

NOTICE: WARNING ON UNLAWFUL PRACTICE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION IN RWANDA

To:
THE PUBLIC, OWNERS OF BUSINESSES RELATED TO ARCHITECTURE & PRACTITIONERS

August 01, 2023

In accordance with the law No 26/2012 governing the profession of Architecture and establishing the **Rwanda Institute of Architects**, Article 6: Requirements for admission to practice the profession of Architecture in Rwanda, in section 3,4. And Article 8: Admission of legal entities to provide architecture services, and the Article 38: Sanctions imposed on persons who are not members of the Institute. And as per the institute's primary mandate of **regulating, scaling and promoting core values of the profession of Architecture in Rwanda**.

It has come to our attention that there are individuals and companies operating within Rwanda who are engaging in the architectural profession without the necessary legal registrations and certifications. We hereby issue this notice to inform all concerned parties about the severe legal sanctions that can be imposed under the law establishing the institute for unregistered and non-certified professionals and companies.

According to the laws and regulations governing the architectural profession in Rwanda, it is mandatory for all individuals and companies offering architectural services to be registered and certified by the appropriate authorities. This requirement ensures that professionals possess the necessary skills, knowledge, and expertise to safeguard public safety, health, and welfare.

It is essential to understand that engaging in the architectural profession without the proper registrations and certifications is a violation of the law. The Institute, in collaboration with relevant government agencies, is actively monitoring and investigating such unlawful practices. Any individual or company found to be operating without the necessary documentation will face legal consequences.

The potential legal sanctions for unregistered and non-certified professionals and companies include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Business Closure:** Companies found to be operating unlawfully may face immediate closure of their operations. This measure is taken to protect the public from potential harm resulting from substandard architectural services.
- 2. Individual Professional Sanctions:** Unregistered and non-certified professionals may face severe penalties, including fines, suspension, or revocation of their professional licenses. These sanctions aim to maintain the integrity and professionalism within the architectural field.

We strongly urge all individuals and companies involved in the architectural profession to ensure they have the required registrations and certifications. Compliance with the law is not only necessary to avoid legal repercussions but also crucial for upholding professional standards and maintaining the trust of clients and the public.

For those in doubt or seeking further information, we encourage you to contact the Rwanda Institute of Architects. Our dedicated team will provide guidance and assistance regarding the registration process and the requirements for certification.

Let us work together to promote a safe, ethical, and regulated architectural profession in Rwanda. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



The seal of the Rwanda Institute of Architects (RIA) is circular with a blue border. Inside the circle, the letters 'RIA' are prominently displayed in a stylized font. Below 'RIA', the words 'RWANDA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS' are written in a smaller, sans-serif font. The background of the seal features a map of Rwanda and a sunburst design at the top.

Arch. Emmanuel Nyirinkindi
Executive Secretary & Registrar
Rwanda Institute of Architects

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KIGALI RWANDA