HEC MONTHLY REVIEW

WWW.HEC.GOV.RW

June 2026 Issue

Higher Education Council
Quality Education - Our Aim

Inside The Issue

Taking HEC Closer to Universities: Outreach Programme Continues

HEC Appears Before the Parliamentary Commission for Education

HEC Staff in Action

FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Welcome to the June edition of the Higher Education Council (HEC) Monthly Review.

June marked an important close to the fiscal year, offering an opportunity to reflect on the progress made while remaining focused on the work ahead. For HEC, it was a month defined by meaningful engagements, policy dialogue, and continued efforts to strengthen quality higher education in Rwanda.

A key highlight of the month was HEC's appearance before the Parliamentary Commission on Education, Technology, Culture, Sports and Youth where the discussion revolved around the review of the current education law with the focus on higher education, where the Council reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to national conversations shaping the future of higher education. Issues such as artificial intelligence, virtual learning, and the internationalization of higher education are now central to the sector, and they call for a regulatory framework that is agile, responsive, and forward-looking.

HEC launched its nationwide outreach programme with a visit to the University of Kigali, engaging the university leadership, academic staff, and students on strengthening quality assurance and institutional performance. The discussions emphasized aligning higher education with national development priorities, labour market needs, and fostering stronger collaboration between the regulator and higher learning institutions.

This month also saw significant progress in accreditation and institutional assessment. HEC assessed 7 institutions — 5 in general education and 2 in Polytechnic — and reviewed 35 new and revised programmes. This work remains at the heart of our mandate: ensuring that every higher learning institution in Rwanda meets the quality standards required to serve our students and strengthen overall student outcomes.

“the Council reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to national conversations shaping the future of higher education. Issues such as artificial intelligence, virtual learning, and the internationalization of higher education are now central to the sector, and they call for a regulatory framework that is agile, responsive, and forward-looking” Dr. Edward Kadozi

On another positive note, we are pleased to welcome the four officials appointed to HEC by Cabinet. Their expertise in digitalization, research, quality enhancement, legal affairs, and strategic communications is a valuable addition to the Council, and we look forward to the contribution they will make in advancing our mission.

Looking ahead to July, HEC remains committed to key priorities including accreditation decisions and the disbursement of bursary loans to merit students for the 2026/27 academic year. The work is in progress, and we remain dedicated to delivering on our core mandate.

Dr. Edward Kadozi
Director General, Higher Education Council

HEC OUTREACH PROGRAM

Engaging Higher Learning Institutions to Advance Quality Education

University of Kigali

HEC launched its nationwide outreach programme with a visit to the University of Kigali, engaging the university leadership, academic staff, and students on strengthening quality assurance and institutional performance. The discussions emphasized aligning higher education with national development priorities, labour market needs, and fostering stronger collaboration between the regulator and higher learning institutions.

Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS)

The outreach programme continued at PIASS, where HEC held constructive discussions with the institution's leadership on advancing quality higher education and institutional sustainability. The engagement highlighted the importance of innovation, financial sustainability, internationalisation, community engagement, and stronger partnerships in shaping globally competitive universities.

Rwanda Polytechnic – Kigali College

HEC visited Rwanda Polytechnic–Kigali College to gain first-hand insight into its competency-based training environment and engage with institutional leadership on the future of technical and vocational education. Discussions underscored the critical role of TVET in driving industrialisation, innovation, youth employability, and Rwanda's long-term economic transformation.

HEC ENGAGEMENTS

Dr. Martial Giraneza (Far left) joins religious leaders and government officials at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for ICK's new building, Sainte Elizabeth Campus, 16 June 2026.

Advancing Regional TVET Cooperation

The Higher Education Council joined education experts from across the East African Community in Nairobi, Kenya, for the regional review of the Draft EAC TVET Qualifications Framework. Representing HEC, Ms. Shema Mirielle Bucyeye took part in technical discussions focused on strengthening regional collaboration, quality assurance, and the recognition of qualifications and skills.

HEC Representative Joins Leaders at ICK's New Building Inauguration

Dr. Martial Giraneza represented the Higher Education Council (HEC) at the inauguration of a new building at the Catholic Institute of Kabgayi (ICK)'s Sainte Elizabeth Campus on 16 June 2026, joining a gathering of church, government, and institutional leaders for the occasion.

A Call to Serve: HEC Official Challenges RHIH Graduates to Put Country First

Dr. Habimana Olivier, Head of Digitalization and Research at the Higher Education Council (HEC), addressed the 239 graduating students of Ruli Higher Institute of Health (RHIH) at their 9th graduation ceremony held on 18 June 2026 in Kigali. He reminded the graduates of the great responsibility ahead of them, urging them to prioritize serving their country and its people.

HEC ENGAGEMENTS

Group photo of participants and organisers for only the Education Cohort at the joint opening ceremony, China Women's University, Beijing - June 23, 2026

Pedagogical Innovation at the Heart of Sustainable Education

Dr. Eduige Kampire, Accreditation Analyst at HEC, served as a panelist at the 4th International Conference on "Re-shaping Education for Sustainable Development" at the University of Rwanda's Gikondo Campus (15–17 June 2026). At the HEP-TED Symposium, she emphasized that sustainable transformation in higher education hinges on empowered educators, responsive leadership, quality assurance, and strong partnerships.

