology wing is a busy and diverse department, serving patients with concerns that range from medical conditions to cosmetic refinement. Specialists here work with tools such as microneedling, PRP, mesotherapy, and chemical peels, offering care for:

- Acne and acne-scar management
- Hyperpigmentation and melasma treatments
- Anti-aging therapies, collagen stimulation, and wrinkle reduction
- Chemical peels, microneedling, PRP, and mesotherapy
- Treatment of eczema, psoriasis, fungal



Dr. Rosa Mohammed, Co-Founder and Managing Director

infections, and chronic skin conditions

Each treatment begins with a full skin analysis, followed by a personalized care plan grounded in medical-grade technology and evidence-based practice.

PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Beyond skincare, Neoderma offers a complete suite of

plastic and reconstructive surgical options. These range from body contouring and liposuction to abdominoplasty, breast procedures, and facial surgeries such as rhinoplasty and facelifts.

Reconstructive solutions for congenital concerns, trauma, or burn injuries are also carried out with strict safety standards and a focus on natural results. The goal, the surgeons emphasize, is not transformation for its own sake but restoring harmony, confidence, and function.

LASER & AESTHETIC TECHNOLOGY

The soft hum of machines and the precision of light-based therapies mark another wing of the clinic. Here, technology plays a central role in treatments like:

- Laser hair removal
- Tattoo removal
- Stretch-mark and scar reduction
- Skin tightening and lifting
- Pigmentation and vascular laser therapy
- Advanced non-surgical body contouring
- Facial rejuvenation using



True Beauty Starts with Great Skin

RF, ultrasound, and light systems

The centre's equipment is selected to match international standards, ensuring effective outcomes while prioritizing safety.

DENTAL & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

The dental department at Neoderma caters for families and individuals who come for both routine oral health and cosmetic

enhancements with services that includes:

- Cleanings, fillings, root canals, and extractions
- Teeth whitening
- Dental implants, crowns, bridges, veneers
- Orthodontics — braces and aligners
- Pediatric dental care
- Complete smile-design programs

The dentists here combine functional care with aesthetic precision to support long-term oral

health and confident smiles.

NUTRITION, DIET & WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

Nutritionists at Neoderma have brought a new dimension to personalized care, designing programs tailored to medical needs and lifestyle. Patients seek support for:

- Weight-loss and weight-control
- Customized Meal planning
- Diabetes and metabolic management
- Postpartum and post-surgery nutrition
- Lifestyle and fitness coaching

Follow-ups are available both in-person and online, helping individuals stay committed to long-term habits.

WELLNESS & REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

To support overall health and vitality, Neoderma Clinica offers treatments designed to boost immunity, energy, and cellular rejuvenation: A growing interest in

preventive health has shaped the clinic's wellness and regenerative services, such as:

- IV vitamin infusions and detox programs
- Anti-fatigue and performance therapies
- Hormonal support treatments
- PRP and regenerative hair solutions
- Comprehensive wellness assessments

The goal is to improve vitality, immunity, and overall quality of life through science-backed therapies.

A NEW KIND OF MEDICAL DESTINATION

What began as a vision is now a fully developed ecosystem. Patients who walk into Neoderma Clinica often remark that they find something unusual — a space where medical precision, aesthetic care, and personal wellness coexist seamlessly under one roof.

"We believe in merging beauty with health and wellness." Dr. Rosa Mohammed underscores.

With its multidisciplinary approach, commitment to safety, and focus on innovation, Neoderma Clinica has carved out a new standard for integrated medical and aesthetic services in Rwanda. It continues to evolve, but its foundation remains unchanged: care that is ethical, patient-centered, and grounded in modern science.



SUDANESE INVESTORS EYE BIGGER OPPORTUNITIES IN RWANDA'S SAFETY GLASS MANUFACTURING

BY AIMABLE TWAHIRWA;

From manufacturing expansion to innovation-driven upgrades, Sudanese investors are scaling up their investment and positioning themselves for new opportunities in Rwanda. Silverback Glass Processing, a Sudanese-owned company is Rwanda's pioneering glass processing factory, currently offering a diverse range of cutting-edge products and bringing unparalleled innovation to the market, revolutionizing the glass industry, and setting new standards for quality and service.

Rwanda's booming real estate industry relies heavily on glass to enhance energy efficiency and modern architectural design. Official projections show the country's glass manufacturing market is expected to grow at an impressive 14.64% by 2027. Across Africa, this growth is being driven by innovation and increasing adoption of emerging technologies—markets in countries in the region continue to play a leading role.

According to Mohamed Abuelgasim, the Managing Director of Silverback Glass Processing, there is pressing need for real estate developers [in Rwanda] to start using tempered glass in the construction sector



which is about five times stronger than regular glass.

“As glass relies heavily on sand as a key component of its production, with long-term concerns around supply, tempered safety glass is essential in buildings for injury prevention, compliance with regulations, and durability,” Abuelgasim told Rwanda Dispatch.

