

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Signing of Technical Collaboration Agreement between Rwanda Forensic Institute (RFI) and BGI Group**

**Date:** 4 September 2025

**Venue:** Ministry of Justice, Kigali

The Ministry of Justice through **RFI** and the Embassy of People's Republic of China in Rwanda through **BGI Group** signed a **Technical Collaboration Agreement** in Kigali, witnessed by the Hon. Minister of Justice & Attorney General and H.E. the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Rwanda.

This agreement marks a **strategic milestone** in Rwanda's forensic science journey by introducing the **DNBSEQ-G99 Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) system**, a cutting-edge technology that will:

- Enable conclusive DNA results in **degraded, mixed, and complex samples**;
- Support **non-invasive prenatal paternity testing** from as early as six weeks;
- Strengthen kinship and ancestry testing, disaster victim identification, and genocide-related investigations;
- Expand Rwanda's capacity into **biodiversity protection, food safety, and biosecurity preparedness**.

The ceremony reaffirmed Rwanda's commitment to becoming a **regional hub of forensic excellence**, grounded in science, justice, and innovation.

#### **Key Commitments and Action Points**

- **Formalize a Memorandum of Understanding** between the Ministry of Justice and the Embassy of China to consolidate strategic cooperation.

- **Acquire the NGS machine, ensure operationalization and Launch training programs** in NGS, bioinformatics, and advanced forensic methodologies for RFI scientists.
- **Facilitate benchmarking visits** to China for RFI experts and leadership.
- **Develop proposals** for a state-of-the-art RFI forensic facility and a National Biobank.
- **Integrate forensic cooperation** into broader Rwanda–China bilateral frameworks, including FOCAC.

Hon. Minister of Justice hailed the agreement as *“the beginning of a long-term strategic partnership that will advance justice and public safety.”*

H.E. the Ambassador of China reaffirmed his country's support, calling the partnership *“a symbol of deepening China–Rwanda comprehensive strategic cooperation.”*

BGI Group's CEO pledged continued innovation and training support, noting that *“this partnership is more than technology—it is about building a safer and more just society.”*

**End**