• Over 450 complete ‘Officer Cadet’ course

• 1300 recruits graduate
The Kwibuka Flame symbolises remembrance as well as the resilience and courage of Rwandans over the past twenty years.
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Globalization and modern technology have changed the face of the 21st century policing architecture. Information-based technologies – soft technologies – and material-based technologies – hard technology – have been linked to dramatic changes in the organization of police force(s).

Technological innovation is the driving force leading to policing reforms towards crime prevention and crime control strategies, both by individual states and formal police agencies.

Mobile phones, internet, among others, have eased timely exchange of information against crimes. It has eased transactions and trade and brought the world closer.

However, technology has come with its challenges to development in general and security in particular.

It has ushered in new challenges, aided criminals to roam in states coordinating and executing their evil plans. At this level, no state can testify that it has not faced a single technological challenge in this era.

Those that have not tasted the wrath of terrorism have smelled it, citizens lured into illegal acts (hard labour, sexual exploitation) and swindled of millions of currencies by luring them in fake businesses and promises.

In the region, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and most recently in Kenya have had a share of terror acts.

Back in the ‘Land of a Thousand Hills’ – Rwanda – terror acts were witnessed in the past few years claiming lives and leaving others handicapped.

These are acts coordinated in one country and applied in another. Modern technology has therefore eased terror acts, money laundering, human and drug trafficking. Cybercrime is posing headache to law enforcement agencies globally.

Like President Paul Kagame said at the official opening of the third Sub-Saharan Africa International Association of Chief of Police (IACP) conference, development can only take place on the foundation of law and order.

The Head of State said: "Our collective aspirations are to improve the livelihoods of our people. We can achieve this more effectively when we pull our resources and efforts."

What more would you do to combat such modern hi-tech crimes which are cross-border in nature other than cooperation between security forces in the region and beyond!

Such criminal acts in one country have far reaching to other countries; money will be laundered from one country and will be used to destabilise another; terrorists and other criminals will cause insecurity in one country and seek refuge in another.

Unless there’s cooperation between forces, criminals will continue to develop more wings.

The weakness of security forces and their failure to coordinate, pull resources together and share intelligence information means giving criminals a green light to transfer their malevolence plans from paper to action and put lives of innocent citizens at stake.

No country can stand these Policing challenges alone in this era. Cooperation, in the current policing era is not an option but the only option. You either embrace it or prepare for your fate.

Regional police bodies like EAPCCO and similar others in other continental groupings in South and West Africa are therefore geared towards putting ideas together to secure countries and the continent in general and to lay a firm foundation for sustainable development.
President Kagame commissions over 450 officer cadets

His Excellency President Paul Kagame, on March 17, presided over the pass-out of 458 officer cadets, including 87 females, who successfully completed a one year training course at the Police Training School (PTS) in Gishari, Rwamagana District.

In a colourful ceremony attended by heads of security organs, government officials, parents and relatives of the graduants, the Head of State promoted the officers to the rank of Assistant Inspector of Police (AIP).

41 of the officers are from Rwanda Correctional Services (RCS).

It is the sixth officer cadet intake to be conducted since the RNP was formed in June 2000 and the first of its kind to be conducted at PTS.

Previous cadet courses were conducted at the National Police College (NPC) in Musanze.

The Head of State thanked the graduants for their resilience and for enduring the course challenges and added that the country expects a lot from them to ensure sustainable security.

He also lauded female officers who successfully completed the course saying that “it’s an indication of the big role women play in the development of the country.”

Historically, such professions were strictly meant for men but things have since changed,
proving equal capability for men and women to pursue a career in this profession, he said.

He urged the officers to use the acquired skills to further ensure security of people living in Rwanda and their property and to further build a law-abiding country.

The Head of state said the safety and security Rwandans enjoy today is the foundation to development and called upon the RNP to continue this great cause.

“This is an important training; it equips the officers with skills, the right attitude and the ability to provide security for all Rwandans. The Rwandan Police has grown to a level where they are not only keeping law and order but also partaking in the development of the country.”

He also commended the force for establishing a polytechnic school – Gishari Integrated Polytechnic – to build a job creation community and thanked the current good Police-Public cooperation which he said is an indication of good governance.

The President observed that the Policing architecture is changing dimensions due to the emerging of modern and cross-border crimes such as terrorism largely facilitated by modern technology.

He explained that this also requires Police and other security organs to acquire more and modern skills and knowledge to always be ahead to foil criminals’ evil plans.

Fighting cross-border crimes, he said, requires cooperation between security organs both locally and internationally but called for vigilance because such foreign forces can also be a source of insecurity by supporting and conniving with enemies of the state.

The Head of State also reminded those who want to destabilize the country that their criminal deeds will haunt them.

“I am responsible for the good, development and security of Rwandans and whoever tries to destabilize the safety of Rwandans will pay the price. We will use the little we have to ensure the safety and security of Rwandans,” President Kagame said.

He also reminded those who ask him about the security of other countries that his primary responsibility is to the people of Rwanda, their development and security.

Commissioner of Police (CP) Joseph Mugisha, the Commandant of PTS said the officers were equipped with necessary skills in leadership, management, development and professional Policing such as ethics, law, road safety, crime prevention strategies, Community Policing and Peace Support Operations.
Minister Harelimana passes out over 1300 Police recruits

The Minister of Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harelimana, on March 11, presided over the pass-out of 1,323 officers who successfully completed a ten-month Basic Police Course at the Police Training School (PTS) in Gishari, Rwamagana District.

The ninth Basic Police Course intake included 179 females. The Minister also promoted the officers to the rank of ‘Police Constable (PC).’

He challenged them to use the acquired skills to farther the force’s path to sustainable security.

“You cannot fight corruption when you are taking bribes; you cannot tell a motorcyclist to wear a helmet when you are not wearing it; you cannot tell drivers not to drive while drunk or speaking on phone when you are doing it.

You should therefore be exemplary officers,” Minister Harelimana told the officers.

The event was also graced by the Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana, DIGP in charge of Operations, Dan Munyuza, DIGP in charge of Administration and Personnel, Stanley Nsabimana, Maj. Gen. Paul Rwarakabije, the Commissioner General of Rwanda Correctional Services (RCS) and other senior officers and local leaders.

The Minister appealed to the officers to partner with other stakeholders especially the public to execute their policing tasks effectively.

“You made it this far because of the public taxes; you are therefore going out there for the good of the people, to ensure their safety while giving them quality services,” he added.

He urged them to be an eye for their institution and country in general, abide by the laws and commended the Rwanda National Police (RNP) for being a professional force both locally and at the international level.

He also thanked parents for supporting and sending their children to serve their nation.

Commissioner of Police (CP) Joseph Mugisha, Commandant of PTS said the officers excelled in all the policing fields and discipline and were turned into competent officers.

PC Dieudone Ndayisenga was awarded as the overall best graduant followed by Jean Claude Masumbuku and Donata Musanabera respectively.
The security status in the country has improved tremendously with crimes reducing by 23.9 percent in the past three months.

The Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana, said this on March 26 while giving a security status in the country.

This was during an interactive session between Rwanda National Police and the media fraternity in the country held at the force’s headquarters in Kacyiru.

The session held quarterly brings together Police and media to discuss on various issues aimed at strengthening cooperation in the crime prevention campaign.

The IGP also said road traffic-related offences decreased by about 13 percent since December last year.

The Police Chief outlined assault, theft, gender violence and drug abuse as some of the major crime cases that were reported.

"The decrease was due to strengthened awareness and partnership with various stake such as public and local government officials and further building the capacity of the force including acquiring more logistical support," IGP Gasana stated.

"There is safety and security in Rwanda and Rwandans should concentrate on their development activities, don't value rumours and partner in the crime prevention strategy," he added.

