

State Owned Media Sources

There were no relevant articles from state owned media sources during the week of March 8th-14th 2011.

Privately Owned Media Sources

The New Times website—12 March 2011: Rwanda's Media High Council releases list of media organs licensed to operate

- The Media High Council released a new list of media organs licensed to operate; they number 27 broadcasters and 32 print media companies.
- According Patrice Mulama, executive secretary of the MHC, those who made the list have fulfilled the requirements of the 2009 media law.*

**The 2009 media law, passed in February 2009, outlines capital requirements for the start-up of a media business, mandates the disclosure of information relating to number of editions published and distributed, and requires companies to reveal their sources of information.*

The East African—14 March 2011: Alarm over rising trade deficit

- Rwanda's increasing trade deficit is causing concern to both the government and the private sector.
- Standing at \$407 million, the country's current account deficit worsened by 12% from 2009, due mainly to trade imbalance and service deficits.
- According to the National Bank of Rwanda, the deficit is on track to widen to \$536 million (8.8% of GDP), with an increase in imports—due to a growing economy and a more prosperous group of consumers—outweighing the modest growth in exports.
- Rwanda's main import partners are Kenya, Tanzania, the United States, the Benelux countries, and France; its main imports include machinery, steel, petroleum, motor vehicles and foodstuffs.
- The Ministry of Finance announced that the country will soon unveil an export promotion strategy aimed at diversifying its export base to help bridge the trade gap.

The New Times—14 March 2011: Local Journalists Have More Reason to Steer Away From Divisive Politics (editorial by James Munyaneza, training editor and 1st VP of the Rwanda Journalists Association)

- Rwanda journalists have often been accused of having played a major role in encouraging and inciting violence that led to the 1994 Genocide.
- Indeed, "genocidal ideologues" such as those behind the RTLM radio and Kangura newspaper successfully used handouts, privileges, intimidation, and violence against 'stubborn' journalists to ensure that their hate messages were disseminated to the general public. They took over newsrooms so that the media provided a platform for the Genocide agenda. In this way, the media in Rwanda came to symbolize the tragedy of 1994.
- Two weeks ago, as a member of the 'expert panel' on good governance indicators at a meeting organized by the Rwanda Governance Advisory Council, I participated in thought-provoking dialogue on this subject. The panelists gave a paltry 10% score to the media,

stating that the current media in Rwanda fails to cover policy issues with the sort of depth and informed analysis that would positively contribute toward policy issues.

- We must be ready to put people's interests well above everything else. Whether you call yourself an "opposition", "government", or "pro-government" media organ, we must all share one thing: advancing citizens' interests; the rest is for non-media actors."