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Editorial

Unending journey for sustainable security

We now live in a radically interconnected world. Unless there is international stability – even in the most distant places – the people’s way of life is threatened.

For the last 15 years of Rwanda National Police dedicated policing services, internal and external cooperation with the public and regional police forces and organizations have been among our priorities.

This is partly because globalization has ushered in new policing challenges that no force can combat singled handedly.

In this 12th issue of “The Community Voice,” we bring you yet other milestones in the cooperation and response to crime through training, outreach programmes, local and cross-border cooperation and continued role of RNP in peacekeeping operations.

Rwanda National Police understands that poverty, health and ignorance are other factors that can clump on the safety and security, thus, it has enrolled in the government’s human security activities through supporting the vulnerable groups, establishing health facilities, but also supporting sports development in the country.

Rwanda National Police, therefore, recognizes the role of every player which continues to make Rwanda one of the safest places.

Regardless, this cooperation should not wither; rather it should continue to flourish.

Security without development is questionable, while development without security is impossible.
President Paul Kagame challenged governments and security organs in Africa to make the issue of gender based violence a top priority if the scourge is to be comprehensively approached and responded to effectively.

The Head of State made the remarks on August 18 while officiating at the opening of the ‘Command Post Exercise Africa UNiTE II,’ at the Rwanda National Police General Headquarters in Kacyiru.

The second edition of the Exercise registered in the framework of Kigali International Conference Declaration (KICD) brought together 103 participants from 30 African countries under the theme: “Africa Security Organs’ Synergy to End Violence against Women and Girls.”

“The only way to think about GBV is as a violation of rights, crime and indeed a threat to progress in Africa and around the world,” President Kagame said.

To call it anything else or less, he noted, would only “add to the assault”, adding that this kind of abuse is “completely unacceptable,”

“Women are our mothers, daughters, wives. What debate is there in treating them as decently as we have to?” he wondered, noting that violence against women and girls not only harms the victims, but also impacts negatively on the wellbeing of their families and communities.

“The equality of women is a cornerstone of our democracy. Therefore we have to work together in Rwanda, and globally to end these crimes. It requires more than words to protect women and girls from violence. Perpetuators must be held accountable and those who protect them must be shamed.”

The Head of State said that Rwanda’s security and defence forces have earned the respect and trust of Rwandans for restoring peace and stability while respecting and enhancing the dignity of each citizen they serve, including women.

“We have also worked hard to do what is right by establishing an institutional framework that expects the full participation of women in all aspects of national life.”

He said that there must be will, determination and values within all ranks to guide correct and profession-
Fighting GBV should be top priority among African security organs – President Kagame

Ities and capabilities of the security forces to respond to gender based violence both at home and in peacekeeping operations.

“We have no option; we must act now; we must move from commitment to action. We must train together to guarantee acceptable levels of operational readiness to prevent and effectively respond to challenges women and girls face,” IGP Gasana, said.

Letty Chiwara, the UN Women Representative to Ethiopia and AU, said that one distinguishing features of the launch of the Africa UNiTE campaign here in Kigali in 2010, was not only about enhancing the capacities of the security organs in the country, but also ensuring that good practices of Rwanda like Isange One Stop Centre are shared widely across the whole of Africa. She was full of praises for what she witnessed in 2010 during the launch of Africa UNiTE campaign in Kigali, for seeing “men and women in uniform seated on the same table discussing issues women and girls face and laid concrete strategies to deal with the vice."

“In Africa, some countries are in conflict, others are in post conflict and reconstruction phase, and yet others continue to encounter crisis while others enjoy relative peace. However, in all these contexts, women and girls continue to safer from violence, abuse and discrimination,” Chiwara, who is also the UN Economic Commission for Africa, said.

Lamin Manneh, the UN Resident Coordinator commended President Paul Kagame for his deep commitment towards gender equality to support women both at home and in difficult circumstances, and according dignity to women.

He further lauded Rwanda security organs and KICD secretariat for keeping the momentum and spirit of Africa UNiTE. “It is acknowledged throughout the world, that Rwanda security forces are highly devoted to protecting civilians, especially women and young girls in conflict situations. This is a reflection of ideals that you stand for,” Lamin said.

KICD annual general meeting is rotational and CPX is also conducted annually by the host country. Algeria will host the 2015/2016 KICD and CPX.

The United Nations has decorated 164 Rwandan police peacekeepers serving under the UN Mission in the Central African Republic (CAR) with medals of service excellence.

The awards ceremony was held on Sunday at their camp base in the capital Bangui and presided over by the UN secretary-general's special representative to CAR, Parfait Onanga Anyanga.

The ceremony was also attended by MINUSCA police commissioner, Luis Miguel Carrilho, government officials and contingent commanders of other formed police units.

Among those decorated, 139 of them are under Rwanda Formed Police Unit (RWAFPU 1) and 25 Individual Police Officers (IPOs). Onanga thanked the “exemplary discipline and professionalism” of the Rwandan Police officers.”

“The UN and the entire community in Penace (their area of operation) are grateful for your contribution toward restoring stability and peace in CAR,” Anyanga said.

Rwanda was the first country to deploy a contingent of Police officers in CAR, arriving two weeks before the blue berets formerly took over the peacekeeping mandate from the African Union.

Their mandate included conducting patrols, and protection of VIPs and key installations, among others.

Nearly 5,000 people were killed while thousands others fled their homes since December 2013, when fighting between Muslim and Christian militias erupted.

Rwandan Police peacekeepers in CAR receive UN medals
Rwanda, Turkey sign security cooperation pacts

The governments of Rwanda and Turkey have signed security agreements in a move to bolster their bilateral cooperation.

The pacts were signed in Ankara, Turkey, on August 28, where a Rwandan delegation headed by the Minister for Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harerimana, was in a working visit.

The Rwandan delegation also includes the Inspector General of Police, CG Emmanuel K Gasana, and the Commandant of the National Police College, CP Felix Namuhoranye.

Minister Harerimana and his Turkish counterpart, Sebahattin Öztürk, signed the security cooperation agreement to strengthen the existing partnership in areas of capacity building, sharing of information on combating transnational and organised crimes, and exchange programmes, among others. He also invited his counterpart to visit Rwanda.

At the same event, IGP Gasana and his Turkey counterpart signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in areas of training, focusing on counter terrorism, cybercrimes, Special Forces training and training of trainers courses, among others.

The deal between the two police institutions shall see Rwanda National Police officers benefiting from courses offered at the Turkish National Police Academy, officials said.

The two parties considered providing police liaison officers to expedite the implementation of the agreements.

Harerimana appreciated the hospitality the Turkish government accorded them and reiterated the commitment of the Government of Rwanda in implementing the agreements.

The two parties considered providing police liaison officers to expedite the implementation of the agreements.

The Turkish interior minister pledged the commitment of his Government towards the success of the signed pacts.

The Rwandan delegation also visited different Turkish National Police establishments.
**Rwanda, Kenya Police institutions sign cooperation pact**

Rwanda National Police (RNP) and Kenya National Police Service have signed a memorandum of understanding to formalise their cooperation against cross-border crimes.

The agreement was signed on Friday in Naivasha, Nairobi, by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Emmanuel K. Gasana and his Kenyan counterpart, Joseph K. Boinnet.

This was at the sideline of 15th meeting of the ministers responsible for Police in the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) member countries.

The signing was witnessed by Kenya’s cabinet secretary for interior and coordination, Joseph Ole Nkaiserry, and Rwanda’s Ambassador to Kenya, James Kimonyo.

Under the partnership, the two Police institutions agreed to cooperate in areas of planning, coordination and execution of joint operations against transnational crimes like terrorism and drug trafficking, among others.

The two forces will also share information and expertise through joint operations and training, mutual assistance, road safety operations, development and exchange programmes. They will also undertake professional, career development and other specialised policing courses.

Rwanda National Police spokesman CSP Celestin Twahirwa said the two police institutions have been enjoying good working relations, adding that the agreement comes to formalise the existing cooperation.