The force also signed partnership agreements with all the 30 districts in the country, trained over 100,000 community policing committees and established Anti-crime clubs in schools to improve security and safety in the country.

"Fighting graft in RNP"
The Police chief also said the force maintains zero tolerance stance on corruption adding that those caught in this act are dismissed from the force.

He said that the force established an anti-corruption unit, force discipline and works with other institutions like Transparency International and Ombudsman’s office to fight graft in the force and in the country in general.

"Grenade attacks"
The Police chief also explained that all those responsible for the recent grenade attacks in Musanze District were arrested.

"These are terror acts coordinated by FDRL and the likes of Kayumba Nyamwasa and the group. Anyone involved in these criminal acts will also face the consequences," he said.

He said RNP has strengthened cooperation with other regional and international police forces to combat cross-border crimes and apprehend suspects who flee after committing crimes.

He appealed to the media fraternity to always be fair and balance in their reporting and to strengthen cooperation with RNP to sensitize and educate the public in crime prevention.

He also asked the public to refrain from rumors and report anything that might cause insecurity especially in the Genocide commemoration period.

During the meeting, it was agreed that the event be held monthly, journalists be trained in crime reporting and to have a periodic talk-show synchronised on private and public radio stations.

Prof. Anastase Shyaka, the Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) said this partnership between police and the media fraternity is an "indication of good governance and transparency."

He pledged support in organising these monthly interactions and to cater for the expenses required to have a talk-show aired live on all radio stations.
His Excellency President Paul Kagame called upon Police forces to strengthen cooperation as an effective way to deal with global security challenges which pose threat to the socio-economic transformation of communities and states.

The Head of State made the call on March 3 while officially opening a two-day 3rd Sub-Saharan Africa International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference in Kigali held under the theme “Contemporary Policing for a Safer World.”

Over 200 participants including Chiefs of Police, senior Police officers and IACP members took part in the conference which aimed at strengthening the professionalism, cooperation, exchange of information and experience among police forces.

The President said security challenges of the 21st century are increasing and sophisticated which requires collaboration to effectively combat them.

He urged them to come up with frameworks to improve security and development on the region and beyond, and enhance global Police cooperation in fighting crime.

“Development can only take place on the foundation of law and order. Law enforcement agencies, therefore, have a crucial role in ensuring peaceful conditions within which citizens can fully participate in the prosperity and wellbeing of their communities,” he said.

He observed that security threats in one country, region or continent have far reaching consequences beyond national and natural borders.

The three elements of historical mission of the police, its role in a modern integrated political and economic setting and common security threats, he said, define the nature of
effective role of enforcement agencies.

“Our collective aspirations are to improve the livelihoods of our people. We can achieve this more effectively when we pull our resources and efforts,” the Head of State stated.

He commended regional Police organizations like the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) and similar others in South, West and Central Africa and the recent formation of a wider Police organization – African Police Organisation (AFRIPO) – which he said are part of the answers to the current policing challenges.

He highlighted Information Communication Technology (ICT) as an opportunity to development and also another answer to current policing challenges.

“To take full advantage of these prospects, it is critical that police forces are connected internally and across the region and set up the requisite infrastructure for gathering and sharing information.”

“As citizens and governments put technology to humanity, criminals are also quick to adopt and abuse these tools. In some cases, they are ahead of law enforcement agencies. The emergency of cybercrime which encompasses offences ranging from terrorism, money laundering, human trafficking, theft, fraud, blackmail constitutes a major challenge to police forces across the world.”

He underscored the need for Police forces to rethink and reshape approaches to keep criminals in check and called upon governments to support their respective Police agencies to execute their tasks effectively.

He urged Police forces to establish a technology-based global framework for law enforcement, harmonize stands, regulations, laws and practices in order to cope with reality of globalization and to safeguard the benefits of technology.

“Our people need a peaceful and secure environment to effect this transformation. This forum presents a strategic platform to optimize opportunities and check threats to our chosen path towards a safer and more prosperous world. For this to happen, increased collaboration is both inevitable and the answer.”

The President of IACP, Mr. Yousry Zakhary, who thanked the Government of Rwanda for hosting this important conference and lauded IGP Emmanuel K. Gasana for pushing for cooperation of Police forces to ensure sustainable security globally.

“It’s our duty to make every possible effort to establish working partnership between Police agencies and executives throughout the world. Despite the difference between our languages, culture and even the laws we enforce, we must work together to prevail against our common enemies and fulfill our common missions,” Zakhary said.

Founded in 1893 in USA, IACP is a dynamic organization that promotes enhanced administrative, technical, and operational police practices; foster cooperation and the exchange of information and experience.

The Inspector General of Rwanda National Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana said the Conference will enhance the existing collaboration, partnership and strengthen synergies with regional police organizations for a safer world.

Rwanda and Rwanda National Police in particular, have been at the forefront of uniting regional and international Police forces and organizations to effectively deal with cross-border and organized security threats.

Rwanda has hosted similar international Police conferences, professional trainings and joint exercises both in command post and field training exercises.

Next year, Rwanda will host Interpol General Assembly, another big commitment Rwanda has made towards international cooperation.

Rwanda is also the current delegate for Africa on the Interpol Executive Committee, hosts Africa’s Centre for Security Organs Coordination of Action to end Violence Against Women and Girls (AFSOCCA-VAWG), Regional Centres of Excellence for high learning of Police Senior Command and Staff College, Peace Support Operations Training Centre and motor-vehicle Mechanical Inspection Centre (MIC).
Law enforcement agencies have been urged to work jointly to combat security threats like cybercrime, money laundering, terrorism, human and drug trafficking, fraud and proliferation of firearms among others.

This was one of the resolutions reached at the end of the third International Association of Police Chiefs (IACP), Sub-Saharan Africa Executive Policing conference in Kigali on March 4.

The conference brought together over 200 participants including African Police chiefs, senior police officers and IACP members.

About 40 African countries, 25 of them represented by their Police Chiefs, attended the conference.

The delegates agreed to harmonise standards, regulations, laws and practices to safeguard the benefits of technology and revise the community policing approaches towards contemporary policing challenges.

Other recommendations of the conference include investing in training and capacity building of law enforcement institutions, establishment of appropriate infrastructure for gathering and sharing relevant security information and fostering economic development by ensuring law and order.

The Minister for Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harelimana, while presiding over the closing ceremony, said the conference was timely and helped strengthen partnership to ensure the safety of millions of people on the continent.

“This conference will go down in history as a milestone aimed at uniting Police efforts for a safer world,” the minister said.

“Modern, organised, and sophisticated trans-national crimes are not exclusive to one nation,” he added.

He lauded the partnership between IACP and the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO).

The two police organisations signed a memorandum of understanding on the first day of the conference to partner in various policing areas, including capacity building.

The president of IACP, Yousry Zakhar, hailed Rwanda and Rwanda National Police, in particular, for being on the forefront of uniting Police forces towards a common goal.

“What unites us is fighting crime and ensuring contemporary policing for a safer world,” he said.

He urged participants to implement what was agreed during the conference.

Gen. Victoria Phiyega, the Inspector General of South Africa Police Force, said the conference had laid a foundation for successful policing.

“It has laid a greater path towards establishing a safer continent. We have learnt and picked so much and together, we will achieve more,” Gen. Phiyega said.
EUROPOL to back continental force

The European Police Organisation (Europol) has pledged to support the newly created African Police body, Afripol, to build its structures to effectively deal with emerging and challenging security threats.

Michel Quill, the Deputy Director of Operations at Europol, made the pledge at the end of the two-day third Sub-Saharan International Association of Chiefs of Police, Africa executive policing conference in Kigali on March 4.