The Managing Director explains that safety glass are recommended for use especially where safety is a priority including shower doors, and glass doors in various building facilities. This is because when

shattered, tempered glass breaks into small, blunt pieces, which reduces the risk of injury compared to regular glass that can break into sharp shards.

SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL NEEDS

Officially inaugurated in 2025, the new glass processing factory is relying on mix of key imported and locally available raw materials to produce the first “Made in Rwanda” tempered safety glass, and tempered laminated safety glass.

Abuelgasim said that the factory has created not only direct and indirect jobs for

locals, stressing that at full production capacity, the factory will meet the local market needs with cost-effective glass for building.

“We aim to provide local products and solutions for local needs, shortening delivery times, and achieve cost-effectiveness for our customers,” he said. Silverback Glass Processing Limited can process not only tempered glass, laminated glass, besides, but also various kinds of laminated glasses and curtain walls.

The Managing Director urges builders to move beyond traditional preferences and embrace safety-enhanced materials that offer greater strength, durability, and long-term value. The company is steadily grown its output while positioning itself at the center of Rwanda's evolving construction landscape.



CASCADIA APARTMENTS KIGALI

MODERN LIVING AT THE HEART OF THE CITY

Just minutes from Kigali's most iconic landmarks, **Cascadia Apartments** is redefining what it means to live — and stay — in comfort and style. Conveniently located in Gasabo District, a few steps from Question Coffee and a short drive from both Kigali International Airport (1.9 mi) and the Kigali Convention Center (1.1 mi), Cascadia blends modern luxury with the warmth of genuine Rwandan hospitality.

Though officially opened in early 2024, Cascadia carries a rich legacy. Its founders have spent years shaping exceptional living spaces across Kigali, crafting homes loved by residents. Cascadia Apartments is the pinnacle of that journey — an elegant, purpose-designed property created with meticulous attention to detail.

Each apartment is a showcase of modern aesthetic: sleek finishes, high ceilings, and sunlit interiors highlighted by large windows. Plush furnishings, curated artwork, and soft accents create spaces that feel both sophisticated and deeply inviting. Whether for short stays or long-term living, Cascadia offers a home that radiates comfort.

AMENITIES DESIGNED FOR TODAY'S LIFESTYLE

Guests enjoy a suite of upscale, thoughtfully designed facilities, including:

- Rooftop swimming pool with panoramic city views
- Fully equipped fitness center for everyday wellness
- High-speed internet and smart-home touches
- In-unit laundry, abundant storage, and private balconies
- 24/7 concierge and secure access for complete peace of mind
- Cozy fireplaces, custom lighting, and outdoor terraces that elevate daily living

Every detail, from climate control to kitchen design, is crafted for seamless, stress-free comfort.

Strategically located in one of Kigali's prime neighborhoods,

Cascadia places guests at the center of convenience:

- Kigali Centenary Park –2.1 mi
- Inema Art Center –1.7 mi
- Niyo Art Gallery –0.5 km
- Amahoro Stadium & BK Arena – within 1 km

Whether you're heading to a business conference, catching a concert, or exploring Kigali's vibrant art scene, everything is within easy reach.

A PERFECT BLEND FOR BUSINESS AND LEISURE

With its rooftop pool, lush garden, sun terrace, family-friendly rooms, and fully furnished kitchenettes, Cascadia Apartments offers the ideal retreat for travelers — and the ideal lifestyle for long-term residents.

Modern, elegant, and perfectly located, Cascadia Apartments Kigali isn't just a place to stay. It's a place to live beautifully.





AL-AZIZIA ACADEMIC TRAINING CENTER: REBUILDING FUTURES, ONE CLASSROOM AT A TIME

BY STEVEN NSAMAZA

In recent years, Rwanda has welcomed a growing Sudanese community—businesspeople, professionals, and families who chose the country for its stability and opportunities. While the ongoing conflict in Sudan accelerated this movement, most arrivals came as investors and active members of the African diaspora seeking continuity, safety, and a fresh start. Among their priorities was ensuring that their children’s education remained uninterrupted. It is within this context that **Al-Azizia Academic Training Center** emerged—a pioneering institution built to preserve learning, identity and hope.

Established by the Al-Azizia International Foundation for Private Education, the center officially opened in September 2025 after receiving approval from Rwandan authorities. It delivers a comprehensive Sudanese curriculum aligned with international standards, supporting learners from primary through secondary levels.

“Our vision is to create an educational landmark in a stimulating and innovative environment,” says Aziza Ragab Saieed Awaden, the founder of Al-Azizia International Foundation

for Private Education. “We aim to graduate a generation of leaders capable of competing globally, despite the challenges they have faced.”

The center was founded not for commercial gain but out of a deep sense of social and professional responsibility. A group of Sudanese shareholders—educators and community members—joined efforts in what they describe as a humanitarian duty: ensuring that Sudanese children in Rwanda maintain continuity in their education and connection to their cultural and academic heritage.

