

# Quarter Two 2024/2025 Newsletter

## ABESAMIHIGO/GAKENKE DISTRICT

**GAKENKE District Launch Second  
phase of RDDP2**

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**Governor of Northern Province  
and Mayor of Gakenke District  
visited Nyabarongo II Hydro  
power plant**

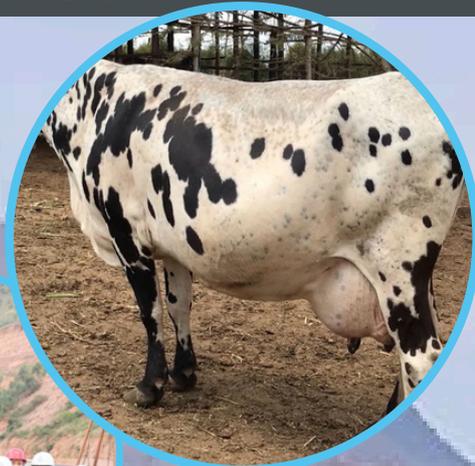
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**Gakenke District Council Retreat  
discussed on the implementation  
of NST2**

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**Minister of Health and  
Gakenke District Mayor  
Joined Nemba District Hospital in the  
Celebration of 50th Anniversary**

**Delegation from State of Rhineland  
Palatinate/BENDORF City visited  
Gakenke District >>Page 11**



## Introduction

This newsletter summarizes the progress made by Gakenke District between September 1 and December 31, 2024 (Q2 of 2024/2025), emphasizing the district's commitment to prioritizing citizens. It highlights key achievements and events across various sectors, including Economic Development, Social Development, and Good Governance, reflecting the district's efforts to improve the well-being of its residents.

Gakenke District is one of the 30 districts in Rwanda, situated in the Northern Province and has a population of 382,932, with 50.4% females and 49.6% males. Most people in the district, about 92.8%, rely on agriculture for their livelihood. Gakenke is famous for its high-quality coffee, but its geographical features make it vulnerable to climate change, leading to frequent natural disasters that impact the community.

## Key Updates

Quarterly achievements are not limited to the following:

- Community based health insurance (Mutuelle de santé) for 2024-2025: 100%
- EJO HEZA by December 2024: 81%
- Service delivery (RGB/CRC 2024): 77.7%
- Upgrading Gakenke -Nemba urban road (2.5Km): 98%
- 40 Classrooms rehabilitated: 100%
- Rehabilitating Rutake Health Center in Janja sector: 100%
- Access to clean water: 76.5%
- Access to electricity (on-grid +Off-grid): 88%
- Stunting rate (MCH Week 2024): 24.3%
- Construction of Gakenke District Archive: 70%

# Key activities in Economic Cluster

## GAKENKE District Launched Second phase of RDDP2



Vice Mayor in Charge of Economic Development, NIYONSENGA Aimé François (R), represent the District During Launch of the Project



Secretary of District Council, NDACYAYISENGA Scholastique (R) attend the Launch of Project

On the 2nd October 2024, Gakenke District Vice Mayor in charge of Economic Development, NIYONSENGA Aimé François, Joined Rwanda Agriculture Board and partners in the Launch of Second phase of Rwanda Dairy Development project phase 2 (RDDP .2). It is six-year project whose goal is to reduce poverty level of targeted rural households and mitigate the impact of climate change.

RDDP2, is dedicated to further developing the dairy sector, building on the successes of the first phase of the project.

It will focus on improving dairy production through better herd management, access to veterinary services, and enhancing dairy cooperatives' capacities to compete in both local and international markets.



The project will improve milk quantity and quality, encourage farmers to adopt zero grazing and replace the local breeds with improved breeds that produce more milk reducing the need to keep many cows

RDDP2 is funded by IFAD and other partners. It will contribute to Rwanda's agricultural transformation, improving rural livelihoods, boosting food security, and building a more resilient agricultural sector.

# Governor of Northern Province and Gakenke District Mayor visited Nyabarongo II Hydro power plant



Governor Mugabowagahunde(4th from Left) and Mayor Mukandayisenga(6th from Right) visited Nyabarongo II Hydropower



On 3rd October 2024, Governor of Northern Province Mr Mugabowagahunde Maurice and Mayor of Gakenke District, Mrs Mukandayisenga Vestine, visited the Nyabarongo II Hydropower Project, a significant ongoing megaproject in Rwanda that will be accomplished in December 2026.

Nyabarongo II HPP is a multipurpose hydropower project designed to generate an installed capacity of 43.5 MW, with an average annual energy output of 281.9 GWh. The project will operate for about 6,480 hours annually and features an innovative dam design that captured the attention of the visiting engineers. At the end of December 2024, the Project was at 40.10% of completion.

