



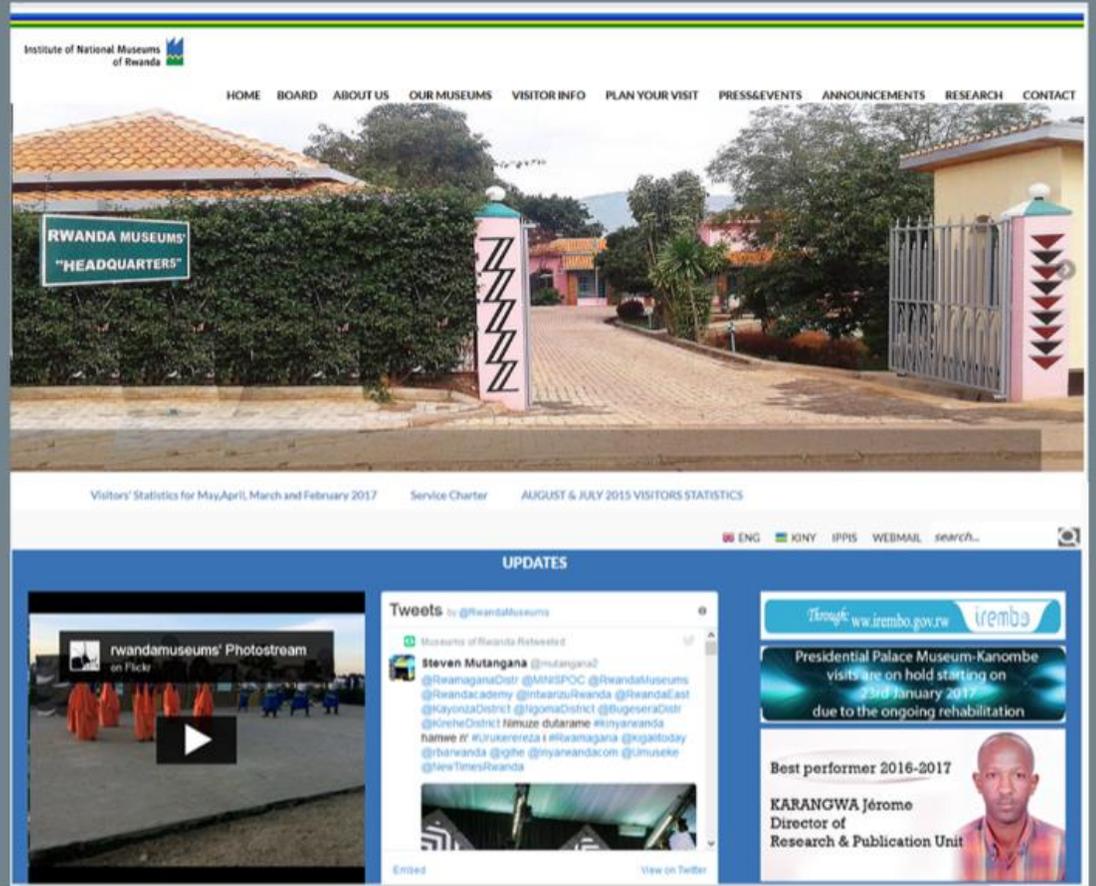
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Rwanda Museums new attractive and upgraded website



“Effective communication is the key to success”.

To increase its visibility, Rwanda Museums joined the world in the digital era by upgrading its social media accounts.

Besides our operating Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube existing accounts, INMR website has been changed. It has been upgraded from an “Old version” to a “New and upgraded version”.

This already operational new website is more user-friendly because it has more links visible to any user at the time he/she visits the domain, has more information about the Institute of National Museums of Rwanda; it is also more attractive, to say the least.

One more special feature about this new website, it accommodates other museum branches to market themselves by publishing their daily work through these sub-websites created. In the first instance, we started with two (2)

museums; The Ethnographic Museum and King's Palace Museum, as we will be developing others gradually. These sub-websites provide specific detailed news and information accordingly.