A LIFELINE OF STABILITY AND BELONGING - RWANDA AS A SECOND HOME

As Sudanese families settled in Rwanda, some enrolled their children in local schools, while others sought continuity through the Sudanese system. Recognizing this need, the Al-Azizia team built the center on three pillars: inclusion, psychosocial support, and social responsibility.

The school became a space where children could learn in a familiar curriculum while receiving emotional care to help them navigate the stress of relocation. Extracurricular programs—cultural exchanges, sports, competitions, and heritage exhibitions—serve as bridges of understanding between Sudanese and Rwandan communities.



Aziza Ragab Saieed Awaden, the founder of Al-Azizia International Foundation for Private Education.

“It’s more than academics,” Madam Aziza notes. “These activities foster friendship, tolerance, and mutual respect.”

The decision to establish the school in Rwanda reflects the country’s reputation for stability, safety, and its welcoming environment for immigrants, investors, and skilled professionals. For many Sudanese families,

“A GENERATION IS BEING PREPARED FROM RWANDA—OUR SECOND HOME—TO ONE DAY CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER SUDAN”



Kigali has become a reliable base to rebuild their lives, careers, and businesses.

The founders express deep gratitude: “Rwanda is the jewel of Africa. It opened its arms to us, offering our families safety and a true second home.”

The Rwanda Development Board, Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided full cooperation during the establishment process, ensuring smooth approvals and support for students taking the Sudanese curriculum. Community leaders in Kimironko, where the center is located, also warmly embraced the initiative.

OVERCOMING FINANCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HURDLES

Launching a school from scratch came with significant challenges — financial, logistical, and emotional.

Finding a building spacious enough for 12 required classrooms proved difficult, given limited resources. Textbooks needed to be printed or imported, seats and whiteboards purchased, and teachers — many of whom were also displaced — needed stable salaries.

Transporting educational materials from abroad was costly until Badr Airlines stepped in to support in shipping



freely, providing a crucial lifeline. But the emotional challenges were equally

profound. Teachers were coping with their own displacement while

managing classrooms filled with students processing disruption and uncertainty.

“Education alone is not enough,” the team emphasizes. “We must also restore a sense of belonging, hope, and emotional stability.”

The center’s story is part of a larger African narrative — one of unity, resilience, and shared responsibility. Rwanda has become a melting pot of African communities, a place where solidarity is lived daily.

“We discovered a loving and hospitable Rwanda,” the founder says. “Here, we are building a spirit of African cooperation — a bond between our peoples.”

Al-Azizia is only at the beginning of its journey. Plans include opening branches in other neighborhoods as the Sudanese population grows, strengthening language programs, and partnering with Rwandan civil society organizations. These initiatives aim to enrich education through Arabic, English, French, and Kinyarwanda learning programs, along with broader cultural activities.

The long-term dream is clear: to nurture a generation equipped to rebuild Sudan — confident, educated, resilient, and rooted in values of peace and solidarity.

“We are planting seeds of hope,” the founders say. “A generation is being prepared from Rwanda — our second home — to one day contribute to a better Sudan.”

LIGHTING THE FUTURE: EMINING POWERS RWANDA'S CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION



In homes and businesses across Rwanda, EMINING is transforming lives through clean energy solutions—ranging from solar lighting and mobile charging to clean cookstoves—that empower communities, women, and youth alike, from bustling urban centers to the most remote villages.

BY JOHN MUGISHA;

Founded in Kigali in 2021, EMINING began with a bold vision: to reshape East Africa's energy landscape. What started as a local initiative has grown into a regional force in the clean energy sector, with operations now spanning Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, and Sudan. For EMINING, energy is not just

a commodity—it is a driver of social and environmental transformation.

At the helm of its Rwanda operations is Musaab Eltayeb, Co-Founder and Country Director. Calm, focused, and deeply passionate about sustainable development, Eltayeb sees EMINING as far more than an energy company. "We are a catalyst

“We’re giving families time, safety, and opportunity. Children can study at night, mothers can cook without choking smoke, and communities can grow.”



for social and environmental change,” he says with conviction.

“In Rwanda, our work focuses on providing clean cooking technologies and solar home systems that improve daily life, reduce dependence on polluting fuels, and support the country’s climate resilience agenda,” he explains.

Since launching operations, EMINING has made tangible impacts. In Rwanda alone, the company has served more than 10,000 customers with modern clean cooking solutions, helping families move away from charcoal and firewood.

Collaborating with various stakeholders, EMINING has enabled solar power access for over 300,000 households across rural and semi-urban areas, contributing to community development and improving the quality of life for urban, semi-urban, and rural residents alike.

The results are clear. Air quality has improved, women and children experience better health outcomes, and families now have safe, reliable lighting that allows children to study after dark.

