

Letter to the President of Rwanda

LETTER ID	LTL-ACT-135
ADDRESSEE	President Paul Kagame
COUNTRY	Rwanda
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PUBLISHED	2026-06-13 12:00:00
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	English

To His Excellency Paul Kagame

President of the Republic of Rwanda

Urugwiro Village, Kigali

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you as a citizen witnessing the "Land of a Thousand Hills" transform in June 2026. Rwanda stands as a beacon of order and rapid modernization in East Africa, a testament to what discipline and vision can achieve. Yet, as we look past the clean streets of Kigali and the gleaming glass of our convention centers, there is a reality to the daily lives of your people that deserves a voice.

In Rwanda, life is defined by the soil and the hustle. Most of our people are the backbone of our nation, working the emerald hills as subsistence or smallholder farmers—growing coffee, tea, and pyrethrum—while others navigate the vibrant, formalizing urban economy in Kigali. For the youth, the "working age" starts early in practice, though formally we look toward 16. School is a mandatory, vital path—our

government has prioritized education, but for many families, the cost of supplies and the necessity of children helping in the fields remains a daily friction. We do not have a robust, universal state-funded nursery system; thus, when parents go to work, the child is often entrusted to the extended family, a grandparent, or a community network that acts as our social glue.

When a citizen falls ill, they rely on the community-based health insurance scheme, Mutuelle de Santé, which is a life-changing institution, though access to high-end medical specialized care remains a privilege. Our educational institutions—from our primary schools to the growing number of technical and vocational training centers—are the engines of our transformation. Yet, the pressure to "become" something often leaves our graduates feeling the weight of high expectations.

As for our leisure, we are not a people of idle luxury. Our entertainment is communal—the shared joy of the Umuganda community service days that bind us, the local radio waves that carry news to every valley, and the social gatherings where we toast to our progress with a local brew. We don't have the commercialized "theater" culture of the West; our culture is lived in our resilience, our storytelling, and our collective drive to be better than we were yesterday.

Mr. President, we have built a nation of stability, but we now need a nation of deeper, individual prosperity. We need the "Transformational Governance" you speak of to reach the kitchen tables of the rural farmer as effectively as it reaches the boardroom in Kigali. Give us a future where our children's education is not just a state mandate, but a golden ticket to a life of abundance.

With the hope of a patriot,

A Concerned Citizen of Rwanda

Sovereign Performance Audit: Rwanda (June 2026)

Sector

Score

Summary

Political Stability

5.0

Exceptionally high; centralized leadership and strong state control.

Economic Development

4.0

Rapid growth, particularly in services, tech, and tourism.

Social Infrastructure

3.5

Strong focus on health and education; Mutuelle de Santé is a regional model.

Public Trust

4.0

High alignment with government vision, though challenges in grassroots income remain.

Final Verdict: 4.12 / The Thousand-Hill Ascent.

Rwanda's progress under President Kagame is undeniable. The primary challenge for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is "inclusive growth"—ensuring that the massive investments in infrastructure and modernization translate into higher disposable income for the rural and informal sectors, bridging the gap between national statistics and individual household reality.

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