By Alice Eudoxie

Developments

“Creative Mind - Healthy Culture”
Rwanda Museums challenges Students to
have a creative mind grounded on culture



Children are always the best sector to invest in for a brighter tomorrow, a reason why Rwanda Museums, through its outreach program has continuously focused on preserving culture, by educating children on the cultural values at an early stage.

Museum outreach program was initiated in 2012, purposefully to reach out and encourage the general public, especially the Rwandan community to visit museums, understand their culture and cherish their heritage. Our main focus is on the children because they are the country's future leaders, parents, mentors, counselors and custodians of our culture, hence imparting them with this cultural knowledge is a life investment.

Since its inception, museums outreach program team, time and again, has been moving around the country, visiting students with various collections of cultural value for them to see, touch and feel.

However, the team gradually thought it wise that there is more for students to discover by themselves if they visit the museums, just because what is taken during the outreach are just samples. Hence, from March 27th to March 28th 2017, Museums outreach team hosted students from schools around Nyanza district at the National Art Gallery. A museum that had been initially constructed for King Mutara III Rudahigwa residence, unfortunately passed on in 1959, shortly before occupying it.

It was later on turned into an Art Gallery with the main purpose of upholding the King's legacy whose passion for Art and Sports was so strong, but also promoting culture through contemporary art. Most of the art pieces exhibited in the museum are about unity, peace, reconciliation which were the core values of Rwandans before colonial era and aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi.

Choosing the National Art Gallery to host the students was one way of helping them develop creative skills through contemporary art whilst upholding their culture under the theme: '**creative mind healthy culture**'. The two days activities helped children realize the value attached to most of the traditional/cultural collections they took for granted before. They were given a guided tour through the museum and later given an opportunity to bond with culture by interacting with the traditional collections which were displayed; including the traditional attire (*ishabure, inkanda, inkindi, impuzu, uruyonga, ikinyita* etc), traditional home use objects for example: *urusyo, ingasire, agacuma, intango, uruho*, etc used for beer processing and serving, *igisabo, inkongoro, icyansi*, etc used for milk processing and serving; *agaseke* used for storage and other cultural values attached to it; as well as musical instruments like *inanga, ikondera*, etc. Students were amazed by each collection.

They also enjoyed the live experience of traditional games including *kumasha, gusimbuka urikiramende, uruziga, gukaraza, gukirana*, etc.

The youngest of the students who were about 8 years old were astonished by the kids' studio. They interestingly drew traditional objects given to them and named them to the amazement of their teachers and museums team. This helped them develop their creativity hence building passion for their culture as they drew the traditional objects.

Each day was always concluded with a presentation by students about various lessons learnt from the art pieces of their choice. Among many lessons that students presented included: unity, peace, reconciliation, cooperation, patriotism, cohesion, resilience, etc. Museums team and teachers were fascinated by students' ability to interpret the objects and how they presented lessons learnt from them, as well as their passion to learn more. Through their presentation, students highlighted their desire to visit all the seven museums in order to discover more about their heritage. Students further presented need to set up cultural clubs in their schools as a means to help them spread the knowledge to their counterparts who had missed out this opportunity, hence requested Rwanda Museums to support them in this initiative.

About 505 students that gained from this program, included 81 from Ecole Secondaire des Parents de Nyanza, 25 from Ecole Secondaire Nyanza B (primary 1), 105 from Ecole Secondaire du St Esprit, 99 from GS Mater Dei and 195 Ecole Secondaire Nyanza B (primary 2). Authorities from these schools commended museums' invaluable initiative in upholding Rwandan culture through educating the youths who are tomorrow's future national pillars. Some of the teachers also confessed that they too learned along with students, remarking that some of the traditional objects were new to them.

It was an honor for museums team to see that students were interested and passionate in upholding their cultural values, hence developing a creative mind, healthy culture. The journey continues and our culture will never fade when our children uphold it with such a passion as vividly portrayed by these students.

