



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Clarifications on the Kigali Golf Course Project led by RUGC, a Subsidiary of RSSB**

In reaction to a repetitive misinformation campaign led by a media agency Taarifa on the Kigali Golf Course Project, Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB) as the parent company and Rwanda Ultimate Golf Course (RUGC) would like to clarify several aspects of the before-mentioned project; and would like to reassure its members that the statements made in the article published by Taarifa on Monday July 26th, 2021 of swindling pension fund money on the golf course project are false and based on unfounded arguments.

1. In accordance with Vision 2050 to position our country as a high-end sustainable tourism destination, Rwandan authorities identified the existing Kigali Golf Course as an opportunity to create an iconic high-end facility which would meet the highest international standards, and which could eventually lead to a significant increase of domestic and international tourism.
2. The project was initially under the supervision of RDB. Being a long-term investment and including construction and civil works features, the golf course project was then handed over to RSSB following Ministerial meetings of June 2019. To manage this significant project, RSSB Board of Directors decided to create a dedicated entity to embody the Kigali Golf Course project whose name is Rwanda Ultimate Golf Course.
3. All tenders were executed in accordance with best practice and value for money. RUGC being a private company does not have to follow public institutions process, and key decisions such as hiring the main contractor Gregory International were overseen by a joint Development Committee appointed by RDB, composed by RSSB, RDB, Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA), City of Kigali (CoK) and Kigali Golf Club (KGC, Golfers association). As the initial budgeting of the project of 4 million USD was not sufficient to build a PGA standard course, the scope and the budget were revised to 11 million USD and the scope of the initial tender was extended by the Technical Committee and the Steering Committee composed by RSSB, RDB, RHA, CoK and KGC.

4. Thanks to incredible coordination and collaboration efforts of Rwandan public authorities, the Golf Course construction has been completed in December 2020, as certified by the Course Architect, the Project Supervisor, and the Technical Committee, which represents a construction period of one year and half. The construction period for a PGA Standard golf course can take more than two years depending on the weather, soil type among other factors.
5. Since December 2020, RUGC has been working on small upgrades and maintenance of the Golf Course and further developments around the Golf Course. The maintenance contract will be executed in the first years after delivery by Gregori International, the Golf Course construction company. This is best practice after the completion of a golf course as the constructor has a liability period during which it is liable for any significant construction defect.
6. The golf course was scheduled to open at the end of June 2021, but due to an incident with a selective herbicide that damaged certain parts of the course, RUGC only opened the practice range end of June 2021 for golfers, who provided positive feedback on the work carried out by RUGC and its partners. The contractor is contractually fully liable for all damages caused by that incident.
7. After observing significant improvement in the recovery of the course, RUGC was planning to open the entire Golf Course at the end of July 2021, but it has now been postponed following new measures against Covid-19. RUGC will communicate on the official new opening date after the end of the lockdown.

As always, RSSB and RUGC will collaborate with local authorities to provide evidence that the Golf Course project was performed following best practice to achieve the set vision for the project.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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