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World Bank Data Exposes Persistent Economic and Human Capital Failures in Rwanda, Says Rwanda National Congress

PORTLAND, Maine — July 2nd, 2026 — The Rwanda National Congress (RNC) today highlighted recent World Bank data as clear evidence of deep-rooted structural weaknesses in Rwanda's economy over the past three decades under the current administration. Despite periods of reported GDP growth, the data reveal limited job creation, low productivity, stalled poverty reduction, and widening inequality.

According to the World Bank's latest 2025 figures, Rwanda remains a low-income country with a GDP per capita of approximately US\$1,123. This trails regional peers, including Kenya at US\$2,363, Tanzania at US\$1,318, and Uganda at US\$1,208.

The World Bank assessment underscores systemic constraints:

"The creation of jobs in Rwanda is insufficient, and the level of productivity remains low, reflecting infrastructure gaps, limited progress in innovation, and sub-optimal allocative efficiency. The inclusiveness of growth remains a key challenge, as the momentum in poverty reduction has weakened in recent years. The benefits of structural transformation have tended to accrue to more educated workers, worsening inequality."

Human capital development — critical for long-term productivity — remains a major concern. Rwanda ranks 160th out of 174 countries on the World Bank's Human Capital Index. Additionally, public debt is projected to exceed 77% of GDP by the end of 2026, raising concerns about fiscal sustainability.

"The latest World Bank data offers independent confirmation of the structural barriers holding back Rwanda's potential," said Dr Emmanuel Hakizimana, Chairman of Rwanda National Congress.

He adds that "true progress requires a genuine shift toward private sector-led growth, reduced state dominance in the economy, and policies that empower ordinary Rwandans rather than entrenched interests."

The RNC emphasizes that sustainable development depends on unleashing private enterprise, which has been hampered by the ruling party-linked conglomerates. Notably, Crystal Ventures Ltd., the ruling party's reported \$1.8 billion investment arm, maintains significant control across key sectors of the domestic economy.

The RNC repeats its belief that Rwanda is in urgent and dire need of broad democratic reforms, including transparent governance, respect for human rights, national reconciliation, and the creation of inclusive institutions that serve all Rwandans equally.

About the Rwanda National Congress (RNC)

Founded in 2010, the RNC is a democratic political organization dedicated to promoting peace, unity, freedom, justice, and democracy in Rwanda. The RNC advocates for accountable governance, respect for human rights, national reconciliation, and the establishment of democratic institutions that serve all Rwandans without discrimination.

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