The conference was held under the theme: “Contemporary policing for a safer world.”

“The creation of Afripol is a welcome idea. We are ready to support you to move quickly,” Quill said.

The formation of Afripol, an idea fronted by Rwanda, was adopted by African Police Chiefs during their meeting in Algiers, Algeria in February.

The new continental Police body which awaits approval of heads of state aims at foiling security threats like terrorism, human and drug trafficking and cybercrime, among others.

Rwanda’s enthusiasm to unite regional and international Police forces earned her a vote of confidence to host regional centres of excellence like the Police Senior Command and Staff College, Peace Support Operations Training Centre and motor-vehicle Mechanical Inspection Centre (MIC) and the continental anti-gender-based violence secretariat Africa’s Centre for Security Organs Coordination of Action to end Violence Against Women and Girls (AFSOCCA-VAWG).

“For Europol to be more effective, support from African Police forces is critical to combat organised crimes like human trafficking,” Quill added.

He said joint operations are important and Europol is open to working with the world.

Prof. Dr. Jurgen Stock, the vice-president of Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) of Germany, said cybercrime is a major threat to security, which can only be addressed through cooperation among regional and international policing organs.

“Terrorists use IT to communicate and disseminate propaganda and technology is the solution for law enforcement agencies to effectively fight these threats,” Prof. Stock said.

“The fast development of technology, therefore, requires us to cooperate in our regional and international frameworks to have enough technical equipment and experts for proper investigations,” he added.

Jonathan Johnson, the Deputy Inspector General of Nigeria Police force said there are still loopholes in the legal instruments to promote interstate cooperation on criminals and defence issues.

Jonathan also noted that states are still crippled by corruption, lack of data on criminals like fingerprints, passport numbers and names.

“Some countries are yet to sign important treaties and where they did, implementation is still weak. We need to harmonise our mutual legal assistance, extradition and transfer of criminals and invest in training, information exchange and capacity building to leave no room for criminals and terrorists to roam in one country and harm others in a neighbouring state,” Jonathan explained.
**EAPCCO to enhance police professionalism**

The Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) member countries held their first ever retreat in Uganda in January with the aim of enhancing the professionalism of Police forces and draw collective plans on how to effectively tackle global challenges.

The two-day retreat held at Paara Safari Lodge, Marchison Falls National Park was presided over by His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda.

The retreat was organized under the theme, "challenges of contemporary policing in the Eastern Africa region: managing violence and cyber-crimen."

In attendance were Police chiefs of Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The decision to hold the retreat was taken by the EAPCCO Council of police Chiefs (CPC) extraordinary meeting held in Kampala last year.

It was also attended by members from ISS, INTERPOL and other dialogue partners from Algeria, Djibouti, Italy, Jordan, Namibia, Niger, South Africa and UAE.

In his key note address, President Museveni echoed on the recent wave of violence and instability in North Africa and the rest of the world.

The retreat also seeks to forge stronger regional and global ties and draw plans on how to combat violence and cyber crimes.

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**RNP in second phase of ‘Ndi Umunyarwanda’**

The Rwanda National Police (RNP) conducted the second phase of ‘Ndi Umunyarwanda’ on March 14 to further promote the home-grown initiative within the force.

Ndi Umunyarwanda loosely translated as ‘I am Rwandan’ is an initiative largely aimed at helping Rwandans, especially the youth, openly talk about their history, repent, forgive, and heal.

Parliamentarian, Eugene Barikana, who praised RNP for being at the forefront of driving various government development agendas such as Ndi Umunyarwanda, said some people have misinterpreted the initiative causing confusion among some members of the population.

"Bad people destroyed this nation and we have to unite transform it and restore the pride of being Rwandan," Barikana told officers at the Police headquarters in Kacyiru.

The exercise was also attended by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Emmanuel K. Gasana, DIGPs Dan Munyuza of Operations and Stanley Nsabimana of Administration and Personnel and senior Police officers.

Barikana challenged those who are against Ndi Umunyarwanda and appealed to everyone to embrace it for all Rwandans to be on the same line towards a common goal.

“We have discovered that some people look at Ndi Umunyarwanda as a government platform deliberately initiated to mobilise a certain group to ask for forgiveness for their role in the 1994 Genocide committed against Tutsi. This is totally a wrong perception,” he stated.

Barikana explained that the sole and ideal purpose of Ndi Umunyarwanda is to help Rwandans realise the relationship with their country and thus have a sense of identity and dignity.

“This will, undoubtedly, help to build self reliance among Rwandans and thus come together as one people to build their nation,” he explained.

IGP Gasana said the force is committed to work towards anything that seeks to enhance Unity and development of Rwanda.
The First Lady, Her Excellency Jeannette Kagame, on February 27, officially launched the scale-up of Isange One Stop Centre for gender-based violence (GBV) victims in Nyagatare District.

The scale-up aims at extending holistic services to all victims of GBV across the country. The centres will provide free medical, psycho-social, forensic and legal support to GBV victims.

The First Lady said GBV has a wide range of negative consequences such as unwanted pregnancies, death, diseases among others.

She asserted that the vice affects individuals, families and the country’s economy and urged the public to step up against it by passing on information to security organs and local authorities to ensure the vice is collectively prevented.

The First Lady commended Rwanda National Police’s commitment to fight and prevent Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the country and thanked partners - Dutch Government and ONE-UN Rwanda – for supporting the scale up programme.

The Minister of Internal security, Musa Fazil Harelimana thanked the First Lady for her continued support to RNP particularly in GBV prevention.

Isange One-Stop Centre in Kacyiru, which operates under Rwanda Police Hospital, was established with the support of the First Lady through Imbuto Foundation and ONE-UN-Rwanda and has become a learning centre in the region.

The Netherlands ambassador to Rwanda, Her Excellency Leoni Margarita Cuelenaere thanked President Paul Kagame for his commitment to end impunity and to provide support to GBV victims.

“The commitment of the Rwandan Government and the First Lady in particular, resulted in the national policy document – National Scaling up strategy for One stop centres – addressing the problems and needs of victims of gender-based violence, and example in the region,” the Ambassador said.

“We are proud to partner with the Government of Rwanda in its fight against GBV,” she said calling for prevention, protection of the victims and prosecution of the offenders,” she said.
The Police chiefs of South Africa and Ethiopia, on March 5, visited the Rwanda National Police (RNP) anti-gender violence medical wing, Isange One-Stop Centre, and commended the initiative as the best approach in fighting violence against women and girls.

Gen. Victoria Mangwashi Phiyega, of South Africa Police Services, and Assefa Abiyu were in the country to attend the 3rd International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Sub-Saharan Africa Executive Policing conference which ended on March 4 in Kigali.

They were received at the centre by Commissioner of Police, Dr Daniel Nyamwasa, and Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Dr Wilson Rubanzana, the Director of Medical Services in RNP.

They were taken on a guided tour of units such as counselling, children and the victims’ ward and briefed on the various services the centre offers to the victims until they are discharged.

CP Nyamwasa explained that the centre was established as a holistic approach against gender-based violence and that the discharged victims are followed up from their localities.

The RNP is currently decentralising the centre, which offers free medical, psycho-socio and legal services to GBV victims, to 41 hospitals across the country.

“Isange One-Stop Centre is a good initiative, a novelty and sterling work. Keep it up,” Gen Phiyega said.

“This is surely a remarkable initiative and something worth emulating,” Abiyu said.

The centre was established in 2009 with the support of One-UN Rwanda and Imbuto Foundation and has since handled over 6,500 GBV-related cases.

Earlier on, Abiyu met with the Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations), Dan Munyuza, at the RNP headquarters in Kacyiru and the two discussed various security issues.