Prepared by Alice Eudoxie

Developments

Ubushakashatsi ku hantu Ndangamurage mu Rwanda



Ikigo cy'Igihugu cy'Ingoro z'Umurage w'u Rwanda (INMR) kimaze iminsi mu bushakashatsi bugamije kumenya ahantu habitse amateka n'umurage by'u Rwanda, ndetse no gusiganuza inkuru n'amateka bihavugwa. Ibizava muri ubu bushakashatsi bizashyirwa mu nyandiko izifashishwa mu kurushaho kumenya amateka y'igihugu cyacu, kurebera hamwe uko aho hantu ndangamurage, ndetse n'ibimenyetso bikiharangwa byasigasirwa, no kwiga uko hagira uruhare rugaragara mu iterambere ry'ubukerarugendo bushingiye k'umurage ndangamuco.

Mu ntangiriro z'uyu mushinga INMR yari yiyemeje gukora ubushakashatsi ku hantu Ndangamurage 100, ariko ubushakashatsi bugakorwa ku buryo buri karere mu turere 30 tugize igihugu kagiramo byibuze ahantu 3 hakorerwa ubushakashatsi. Guhera mu gihembwe cya kane cy'umwaka ushize wa 2016 kugeza hagati mu kwezi kwa Gicurasi 2017, abashakashatsi ba INMR bazengurutse uturere twose tugize igihugu hagamijwe kumenya aho hantu ndangamurage na ndangamateka mu gihugu. Kugeza ubu abo bashakashatsi bamaze kugera kandi baboneye amakuru ni ahantu ku 145 haherereye hirya no hino mu gihugu.

Uyu mubare waje kwiyongera, uvuye ku hantu 100, bitewe n'uko ubwo abashakashatsi bageraga mu turere hirya no hino mu gihugu, hari ubwo babonaga amakuru mashya abarangiye ahandi hantu ndangamurage, bakiyemeza gukusanya amakuru yaho, ngo naho hazavugwe.

Kuri buri hantu ndangamurage hacukumbuwe, abashakashatsi ba INMR bagiye bafata amafoto y'uko hateye ubu, bagafata ibipimo byaho (GPS: *Global Positioning System*), ndetse bagasiganuza abasheshakanguhe, byibuze 2 kuri buri hantu ndangamurage hakorewe ubushakashatsi, byaba ngombwa abari mu nzego z'ibanze bakaba bakunganira aba basheshakanguhe. Rimwe na rimwe kandi hitabazwaga inzobere mu by'amateka kugirango huzuzwe amakuru yatanze n'abasheshakanguhe. Ibiganiro hagati y'abashakashatsi n'abasheshakanguhe, ndetse n'izo mpuguke byafashwe ku maradiyo afata amajwi (*audio recorders*) kuri ubu ibyo biganiro bikaba byaramaze gushyirwa kuri

mudasobwa za INMR, ndetse bikaba byatangiyeye no kwandikwa ku mpapuro ku buryo bizashyirwa mu isomero rya INMR bikaba byafasha n'abandi bashakashatsi bifuzaga kwandikwa ku mateka n'umurage by'u Rwanda.

Kuri ubu muri INMR batangiye gutegura inyandiko izerekana ibyavuye muri ubu bushakashatsi. Ku ikubitiro iyi nyandiko ikazaba ikoze mu Kinyarwanda, ariko biteganyijwe ko izashyirwa no mu zindi ndimi nk'icyongereza n'igifaransa. Iyo nyandiko ikazaba yabonetse mu mpera z'uyu mwaka wa 2017.

Aba bashakashatsi kandi bafatanyije n'abakozi ba Minisiteri ya Siporo n'Umuco, binyuze muri gahunda ya Siporo kuri bose, batangiye kugenda basobanura amwe mu mateka avugwa ku hantu ndangamurage bakoreye ubushakashatsi. Urugero ni nko ku Ijuru rya Kamonyi mu karere ka Kamonyi; Kageyo mu karere ka Ngororero, na Gahunga mu karere ka Burera.

Ubu bushakashatsi ntibwabashije kugera ndetse no gucukumbura amateka y'ahantu hose ndangamurage mu gihugu, akaba ari nayo mpamvu hagikenewe gukomeza gushakisha ahandi hantu ndangamurage hatakozweho muri icyi cyiciro.

