

## **Biography of Ambassador James Kimonyo**

### **Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the United States**

Engineer James Kimonyo is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda to the United States of America and non-resident Ambassador to Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Chile. Prior to his current position, Ambassador James Kimonyo was Rwanda's Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa and non-Resident Ambassador to Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Kingdom of Swaziland and the Kingdom of Lesotho where he served for two years.

Ambassador James Kimonyo has been instrumental in the political and socio-economic reforms in Rwanda for the last thirteen years where he held several key positions in government.

Prior to his diplomatic career, Ambassador Kimonyo served as the Governor of the Eastern and Southern provinces respectively (Kibungo and Butare). As a governor he was directly involved in efforts to enhance good governance, justice, economic development and social progress. He has an outstanding record for his dedication to strengthening and fostering the unity and reconciliation process in Rwanda.

After the 1994 genocide, Ambassador Kimonyo was appointed to head the department of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction under several ministries including; Rehabilitation and Social Integration, Home Affairs, Communal Development and Resettlement as well as the ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Environmental Protection. Ambassador Kimonyo has also played a vital role in the repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programs of former Rwandan refugees.

Ambassador Kimonyo additionally has a wide range of experience with international organizations. He served as a national director and coordinator of several projects funded by different international organizations including UNHCR, UNDP and UN-HABITAT. Ambassador James Kimonyo has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and holds a Masters Degree in Engineering Project Management.