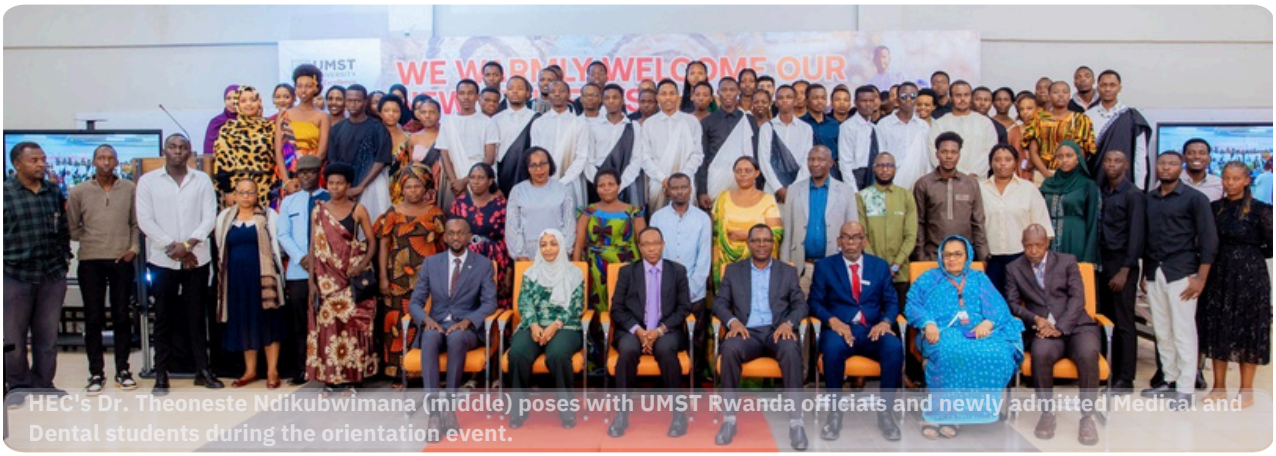
Strengthening Women's Leadership in Higher Education

The Higher Education Council (HEC) participated in the Seminar on Education Capacity Building for Women from Developing Countries in Beijing, China, represented by Espérance Mukarutwaza, General Higher Education Quality Assurance Specialist. The seminar provides a platform to exchange best practices on women's leadership and gender-responsive higher education.

Inaugural Varsity League Concludes Successfully

The inaugural Varsity League concluded in Gisagara District, bringing together university leaders and government officials to celebrate outstanding student-athletes and teams. The event highlighted the role of sports in promoting discipline, resilience, teamwork, and holistic student development in higher education.

HEC ENGAGEMENTS



HEC's Dr. Theoneste Ndikubwimana (middle) poses with UMST Rwanda officials and newly admitted Medical and Dental students during the orientation event.

HEC Joins UMST Rwanda in Welcoming New Students

Dr. Theoneste Ndikubwimana, Head of the General Higher Education Quality Standards Department, represented the Higher Education Council (HEC) at the orientation ceremony for UMST Rwanda's 33rd cohort of Medical and Dental students. During the event, he reaffirmed HEC's commitment to supporting students throughout their academic and professional journey. He encouraged the new students to embrace discovery, pursue excellence, and make the most of their time at UMST as they prepare for careers in healthcare.

Get in Touch

POLICY CORNER

RWANDA BUDGET TO INCREASE BY RWF 844.2 BILLION IN 2026/2027

Rwanda's proposed national budget for the 2026/2027 fiscal year will rise to Rwf 7,796.3 billion, marking an increase of Rwf 844.2 billion from the revised Rwf 6,952.1 billion budget of 2025/2026. Below are the top six sectors receiving the largest share of the government budget allocation by percentage;

Education: 11.4%	Energy: 4.5%
Health: 6.3%	Transport: 3.9%
Agriculture: 4.5%	Private sector: 2.5%

What the 2026/27 National Budget Means for Higher Education

Rwanda's FY 2026/27 budget reinforces the strategic role of higher education in delivering the skilled workforce, research capacity, and innovation needed to achieve Vision 2050. With education receiving nearly RWF 889 billion and digital transformation emerging as a central national priority, universities are expected to play an even greater role in producing job-ready graduates, advancing research, and supporting Rwanda's transition to a knowledge-based economy.

HEC Appears Before Parliamentary Commission on the Future of Higher Education

The Higher Education Council (HEC) appeared before the Parliamentary Commission on Education, Technology, Culture, Sports and Youth to discuss key issues shaping the future of higher education in Rwanda.

The engagement focused on emerging developments such as artificial intelligence, online learning, and the internationalisation of higher education. Discussions also highlighted the need to review the existing legal and regulatory framework to ensure it remains responsive to technological advancements and evolving education models.

The session reflects HEC's ongoing role in supporting evidence-based policy and regulatory reforms aimed at strengthening Rwanda's higher education system and preparing it for future demands.