Ahantu ndangamurage na ndangamateka hagaragaye mu ntara zitandukanye mu buryo bukurikira:

- Mu majyaruguru ahantu 24
- I Burasirazuba ahantu 31
- Uburengerazuba ahantu 40
- Amajyepfo ahantu 31
- Mu mugi waKigali ahantu 10

Mu numero ikurikira tuzabagezaho hamwe mu hantu ndangamurage na ndangamateka hasuwe hagakusanyirizwa.

Ishami ry' Ubushakashatsi INMR

International Museum Day (IMD): Rwanda Museums offers free entrance to the general public



Developments

Rwanda Museums offered free entrance services to the public as Rwanda joined the worldwide community of museums to celebrate the International Museum Day on 18th May 2017. Every year since 1977 International Museum Day is organized worldwide on and around 18th May.

The events and activities planned to celebrate International Museum Day can last a day, a weekend or a whole week. This year's IMD theme is "Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums".

In a special way, Rwanda Museums organized an 'Open Day' with free entrance to all museum-branches around the country for the public to learn, discover and cherish Rwanda's untapped natural and cultural heritage. Each museum branch embraces unique collections that portray the natural and cultural heritage of Rwanda, hence this gave an opportunity to about 4700 national and International visitors who visited on this particular day to discover the cultural and natural treasures preserved in these museums, compared to estimated 500 to 700 visitors on a normal day.

Visitors were astonished by the live experience they had at each museum particularly the Natural History museum, Ethnographic Museum, King's Palace Museum as well as the National Art Gallery. At Natural History museum, visitors were fascinated by the anxious yet exciting live experience with reptiles. You could read mixed feelings of fear and excitement on their faces when one of museum staff held the 5-meter Python to demonstrate and explain how more than 15 snakes are professionally preserved for education and entertainment purposes at the museum. Visitors also were thrilled by *urugangazi* – museum dance troupe's performance at the Ethnographic Museum, the traditional cows – *Inyambo* parading at the King's Palace Museum, as well as the kids' studio at the National Art Gallery where kids practically exploited their artistic talent all day long. Visitors expressed their excitement for the day. 'I have always been curious to come but I didn't have money to pay for entry to the museum' said Nsabumuremyi, a neighbor to the Natural History Museum. 'I am grateful to the Museums management for the opportunity granted to the general public, I have cherished my country's natural richness exhibited in this museum', adds Mr. Nsabumuremyi.

Museum collections offer reflections of memories and representations of history. This day therefore provided an opportunity to show how museums display and depict treasured memories which encouraged visitors to think beyond their own individual experiences hence become museum ambassadors in telling museum untold stories. Mark Greg, an International visitor also commended this initiative remarking that it did not only wave off the entrance fee but granted them chance to fully discover Rwanda's cultural and natural heritage. 'I am so fascinated by Rwanda's rich heritage preserved in this Museum', asserted Mr. Greg. 'I loved bonding with the beautiful and friendly royal cows-*Inyambo*', he added. Greg also recommended that this initiative should be held annually because he believes it will encourage more national and International people to not only visit museums but also become their ambassadors.

Written by Godlive Mukankuranga

Developments

Rwanda Museums encourages youths to uphold their culture as future custodians



Under the theme ‘Umuco wacu Inkingi y’Ubunyarwanda’ (our culture, a foundation of Rwandan identity), on 20th May 2017 Rwanda Museums also held cultural competitions among ten (10) schools in Nyanza district, aiming not only at cultural talent detection but also imparting and upholding Rwanda’s rich heritage into the young generation, who are, in essence future leaders, parents and custodians of our cultural and natural heritage. The competitions were preceded by an intensive pre-selection which was done in all Nyanza district schools between 15th and 20th May in order to determine which schools/students would participate in the finals.

With a team of five judges and experts in traditional dance, poetry, design and general knowledge, students did not see themselves making it at first but on the contrary, the jury was fascinated by the ambitious students’ extraordinary cultural cognition. The youngsters were zealous to not only win the competition but also showcase their cultural values as well as their unique creativity. It was a bit challenging for the judges to select the best two students/groups from each competition because according to them all of the students’ performances were amazing. In competitions however, there has to be the first and the last, so judges had a tough job to do whilst intensely analyzing the results.