“Rwanda and Kenya police forces have been working together in fields of training, information exchange, arrest of suspected criminals and recovery of stolen items. This partnership will ensure that we continue this noble course towards sustainable regional peace and security,” Twahirwa said.

“Rwanda National Police understands that in the face of the current policing challenges facilitated by globalization and technology, it would be impossible for a single police institution to stand alone against such, so cooperation is very important,” he added.

Kenyan police officers have attended the last three Senior Command and Staff Course intakes at the National Police College in Musanze District while about ten Kenyan stolen vehicles have been recovered in Rwanda in the last two years and handed over to their owners.

“The police cooperation framework will facilitate joint undertakings for mutual benefit. Through such cooperation, criminals running from one of the two countries to hide in the other, or using one country as a base to conduct illegal and criminal activities in another, are now unlikely,” Twahirwa added.
The international Police organisation, Interpol has renewed commitment to work closely with Rwandan authorities in renewed effort to bring to book fugitives who are wanted for their role in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

The development follows a two day meeting that ended September 17, between officials from Rwanda Public Prosecution Authority, Rwanda Interpol National Central Bureau and Interpol representatives from General Secretariat.

The meeting focused on strategizing new ways and means of bringing to justice genocide fugitives who are roaming in different parts of the world.

In a press briefing after the meeting, Stefano Carvelli, the Assistant Director of Interpol Fugitive Investigative Support Sub-Directorate, said that the meeting aimed at streamlining and enhancing strategies of bringing to justice perpetrators of the genocide. “Our meeting with the Genocide Fugitive Tracking Unit and Interpol-Kigali discussed mainly new operational factors and initiative as means to intensify our hunt for genocide perpetrators,” said Stefano.

He added that part of what they discussed included the progress made in tracking genocide, the challenges that were faced and how to adapt to different needs in order to have all genocide suspects arrested.

Interpol Fugitive Investigative Support Sub-Directorate was established in 2004 to support Rwandan authorities and the international criminal mechanisms is the search for the perpetrators of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

John Bosco Siboyintore, the Head of Genocide Tracking Unit in RPPA, hailed the existing cooperation with Interpol.

Irrespective of the fact that the perpetrators keep changing their identity to evade justice, Siboyintore said, Interpol has kept tabs on and sometimes even arrest, extradite or deport them to Rwanda.

“We provide Interpol with details including identities and locations of the perpetrators but we are still challenged with the fact that there is still lack of border control in Europe which facilitates the fugitives in their movements; sometimes we indict a fugitive in one country and he moves to another. Without Interpol facilitating the arrest of these people we would be nowhere as of today,” Siboyintore said.

Among the challenges that Siboyintore hinted on include lack of cooperation from some western country to arrest fugitives.

“Among the strategies we have laid is engaging these countries since genocide is a crime against humanity and not just a responsibility of Rwanda; the world bears responsibility to bring these people to justice. We are optimistic about bringing these people to justice,” he added.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Tonny Kuramba, the Head of Interpol National Central Bureau-Kigali, said that since there are still many suspects who are still at large, entities agreed to intensify their efforts in bringing them to book.

With regards to genocide perpetrators, Interpol has issued more than 200 red notices at the request of the Rwandan government over the years; among those, about 40 have been honoured. According to Interpol, the 40 arrests is considered a major milestone going by its perspective as it is "much more difficult tracking criminals of yesterday compared to modern-day fugitives."

As part of efforts to track genocide fugitives, in July last year, the United States government recommitted to working closely with Rwanda, Interpol and a UN tribunal in renewed effort to bring to book the nine key suspects of the Genocide.

Top on the lists of the fugitives is Felicien Kabuga, the alleged chief financier sponsor of the Genocide; Protais Mpiranya, the former commandant of the notorious Presidential Guards, and former defence minister Augustin Bizimana.

The trio, dubbed 'the big fish', has eluded justice for nearly two decades now.

Other prominent suspects on the run are Ladislas Ntaganzwa, Fulgence Kayishema, Pheneas Munyarugarama, Aloys Ndimbati, Charles Rwandikayo and Charles Sikubwabo.

The United States’ Reward for Justice Programme offered up to US$5 million for information leading to the arrest or conviction of each of the nine Genocide fugitives.

Through such cooperation, criminals running from one of the two criminal activities in another, are now unlikely,”

"Among the strategies we have laid is engaging these countries since genocide is a crime against humanity and not just a responsibility of Rwanda; the world bears responsibility to bring these people to justice. We are optimistic about bringing these people to justice,“
The Minister of Local Government, Francis Kaboneka, has called on all road users and drivers in particular to have a collective responsibility to ensure sustainable road safety by respecting road traffic rules. The Minister challenged everyone to always provide timely information to police on those who continue to violate traffic rules which contribute to fatal accidents.

He delivered the message on September 7 in Kicukiro District, where he officiated at the launch of the countrywide ‘Road Safety Month-2015,’ under the theme “Respect Traffic Rule: Save Lives.”

The Road Safety Month is orchestrated by Rwanda National Police (RNP) to sensitize road users on road rules, laws and standards, as a means to prevent accidents and loss of lives and property.

“Intense awareness activities calling for responsibility of road users, coupled with strong enforcement of traffic rules are required to change the way roads are used. There is need to disseminate more information about road safety programmes in order to overcome any form of ignorance that may be dangerous for road users,” Minister Kaboneka told hundreds of residents, who turned up for the exercise.

“The issue of motorcyclists who vehemently refuse to respect other road users has also been talked about for a long time and should be addressed accordingly. Motorcyclists who fail to respect road rules often create hazards for themselves and other road users; and therefore, it is upon responsible road users to report whenever they observe reckless road users.”

At least 200 people died and over 300 were seriously injured in road accidents between January and June this year, according to police statistics.

In general, 34 percent of the victims were drivers and passengers, 30 percent pedestrians while motorcyclists and cyclists were 23 percent and 13 percent respectively.

Majority of the accidents were due to over speeding, reckless driving, and using telephones while driving.

Minister Kaboneka noted that country’s development agenda are hinged on safety and security, thus, there is need to priorities road safety education with a focus on challenges like drunk driving, over speeding, negligence and driving cars with mechanical faults, which are among the major causes of road accidents in the country.

The event was also graced by the Mayor of Kigali City, Fidel Ndayisaba, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Emmanuel K. Gasana, senior police officers and associations of drivers, among others.

IGP Gasana recited President Paul Kagame’s inspiring message that: “Rwandans should take their safety for granted” – noting that ensuring road safety is not a one-day event but should be a daily routine for road users.

“We cannot let accidents be part of our daily lives. That is why we consider awareness on road safety as a continuous process and not a once-a-year event. Police implemented a comprehensive plan of action to bring down road accidents by involving residents through community policing and ensuring professionalism of traffic officers,” IGP Gasana said.

“As we aspire for a sustainable and peaceful country, let every road user promote self-discipline as their duty to the nation.”

In the Western Province, the Minister in President’s Office, Venancie Tugireyezu also echoed the same message, but challenged leaders and elders to protect the youth as the future leaders of the country.
“Besides the youth, we all have an individual responsibility and a role to play in respecting traffic rules and educating others on road safety precautionary measures, respectively. I challenge you to come up with strategies of avoiding fatal accidents,” Tugireyezu told revelers in Nyabihu District.

“You must respect traffic policemen at all times as they represent the law; violating their instructions is literally violating the laws. This is a moment for us to reflect on traffic rules; every citizen’s life is a treasure and very precious to the country, we cannot afford to lose a sing life, we should always ensure safety of each other,” she said.

Similar events were conducted in the Eastern region (Kayonza district) presided over by State Minister in charge of Transport, Alexis Nzahabwanimana, Northern graced by the provincial Executive Secretary, Deo Kabagambe and Deputy Commissioner General of Police (DCGP) Stanley Nsabimana while in the Southern province, the event held in Kamonyi District was presided over by Deputy IGP in charge of Administration and Personnel, Juvenal Marizamunda. The officials and senior police officers engaged road users on road safety tips.