“We’re not just providing light,” observes the Country Director. “We’re giving families time, safety, and opportunity. Children can study at night, mothers can cook without choking smoke, and communities can grow.”

Through its trade brands EMGAS and EMSOLA, EMINING contributes to the reduction of approximately 31,700 tons of CO₂ emissions annually in Rwanda,



Musaab Eltayeb, Co-Founder and Country Director.

directly supporting climate change mitigation. These programs reduce reliance on kerosene and firewood, improve indoor air quality, and promote healthier living conditions for thousands of households.

By integrating technology with community engagement, EMINING is helping Rwanda move closer to universal energy access goals. Importantly, this model is being adapted and scaled across regional branches, ensuring that the impact is not confined by borders.

WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT SITS AT THE HEART OF EMINING’S MISSION.

At EMINING, women are absolutely central to its

mission. “In Rwanda, 45% of company’s workforce are women, holding roles from sales and technical installation to management and leadership. This isn’t symbolic — it’s strategic. Women are key decision-makers in households and communities, and by empowering them through employment and training, they are helping them become leaders in clean energy adoption.

“At EMINING, we feel respected, trusted, and supported not just as employees, but as a women contributing to a larger vision,” Carine Cyuzuzo, testifies. The company’s commitment to fairness and professional growth has allowed her to expand her financial management

skills and take on increasing responsibility with the team.

“Working in such an environment motivates me and my colleagues to give our best every day. “Seeing women trusted with key financial roles, leading field teams, and representing the company in projects is inspiring,” she says.

Cyuzuzo emphasizes that EMINING’s inclusive workplace culture empowers women across all departments. Through mentorship, continuous training, and a leadership style that values transparency. “This is why EMINING is not only driving East Africa’s clean energy transition, but also nurturing a generation of confident and capable women.

Beyond gender empowerment, EMINING is committed to inclusive growth. Through its Agents Program, low-income and active individuals in rural areas can join the distribution and service network, improving their income opportunities. Anyone above 18 can participate, helping build a strong community-based energy ecosystem.

“We invest heavily in human resources, we support low-income individuals in enhancing their livelihoods, and provide students with internships to sharpen their skills and prepare them for the job market. At the same time, we maintain strict policies against forced labour, ensuring that our operations uphold dignity,



At EMINING, we feel respected, trusted, and supported not just as employees, but as a women contributing to a larger vision.” - Carine

fairness, and opportunity for all,” the Country Director said.

The results are tangible. Families in Rwanda now have safer homes with better air quality, children can study safely at night, and women have meaningful employment. Similar positive outcomes

are being seen in Uganda, Burundi, and Sudan, where women-led and community-driven initiatives expand EMINING’s reach and deepen trust.

“Women and youth are not just beneficiaries of energy access,” he emphasizes. “They are the drivers of energy transformation across Africa.”

EMINING’s role in community development goes beyond energy. The company has extended its impact through social responsibility initiatives — providing scholastic materials to rural schoolchildren and supporting community health by paying community-based health insurance (Mutuelle de Santé), for some vulnerable members. These initiatives underscore EMINING’s belief that clean energy and social welfare go hand in hand.

Despite its success, EMINING also faces practical challenges. Rwanda’s landlocked geography increases transportation costs, as most imports must pass through regional ports before reaching Kigali. Moving solar equipment and gas components across borders adds logistical complexity and higher costs.

“Transportation and import logistics remain significant cost factors for us,” Eltayeb acknowledges. “As a landlocked nation, Rwanda depends heavily on neighboring routes for sea freight access, which affects delivery timelines and overall costs. But we see this as part of our journey — an opportunity to innovate locally and strengthen regional partnerships.”

The company has responded by supporting regional manufacturing ecosystems, partnering with local



Looking ahead, EMINING sees Rwanda at the forefront of clean energy adoption in East Africa.

“EMINING is proud to be a strategic partner in this national journey. Our commitment is to deepen our footprint, expand clean cooking access, and accelerate solar electrification — particularly for underserved rural households. At the same time, our regional presence in Kampala, Bujumbura, and Khartoum positions us to contribute to a broader East African renewable energy movement. We see energy as a unifying force — one that connects communities, empowers women, and builds a more inclusive future.”

With headquarters in Kigali and operations across East Africa, EMINING envisions a future powered not just by technology, but by inclusion, equity, and shared purpose.

“Energy! is a unifying force.” concludes EMINING’s Co-Founder. “It connects communities, empowers women, and builds a more inclusive future for Africa.”

suppliers and encouraging innovation within East Africa to reduce dependency on distant imports.

“We are gradually building a regional network that supports local assembly and supply chains,” he explains. “This not only cut costs but also create jobs and strengthens resilience within our markets.”

Yet, despite these challenges, the Country Director remains optimistic about doing business in the country.

“Rwanda offers one of the most stable and business-friendly environment in Africa,” he says. “Good leadership, accountability, and clear policies make it easier to plan, invest, and grow sustainably. That’s why we’re proud to call Rwanda home.”

