

## LETTERS

### Welcome to Rwanda

FORMER Army chief General Lord Dannatt says he's 'uncomfortable' with plans to send migrants to Rwanda 'because a shadow of genocide hangs over' the country.

This distorts the realities of modern Rwanda. Our young nation is not defined by our history, but by a focus on the future: a commitment to unity, stability and dignified livelihoods for our people.

There has been an unprecedented transformation over the past 29 years in terms of safety, health and economic growth.

In 2000, life expectancy was 49; today, it is over 69. We are a rapidly growing economy and one of the world's easiest places to do business. Equality and diversity is valued — 61.3 per cent of our Parliament are women, which is higher than anywhere in the world.

These factors have attracted thousands of people from across the world to relocate here in recent years.

Indeed, Rwanda is one of the few African countries that benefits from a 'brain gain'.

We welcome this, gladly hosting migrants and refugees from across the world through one of the world's most liberal visa regimes.

Afghanistan's only girls' boarding school has relocated to Kigali, where it thrives.

Whether you agree with the migration partnership or not, assessments of Rwanda should be objective, not based on antiquated Western stereotypes of Africa.

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