The events in all regions were marked with establishing and painting Zebra crossings, putting stickers with road safety message on vehicles and motorcycles and a road safety awareness walk.

The road safety month is an occasion to sensitize the public to become responsible road users, educate pedestrians on traffic rules and regulations and it will be enhanced by media programs and community policing activities.

Special attention shall be given to school children who will be educated and given road safety tips.
170 Police officers set off for South Sudan mission

At approximately 8:40am on September 10, a plane carrying 170 Rwanda National Police officers left Kigali international Airport as the officers set off for a one year United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

The Rwanda Formed Police Unit (RWAFPU-1) includes 37 females.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of Operations, DCGP Dan Munyuza saluted off the officers.

The contingent is headed by Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Rogers Rutikanga and deputized by CSP Dan Ndayambaje. They will be stationed and operating in Malakal County, northern part of the capital, Juba.

Addressing journalists at the airport, shortly after the departure of the officers, Police Spokesperson, CSP Celestin Twahirwa said that the officers were well trained and well-equipped to counter the mission challenges and effectively execute their duties.

“This is the first Formed Police Unit we are sending to South Sudan and they will be in charge of protection of UN staff, civilians and other establishments,” CSP Twahirwa said.

The maiden contingent was deployed at the request of UN.

The contingent is joining 28 other RNP officers deployed as Individual Police Officers, who act as advisers, mentors and trainers.

Prior to their departure, the officers were on Tuesday September briefed by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Emmanuel K. Gasana who challenged them to uphold professional values and focus on executing the mandate of their mission effectively.

IGP Gasana highlighted Rwanda’s contribution toward making the world a safer place for all.

The role of FPU includes humanitarian assistance, crowd control, escorting VIPs and protection of civilians.

Rwanda is the fifth largest UN troop and Police contributing country.
Twenty eight Rwanda National Police (RNP) officers serving under the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have been awarded UN service Medals for their excellent and professional peacekeeping duties.

The awarded officers, who serve as Individual Police Officers (IPOs), include seven females. IPOs act as trainers, mentors and advisers, among others.

The awarding ceremony was held in Juba Thong Ping Camp, on September 9 and presided over by the Deputy Special Representative of UN Secretary General (D/SRSG) Moustapha Soumare.

The ceremony was attended by UNMISS Police Commissioner, Frederick Yiga, Chief Operations of UN Police (UNPOL), Commissioner of Police (CP) Emmanuel Butera and other senior UNMISS officials, military and police components.

Yiga also awarded certificates of merit to the Rwandan officers.

In his remarks, Soumare thanked the Government of Rwanda for contributing to the creation of peace in South Sudan by providing Police peacekeepers to UNMISS.

He commended the officers for their professionalism and commitment, which helped to maintain good relations with the people of South Sudan and with the entire UNMISS Staff.

“Rwanda is the fifth largest UN Troop and Police Contributing Country in UN Peacekeeping. Throughout the system, Rwanda police peacekeepers are highly regarded for their training and discipline, and we in UNMISS are proud to have them as part of the Mission. You make Africa proud,” he said.

“Rwandan UNPOL officers have made vital contributions to the activities of the mission, especially in work undertaken to protect civilians. UNMISS and people of South Sudan thank you for your service and for professional manner in which you conduct your duties.”

He also thanked Rwanda for increasing the number of female peacekeepers in UN Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan.

“The women here today have shown the female face of peacekeepers, enhancing security and safety for local communities. In doing so, they have made the mission more approachable to society’s most vulnerable,” he added.

The Chief of Operations in UNPOL, CP Emmanuel Butera, noted that Rwanda is always committed to peace building and will continue to partner with the UN Family in South Sudan to restore peace and tranquility.

The Contingent Commander of Rwanda UNPOL in UNMISS, CIP Gaston Nsanzimana, welcomed UN’s appreciation and commended his contingent for upholding Rwandan values throughout their mission.

“During the past eight months, 28 Police advisors effectively carried out their responsibility with strong desire, professionalism and discipline where they have been based in Malakal in Upper Nile State, Torit, Bentiu, Bor, Kuajok, as well as in Juba,” he said.

“They relentlessly served on front lines for protection of civilians, monitoring and investigating human rights abuses, created safe environment for delivery of humanitarian assistance and supporting the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement.”

Meanwhile, a group of 170 RNP Formed Police Unit that arrived in South Sudan to serve under UNMISS was officially welcomed by the Police Commissioner for the United Nations Mission to South Sudan (UNMISS), Assistant Inspector General of Police Frederick Yiga.

He was accompanied by the Chief Operations in UNPOL, CP Emmanuel Butera, who met the new RWA FPU I in Thong Ping transit camp and updated them on the situation of South Sudan.

“The UN family commends RNP peacekeepers for their professionalism, discipline, and we request them to stay strongly committed to the restoration of peace in South Sudan,” Assistant Inspector General of Police Frederick Yiga said.

Rwanda has contributed heavily in the fulfillment of objectives of the United Nations by offering its share in peacekeeping Mission in Africa and worldwide. We also recognise the big number of female police officers in the contingent and appreciate this initiative.
IGP Gasana urges officers to make impact in UN mission

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Emmanuel K. Gasana has challenged commanders of contingents set to be deployed for a peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic (CAR) to stay focused to the mission mandate to bring about peace and security.

IGP Gasana made the remarks on Wednesday September 23, as he closed a three-day training of 60 police officers that will command the three contingents that are set to be deployed under the UN Multi-dimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in CAR (MINUSCA).

Two Formed Police Units (FPUs) and a Protection Support Unit (PSU) composed of 420 are set to be deployed in CAR. One FPU contingent will replace the maiden contingent deployed in September last year.

“You must understand the mission clearly in order to execute your tasks effectively. You must know you are a team, you deliver as one and achieve as a contingent,” IGP Gasana told the officers.

The PSU contingent of 140 officers, including 12 females, will be the first of its kind that Rwanda National Police will be deploying in a UN mission.

It will undertake special duties such as close protection for VIPs, escort duties as well as static guard like protection of key installations.

“You will be working in a multinational environment with different cultures, you must adapt, respect their cultures but uphold the Rwandan values,” said the Police Chief.

He urged the commanders to lead by example in the mission saying that command roles go beyond to leadership which requires “leadership qualities” in their daily duties.

Among other issues the IGP pointed out to the officers included force protection, timely communication, and upholding national values.

One of the trainees, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Reverien Rugwizangoga detailed the training manual and what officers learnt.

“The pre-deployment skills that we continuously acquire put us in a better position to perform our duties effectively,” CSP Rugwizangoga said.

The courses officers undertook during the training include UN system and structures, response to sexual exploitation and abuse in mission area, overview of command and management of personnel in stressful environment and working hard and smart.

Others are UN inspections and policies and efficient management of contingent owned equipment.

RNP currently deploys Formed Police Unit in Haiti, South Sudan, and the Republic of Central Africa.

“The exam is conducted in four different tests, which seek to test fluency in languages – French or English, their computer skills, driving skills and their proficiency in handling fire arms. Candidates have to pass the minimum requirements for each test before being allowed to continue to the next test. Those who do not pass a test will not be able to continue to the next test,” ACP Hodari said.

“Rwanda National Police (RNP) officers have consistently expressed high levels of professionalism and discipline required of them to perform their peacekeeping duties well and represent their country efficiently.”

He said that the exams will also assess the candidate’s professional experience, mission-specific skills, and general understanding of the core values of the United Nations.

“The next step will be oral interviews to those who will be SAAT cleared as per the mission request and successful candidates will proceed to the mission,” ACP Hodari said.

RNP has over 500 peacekeepers serving in seven peacekeeping missions, 205 of them that include 120, serve as Individual Police Officers.
Thirty Senior Police officers from eight African countries, on July 6, graduated after successfully completing a one-year Police Senior Command and Staff course at Rwanda National Police College (NPC) in Musanze District.