WHAT SETS EMINING APART IN THE CLEAN ENERGY SPACE

“What sets us apart is our community-first philosophy,” he says. “We treat energy not merely as a commodity but as a

pathway to empowerment and dignity. We design and deliver solutions that are affordable, accessible, and culturally sensitive, ensuring they meet the real needs of families and communities. We also work closely with local governments, development partners, and NGOs to align with national clean energy strategies. Because of our presence in multiple countries, we can share innovations and operational lessons across borders — making our impact more scalable and sustainable.”

Customer Feedback – EMGAS Cookstove by EMINING

My name is **Clementine Nyiransabimana** from Nyamata. I’m very happy with the EMGAS Cookstove by EMINING, it works perfectly.

Before, I used charcoal, which was slow, smoky, expensive, and bad for my health. Since I started using the affordable double-burner EMGAS stove, my daily life has improved a lot. Cooking is

now faster, cleaner, and healthier. I can prepare rice and vegetables at the same time, finish early, and get to work on time without stress. The stove saves time and money, keeps my kitchen clean, and has made my home environment more comfortable.

Thank you, EMINING, for bringing real change to my daily life!





FROM DARFUR TO KIGALI: THE ENTREPRENEUR BUILDING A NEW LIFE, ONE SHOP AT A TIME

When Muneer Hamid Issa first imagined life beyond Sudan, he pictured Rwanda—a country he had only heard about from Rwandan peacekeepers stationed in Darfur. He admired their discipline, their warmth, and the stories they told of a nation rebuilding itself. Rwanda, he thought, was a place where possibilities could thrive.

BY STEVEN NSAMAZA

But moving to Kigali was not as effortless as he had hoped. “The transition was not smooth,” he admits. Yet when war erupted in Sudan, the decision that once felt distant suddenly became urgent. With conflict closing in, Muneer packed his plans—and his hopes—and set off for a country where he knew no one.

Originally from the Darfur region, Muneer’s life was never meant to follow a straight line. He went to Khartoum for a master’s degree and later earned a PhD in Chemistry, even



Muneer Hamid Issa

lecturing at the university. But despite his academic path, something kept pulling him back to business.

“Every time the community needed something, I felt compelled to bring it,” he says. “I wanted to pursue research, but it was

complicated—modern laboratory, expensive equipment, limited resources. And deep inside, trade was in my blood. My father was a trader too.”

By the time he left Sudan, Muneer was already a seasoned entrepreneur. His

instincts told him Rwanda was the next chapter.

A NEW BEGINNING IN KIGALI

When he arrived in Kigali nearly three years ago, he was overwhelmed—in a good way. The orderliness, the safety, the pace of growth—it all made sense to him. Shortly, he opened his first shop in Remera. Today, he runs two branches under his company, Darfur Trading Ltd, located in the Central Business District and Kanombe.

His business model is simple: supply what the market doesn’t yet have.

Darfur Trading imports goods from China, Dubai, and Sudan—including children’s toys, swimming gear, massage equipment, and everyday household items that were previously hard to find in Kigali. “We want to introduce products that are rare on the market,” he explains.

But breaking into a new market hasn’t been without challenges. Many



of the items he brings in are high-quality — and therefore expensive. Locals sometimes hesitate, unfamiliar with the value of products.

Still, Muneer pushes on. Today, he has expanded to importing Sudanese foods such as yellow beans, spices, and dates — items that are beginning to attract both Sudanese expatriates and curious Rwandans.

FINDING HOME AGAIN AND DREAMS BEYOND

Despite arriving alone, Muneer's integration into the Rwandan community has been smooth. His children are now enrolled in school, and he describes Kigali as a place where a family can breathe again.

"Rwandans are wonderful people," he says warmly. "This country is very welcoming."

While Darfur Trading continues to grow, Muneer's ambitions stretch far beyond his shops.



He hopes to return to pharmaceuticals one day — he once owned a pharmacy in Khartoum. He is also

exploring agriculture, especially as the Sudanese community in Rwanda expands and the demand

for familiar foods grow. He has already experimented with cultivating Sudanese beans at home with excellent results. A friend in Bugesera is now growing them too.

Muneer is preparing to open more branches in Kigali, and plans for a shop in Gisenyi are already underway. That branch will strategically serve both Rwandan customers and those from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

But his boldest dream is to build a cheese factory.

Sudanese communities love cheese, especially certain varieties that require fresh, rich milk. "Rwandan milk is even better than what we are used to in Sudan," he says confidently. "It can produce more — and better — cheese."

His dream factory would sit close to dairy-producing areas, supplying the local market and exporting to Arab countries where demand for that style of cheese is strong.

From university lecture halls in Khartoum to shop counters in Kigali, Muneer Hamid Issa's journey is one of reinvention. It is a story of loss, resilience, and the quiet courage to begin again.