Three of the best in aptitude test were re-interviewed with some new random questions because their results were similarly higher leaving no room for the judges to determine the winner.

This was proof to museums management that these students were really passion about their culture. Students competed in four fields including traditional dance, drawing, poetry and general knowledge of Rwanda's heritage whereby the best two (2) students/groups from each school were given cash prizes and certificates whilst the rest were given certificates. Four schools competed in traditional and St Esprit merged the first followed by College du Christ Roi. In drawing, nine schools represented by one student each competed and Keza Nadia from Igihozo St. Peter Secondary School merged the first followed by Ntungane Tresor from College du Christ Roi. In poetry, ten (10) students competed and IRUTINGABO Ruben from College du Christ Roi merged the first followed by UMURERWA Josiane from Mater Dei. Finally, 8 student from different schools competed in the aptitude test on general cultural cognition and MUNYURANGABO J.Louis from Ecole Secondaire Nyanza merged the first followed by MASENGESHO Gedeon from St. Esprit. The competitions laid eventually laid foundation of forming cultural clubs in schools which will help the youths to cherish their culture as they pass it on to the future generations.

Written by Godlive Mukankuranga

Developments

Rwanda Museums encourages youths to uphold their culture as future custodians



Rwanda Museums organised a special package for stakeholders (media and Tour operators) during the 2017 International museum day celebrations. A two day excursion tour of museums in Kigali and Southern Province took place on 25th and 26th May 2017, with an aim to fortify partnership between Museums, Media and Tour operators in raising museum awareness as well as promoting Rwanda's cultural tourism nationally and internationally. Stakeholders involved included New Times publication, RBA, Izuba rirashye, Isango Star, Igihe Ltd, Kigali Today as well as representatives from Rwanda Tour and Travel Association (RTTA) and Rwanda Safari Guides Association.

The two days tour began from National Liberation Museum Park, commonly known as Umulindi w'Intwari, where by stakeholders were given a guided tour through the open air Museum and got a detailed history of the liberation struggle from around 1990 to 1994 when RPF Inkotanyi sacrificed their all to save millions of Rwandans that had long suffered torture.

Some of the collections that fascinated stakeholders included among others H.E Paul Kagame's former bunker which he used during the Liberation struggle, the famously known Arusha house where some of the meetings regarding Arusha agreement were done, houses and other bunkers that sheltered significant politicians including Late Aloysius Inyumba, Gen. James Kabarebe, Hon. Tito Tutaremara, Hon. Patrick Mazimpaka, Gen. Alex Kanyarengwe, etc. It was such a long and interesting tour which lasted a whole day but left them still yearning for more. Proceeding to the Natural History Museum, stakeholders received detailed information about the museum. They were not only thrilled by the rich history about Rwanda's flora and fauna exhibited in this museum, but also the live reptile exhibition which was breathtakingly interesting to them. Some of them who were vigilant touched and felt the live 5m python with the help of museum staff in charge.

In Nyanza district, they toured the King's Palace Museum as well as the National Art Gallery. At King's Palace Museum, stakeholders were astonished at the typical traditional home as they discovered how Rwandan traditional homes were uniquely maintained as compared to today's modern homes. The chilly traditional palace was so alluring that they did not feel like moving anywhere else. Coming to bonding with royal cows, our guests entreated to stay longer because to some, it was a new experience while to others it was an old but golden experience. They had hands on experience in milking, *Kudahira*, *Inyambo* parading, etc. Continuing to the King's modern Palace, they discovered more about Rwanda's geographical history before and after colonialism.

This tour was preceded with the carnival, as also part of the day's activities which began from Mater Dei Nyanza, through Nyanza town and was concluded at the National Art Gallery where the actual International Museum Day celebrations took place. It was an intensive two days tour but so rewarding. Stakeholders asserted that this should happen more often because learning never ceases, and besides learning, they emphasized that Rwandan cultural experience is a breathtaking one.

Written by Godlive Mukankuranga