The graduands of the third intake of NPC’s highest academic course were from Burundi, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Namibia, South Sudan, Uganda and Rwanda, the hosts.

The one-year course offers strategic Command and leadership as well Master’s programme in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation offered in partnership with the Centre for Conflict Management of the University of Rwanda-College of Arts and Social Science.

It combines Police components, which include command, and operational staff work offered by Rwanda National Police, and a level seven certificate in strategic management and leadership.

The Minister for Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harerimana, conferred the 30 grandaunds with certificates and decorated them with the Passed-Staff-College (PSC) symbol.

“I, Musa Fazil Harerimana, Minister of Internal Security, responsible for RNP, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, and by virtual of authority entrusted to him by the law, on the occasion of your completion of Police Senior Command and Staff in this college, I do hereby confer to you the title of Passed Staff College from this day,” Minister Harerimana, who officiated at the colorful ceremony, said.

The Minister told attendants in his address that, “This is yet another indication of the great extent to which Rwanda National Police has moved towards its vision to see people in Rwanda safe, involved and reassured, by increasingly building the capacity of its personnel at all levels.”

Just like the previous two intakes, Harerimana said, the sharing of experiences and learning together constitutes a milestone in consolidating the regional cooperation and integration especially in the domain of law enforcement.

“The inseparable link between human resource development and better service delivery to the people is the key to professionalism and a culture of efficiency which contributes to a nation’s progress. I am confident that the knowledge acquired will not only benefit the grandaunds but also their nations and the continent,” the Minister said.

The course acquired by the officers is the highest conducted by NPC. It was designed to impart selected senior police officers with strategic management, leadership command and policing skills as it opens them to the global understanding of the contemporary peace and conflict management.

The graduation was attended by dignitaries from different countries including Rwandan Senior government, Police, and military officers.

Foreign dignitaries who graced the occasion include Uganda’s Minister of State for Tesso Affairs, Christine Amongin Aporu, The Gambian’s Inspector General of Police Ben Wilson and South Sudan’s Assistant Inspector General of Police for General Administration, Lt Gen. Abraham Peter Manyuat.

“As the College, we strongly believe that contemporary policing environment compels us to share these skills with other African countries because in policing no countries can go alone... it is in this spirit that that the course attracted 30 participants from eight African countries,” NPC commandant, Commissioner of Police Felix Namuhoranye, said.

“In order to maintain the college standards we will continue to review the existing programmes to meet the needs of the changing policing environment,” CP Namuhoranye said.

RNP, he said, has embarked on procedures to apply for a stand-alone college status to independently design and keep adapting professional and academic programmes addressing the real needs of the rapid changing envi-
**Best performers**

Superintendent Barbara Alungat from Uganda Police Force was awarded the ‘Best Commander’s Paper’ award for presenting the best academic paper, while The Gambia’s Chief Superintendent of Police Mustafa Ndung scooped the ‘Best Allied Student’s’ award for his exceptional academic command and leadership qualities exhibited in different capacities.

The overall best student’s award went to Chief Superintendent of Police Robert Niyonshuti for demonstrating outstanding leadership, management and command coupled with advanced academic abilities and teamwork.

CSP Niyonshuti attributed his progress to hard work and cooperation with colleagues to deliver as a team.

“We needed to work as a team, encourage each other and be creative in linking theories with practice,” CSP Niyonshuti said.

The Best Allied Award was meant for the best foreign student. According to Ndung, his coming to Rwanda was from cooperation between the two IGPs of Rwanda and The Gambia in an effort to strengthen relations.

“The course is very demanding but through dedication I made it... for the time I’ve been in Rwanda my learning wasn’t limited to the confines of the college walls, I have a very positive impression about Rwanda ranging from discipline, environmental cleanliness and how people are selfless towards nation building,’ Ndung said.

Prior to the graduation ceremony the students held internal and external study tours in two groups in Namibia and Kenya and also had a symposium on Crime, Security and Justice.

**Symposium**

The graduation proceeded a symposium held on July 2 and drew high profile panelists who spoke widely on matters of security; among those include the Minister of Defense Gen James Kabarebe, who gave a lecture on enhancing security along the Northern Corridor; the role of defense and security cluster; the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Emmanuel K Gasana, who spoke at length about discipline, environmental cleanliness and how people are selfless towards nation building.

The meeting was also attended by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Internal Security, Amb. Valens Munyabagisha, the Director General of Rwanda Institute of Administration and Management (RIAM), Wellars Gasamagera and Fred Mufulukye, Director General of Terrestrial Administration and Governance in the Ministry of Local Government.

“Through these initiatives, there have been significant results which have improved the safety and security of Rwandans, and this is the only way to go.”

He said that RNP has so far recovered stolen electronics of 16 families out of 18 theft cases registered in the last two weeks.

A total of 72 people involved in this theft especially targeting electronics, in the City of Kigali, were also arrested due to this partnership, he added.

He outlined several issues that should be given emphasis in daily community policing duties.

These include preventing and fighting crimes, corruption, drug abuse, sexual and gender-related crimes, and human trafficking among others.

“You have contributed greatly in changing the face of our country. When you change and change others, the impact is immense. Change, be exemplary and have self confidence,” IGP Gasana said.

Ambassador Munyabagisha, commended the existing partnership between police and policing partners.

“The government has a role to play but the public too has a duty to play. This right path should be reinforced.”

Gasamgera, who is also the head of Police ambassadors, commended RNP for putting the ideal of community partnership towards sustainable security. Mufulukye, who represented the minister, noted that partnership and confidence leads to sustainable security and development.

Participants also included leaders of associations of former commercial sex workers, drug traffickers and addicts. One of the crime preventers, Odille Mugabekazi, a reformed former sex worker stressed the need for all Rwandans to be actively involved in safety and security initiatives, adding that “it is in everyone’s interest.”

Currently, there are 810 anti-crime clubs in schools, over 1,000 members of youth volunteers in crime prevention, and about 150,000 members of CPCs.

Community policing is among the Rwanda National Police priorities. It is aligned with its vision of “people in Rwanda are safe, involved and reassured.”
A glance at cross-border cooperation: Rwanda National Police’s experience

Rwanda officially became a member of the international Police organization – Interpol – in 1974 when the National Central Bureau (NCB) was established in Kigali. Between then and the year 1994, you can hardly trace any positive outcome of NCB-Kigali to Rwandans.

The argument that the central bureau at the time was instead a weapon to dehumanize and terrorize fellow Rwandans in and outside the country, holds some concentrated juice owing to the fact that the tragedy that befell the country twenty one years ago - 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi – was largely planned and executed by the organ that had security institutions of the genocidal regime, including the organ that had the police mandate at the time.

When the Rwanda National Police (RNP) was created in the year 2000, international or cross-border cooperation was an inevitable factor in the policing strategy of the newly established force. The reason to take this path was simple and clear. The world is changing! Crimes have taken new trends...facilitated by technological transformation, and in due course, it has eased criminal cross-border connections, including recruitment and ‘evil’ implementations.

To cement this cooperation, RNP in its last 15 years of existence, has since strengthened its partnership with Interpol, joined other regional and international police organisations like the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO), Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), Northern Corridor, to mention but a few.

The formation of ‘African Police body (AFRIPOL),’ is an idea fronted by Rwanda adopted by African Police Chiefs during their meeting in Algiers, Algeria held in February last year, after merging two Police bodies – EAPCCO and Interpol.

RNP has also signed bilateral MoUs with police institutions of Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, among others and has held several leadership positions in these organizations like chair of EAPCCO (2012/2013), and represented Africa on the Interpol Executive Committee 2011-2014.

Further to that, it has hosted regional and international trainings and conferences (AFRICA UNiTE CPX II, EAPCCO CPX 1 and II, IACP 3rd Sub-Saharan Executive Policing Conference, 6th Interpol Expert meeting on Genocide, War Crimes and crimes against humanity) to bolster the ideal of the inevitable idea of jointness in modern policing era.