News Round Up

Ruli Higher Institute of Health Graduates Over 200 Students

More than 200 students graduated during the 9th Graduation Ceremony of Ruli Higher Institute of Health. The graduates received degrees and diplomas across various health disciplines, adding to Rwanda's pool of qualified healthcare professionals.

AIMS Rwanda Graduates 44 Master's Students

AIMS Rwanda celebrated the graduation of 44 students during its 2025–2026 Regular Master's Graduation Ceremony held at the Kigali Convention Centre. The graduates completed advanced studies in mathematical sciences and related fields, joining a growing pool of highly skilled professionals expected to drive research, innovation, and scientific development across Africa.

ICK Unveils New Nursing and Midwifery Training Facility

The Catholic Institute of Kabgayi (ICK) officially inaugurated a new academic building at its St. Elizabeth Campus in Muhanga District. The facility will support the training of nursing and midwifery students, expanding the institution's capacity to deliver quality health education and prepare skilled professionals for Rwanda's healthcare sector.

RDF Senior Officers Graduate

President Paul Kagame presided over the graduation of 108 senior officers from Rwanda and 19 partner countries at the Rwanda Defence Force Command and Staff College in Musanze. The graduates completed a 46-week programme in strategic leadership and security studies, reinforcing regional defence cooperation and preparing officers for senior command responsibilities.

Cabinet Appoints New Officials to HEC

During its meeting of 8 June 2026, Cabinet appointed four officials to key positions at the Higher Education Council (HEC), further strengthening the institution's capacity to deliver on its mandate. The appointments reinforce HEC's expertise across strategic functions and support its continued commitment to advancing quality assurance, regulation, and innovation in Rwanda's higher education sector.

Meet Our New Team Members

Dr. Olivier Habimana

Dr. Olivier Habimana joins the Higher Education Council as Head of Digitalization and Research. He holds a PhD in Computer Application Technology and brings over 14 years of experience in higher education, with expertise in artificial intelligence, educational technology, digital transformation, and research. Previously, he served as Director of the Centre for Open, Distance and eLearning and Senior Lecturer at the University of Rwanda.

Dr. Gerard Nyiringango

Dr. Gerard Nyiringango joins the Higher Education Council as Division Manager for Post-Quality Enhancement in General Education. He holds a PhD in Information Society and brings over 20 years of experience in higher education teaching and research. His expertise spans nursing education, technology integration in healthcare and education, simulation-based learning, and mentorship, following a distinguished academic career at the University of Rwanda.

Ericks Shyaka

Ericks Shyaka joins the Higher Education Council as Communications Analyst. He holds a Master of Arts in Communications and brings over 10 years of experience in journalism, strategic communications, and broadcast production. Before joining HEC, he worked with CNBC Africa and contributed to several regional and international media outlets, specializing in business reporting, storytelling, and multimedia content production.

Richard Mushambaro

Richard Mushambaro joins the Higher Education Council as Legal Analyst from the Ministry of Justice. He holds a Master's degree in Business Law and brings extensive experience in legal and contract management across the government, consultancy, and non-profit sectors. His expertise includes contract drafting, negotiation, compliance, and partnership management, with a strong track record of supporting institutional collaboration and effective project implementation.

HEC in Media

Throughout June, the Higher Education Council (HEC) received extensive media coverage, driven primarily by its nationwide outreach programme, which visited three higher learning institutions, as well as its appearance before the Parliamentary Committee on Education. HEC's activities were featured across numerous local media outlets, while internationally, University World News highlighted Rwanda's efforts to triple its graduate enrolment ratio. Below are some of the media reports that covered HEC's initiatives and engagements.

Links

University World News
Rwanda aims to triple graduate enrolment ratio

Igihe
International students in Rwanda reach 13,000

The New Times
AI, online learning drive call for law review

The New Times
AI, online learning drive call for law review

IGIHE
Ishuri Rikuru ry'Ubuzima rya Ruli ryashyize ku isoko ry'umurimo abarenga 200

The New Times
Cabinet makes key appointments in public institutions

The New Times
Cabinet makes key appointments in public institutions

KT PRESS
Rwanda Spends Rwf150 Billion on Research, Seeks to Reach Rwf320 Billion

AE NEWS
Number of International Students in Rwanda Rises to 13,000

Kigali Today
Ishoramari rijya mu bushakashatsi mu mashuri Makuru na Kaminuza ntirigera kuri 1%

GALLERY

HEC Director General Edward Kadozi with PIASS Vice Chancellor Prof. Olu Ojedokun.

HEC Director General interacts with students at RP Kigali during an HEC outreach programme.

Captains representing their Varsity League teams pose with trophies and medals.

HEC officials meet with the management and staff of the University of Kigali during the outreach programme.

RP Kigali student showcase their innovations during HEC's outreach visit.

Students attend an engaged session during the HEC outreach programme.

HEC Director General interacts with staff at RP Kigali during an HEC outreach programme.

PIASS students demonstrate innovative projects during the HEC outreach programme.

Higher Education Council

Quality Education - Our Aim

We value your iput and suggestions.
Please share your feedback by
emailing **info@hec.gov.rw**

Get in Touch