And as he expands Darfur Trading Ltd — branch by branch, idea by idea — he is not just rebuilding a business. He is rebuilding a life.





REBUILDING IN KIGALI: ONE ENTREPRENEUR'S JOURNEY OF RENEWAL

BY JOHN MUGISHA

Khalili Yahia Ibrahim gently arranges a colorful display of spices and imported goods at Sudago Multi Activities shop in Kigali as customers from Sudan, Middle East and Rwanda browse the shelves. Every purchase comes with a warm smile and a friendly greeting.

For a man who left Sudan just two years ago amid a conflict that disrupted daily life and



Khalili Yahia Ibrahim.

accelerated his family's relocation — these small interactions symbolize stability, hope, and a new beginning.

"When we left Sudan, we had to start over," he says. "Everything collapsed, but here, we are rebuilding. Rwanda gave us a safe place to start again."

Encouraged by stories of safety, economic order, and tRwanda's growing reputation as a magnet for foreign investors, Ibrahim

and his family settled in Rwanda in 2023. "Among all African countries, we selected Rwanda. We heard about the people here, the safety, the opportunities," he recalls.

FROM MACHINERY TO FOOD IMPORTS

As an entrepreneur in Sudan, Ibrahim was dealing in agricultural machinery, importing tractors, cultivators, and other farm equipment from Turkey and China. Leaving Sudan

meant walking away from years of investment and a business he built from the ground up.

In Kigali, he quickly reinvented himself, established Sudago Multi Activities Rwanda, a business that imports specialty foods from Egypt, Sudan, and Turkey. Today, his customers are Sudanese, middle easterners and a growing number of Rwandans are discovering his products and returning for their quality and unique flavors.

"The Rwandans are very welcoming," he says. "They are helpful, kind, and friendly. It makes settling here easier."

He credits Rwanda's administrative efficiency with making his transition smooth. "Institutions like Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) are transparent and helpful. That gave us confidence to start our business here," he notes.

As business picked up, demand extended outside the capital. Ibrahim now works with partners and operates branches in Gisenyi and Musanze,



supported by the large population of Sudanese students living there. He also supplies a variety of products to refugee communities in Mahama camp, strengthening both business ties and human connections.

Although he once exported Rwandan fruits and other produce to Saudi Arabia and other parts of the Middle East, high air-cargo costs made expansion difficult. He believes upcoming regional infrastructure such as the proposed East African railway could dramatically reduce transport costs and revive export opportunities.

"If the cost drops even by half, we will be able to export again," he says with optimism.

Beyond trade, Ibrahim brings expertise in agriculture and petroleum engineering. He sees significant untapped potential in Rwanda's irrigation systems, fertilizer production, and mineral exploration. He envisions

introducing solar-powered irrigation technology that could boost crop yields from one ton per hectare to ten and more.

"The government needs expertise, and I am ready to contribute," he says. He also notes that Rwanda's hills contain mineral potential, and that knowledge from neighboring countries could help unlock it responsibly and efficiently.

RESILIENCE AND A NEW BEGINNING

Nearly two and half years after arriving, Rwanda has become a second home. Ibrahim's children are settled in school, his business is stable, and he feels embraced by a community that values hard work and peaceful living.

He reflects on the contrast between life in Sudan and Rwanda. "In Sudan after the revolution, safety was always uncertain. Here, we can plan, work, and dream," he says.

For Ibrahim, Kigali



represents not only a chance to rebuild a life but also an opportunity to contribute to Rwanda's growing ecosystem of African entrepreneurs.

"Rwanda has given us safety and dignity. Here, we can plan, work, and dream," Inshallah, we will stay," he notes with conviction.

From his troubled country, Ibrahim's journey is a testament to resilience, adaptability, and the possibilities unlocked when opportunity and determination meet. His story captures why Rwanda is increasingly becoming a destination for those seeking a new chapter — one where beginnings don't just happen, they thrive.





FINDING HOME AGAIN: THE SUDANESE REBUILDING LIVES IN KIGALI

BY JOHN MUGISHA

On warm evenings in a popular Kigali Suburb of Gisementi, the soft hum of Sudanese music floats through small cafés tucked along the busy streets. Inside, young Sudanese men and women are ordering their drinks and others gather around steaming cups of tea, sharing stories that drift between memories of home and the hopes they carry for the future. These cafés are part meeting place, part

cultural refuge have become small sanctuaries, where laughter, debate, and familiar rhythms offer comfort far away from the turmoil back in their homeland.

Rwanda has become, unexpectedly, a place where they can breathe again. A place to study, to work, to rebuild and to rediscover the rhythm of ordinary African life after war fractured everything they knew.

When war erupted in Sudan in April 2023, millions were displaced as

fighting tore through neighborhoods and futures alike. Many fled with only what they could carry. Among them were young Sudanese determined not to let the war block their path to education and opportunity.