Come November this year, Rwanda will also host the 84 Interpol General Assembly, now 100 years since the idea of INTERPOL was born.

The task of responding to security threats and bringing the perpetrators to justice requires resources and a lot of work, but most importantly full cooperation and collaborative efforts among member countries.

Under the auspice of bilateral, regional and international cooperation, criminals have been arrested and stolen equipment intercepted either in or outside Rwanda.

It is this cooperation that has seen at least 40 red notices issued against individual responsible for the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, honoured, although about 200 others red notices are still pending and perpetrators still roaming around the world.

Since 2009, RNP has handled over 36 cases of human trafficking involving 153 victims, including 51 Bangladeshis, intercepted in Kigali in 2009 while on transit to Mozambique.

Last year alone, RNP recorded 19 cases of human trafficking involving 25 victims (23 females). About 26 suspected traffickers were also apprehended in partnership with other regional police forces.

Over the past four years, Rwanda National Police managed to intercept over 20 foreign registered vehicles that had been stolen from neighbouring countries especially in Kenya, due to cooperation between Police institutions under Interpol platform.

Over Rwf11 million stolen from varied businessmen in Uganda were recovered in Rwanda and suspects arrested while about ten drug traffickers have been intercepted in Rwanda since last year, after information provided by friendly Police institutions.

Together with other Interpol under the coordination of Interpol General Secretariat, and EAPCCO member countries, successful joint operations such as Mamba, Imara, Usalama I and II, among others, were conducted where stolen, fake and substandard equipment and goods, were recovered.

It has always been a huge challenge for law enforcers to identify, locate and bring to justice the perpetrators of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Simply because some criminals change identity, others seek asylum in sympathetic or uncooperative countries.

These solutions and decisions make it easier to combat these threats due to the standardized operating procedures and having a common understanding on security threats and cross border crimes in general.

Although more steps have to be taken, police cooperation is taking the right direction and provides hope for joint and collective security measures.
Rwanda National Police (RNP) has a mandate to provide security of people and their property and to achieve this demanding duty, a number of initiatives and strategies must be applied among which crime prevention, community policing and ensuring human security are at the forefront.

In a drive to achieve the Government of Rwanda employment targets of 200,000 jobs annually, several institutions have to come up with policies, strategies, and programmes to interlink them with the national agenda for generating adequate and productive employment opportunities.

For Rwanda National Police (RNP), contributing to the National Employment Policy (NEP) is aligned with ensuring human security by educating nationals and also providing for their welfare and this in turn reduces criminality.

One of the force’s contributions is through Gishari Integrated Polytechnic (GIP), which was established in March 2013 and has since graduated several youth in its diploma and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes.

GIP, a technical and vocational education training school is one of the wings of the Police Training School (PTS) Gishari in Rwamagana District. It was established in partnership with the Workforce Development Authority (WDA) to promote, facilitate, and guide the development and upgrading of skills and competencies of the national workforce including police officers and civilians, in order to enhance competitiveness and employability.

According to the Principle of GIP, ACP Sam Karemera, since the time RNP entered into agreement with WDA to establish the vocational institute, the school has recorded several achievements; among them include contributing to the National Employment Policy and improving the welfare of the people neighboring the school.

“When we came up with the concept of the school, we wanted to have a point of confluence in our respective interests - as RNP and WDA - in the field of training and skilling of the Rwandan labour force. We agreed on the principal focus of our partnership with an aim of targeting both the staff of RNP and the civilian population at large,” ACP Karemera said.

“In the last three years, we have grown and expanded, so far we have graduated about 80 students and enrolled another intake. We have built houses for people in the neighborhood, gave out cows and also employed them whenever we are putting up new structures,” ACP Karemera said.

Besides the school, students are also planning to come up with a scheme of helping poor families in Gashari sector mainly through paying their health insurance fees.

According to Gishari residents, since the establishment of the school, their lives have changed mainly because the school has offered them employment and also educated their children.

One of the residents, Jacques Mugemanyi indeed confirmed that area residents have greatly reaped much from GIP.

“Every time GIP is putting up a new structure they hire us for all the works; by the end the construction ends, someone has really earned reasonable amount to improve their livelihoods,” said Mugemanyi.

He farther pointed out that, at one point GIP singled out the poorest family of a widow in Gishari sector, constructed a house for her and also gave her a cow.

GIP expansion

Beside the school’s social outreach, since its inception in March 2013, GIP has registered tremendous develop-
How Gishari Integrated Polytechnic is contributing to skills Development

ment from the numbers of students to broadening of its academic curricula.

“We started with a small number of teachers and 375 students. By then we had two programmes – diploma and a TVET programme. The diploma programme was offering courses in electricity and electronics, construction and irrigation.

By next month GIP is expecting to have a capacity of 725 students.

“Under the TVET programme, we have plumbing, domestic electronic, construction, motor vehicle mechanics and firefighting. Today, the more the school evolves the more we integrate more faculties, like carpentry which will be among the new programmes,” said the school Principle.

RNP is currently building extra 22 classrooms and has acquired advanced equipment that will be used to educate people in the Eastern Province in modern farming.

“We are planning to also put up a big demonstration farm where we will work with partners to educate the public,” ACP Karemera said.

The demonstration farm is part of the GIP agricultural programme to help farmers adopt the use of machines in their farming activities as the force moves to reinforce the country’s drive to improve on productivity.

This is derived from the general observation that most tractors are lying idle in some districts in the region partly because of lack of expertise which is why GIP came up with mechanization programme to support, bridge this gap and effectively use these resources.

GIP also acquired Hydra-form Machines that produce 3,000 bricks per day. This is expected to accelerate the setting up of GIP infrastructure.

“The more we educate the public the closer we get to them in that case it’s easier to identify and prevent insecurities collectively….Interaction between the police and civilians is very important since we provide technical support to the people through skills developed from this school.”

Having civilians at GIP, he explained, is part of RNP’s community policing initiative and also implementing the national employment policy.

“Our aim is to ensure that youth do not loiter on the streets jobless,” he said.

With regards to RNP, Karemera pointed out that police officers who graduate are sometimes deployed in peacekeeping missions as Formed Police Units (FPU) where they work as experts.

The school’s projected programmes in future includes Engineering, Construction and Building sciences, faculty of information and Communication Technology, and faculty of Food Technology as well as expanding the school facilities.

“Every time GIP is putting up a new structure they hire us for all the works; by the end the construction ends, someone has really earned reasonable amount to improve their livelihoods,” said Mugemanyi.
IGP Gasana challenges driving schools on professionalism

The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Emmanuel K. Gasana has urged driving school proprietors to adopt quality standards and modern training methods to produce competent drivers.

IGP Gasana made the call on September 21, during a meeting with owners and representatives of 47 driving schools operating in the country. The meeting, which was held at the Police headquarters in Kacyiru, is part of the ongoing road safety awareness campaign.

The Police Chief said the importance of driving schools in society today cannot be over emphasised, noting that instilling professional and modern driving techniques among aspiring drivers is important in drastically minimizing road accidents.

“You are required to maintain quality and harmonised standards, as well as adopt modern training modules that enable you to operate in a professional manner,” IGP Gasana said.

“Most of the road accidents that occur are due to bad driving or lack of knowledge on traffic rules – and they lead to loss of life. Despite the fact that the roads we have today are better than what we had in the past, reckless driving remains a challenge. Therefore, it is the duty of driving schools to ensure that they graduate professional drivers who uphold values of road safety.”

He added that issues of integrity and anti-corruption must be held in high regard among driving school operators.

“Police will endeavor to be accessible whenever needed to conduct necessary inspections and training of driving school operators in order to promote professionalism,” he said.

“Police have been a good partner; therefore, we should honour this partnership by ensuring that our graduates are qualified enough. We are also required to oblige to the rules governing our schools.”

Another participant, Celestin Rwiyamirira, the managing director of Midland School of Motoring, added that: “All of us should respect the rules of driving schools, do business in a professional manner and ensure that our staff are professional as they conduct driving tests and lessons.”