The Rwanda National Police and Ethiopia Federal Police signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate, mainly, in capacity building exchange of information and best practices and close collaboration in security-related areas.
Female police officers challenged on professionalism, discipline

Female police officers in a group photo with the Minister, IGP, DIGP and other officials

The Minister for Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harelimana, has challenged female police officers to uphold professionalism and shun anything that might taint the Force’s image.

The minister made the call while presiding over this year’s ‘Police Women Convention’ at the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) in Kigali yesterday.

The 5th convention was held under the theme: “Empowerment of Female Police Officers for Sustainable Development.”

The annual event brings together female police officers to deliberate on issues affecting them.

“There is a time when women were not valued in this country. But for the past two decades, women have regained their dignity thanks to good leadership,” Minister Harelimana told the over 1,200 female officers at the event.

He commended them for keeping a ‘clean criminal record’ and urged them to uphold discipline.

Most of the police officers involved with illegal acts are male, the Minister observed.

He thanked the Force for promoting gender equality.

Currently, female officers comprise about 20 per cent of the Force, up from 14 per cent two years ago. The RNP targets to have 30 per cent of female officers by 2016.

The minister further urged female officers to spearhead the implementation of government policies like ‘Ndi Umunyarwanda’ and embrace family planning to give birth to children they can afford to look after.

The Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana, said the Force is on course in implementing gender-related policies, including fighting gender-related crimes.

IGP Gasana said women officers are allowed to operate close to their families and given priority in peacekeeping missions.

He thanked One-UN-Rwanda and other institutions for their continued support, especially in the field of gender.

Lamin M. Manneh, the One UN-Rwanda Resident Coordinator, commended RNP for empowering women and lauded female officers in peacekeeping missions.

Manneh cited Isange One-Stop Centre, which provides free medical, psychological and legal services to gender violence victims, as one of the Force’s major success stories.

IGP briefs UN officials on rights issues

The Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana, on January 23, received a delegation led by United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR) Maina Kiai at his office in Kacyiru to discuss matters related to human rights.

Maina Kiai is the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

The visit aimed at assessing and gathering information related to promotion and protection of the rights to freedom, peaceful assembly and of association.

The IGP briefed the officials on how the force works with other institutions and the general public in ensuring security as a pro-active force.

He informed them that there are procedures that those seeking to hold peaceful assembly have to go through such as acquiring an authorization from local authorities.

Rwanda, he said, has had “limited and minor illegal assemblies” and have been dealt with in accordance to the law.

The IGP said: “People have rights to freedom of holding assemblies, but they have to be lawful and peaceful. We have to make sure that even those legal assemblies do not turn violent or infringe on other people’s rights.”

Mr. Kiai commended the country’s reconstruction and transformation following the 1994 Genocide Perpetuated against the Tutsis.

The meeting was also attended by the DIGP in charge of Operations, Dan Munyuza and other commissioners in the force.
The Inspector General of Rwanda National Police CG, Emmanuel Gasana, separately met police chiefs and representatives of eleven African countries and discussed various security concerns, a move aimed at agreeing on collective approaches to fight cross-border crimes.

The meetings were held on March 4 on the sidelines of the two-day third Sub-Saharan International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), which closed yesterday in Kigali.

The Police chiefs are from Seychelles, Zambia, South Africa, Nigeria, Angola, Eritrea, Ghana, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Gabon and Mozambique.

IGP Gasana commended his counterparts for the existing collaboration but added that there is still need to strengthen partnership for the good of citizens in their respective countries.

He pledged continued collaboration in building the capacity of the forces through training.

CG Gasana pointed out that sharing information and experiences will make the forces build their capacities, prevent crime and arrest criminals.

The IGP Zambia Police Force, Stella Libongani, expressed gratitude to RNP for offering various trainings to Zambia Police officers to help enhance their policing capabilities.

“Criminals do not respect any boundaries. Working in isolation enables them to commit evil. Cooperation is, therefore, paramount to fight and arrest them,” Libongani said.

RNP and Zambia Police Force are set to sign a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in various policing fields such as training and joint operations.

“We have worked closely with Zambia and recognise her role in ensuring sustainable peace,” IGP Gasana said.
The Chairperson of the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPPCO), Ernest Quatre has lauded the Rwanda National Police (RNP) for being at the forefront in implementing the body’s resolutions.

Quatre, who is also the Local Commissioner of Seychelles Police Force said this on March 5 at the RNP headquarters in Kacyiru where he was received by the Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana and senior police officers.

“IGP Gasana and his team have been on the forefront to implement the body’s resolutions, I congratulate and wish them to move on with the good work,” Quatre told reporters shortly after the meeting.

Under his reign as the chair of the regional police body, between 2011 and 2012, IGP Gasana implemented 13 activities including operations to apprehend criminals in member countries.

The activities include the first ever Police Command Post Exercise (PCPX) held in Rwanda in 2012 which covered specialized areas of terrorism, human and drug trafficking and Peace Support Operation (PSO). The joint-play benefited 60 police officers from the 12 member states.

Rwanda also exclusively conducted the training of a number of officers from EAPPCO post conflict member countries namely; Burundi, South Sudan and Somalia in a variety of courses including Intermediate Command and Staff course, Strategic Command Course.

The first phase of “Operation Hope” was also conducted in Burundi, Rwanda Tanzania and Uganda.

The “Operation Hope” in which 80 people were arrested in Rwanda alone, targeted narcotic drugs, human trafficking and wildlife crimes.

Quatre also said that the pact signed on March 3 between EAPCCO and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) will ensure cooperation, sharing of information and intelligence to fight cross-border crimes and apprehend criminals.

“When you share information as a team, you become stronger to fight criminals or international organized crime,” he observed.

“Law enforcers plan but criminals also want to destabilize your plan. Criminals always want to overtake us, but as law enforcers we have to always be prepared; we cannot pull back, we therefore have to move forward to fight and prevent criminal activities,” he added.

IGP Gasana said RNP is committed to the success of EAPCCO and anything that will ensure sustainable peace and security on the African continent and beyond.
The United Nations appointed a Rwandan Commissioner of Police (CP) Vianney Nshimiyimana, as its Police Commissioner for the United Nations Operation in Ivory Coast (Unoci).

Nshimiyimana, who was the commandant of the National Police College (NPC) in Musanze, left for the West African nation in February to take up his new assignment.

The father of four was appointed due to his professionalism and immense experience in peacekeeping.

He will be heading the police component for one year, but renewable.

“This is yet another demonstration of the trust the international community has in Rwanda; I will work to uphold that reputation,” CP Nshimiyimana said.

He thanked the government and the Rwanda National Police, in particular, which helped him to be a competitive officer who can help bring about peace in other countries.

Among his plans during the mission spell, he said, is to bring positive reforms in the security sector, civilian protection, oversee the disarmament process and to help develop the capacity of the Ivorian Police Force.

Mission experience

The former Political Commissar, who was part of the third battalion that was deployed at the parliamentary building to protect VIPs during the liberation struggle, has vast peacekeeping experience and various academic and professional courses under his name.

In 2012, he headed a Rwanda Contingent (Correctional, Individual and FPU officers) under the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti. He was also the contingent Commander of the Rwandan Police Peacekeepers under the United Nations Mission in Liberia in 2008.

Rwandan peacekeepers have been recognised on the international scene for their professionalism and commitment in executing their duties.

Academic courses

CP Nshimiyimana holds a Masters Degree in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation from the Centre for Conflict Management-NUR, which he attained last year, when he was awarded as the overall best student.

In 2000, he was also awarded among the best students at the College of Arts and Social Sciences, formerly the National University of Rwanda (NUR), where he graduated with bachelors degree in law.