## EU funded Kungahara Project inaugurated a maize drying facility in Gakenke District

On October 23, 2024 Gakenke District Mayor, Mrs Vestine Mukandayisenga joined EU Team Leader for Agriculture, Environment, climate Action & gender, Amparo GONZALEZ DIEZ and farmers from Gashenyi Sector, in Official Opening of Maize Drying shelter.

Through improved agricultural practices & this facility will be used by over 640 producers and will contribute in addressing the post-harvest losses.



Mayor Vestine Mukandayisenga(L) and Amparo GONZALEZ DIEZ official Opened Drying shelter



The facility is under Kungahara project funded by the European Union and implemented by AEE Rwanda in partnership with Plan International Rwanda

# Maize farming in Gakenke: A path to economic growth and environmental sustainability

In Gakenke District, Maize is one of different agricultural product that contribute to both individual and regional development.



The district boasts 478 consolidated farming sites, including Mukinga, Murandi, Kagoma, and others. These sites play a critical role in protecting the soil and preserving biodiversity.

According to District officials, Maize farming has become a cornerstone of Gakenke's economic growth, empowering residents to improve their livelihoods and contribute to regional development



In 2024, maize farming in Gakenke yielded 28,620 tons, with each household harvesting at least three sacks (300 kg). This income has empowered families to invest in their futures, from education to healthcare.

Known for its hilly terrain, Gakenke has embraced consolidated land use, covering approximately 15,900 hectares. This approach has significantly improved livelihoods, enabling residents to afford better housing, health insurance, and education for their children.



# Key Activities in Social Development Cluster

## Gakenke District Vice Mayor in charge of Social Affairs attended Malnutrition Campaign in Cyabingo Sector

In Partnership with Rwanda National Child Development Agency, on November 21, 2024 Gakenke District Conducted a campaign against malnutrition in Cyabingo Sector.



The District was represented by Vice Mayor in charge of Social Affairs, Mrs Uwamahoro Marie Thérèse (2nd from Left)



Cyabingo Sector citizens received messages from different authorities from NCDCA and District, aimed to reduce stunting and malnutrition for the children under five years.



# Minister of Health Joined Nemba District Hospital in the celebration of 50th Anniversary

On 03 December 2024, Minister of Health, Dr Nsanzimana Sabin and Gakenke District Mayor, Mrs Mukandayisenga Vestine together with the Bishop of Ruhengeri Diocese, Vincent Halorimana, joined residents of Gakenke District and the staff of Nemba District Hospital to celebrate the hospital's 50th anniversary.



Minister Nsanzimana commended the strong collaboration between the Government of Rwanda, the Catholic Church, and the Navarra Government of Spain, which has enabled Nemba Hospital to make a significant impact on healthcare services not only in Gakenke District but across the country.



# Gakenke District Celebrated International Day of the Girl Child

On 22 October 2024, Gakenke District joins the rest of the world to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC). Globally, the IDGC is celebrated under the theme: “Best Future—In my Hands”



The day was celebrated at GS Bitaba, in Muzo Sector.

The participants were encouraged to break barriers and limitations associated with knowledge and negative social norms related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRH&R) that are contributing to the increase of child defilement and teenage pregnancies.

# Delegation from Republic Somalia visited Gakenke

On 28 November 2024, Gakenke District Mayor Mrs Vestine MUKANDAYISENGA and District staff welcomed a delegation of Leaders from Federal Republic of Somalia. This Courtesy call discussed on good practices and Lessons learnt from disaster risk reduction and management.



The Delegation also visited the evacuation site “Kagano IDP model village”, constructed to relocate people from high risk zones prone to landslides, floods, or other climate-related disasters.

## The delegation from State of Rhineland Palatinate/Bendorf City paid courtesy visit in Gakenke District

From 27 to 30 of November 2024, a delegation from State of Rhineland Palatinate/Bendorf City paid a courtesy visit in Gakenke District. They discussed strengthening partnership in Education and Health, Infrastructures, Water Connectivity, youth promotion and energy. The Delegation also visited different sites, in order to explore Partnering opportunities.



The Delegation visited Sectors with EP Kamubuga, and Promised to Partner in different education Projects



The Delegation together with Vice Mayor in charge Economic Development, visited Sectors with shortage of water (Muhondo& Minazi)

# Key Activities in Good Governance Cluster

## In Pictures: Parliament members participated in Umuganda Community work in GAKENKE

On 26 October 2024, Members of Chamber of the deputies in Rwanda Parliament joined Gakenke sector, Kagoma cell residences in Umuganda Communities works.