The Police Spokesperson, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Celestin Twahirwa, said Police and driving school operators, will further discuss pertinent issues and potential partnership areas, as well as how to overcome persistent challenges faced by the operators.
Judicial Police, prosecutors meet to harmonise investigations

About one hundred judicial police officers and prosecutors from Gasabo and Nyarugenge judicial territories held one day meeting on September 2 in Kigali to synchronize their criminal investigation activities and ensure fair justice.

They exhausted areas that should be addressed in varied dossiers forwarded from police to prosecution.

While speaking to participants, ACP Elias Mwesigye, the Regional Police Commander, central, urged them to harmonise their activities and leave no room for criminals to elude justice.

Gaspard Nyangezi Rudatinya, the chief prosecutor for Nyarugenge intermediate court explained and gave an insight on the new law regulating the community mediators – Abunzi – which was enacted this year.

“The enacted law regulating Abunzi is intended to strengthen their powers and reinforce the justice system in Rwanda,” Rudatinya explained.

The new law gave the mediators more power to deal with cases valued at Rwf5 million, up from the maximum of Rwf3 million previously, deal with cases related to defamation, noise pollution, deceit through conning, and failure to pay for goods after consumption.

They can also deal with cases that previously were handled by Gacaca courts like recovering property looted or destroyed during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and those related to land and livestock disputes.

“The mandate of prosecution and that of police is interlinked and a mistake or failure in one institution affects the other and this undermines the criminal judicial system in our country,” Rudatinya said.

He urged them to always work together on cases to exhaust all angles that criminals can use to walk free.
Public urged to be vigilant against cyber attacks

Last year, a Nigerian national, Seheed Olalejan Adebayo entered Rwanda and connected with one John Ruzige Gasana, a Rwandan; the two registered a travel and tour agency called Mirienso Holdings Limited. After registering the company, Gasana went to one of the local banks and acquired a countertop card – Point-of-Sell (POS) device – a machine used to process financial transaction from one bank account to another using a credit or debit card.

In less than a week, the tour and travel company had made US$175,800 (Approx Rwf130 million) in profits from several POS payments all coming from several individuals across Europe.

The rate at which this new company was making profits raised eyebrows to the hosting local bank which engaged police to investigate.

Police officers launched investigations and started with visiting Mirienso Holdings Ltd office but they were shocked to find that a company that seemed to be running loaded bank accounts only had one laptop and a table in their offices.

Both the Nigerian and his Rwandan business partner could not defend their financial statements with proper justification, which resulted to in-depth investigations.

“We discovered that they were using the POS to manipulate cards of their customers, especially those from Europe, and would transfer the money to Mirienso Holdings bank account. The Nigerian was the technician behind the scam while Gasana would receive money from the public or targeted individuals,” said Senior Superintendent Eric Kanyabuganza, the Director for Economic and Financial Crimes unit at Rwanda National Police.

The two suspects were arrested in January this year and prosecuted.

“This proves that cyber crimes have no borders, it can be committed anywhere at any time, that’s why dealing with them requires joint and concerted efforts,” said Kanyabuganza.

This case is one of several other cyber-related crimes that the police have intercepted.

Cyber related crimes target specific sectors such as mobile money transfer and can be disastrous to the national economy. Last year, out of the 35 cyber crimes reported at RNP, 91.4% were related to mobile money transactions.

“We urge the public to be conscious about any form of transaction, especially electronic transfers. People should verify if the payment is legal or going to the rightful recipient,” Kanyabuganza said.

He pointed out that other common cases where hackers monitor online business negotiations and at the time of transferring the money, the hacker changes the bank account and diverts the money to another account.

According to Kanyabuganza, Police have received complaints related to similar scams including one that involved US$54,000.

“The victim of the US$54,000 scam was quick to report the case and we contacted our counterparts in the country where the money was due to be withdrawn by the fraudster, they blocked the account before he could withdraw it, and the money was returned to the owner.

“We have also intercepted and arrested people who forge banking tools like bank cheques and those who divert phone calls of the original owner of a bank account so that in any attempt for the bank to verify the cheque, the fraudsters authorizes the transaction as the rightful holder of the account.”

“We have also dealt with cases of SIM Box fraud, where culprits use GSM bypass technology to bypass the official interconnection terminals by using Voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) to route international traffic to a SIM box (or GSM Gateway) where calls are terminated and subsequently regenerated as local calls. If you are out there and you are making extremely cheap international calls, just know something illegal is going on,” explained Kanyabuganza.

Several other cyber crimes have also been reported among them include identity theft where some culprits create social media accounts in the names of others to swindle or solicit money from the public or targeted individuals.

In March this year, the government approved the National Cyber Security Policy which aims at protecting public and private infrastructure from cyber attacks and to safeguard personal information of web users, financial or banking information and sovereign data.

The policy is very important for the country given that all aspects of development currently rely on ICT to function better and deliver services.

It will establish an environment that will build trust and confidence when people use ICT and ensure that Rwandans have whatever it takes to protect the interests of its people and also ably collaborate with other countries.

In May this year, a campaign, dubbed “Stay Safe Online,” which was meant to address the growing concerns on cyber crime as more Rwandans continue to embrace Information Communication Technology, saw several institutions engage various users of ICT in the country.

Since last year, Rwanda has been making efforts to protect its cyber-space and has since established a National Computer Security Incident Response Centre to monitor cyber security situation and assess risks.

RNP has so far extended the Interpol I-24/7 communication tool to all border posts. The tool connects all law enforcement agencies in Interpol member countries and allows investigators access Interpol’s range of criminal databases to search and cross check data on suspected criminals or wanted persons, stolen and lost travel documents, stolen motor vehicles, fingerprints, DNA profiles, stolen administrative documents and works of art.

There are also gender based violence and child abuse crimes committed through technology like child pornography, and in case anyone encounters such, they should immediately call 078831178 or toll-free line – 3512,” explained Kanyabuganza, who also gave 0788311152, and 0788311208 to report a cyber crime.
Members of security organs operating in the eastern province have vowed to increase their partnership with the public in countering major crimes within the region.

The organs made the commitment during a provincial security meeting held on September 1, in Rwamagana District.

Speaking during the meeting, the provincial Governor, Odette Uwamariya, thanked Rwanda National Police for its public outreach programmes and called on the public to trust security organs and report to them any security-related challenges they face.

Uwamariya particularly singled out community policing committees as one way the public can partner with security organs in crime prevention.

“Community policing gives citizens more control over the quality of life in their community. It also helps police to get closer to the people and have a better sense of residents’ needs, while also developing greater trust for each other,” said the Governor.

She added that it is everyone’s responsibility to safeguard the safety of their neighbourhood.

The Commissioner for Community Policing at Rwanda National Police (RNP), Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Damas Gatari, who represented the Inspector General of Police during the meeting, highlighted measures taken by the police in ensuring public safety.

“In maintaining security, police works with the public through community policing committees, neighborhood patrols, youth volunteers and anti-crime clubs among others” said ACP Gatari.

He told the security meeting that RNP will this September hold a road safety month to be officially launched in Kayonza District at the national level.

Meanwhile, the Eastern Regional Police Commander, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Emmanuel Karasi outlined the crime status in the region.

CSP Karasi said that between July and August, about 1,450 crimes were registered, with majority related to assault, drug abuse, defilement, theft and violation of traffic rules.

“We also conducted several operations where we seized 6,865 liters and 390 carton of banned gin, and 3,865 liters of locally made illicit brew. During the operations, we also encountered close to 250 Burundians who had left camps and were moving and working around the province without identifications,” CSP Karasi said.

Besides the crime, he pointed out that several measures were taken against such crimes include public sensitization through community policing and neighbourhood watch.

In line with emphasizing human security, Karasi called on his fellow security operators and local leaders to keep encourage the public to take part in social development initiatives like SACCOs, One Cow Per poor family (Gir’inka) and Ubudehe among others.