Professional Studies

International Commanders Programme at Bramsfil Police College – UK

Senior Mission Leaders Course – Kenya

Level Seven Certificate – Chartered Management Institutee (UK)

He was the Commandant of the National Police College, prior to his appointment.

Rwanda maintains about 600 police officers in eight missions which are Haiti, Sudan, South Sudan, Abyei, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali and Ivory Coast.

The Rwandan contingent in Mali has been vital in protecting VIPs.
CADET PASS-OUT IN PICTURES
IACP CONFERENCE
On 20 February 2014, peacekeepers of the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) joined an event to launch in Sudan #Kwibuka20, a global initiative to commemorate the twentieth commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi and the killing of more than one million people in 100 days.

The launch took place in the northern city of Gao, the contingent base. The exercise also aimed at encouraging Minusma and local security institutions to engage in various initiatives to assist vulnerable communities.

The exercise was marked with the donation of bottled clean water to vulnerable families of parts of Mali which destroyed infrastructures, including water tanks and pipes.

“We are introducing these community policing activities to engage everyone to cooperate in solving problems affecting locals,” Chief Supt. Bérin Mutezintare, the Rwanda FPU contingent Commander, said.

The event was also attended by army and police peacekeeping forces in Mali, local security institutions, authorities and residents. Locals pledged to support it for the good of the community.

**UNAMID peacekeepers join the launch of #Kwibuka20 in Dafur**

On 20 February 2014, peacekeepers of the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) joined an event to launch in Sudan #Kwibuka20, a global initiative to commemorate the twentieth commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi and the killing of more than one million people in 100 days.

During the event, the participants observed one minute of silence, heard from those who lived through the horrendous ordeal and lit candles to honour the victims.

Mohammed Ibn Chambas said averting such incidents in future can only be done through building strong institutions, particularly in Africa, that promote citizen participation in governance, peaceful co-existence, national unity, fight against corruption and democracy.

More than 3,000 military personnel currently serve in UNAMID, as well as 166 police advisers and a significant number of civilians.
The Rwanda Police Formed Police Unit (FPU) contingent operating under the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (Minusma) has donated an assortment of scholastic materials to needy pupils in the West African nation.

The support, which includes a year’s worth of tuition and clothes, was given to pupils of Ecole fondamentale de Boulgoundjie in Gao city on February 25.

It was handed over to the beneficiaries by the Rwanda FPU Mali 1 contingent commander Bertin Mutezintare.

The beneficiaries are those that were either orphaned or separated from their families during the northern Mali rebellion in 2012.

The support is a financial contribution of each of the Rwanda Police peacekeepers serving in Mali. The peacekeepers also provided free medical consultation to scores of patients.

Mutezintare appealed to the beneficiaries and the youth not to lose hope.

“Even in the face of adversity, don’t lose hope; have faith and utilise the available opportunities to build for a better future,” he told the students, urging them to concentrate on their studies to be future leaders the country yearns for.

Minusma and the school administration thanked the peacekeepers for going beyond their mandate to give hope to the youngsters.

There are 141 Rwanda Police peacekeepers in Mali.

The event was also attended by Rwanda Police peacekeepers, parents and MINUSMA staff.
The Inspector General of Uganda Police Force, Gen. Kale Kayihura, has called on Police schools on the continent to orient their students toward addressing causes of crime to ensure that forces shift from dealing with the consequences to prevention.

Kayihura made the call yesterday while giving a lecture on the “Role of Police in addressing contemporary violence and public order management,” to 464 students undergoing professional and academic courses at the National Police College in Musanze District.

“Terrorism, violent demonstrations, cyber crime and corruption are affecting safety of our countries and development in general. Police should, therefore, be informed, organised and equipped to prevent such threats rather than dealing with the consequences,” Gen. Kayihura said.

He said violence and increased mass protests have also put to test the current policing architecture, which requires review of tactics.

“If we sleep, we will find ourselves swallowed by bad groups who hide behind curtains of so-called peaceful protests that eventually turn violent. Effective policing must go beyond fighting crime by actively participating in solving the root causes of crime,” he said.

Gen. Kayihura, who is in the country to attend the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference that opens today, said the use of IDs as travel documents in EAC has eased the movement of wrongdoers and gives Forces in the bloc added work to stop them from executing their plans.

About 150 participants, who include chiefs of Police, members of IACP and senior Police officers are expected to attend the two-day conference organised by Rwanda National Police and IACP under the theme, “Contemporary Policing for a Safer World.”

Commissioner of Police Cyprien Gatete thanked Gen. Kayihura for sharing his knowledge and expertise in crime handling.
Police forces of DR Congo, Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda agreed to lay joint strategies to fight cross-border crimes and share policing best practices.

This was agreed during a meeting at the Rwanda National Police headquarters in Kacyiru on March 3. The meeting drew the Police chiefs and representatives from the four countries.

Among the strategies agreed on by the four Police forces include conducting joint operations and training, exchange of criminals and information.

The Inspector General of Rwanda National Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana, said cooperation is a fundamental tool for regional law enforcers to ensure sustainable peace and security of the region.

He said sharing of information and conducting tactical-joint operations will help bring to justice elements who, after committing crimes, in one country, flee to another.

“Criminals should not get safe haven in any of our countries,” Gasana said.

“Solutions to our problems are within us. We have the responsibility and capabilities and let us exploit them by supporting each other,” Gen. Kale Kayihura, the IGP of Uganda Police Force, said.

**Runaway criminals**

The Deputy Director-General of DR Congo National Police, Raus Ngashi, commended RNP’s commitment to bringing about peace and security in the region and beyond.

André Ndayambaje, the director-general of Burundi National Police, said effective cooperation is imperative in crime prevention and arrest of criminals who seek refuge in our countries after committing crimes in another.

The four Police chiefs agreed to meet in Goma, DR Congo, later this year to cement the joint cooperation.

RNP already has a memorandum of understanding with Burundi and Uganda Police forces and getting the DR Congo on board is seen as another step forward towards apprehending criminals that could be hiding in any of these countries.

The Police chiefs and their delegations were in Rwanda to attend the 3rd sub-Saharan Africa International Association of Chiefs of Police conference.
Rev. Antoine Rutayisire of Remera Anglican Church in Kigali has challenged security organs on the African continent to be patriotic and stay focused to their mandates to ensure sustainable security in their respective countries.

He said the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi was inevitable because security organs of the then ruling regime had breached their mandate and instead aided in the planning and killing of fellow Rwandans.

Rutayisire made the remarks on Wednesday at Kigali memorial centre while responding to questions raised by Police students from regional countries attending the ‘Police Senior Command and Staff Course’ at the National Police College (NPC) in Musanze District.

A total of 22 police officers from nine regional countries are attending the course after which they will graduate with a Masters Degree in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation.

They had visited the memorial centre as part of their studies and to also pay tribute to the Genocide victims.

“Genocide cannot happen unless the army and police are involved,” Rutayisire said.

He faulted international courts that have freed some officers responsible for the Genocide. The officers asked various questions related to Gacaca, the semi-traditional courts, among others.

Rev. Rutayisire said Rwanda has embarked on a transformation path through home-grown development initiatives such as Gacaca and Ndi Umunyarwanda that have helped reconcile and unite Rwandans.

Gacaca judicial system was established in 2002 to speed up Genocide trials, establish the truth about the Genocide, fight impunity and help reconcile Rwandans.

“What happened in Rwanda is really terrible...to see people killing their fellow citizens whom they share same culture and speak the same language,” Supt. Ephantus Kariuki from Kenya, said.

“But it’s good that Rwandans have decided to move on to rebuild their country and not to get stuck in the past. It’s Rwandans who fought and stopped the Genocide and are the same people who should build their country,” he added.