In the quiet corners of Kigali, two university students Osama Muhammad and Mariam Yahia are among those who fled and rebuilding their lives step by step. Osama still remembers the terror of the first days of war. "Half of us were trapped inside the hospital for days," he recalls.

“We thought we might never graduate.” After a difficult escape through Egypt and Tanzania, he arrived in Rwanda with his mother and younger sister, grateful simply to have survived. Now, he continues his studies at the University of Medical Sciences and Technology’s Kigali campus, founded by former Sudanese Minister of Health, Professor Mamoun Homeida to help displaced students continue their education.

Mariam’s story is much like that of Osama’s, full of uncertainty and the courage to leave everything behind. Rwanda, she says, has given her something she feared she might never feel again: safety. “Here, I feel safe as a woman and as a student. I’ve learned so much, and I hope to take these skills back home one day,” she says. Yet her voice trembles when she speaks of Sudan. “I hope someday we can return, when it’s safe.”

Elsewhere in Kigali, other Sudanese youth are discovering new paths. After seeing injustice firsthand during the conflict, Muhammad Zay switched his studies from accounting to law, to be part of Sudan’s future healing. “Rwanda is safe, welcoming, and full of opportunity,” he says. “It’s a model not just for Africa, but beyond.”

For some, rebuilding means entrepreneurship. Fatim Hassan, an optometry graduate with a passion for beauty and wellness, launched a small skincare

“Starting a business here is straightforward, people collaborate. I want to empower women through mentorship.”

business in Kigali offering facial treatments and training programs for women. “Rwanda is the first safe and developed country I’ve lived in,” she says. “Starting a business here is straightforward, people collaborate. I want to empower women through mentorship.”

But life in Kigali isn’t all work and study. Sudanese culture thrives in the city’s cafés, homes, and shared gatherings. Evenings often bring music, dance, poetry, and warm conversations. In one Sudanese-run café filled with the aroma of cardamom tea, students, teachers, business owners, and artists meet to unwind. The kindness, humility, and easy warmth among them speak to a community that has endured hardship but refuses to lose its spirit.

While building new lives, many Sudanese in Rwanda remain deeply connected to the crisis back home. At a recent community gathering, organised by

the Sudanese embassy, they stood in solidarity with civilians still caught in the conflict. Ambassador Khalid Musa Dafalla urged international attention, while women shared powerful testimonies about the disproportionate impact of the war on families, particularly mothers and children. Others called for increased humanitarian aid and sustained support for those who cannot leave.

“Peace begins in the small acts of courage every day,” Osama says. “Here, we are building the foundation for the Sudan we hope to see.”

In Kigali’s classrooms, clinics, cafés, and small businesses, Sudanese youth are living proof that resilience is not simply survival. It is the courage to keep learning, the boldness to start anew, the joy found in music and friendship, and the unwavering belief that one day, home will welcome you back.





When the world's best riders met Rwanda's rising horizon, Kigali shone even brighter, turning Africa's first **UCI Road World Championships** into a triumph beyond expectations.

A NEW PITCH, A NEW FIGHT: SUDAN'S FOOTBALL HEARTBEAT RESTART IN KIGALI

Al Hilal and Al Merrikh revive their season on Rwandan soil

BY JEJJE MUHINDE;

When Sudan plunged into civil conflict in April 2023, the human cost was staggering. Although precise early figures remain difficult to establish, reports indicate that more than 150,000 civilians have lost their and nearly

13 million people were forced to leave their homes — a crisis the United Nations has described as the world's largest humanitarian emergency.

Yet amid this chaos, football has provided a small ray

of hope far from home. With domestic competitions suspended, Sudan's two football giants — Al Hilal and Al Merrikh — made the difficult decision to relocate from Omdurman in the State of Khartoum.





Both teams first moved to Mauritius before shifting their base to Rwanda, following safety concerns raised by visiting teams to the Confederation of African Football (CAF). Providentially, 2,500 km south of Sudan and separated by South Sudan and Uganda, Kigali offered stability, accessibility, and a neutral venue the clubs could rely on.

Former Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) coach Florent Ibenge,

who led Al Hilal from 2022 to 2025, described fleeing violence in the capital just to stay alive — a story shared by many involved in Sudanese football arena.

CAF granted both clubs permission to compete in the Rwanda Premier League. Rwanda's football governing body, FERWAF, welcomed them with open arms and immediately revised league fixtures.

For Rwandan clubs, the arrival of Al Hilal and Al Merrikh has been an added advantage — bringing more matches, increased competition, and additional revenue. Rwanda Premier League chairman Yussuf Mudaheeranwa said every team will receive an additional Rwf 4.5 million following the inclusion of the Sudanese sides.

Al Hilal, in particular, has found a safe home in Kigali. In their CAF



Champions League campaign, they opened with a 2-1 victory over MC Alger of Algeria at Amahoro Stadium. Their performance earned them a growing following among Rwandan fans.