“We have experienced several cases of bush fires in the Eastern Province; in line with environmental protection, and as security organs, we have to keep sensitizing the public against this malpractice,” he said.

Recent reports indicate that at least 327 hectares of land, including part of the national park, has been burnt in the region in the last one-and-half month.

About 184 hectares of the burnt land in the Eastern Province was in the eight sectors of Kayonza District.
Police say it will continue to do everything possible to reduce accidents on Rwandan roads. Bosco Asiimwe sat down with the Commissioner for Traffic and Road Safety department, CP George Rumanzi, who spoke about ongoing efforts and plans to curb road accidents, among others.

Give us an insight into the operations of the Traffic and Road Safety department?

The Traffic and Road Safety (TRS) department carries out its operations in several areas; which include, educating the general public on road traffic laws, enforcement of road traffic rules and regulations, inspection of motor vehicles for their road worthiness and also directs road traffic to ensure smooth flow.

We are also charged with testing aspiring drivers and issuance of driver's licenses; we work closely with institutions responsible for engineering works to advise them on accident-prone areas so that sign-posts, zebra crossings, and humps are put in place.

The department conducts investigations in cases of road accidents and compiles files that are forwarded to insurance companies for compensation of either life or property and to prosecution for criminal justice process, as well as provides escort services to groups traveling in big numbers.

How effective is this department in ensuring road users comply with traffic laws?

We believe compliance with road traffic laws goes hand-in-hand with effective enforcement mechanisms. We also believe more can be achieved, especially in preventing road accidents.

How do you deal with cases of corruption, especially in situations where a traffic offender either bribes or attempts to bribe an officer?

Rwanda in general and RNP in particular has a zero tolerance for corruption. Any officer engaged in corruption is, therefore, investigated, prosecuted and if the officer is found guilty, they are dismissed from the Force.

We appeal to the general public to not offer bribes for services that they are entitled to. In a situation where someone is stopped by a traffic officer, it's wise to pay the fines in case of an offense rather than committing another crime.

By bribing an officer, you are committing a grave crime that you will be punished for, that's why we advise the public that it's wise and safer to pay the fines and always report any corruption case or an officer soliciting a bribe.

The public can reach our department on +250788311110 or by email on commtrs@police.gov.rw, and they will get a prompt response.

There are complaints that getting a driver's license takes longer than it should. What is the process of acquiring a license, how long does it take, and why the complaints?

Currently, after successfully passing all driving tests, paying the license fee and registering, the applicant should get their license in 14 days. However, once the new system that is being developed is put in place, we intend to reduce this timeframe to one day.

With regard to complaints of delays, the problem is rooted in people who opt to use intermediaries to acquire
permits. Intermediaries are often imposters and crooks, who swindle money from those who avoid going through the right channels to get the service they need.

The public should desist from using these imposters. But rather use proper channels to get the driver’s license.

Some other people make mistakes during registration which leads to mismatch in their identification, thus delaying the process.

In case anyone has a problem with acquiring a license, they should call+250788311553 for an immediate response and follow-up.

**People with foreign driver’s license can qualify for a Rwandan license. How does that work?**

The point to note here is, changing a license is not automatic; it’s a gradual procedure. This is because there are some foreign licenses that are either forged, invalid or were illegally obtained; we verify a foreign license before embarking on changing it.

Anyone who wishes to change their permits should come with a letter addressed to the Commissioner for Traffic and Road Safety Department, along with supporting documents, such as a passport or an identification card and a photocopy of their driver’s license they want to change.

Upon verification of the requirements, the applicant will be issued with a Rwandan driver’s license or subjected to another driving test. This process takes seven days.

**How does police ensure that vehicles are road worthy?**

We have three vehicle mechanical inspection centres, including a Mobile Test Lane operating six days in a week – from Monday to Saturday. These centres have the capacity to inspect at least 500 vehicles per day.

We deploy the mobile inspection vehicle, on a scheduled programme, in Northern, Western and Southern provinces. This truck spends a week in each province providing vehicle inspection services.

The inspection centre at Gishari Integrated Polytechnic (GIP) serves the Eastern Province.

Commercial vehicles are required by law to go for inspection every after six months while private motor vehicles are required to do so once in twelve months. Owners are expected to ensure that their cars are road worthy and comply with environmental rules and regulations regarding air pollution.

I must say, it’s in the interest of the vehicle owner to have their car inspected for road worthiness.

**What are the future plans of the Traffic and Road Safety department?**

We want to realise serious improvement in several areas by applying IT solutions. These areas include integrating high way code in school curricula and reducing significantly fatal accidents on roads which we believe should be achieved through implementation of the policy on use of speed governors by February 2016.

We are also in the process of computerising ‘Traffic Fines Ticketing System’ – in this case, police will no longer seize driver’s license and vehicle registration card.

Also, in the future, we intend to roll out Integrated Intelligent Traffic Management Systems, which will include the use of surveillance cameras – both static and mobile in cities to manage traffic flow in a modern and efficient way.

Other important elements that we want to adopt include an Automatic Number Plate Recognition System, for easy identification of vehicles and owners.

Lastly, what is your message to road-users in Rwanda?

Police wishes to inform road-users in Rwanda that everyone has a duty to respect road traffic rules to save life, mitigate impact of accidents and promote safe driving.

Since development is intertwined with safety, we all need to work together to ensure that we reduce road accidents significantly.

It is a fact that many accidents that happen are avoidable, they are due to reckless driving habits such as driving while calling or texting, driving carelessly and failing to inspect vehicles for mechanical problems. All the road users need to be more responsible.
You could be the unfortunate person who lost your electronics through burglary or other means, but you might be among those whose gadgets have been recovered in various police operations in the City of Kigali.

According to Supt. Modeste Mbabazi, the Police spokesperson for the Central region, several police operations conducted in parts of Kigali have recovered an assortment of electronics.

The electronics are currently kept in the showrooms at Kigali Metropolitan Police Headquarters, where rightful owners can collect them.

“Right now, we have about 100 television sets that include flat screens, and over one hundred computers. We call upon people whose gadgets were stolen, to come and check if they are among the ones that have been recovered,” Supt. Mbabazi, said on 10th September 2015.

Other recovered items include home theaters, speakers, decoders, DVD decks and car radios.

“Some of these gadgets have been here since 2012, although many were seized last year from various black electronic shops. All that is required of the victims is to come and check and if they identify theirs, they will be required to produce supporting documents to reclaim them,” he explained. (The public can call 0788311829, for further details).

“Most of the suspects in these break-ins were arrested and are either serving their sentences, or are in jail pending prosecution. Those arrested also include buyers of stolen goods, who had started shops in this illegal and criminal business.”

“People should know that buying things on the black market comes with its consequences, it could make you an accomplice.”

He advised the public to always buy from recognised stores and be quick to report in case their items are stolen.

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The Rwanda National Police’s Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has launched an awareness programme in a bid to prevent wildfires that tend to be common in the dry season, destroying national parks and forest reserves.

The campaign was launched yesterday in Kayonza District, one of the districts affected by bush fires in the recent past. The campaign has so far

Police crackdown on stealing of electronics: Check at ‘Kigali Metropolitan Police’ for your recovered electronics

Police have called on the general public to comply with firefighting regulations and provide timely alerts in case of fire outbreak for quick response.

The appeal follows four separate fire incidents that have been occurred in Nyamasheke, Rutsiro Kicukiro and Gasabo districts since Monday.

In Rutsiro, a wildfire gutted a small forest, Police said.

The public have also been called upon to report illegal activities such as illegal electrical connections which also contribute to fire breakouts.

Police say although the frequency of large fires is not worrisome, it is important that every Rwandan becomes conscious of the causes and work toward preventing them.

According to Assistant Commissioner of Police Jean Baptiste Seminega, the commanding officer of the Rwanda National Police Fire and Rescue Brigade, the fires in Nyamasheke, Kicukiro and Gasabo, which had broken out of residential houses, were successfully put out before they could cause serious damage.