Supt. Musa Swane from Swaziland said Rwandans need to unite and forge a way forward and ensure that it does not happen again.

“We also pray, as other nations, for Rwanda to unite and prevent the reoccurrence of such a tragedy. We are leaving here as ambassadors of Rwanda because we, from the Southern Africa, didn’t have the true picture of what actually happened and the true pictures of what is happening now.

“The development since 1994 up to now is commendable and this is the path all Rwandans and Africa in general should take,” Swane added.
Team of experts from the East African Community (EAC) member countries visited Rwanda National Police (RNP) in January to assess the process in the establishment of the Traffic Management (TM) Regional Centre of Excellence, which will be hosted by Rwanda.

The centre of excellence will be responsible for innovation, research and capacity building of Police officers in EAC in road traffic-related matters.

The delegation was received by the Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana at the RNP headquarters in Kacyiru.

The IGP said RNP is “committed to regional cooperation” and ready to host the Centre to support each other in policing.

He highlighted the establishment of motor vehicle inspection centres and Gishali Integrated Polytechnic as some of the strategies in place to check on the mechanical faults of cars and give skills to officers.

The force also owns a mobile test lane and is in the process to open other five centres in different parts of the country. He said that these initiatives will make the TM centre a vibrant one.

The IGP also explained that the force invested in Information Technology (IT) training to equip officers with necessary skills in order to professionally handle traffic issues.

The registration for driving licence tests and results are currently done online.

One of the experts, Assistant Commissioner of Police Kaguta Bazirakye lauded the Rwanda National Police for the achievements in the implementation plan.

ACP Bazirakye is also the head of Peace and Security at the EAC secretariat.

“Rwanda National Police is special; they are doing a wonderful job. Rwanda has all it takes to host the centre and Police will help move it to the highest horizon,” ACP Bazirakye said.

The team also visited the Traffic and Road Safety Department, Remera motor vehicle inspection centre and Gishali Integrated Polytechnic in Rwamagana District.
The Rwanda National Police signed an agreement with nine districts from the Eastern and Western provinces to jointly enhance the fight against crimes and poverty alleviation in the regions.

The MoUs were signed in January and February respectively.

The districts are Kirehe, Nyagatare, Kayonza, Ngoma and Rwamagana from the Eastern Province and Karongi, Ngororero, Nyabihu and Rutsiro from the Western Province.

There are currently 28 districts with this unique partnership with the RNP.

The Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana signed on behalf of Rwanda National Police while districts were represented by their respective mayors.

It was also attended by local government officials at the regional level.

The partnership, will, among others, focus on empowering Community Policing Committees (CPCs), crime prevention, community mobilization to participate in development activities and community awareness on cultural-related activities.

The Governor of the Eastern Province, Odetta Uwamariya thanked Rwanda National Police for its transformation policies, which she said, have had “great positive impact” on security and community development.”

“What matters most is not the signing but the implementation for the good of the people. We are not starting from zero; we have been working together to ensure security in the province. This partnership will just strengthen the existing systems to move further,” Governor Uwamariya stated.

She added: “There is no sustainable development where there is insecurity. It is our responsibility as leaders to ensure that citizens are safe to work and improve on their well-being and the development in general. In Eastern Province, We walk the talk.”

She urged the mayors to integrate the agreement in their action plans and to put into action all that was agreed upon.

IGP Gasana also said this was a formalisation of the existing partnership to strengthen cooperation to effectively enforce safety in communities.

He said: “Development goes hand-in-hand with security. This collective understanding and involving the general population is paramount to reach one’s objectives. Let us commit to achieve all that we set ourselves to do today”.

District mayors from the Eastern province in a group photo after signing the MoU
The third phase of the "Security and Hygiene" promotion campaign in the Kigali city was launched in January to further bring on board various players to strengthen safety and cleanliness in the city.

The launch was held at the Rwanda National Police headquarters in Kacyiru.

The six-month exercise is a brain by the two institutions.

The launch of the activity was presided over by the Mayor of the City of Kigali, Fidele Ndayisaba and the Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana.

The campaign will see at the end, best performers among sectors, waste collection companies, transporters, artists and journalists recognized and awarded for their role in supporting and promoting hygiene and security in the city.

In security, the campaign will mainly focus on: fighting drug and alcohol abuse, ensuring safety and security in public places, fighting noise pollution and use of plastic bag, addressing issues of prostitution, street children and beggars, fighting gender violence and strengthening community night patrols.

In hygiene, the campaign will focus on waste management, personal hygiene, hygiene in informal settlement, greening and city beautification and implementation of hygiene standards in public places.

The Mayor said: "Security and hygiene are two winning cards which add value and improves quality of life, and we should stick to them."

He thanked the President, Paul Kagame, who is the brain behind ensuring that hygiene and security becomes the order of the day in the country and thanked the RNP for its continued “good cooperation” and for living up to its policing mandate to ensure safety and security.

He also called for cooperation and trust between security institutions, local leaders and the public to ensure a successful exercise.

The IGP said: "Security and hygiene are the source of development. We should therefore give this exercise value to continue to make Kigali in particular and Rwanda in general, safer and cleaner."

"Security and development move hand-in-hand,” he observed, calling for a quality competitive exercise.

The winning sector in hygiene will walk away with a vehicle, tipper type, while the winner in security will get a vehicle, double-cabin type, all courtesy of Rwanda National Police.
Rwanda National Police (RNP), the City of Kigali and Rwanda Utility Regulatory Agency, on 16th January, held a meeting with heads of Taxi Motorcyclists cooperatives to draw collective measures against defiant motorcyclists.

The meeting was held at the force’s Head quarters in Kacyiru.

The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Emmanuel K. Gasana said some taxi motorcycle operators, especially in the City of Kigali, have deliberately continued to violate traffic rules, despite the several warnings.

He pointed out to taxi motorcycle operators as being the main cause of road insecurity and disorder on roads.

The meeting resolved that, a motorcyclist involved in traffic-related offences be imprisoned and a special licence be issued to all those in this profession.

Other resolutions include motorcycles to operate in zones and each zone to have its colour, penalize cooperatives where most traffic violators belong and revoking a driving licence of habitual violators including expelling them from the profession, where necessary.

Fidele Ndayisaba, the Mayor of the City of Kigali said expelling them will be a lesson to others to review their conduct.

Ndayisaba also urged taxi motorcyclists to ensure their own security by advising and reporting colleagues who breach traffic rules.

Vincent Rutaremara, the Director of planning and capacity building in Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA), blamed the mess caused by motorcyclists to their management, who hardly follow the operations and conduct of their members.

Rutaremara highlighted information sharing as an effective tool that could help a big deal in fighting and preventing traffic offences caused by motorists.

The meeting was also attended by Regis Gatarayiha, the Director General of RURA, Deputy Inspector General in charge of operations, Dan Munyuza, mayors on Nyarugenge, Kicukiro and Gasabo districts and executive secretaries of all sectors in the City of Kigali.
The Rwanda National Police (RNP) on February 7 donated Rwf1 million to a cooperative of tax motor operators in Musanze District organised under an acronym, COTAMONO.

The financial support and a trophy is a token of appreciation for their outstanding good conduct and discipline through respecting traffic rules and fighting crimes.

ACP Damas Gatare, the Commissioner for Public Relations and Community Policing handed over the cheque to the president of COTAMONO, Safari Muberuka, on behalf of Rwanda National Police in a function held in Musanze. The donation was pledged by the Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana during a meeting with the motorists in Musanze, in January.

The cooperative is composed of over 600 members. ACP Gatare thanked the motorists for being an example to others in ensuring road security and fighting crimes.

He asked them to strengthen this good cause to reports criminals like drug dealers and other people involved in illegal activities.