Head coach Laurențiu Reghecampf said after the match that the team does not feel like it is playing away from home:

“It was a very good atmosphere.

We’ve had many training sessions here. Thank you to everyone for helping us feel at home. We feel safe in Rwanda. We have everything we need to play football.”

The Romanian manager added that his team has adapted easily, “My request was to have a good natural pitch and a nice stadium, and here we have an amazing stadium with good conditions. Being allowed to

play in the league was also very important because my players need official matches.”

Al Hilal remained unbeaten in CAF Champions League Group C with a 1-1 draw against FC Lupopo. Reghecampf emphasized that Rwanda’s security and stability were key in their decision to join the local league.

“We came here because the league is competitive and gives us the kind of games that can push us. Safety was also a key factor. Rwanda has been very welcoming — people are friendly, supportive, and we feel comfortable here.”

He added that the team settled quickly: “The players are happy. We’ve had plenty of training sessions and strong opposition to help us improve. Everything we asked for has been provided.”

The Romanian coach explained that the environment in Kigali offers the kind of structure the team needs as it prepares for the CAF Champions’ League group stage.

He believes the level of competition in Rwanda was exactly what the club was looking for. “We came here because the league is competitive and gives us the kind of games that can push us. That will help us when we go into the Champions League,” he told reporters.

For Al Merrikh head coach Derke Dokiv, Rwanda is not unfamiliar territory. He previously coached APR FC and says returning to Kigali brings back good memories:

“The conditions, the environment, the people — it all feels familiar. Being at Amahoro Stadium feels like we’ve been here for a long time.”

Both Al Hilal and Al Merrikh are set to face each other on 18 January 2026 in the Rwanda Premier League. According to agreement, if either Sudanese club wins the Rwandan league, they will receive a trophy — but not the prize money.

MEDANI ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING (MEC)

ENGINEERING WITHOUT BORDERS: REDEFINING RWANDA'S SKYLINE

Across continents and cultures, Dr. Tarig Medani has built more than a distinguished engineering career — he has shaped an enduring professional heritage. With two master's degrees and a PhD in Civil Engineering, his journey has carried him from Europe's structured precision to Asia's dynamic innovation, from the Middle East's bold architectural ambitions to Africa's resilient ingenuity. These global experiences formed a philosophy rooted in excellence, precision, and a deep appreciation for architectural beauty.

Today, that philosophy lives through Medani Engineering & Contracting (MEC), where engineering is not just a technical discipline but a blend of science, artistry, and purpose.

ENGINEERING WITH PURPOSE

Based in Rwanda, MEC was created with a simple yet powerful vision: to design and build spaces that do more than stand — they inspire.

Dr. Medani believes that buildings should speak to the people who use them. They should reflect intention, culture, and a deep respect for both form and function. Under his leadership, MEC merges intelligent engineering with thoughtful design, long-lasting materials, and a timeless aesthetic sensibility that elevates every project.

WHY RWANDA? A VISION ANCHORED IN OPPORTUNITY

For a Sudanese-born engineer with global credentials, choosing Rwanda was far from accidental. Dr. Medani describes the country as “a place that represents progress, ambition, and possibility.” It is a nation defined by stability, efficiency, and an open embrace of innovation.

Rwanda's dependable rule of law,



DR. TARIG MEDANI

streamlined business environment, and forward-looking infrastructure created the ideal foundation for a company built on global standards.

“This is why we established our first company in Rwanda in 2018,” Dr. Medani explains. “We believed in this market from the beginning — its vision aligns with ours.”

Today, MEC stands among a dynamic community of Sudanese investors contributing technical expertise, capital, and global knowledge to Rwanda's remarkable growth story.

A COMPANY ROOTED IN GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

Although MEC formally began its Rwanda operations in 2023, the depth of its expertise stretches back decades. Dr. Medani and his associates have shaped projects across continents in the fields of architecture, urban planning, engineering, construction, and project management.

This multicultural foundation gives MEC an uncommon advantage: the blend of Sudanese resilience, international quality benchmarks, and Rwanda's progressive development agenda.

MEC's multidisciplinary services include:

- Urban planning
- Infrastructure development
- Architectural and engineering design
- Construction and contracting
- Project and management consultancy

What truly sets MEC apart is its partnership-driven approach. Rather than simply responding to project requirements, the firm accompanies clients from concept to completion — ensuring every project is technically rigorous, aesthetically refined, and strategically aligned with long-term value.

BUILDING WITH VISION

From large-scale developments to bespoke consulting services, MEC is committed to delivering work where structural intelligence meets artistic expression. The firm's mission extends far beyond constructing buildings; it strives to contribute meaningfully to Rwanda's transformation, shaping communities and skylines with intention and integrity.

As Sudanese investors continue to enrich Rwanda's economic landscape, Medani Engineering & Contracting stands as a testament to what cross-border collaboration can achieve: excellence, innovation, and a shared vision for a brighter, more resilient future.





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