Statistics from the Police Fire and Rescue Brigade indicate that, since
the year began, 103 fires have occurred throughout the country, claiming at least six lives and injuring five others.

The majority of the fires were caused by careless use of flammable substances, faulty wiring and reckless use of electrical appliances, children playing with matches and candles, and use of cheap and defective electrical equipment, ACP Seminega said.

"When fire breaks out, not only the (of the structure) owner or occupants are at risk but also surrounding communities. That is why it is advisable to immediately alert Police because we have the expertise and equipment to extinguish such fires before they can cause serious damage and possible loss of lives," ACP Seminega said, adding that as one alerts Police, they should also try to stop the fire before it gets out of hand using sand or water.

Candles and electrical faults
He also advised against leaving lit candles and kerosene lamps unattended, which can easily lead to a major fire outbreak.

"Never forget to turn off and unplug your electrical appliance after use, as well as keep matchsticks and other fire-ignited means out of reach of children," ACP Seminega added.

He warned the public against fixing electrical lines and appliances without the required skill.

"Violating the basic rule of aligning like charges can lead to a spark which may result in a fire. Always call professional electricians to fix faults," he said.

To promote Police-public partnership in overcoming fires, Police have launched countrywide awareness campaigns on fire prevention mechanisms.

ACP Seminega said Police toll free lines 111 and 112, as well as mobile line 0788311120 are always available for anyone to call in case of a fire outbreak.
Police officers save homeless expectant mother just hours before childbirth

Immaculate Kankindi, 25, would have delivered her fourth child by the roadside or even probably lost her life and her baby had it not been for a police patrol team saw her during labour on one of the streets in Kigali. Her husband had abandoned her months earlier while her family kept insisting that she should go back to her spouse – a situation that left her in a dilemma.

The appalling situation made her get stuck in Kigali, between Nyagatare District where she previously lived with her husband and children, and Rulindo District where her relatives live.

Kankindi’s plight started about seven months ago when her husband left her for another woman, leaving her with no support for herself and their three children aged eight, seven and three.

To be able to support her children and raise money for rent, she had to work as a casual labourer.

“My situation got worse, when I was about seven months pregnant. My landlord evicted me after I failed to pay rent (Rwf5,000 per month). I had nowhere to go. I decided to go to my husband’s home but he couldn’t let us in, so I lived in the shrubs nearby for days,” she said.

She later decided to leave Nyagatare District and go live with her sister in Rulindo District but still she was not much welcome because her sister already had a big family of her own to take care of.

“I always delivered my children from Rulindo but this time, my sister gave me money to return to my husband’s and deliver from there. Upon reaching Kigali, I failed to get a bus to Nyagatare since all drivers refused to take me because of my situation – I was in labour and it was visible that I would give birth any moment.”

Desperate and in much pain, Kankindi loitered around the city centre with her three children in tow, waiting for fate to take its course.

The situation became worse when her children started crying. They were hungry for they had not eaten anything for over 12 hours.

On August 14 at night, Kankindi was found by a group of police officers on patrol around the Kinamba area. She was in labour and the policemen immediately put her on a police patrol car and rushed her to Kacyiru Police Hospital.

Kankindi gave birth to a baby boy within a few hours of her arrival at the hospital.

Together with her children, Kankindi has since been getting all the necessary services and sheltered at the hospital.

“When I was brought to this hospital, doctors ensured that I delivered my baby well; but they also provided a separate room for my children, they fed them and brought clothes for them,” Kankindi narrated.

“I had lost hope and a good samaritan came to my rescue. Every day, I see my children playing and laughing, and that, as a parent, means a lot.”

“I want to go back to Nyagatare to see if I can start a new life and see if I can find the father of my children and see whether we can solve our issues.”

The whereabouts of her husband are not known apparently, according to Police.

However, the hospital management said it’s working out a plan that would ensure her safety and that of her children.

The Director of Kacyiru Police Hospital, Commissioner of Police Dr Daniel Nyamwasa, said; “besides what we provided for her, we have decided to take her to Rulindo where she will be supported under the watch of her relatives.”

CP Nyamwasa condemned the conduct of Kankindi’s husband for abandoning his responsibilities, both as a husband and father.

“Local leaders should always closely monitor issues related to domestic misunderstandings,” he said.

Meanwhile Kankindi will set to rejoin her sister and her first born in Rulindo District.
RNP inter unit football tourney kicks off

PTS 2-2 Mayange (Rwamagana)
NPC 3-1 Interforce (Musanze)
Central Region 1-4 Eastern Region (Rwamagana)
Traffic 2-3 Western Region (Muhanga)

The Rwanda National Police (RNP) has organized a football tournament that will bring together its 12 units in a month-long healthy exercise meant to support and develop sports within the force.

Group A1 includes Police Training School (PTS) Gishari, Mayange and Police General Headquarters; Group A2 – Canine Brigade, National Police College (NPC) and Interforce.

The Central, Northern and Eastern regions will tussle in group B1 while Traffic, Western and Southern regions will face off in group B2.

In semi finals, the winner in Group A1 will face the winner in Group A2 while the winner in Group B1 will face their opponent from Group B2.

Winners in the two groups will face off in the final to be played on October 23.

In the opening matches, PTS drew 2-2 with the RNP headquarters; NPC defeated Interforce 3-1; Central Region was stumped 4-1 by the Eastern Region while the Western Region left it late to grab a winner against Traffic in a 3-2 hard fought win in Muhanga.

“Professionalism goes with fitness and being healthy. But again, it is in line with promoting and supporting sports development within the force and in the country,” said AIP Ntakirutimana.

“Similar tournaments will also be organized in other sports domains to select talented players who can be included in Rwanda National Police sports teams.”

RNP now has a football and handball clubs, which are among the best teams that has players that represent the country on national teams.

Keep up the momentum, IGP tells police FC

The Inspector General of Police Emmanuel K Gasana has urged Police Football Club to aim for the highest and win more local, regional and continental tournaments.

IGP Gasana made the remarks on August 31 as the team presented their recently won Agaciro Development Fund Trophy to Rwanda National Police leadership during a reception held at the force’s headquarters in Kacyiru.

On Sunday, Police FC won the 2015 edition of the Agaciro Development Fund (AgDF) after edging out Sunrise 1-0 in the final match played at Amahoro stadium. The victory came merely a month after the team also won the 2015 Peace Cup title after seeing off rivals Rayon Sports in a 1-0 victory.

Hegman Ngomirakiza, one of the 14 newly signed players, scored the only goal in the 25th minute of the first half.

“This is just the beginning, you have to keep up the momentum and maintain the lead; we pledge to keep supporting you with all means possible... you should go beyond winning local tournaments and bring home regional and continental trophies,” said IGP Gasana.

He expressed delight to the team and congratulated the players and the management saying that the victory of the team is a victory for the entire Rwanda National Police.

“We derive and attribute this success to the leadership of His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda. We can not afford to fail in whichever way we must keep winning,” he said.

Police FC President, Col (Rtd) Dodo Twahirwa, thanked RNP leadership for their support to the team saying that the outstanding record the team is recording lately is due to the commitment of RNP leadership.

“To the team, this is just the start, we have many challenges ahead of us; we must be ready to confront and overcome them. Winning requires organization and stability – we already have that and we must keep winning,” Twahirwa said.

Police FC head coach, Andre Cassa Mbungo, who brought the team to the helm, winning the two trophies, said; “winning two tournaments in a space of less than two months has put us in the limelight, we are being analyzed in all ways meaning we have to maintain the record we have set.”

He added that what the team has achieved is mainly due to the commitment and support of RNP leadership that believed in the players and facilitated them with all means possible.

The AgDF tournament will now be held annually as a pre-season tournament partly to continue building dignity among Rwandans through football.

Police FC reached the AgDF finals after eliminating Bugesera and APR respectively.

During the entire tournament Rwf34.2 million, including that from FERWAFA and other affiliated bodies, players and referees, was raised and used as contribution to Agaciro Development Fund.
## Top Scorers

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<th>Goals</th>
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