The Governor of the Northern Province, Aimé Bosenibamwe lauded Rwanda National police for being a people’s force and supporting communities in development.

He echoed the need to strengthen cooperation between the public and security organs and motorcycle taxi operators, in particular, to prevent anything that might affect the security of Rwandans and development in general.

Muberuka also thanked Rwanda National Police for the financial support, which he said will enable the cooperative to prosper and support their families.

He pledged the cooperative’s continued support to fight and prevent crimes and discipline in observing road traffic rules.
The Inspector General of Namibia Police Force, Lt. General S.H. Ndeitunga, on March 1, visited the Rwanda National Police and called for strengthened efforts among African Police forces to ensure maximum security on the continent.

Ndeitunga, who was in the country to attend the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) was received by the Inspector General of Rwanda National Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana, who briefed him on the forces activities both locally and at the international level.

“I have identified that the Rwandan Police has got sound and vibrant policing strategies such as training programmes, its best centers like Isange One Stop Centre to fight gender-violence, which we want to emulate back home,” LT General Ndeitunga said shortly after the meeting at the RNP headquarters.

“There is a lot we can learn from the experience Rwanda National Police has accumulated. You have a good record of experience that we have to tap,” he added.

He pointed out to cooperation of African Police institutions as crucial to achieve sustainable peace and security on the continent.

He also visited Isange One Stop Centre, Police Training School in Rwamagana and National Police College in Musanze district.

“We want to put efforts together as African Police institutions to ensure that, we collectively address emerging crimes such as cyber crimes, illegal migration and illicit firearms trafficking,” he noted.

The Namibian Police chief challenged Police officers enrolled in various professional and academic courses at the National Police College, to seize the golden opportunity for the good of their fellow citizens in their respective countries.

Officers from eight African countries are attending a Police Senior Command and Staff Course at the college.

“You are here to learn and acquire knowledge, but it requires hard work for the good of our continent to ensure that we foil evil plans of criminals,” he told students.

“This is a golden opportunity that even the Namibia Police force will exploit by sending our police officers to acquire professional policing skills and knowledge here,” he said.

Gasana said Rwanda National Police is committed to cooperating with other African Police institutions in a spectrum of policing areas to ensure peace and security in the region and beyond.
Regional Police forces to conduct joint operation against counterfeits

Police forces from seven regional countries met in Kigali in a three-day session from March 25th to 27th to lay joint strategies to fight illicit and smuggled products.

The Interpol exercise codenamed ‘Operation Wipeout,” will be conducted in Rwanda, Botswana, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia and Zambia. It will target excisable goods such as cigarettes, fuel and alcohol. Others include food and home-care products, pesticides, mobile phone and accessories, electrical products and electronics.

The Inspector General of Rwanda National Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana, while officially opening the training of 44 participants from the seven countries, said these sub-standard and smuggled goods pose danger to consumers and the economy of states.

He said criminals care less about the consequences of selling counterfeit products and urged participants to lay stringent measures to identify and combat such illegal businesses.

He reiterated the need for cooperation between security agencies and other institutions to enhance exchange of information to effectively combat such illegal businesses.

Mr. Roberto Marquez, the head of the Interpol’s trafficking in illicit goods and counterfeiting sub-directorate said the operation is intended to combat piracy, tax evasion and counterfeit goods.

Similar trainings and operations were also conducted in other regional groupings since 2008.

Mrquez called upon “meaningful intervention” of law enforcement agencies to facilitate in a fight against counterfeit products and smuggling.

CSP Jean Nepo Mbonyumuvunyi, the director of Interpol in RNP said the force had already started operations against such illegal businesses.

The RNP currently has a unit – Revenue Protection Department – attached to Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) to fight fraud and other forms of illegal trade.

CSP Mbonyumuvunyi said this operation will further strengthen the fight against illicit products such as toothpaste, hair-dying products (kanta) and counterfeit currencies, which are said to be on the market.

The operation will be conducted with other regulatory bodies like customs, bureau of standards, tax bodies and the justice sector.
Community Policing Committees urged to tighten night patrols

Community Policing Committees (CPCs) have been challenges to strengthen night patrols to improve safety and security in their localities.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police in Charge of Operations, Dan Munyuza made the call on March 22 while presiding over the closing of a two-week training of CPCs at the Rwanda Peace and Leadership Centre in Nkumba, Burera district.

A total of 500 members of CPCs from different parts of the country, including 22 females, benefited from this course organized by Rwanda National Police and National Itorero Commission.

DIGP Munyuza, who observed that there is safety in the country, outlined gender violence and drug abuse as some of the major crimes which requires collective approach to effectively combat them.

“This training is an indication of the good police-public partnership to further ensure security collectively. We should therefore continue to build from what we have achieved together by tightening night patrols and share information in time to prevent crimes rather than fighting,” DIGP Munyuza said.

He also asked them to lead by example and be catalysts in the implementation of government development policies.

Landrad Umuraza from National Itorero Commission urged them to uphold dignity and values of a good Rwandan, which he said will lead them to perfection in their tasks.

Deo Kabagamba, the executive secretary of the Northern Province also said the realization of Vision 2020 depends on security.

He appealed them to be an eye for a neighbor.

Trainees acquired skills on how to fight and prevent crimes, how to manage and handle conflicts and implementation of government development programmes.

Others including the concept of community policing, Ndi Umunyarwanda concept, how to fight gender violence and protecting rights of children.
Preventing fire outbreak

The Rwanda National Police (RNP) has called upon the public to use the force’s available free facilities to report cases of fire outbreak, to help put it out before it destroys the affected facility or spreading to other premises.

Senior Superintendent (SSP), Jean de Dieu Gashiramanga, the Commanding Officer of the Police’s Fire and Rescue Brigade said that some people take long to inform the force in case of fire breakout, which leads to loss of property, which could have been prevented.

“Fire and Rescue Brigade is responsible for making Rwanda safe from fire and quick response to emergency rescues to minimising fire related effects,” SSP Gashiramanga said.

“We appeal to the public to always contact us on the availed hotlines and other lines, so that we intervene and save the property before they are gutted entirely,” he added.

The hotlines are 111, 0788311224, 0788311120 and 0788311335.

The unit also conducts fire safety inspection for fire basic equipment installations in public facilities.

According to Police statistics, 77 cases of fire outbreak were registered in last year, down from 93 recorded in 2012.

About 40 cases of the fire incidents registered last year were caused by short-circuit.

50 out of 93 cases registered in 2012 were also due to short circuit.

He explained that some short circuits are caused damaged electrical conductors, substandard, poor or old installations which cannot accommodate the connected electrical gadgets like welding.

“The Rwanda National Police put in place measures to prevent and put out fire which include acquiring professional equipment, training its staff and conducting public awareness and equipping owners of facilities with skills to put out the fire themselves,” SSP Gashiramanga explained.

The equipment, he said, include firefighting trucks with cranes, excavator and oxygen compressor machines.

He appealed to owners of building to always use the accredited electrical equipment, install firefighting gadgets like fire extinguishers and smoke alarm in the facilities and always inspect the electrical wiring.

Others preventative measures include, not to light cigarette in highly sensitive locations such as gas stations and not to leave cooking pots and pans unattended even for a short while.

Sand and water are other things, he said, can be used to put out fire.

The Rwanda National Police in partnership with the City of Kigali and Police and Energy, Water and Sanitation Authority (EWSA), last year launched the exercise to install water hydrants in different parts of the city to further strengthen measures against fire breakouts.

The Police’s Fire and Rescue Brigade was facing a challenge of lack of enough water filling stations, as the nearest and only firefighting trucks’ refilling station was based in Kimisagara, Nyarugenge District.