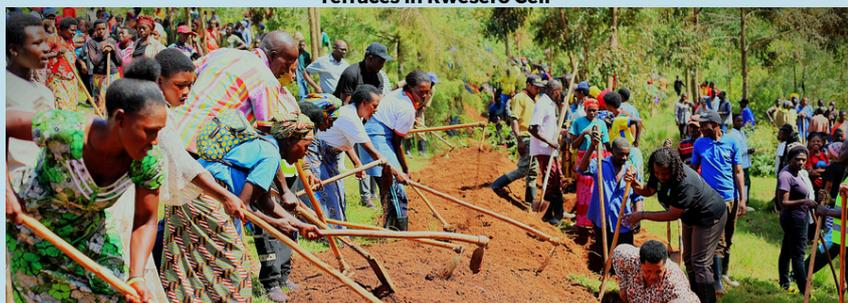


Gakenke District Mayor, together with member of Parliament, chamber of Deputies planting trees in Gakenke Sector on Umuganda Community work of last October

On 30 November 2024, Member of Senate joined Gakenke District Staff, residences and Security organ representatives in Umuganda Community work of last November, at Rwesero Cell, Ruli Sector



Senate Mureshyankwano Marie Rose with other District Staff Digging Anti Erosive Terraces in Rwesero Cell



Crowd of Rwesero Cell Residences together with Senate and District Staff digging Anti Erosive Terraces

## Gakenke District Mayor headed ceremony of granting Rwandan Nationality



On November 18, 2024 Gakenke District Mayor together with Rwanda Migration representatives conducted the ceremony of granting Rwandan nationality to 4 people of different nationalities.

The Ceremony held at Gakenke District Video Conference Room



Their Friends and relatives accompanied them during the ceremony.

# Over 60 Cell Executive Secretaries received motorbike for enforcement operations



From His Excellence promise, the RUSHINGWANGERERO from Gakenke District were provided motorbikes that will help them to easily approach the citizens and provide the better service.



The ES Cells said the motorbike will help them traveling the whole cell, address the citizens complaints, doing security inspections and providing better service to the population



# Youth sign Imihigo (performance contract) with District

On October 01, 2024: Sector youth coordinators (RYVCP) and Gakenke District Executive Committee (CNJ) signed performance contracts, committing to creating jobs for the youth and finding solutions to human Security issues (HSIs) among other things.



During the same event, Mayor of the District recognized best performing Sectors in the implementation of youth performance contracts for the Financial Year 2023/2024.

They also committed to participate in community services, fight drug abuse and unwanted pregnancies, among other activities for the 2024/2025 financial year.



# Members of Unity Club INTWARARUMURI Joined Gakenke District in the Unity and Resilience Meeting



On 25 October 2024, Gakenke District Conducted Unity and Resilience Meeting, aimed to Promote Unity and Social Cohesion, Coordinates, and monitors social healing interventions within the Rwandan community;



During group discussion, the participants, agreed to fight against Genocide ideology, genocide denial and revisionism in general as the main key barriers to unity and resilience

## 4th Gakenke District Council Retreat discussed on the implementation of NST2

From November 16 to 17 2024: Gakenke District Council chair Person, Mr Mugwiza Télesphore, opened the 4th District Council Retreat, commonly known as Umwiherero, at Fatima Hotel Musanze. The PS in the Office of the President attended the retreat together with the Governor of Northern Province.

Among the items discussed include the implementation of NST 2, graduation strategy “World Vision Rwanda Experience”, Progress in Imihigo implementation and stakeholders engagement especially JADF members and PSF.



DC Chairperson, Governor North and PS OTP in closing session.



Security organs, DC Members, Directors, ES Sectors participated in District Council Retreat

They recommended to address the citizens complaints, implement Imihigo in effective and efficient way, enhance collaboration among leaders, engage partners to jointly address the Human security issues and graduate people from poverty, engage PSF to create more jobs for youth and they addressed special thanks to World Vision Rwanda for the support provided to the retreat and other District interventions.



A group photo

# Appreciation



Mukandayisenga Vestine, Gakenke District Mayor

Gakenke District would like to take a moment to extend our sincere gratitude for being part of our newsletter community. Your involvement and attention are greatly appreciated, and we are thankful to have you as a partner in our efforts to improve the well-being of our citizens.

Your continued support motivates us to keep producing and sharing meaningful content. Whether through your feedback, ideas, or simply by reading our website, it's individuals like you who make all our efforts truly rewarding.

Be sure to stay tuned for exciting updates, exclusive content, and other surprises that will be coming your way in the next quarter. Gakenke District also wishes all our stakeholders, line ministries, and citizens a prosperous and successful New Year 2025.



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