This at times would affect their rescue mission in case it requires more water to put out fires.

A number of water hydrants have since been installed around big facilities like hotels, financial institutions, night clubs, schools, petrol stations and markets, among others places.

Police, military officers train in post bomb blast investigation

An estimated 30 members of the Armed Forces on Thursday concluded a four-day training course in Post Bomb Blast Investigation at the Police Ethics Centre in Kacyiru, Kigali.

The trainees included 22 police and five army officers.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of Administration and Personnel, Stanley Nsabimana, challenged the officers to use the acquired skills to fulfill their assignments in explosive investigations.

The course, which included theory and practical lessons aimed at enhancing the officers’ capabilities in investigating explosive-related acts.

Participants also acquired skills in evidence collection including fingerprint and photography.

Superintendent Vita Hamza, one of the participants thanked both RNP and RDF for organising the course.

“The new package has enlightened our understanding and skills to investigate explosives. We will share the skills with other officers so as to attain sustainable security and ensure that criminals are brought to justice,” SP Hamza said.
Fake money and its impact on the economy

Counterfeit or forged money is never considered a major problem in Rwanda, but one cannot ignore the fact that there are forged currency notes in circulation, in various denominations, and can haunt the economy if not checked collectively at an early stage.

Besides being illegal and a crime under the Rwandan laws, fake money has an ill-effect on society as it leads to a reduction in the value of real money.

It increases prices (inflation) due to more money getting circulated in the economy – an unauthorised artificial increase in the money supply; leads to decrease in the acceptability of paper money and cause losses to the business community.

Though financial institutions have installed hi-tech equipment to easily detect fake monies, the likely majority victims could be the local people dealing in small businesses in communities; those selling vegetables, owning small shops in villages, to mention but a few.

These traders will lose their goods to these crooks and will not be reimbursed for the detected and confiscated fake monies.

Some individuals involved in forging and circulating monies have been arrested, majority prosecuted.

Recently, two people were arrested in Ngoma and Kayonza districts in the Eastern Province as they were trying to circulate fake Rwandan currency.

The suspects were trying to buy goods with the fake notes in Rwf5,000 and Rwf2,000 denominations.

However, the would-be victims, after finding out that the monies were fake, they notified area residents, who apprehended the culprits as they tried to flee, and handed them over to Police in the area.

This is the spirit that is required of the general public, especially the business community, to always be vigilant and check the given currency notes thoroughly, and report people that are involved in these criminal acts, which have ill-impact on the economy.

Articles 601 to 604 of the Rwandan penal code criminalize and punish those who falsify or alter coins and bills which are legal tender.

The articles also punish those, who knowingly circulates fake monies and those who acquires fake currencies unknowingly, but circulates them after discovering they are counterfeit.

It should, therefore, be a collective responsibility by everyone to report those individuals involved in falsifying and circulating currencies.

The author is a journalist by profession.

RNP top social media user

The maiden survey by Ejo Social Media Ranking Report 2013 has ranked the Rwanda National Police top among five most public institutions that used the social media effectively in 2013 to reach out to the community.

Ejo Social Media is a local social firm that offers expertise services to individuals and organizations to tell their stories effectively through social web.

The ranking was based on activity, online reputation, relevance of content and consistency.

Rwanda National Police took the top spot for maintaining activity, providing important and timely emergence alerts and effectively running online campaigns.

The force’s twitter handle “@Rwandapolice” and facebook account “Rwanda Police” are used to sensitize the community to ensure own security in their localities, and to respond to public’s concerns.

These two social channels are also used to discuss issues with the community, with the aim of improving on the quality services the force offers to the population.

The development and use of E-Policing is one of the RNP priorities.

The RNP calls upon members of the community to use these social networks to clarify on some issues but also to advise their fellow Rwandans to cooperate to further build a better country that is free of crimes.

They can also report a crime by calling toll-free lines or by feeling the online crime, complaint and compliment forms.

The forms can be found on the RNP Police web site www.police.gov.rw by clicking on the ‘E-Policing’ link.
Every last Saturday of the month, Rwandans come together in mandatory community work called ‘Umuganda.’ This day has been termed as ‘umunsi w’umuganda’ loosely translated as a day of communal work.

The exercise starts at 8:00am to 11:00pm (though it can go beyond if the communities deem it necessary) is compulsory to all able-bodied people aged between 18 and 65.

This unique Rwandan-home-grown solution has brought many from afar fields to participate and research on the success of phenomenon commonly known as “Umuganda.”

Rwandan ‘very highest personalities’ of our ‘land of a thousand hills and a million smiles’ join fellow citizenry in this noble cause.

It promotes development, supports national budget and provides opportunity for hospitality in communities.

Roads, bridges and water channels are rehabilitated, schools and health centres built and the vulnerable given shelter through this volunteer community work.

The population also meets their local leaders, pose questions and share ideas on various issues such security concerns and seek solutions, aimed at developing themselves and supporting government development initiatives.

But where does this originate? It dates back in the pre-colonial times and during the Rwandan State formation where values were given their rightful definitions.

This phenomenon was translated into a support mechanism that came to be known as “Umuganda” or “communal support” given, especially to vulnerable neighbors, family or society.

In so doing, creates solidarity and cohesion among those participating in Umuganda.

The past empty-minded regimes and colonial practices turned this noble cause into shiku or forced labour thereby sowing seeds of distrust and defiance against the intent and traditional purpose.

There came the Second republic that turned Umuganda into a political rhetoric to rally blind support of the so called “majority Hutu.”

These prejudices culminated into unfounded negative perceptions that sowed seeds of hatred that contributed to the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Umuganda, as a central supporting pillar, causes a nation state like Rwanda to become self reliant, dignity and promotes national values seen by critics as a threat to our unity and reconciliation and supplements the government’s development budget.

This community work should thus not be seen as a government policy of closing roads and stifling private engagements such as social commitments or parties.

It is neither a tool to exploit human labour nor propaganda for it existed even before the ushering in of the liberation forces of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) spearheaded by the Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency President Paul Kagame, who has time and again participated in Umuganda with the ordinary people.

So, Umuganda vis-a-vis security bonds families and neighborhoods. It’s a mechanism to solidify social cohesion, social trust and reconciliation. It solves petty issues and promotes neighborliness and removes, ideally, the separation walls between neighbouring communities, friends and foes share a joke, exchange ideas, thus promoting social cohesion, minimizing conflict and becomes a conflict resolution centre before escalation into deadly conflicts or mere prejudice.

What then could replace such an astonishing cultural cost effective mechanism for reconciliation, social harmony and security that are pre-requisites for national development?

Ultimately, Rwandans have surely embraced Umuganda as one of the home grown solutions to social cohesion, promoting unity, reconciliation and development of our beloved country.

The author is the RNP Spokesperson

ACP Damas Gatare
The chairperson of Transparency International, Huguette Labelle, visited the Rwanda National Police headquarters in Kacyiru, yesterday, and commended efforts to fight against graft within the Police Force.

Huguette, who was accompanied by Marie Immaculée Ingabire, the chairperson of Transparency International-Rwanda, said the Force’s initiatives are a clear indication of its “zero tolerance stance against corruption.”

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Emmanuel K. Gasana, outlined the establishment of the Anti-corruption Unit, Ethics Centre, and internal audit as some of the measures that were put in place to keep the officers in check.

The Ethics Centre, located at the Police headquarters, was established in 2012 to maintain professional standards, values and norms of officers and the employees of other public and private companies, among others.

IGP Gasana also explained that the Force works closely with other institutions like Transparency International-Rwanda and the Ombudsman’s office to fight corruption in the country.

He further explained that the Force has so far extended the Interpol system, I-24/7, to all outlets to aid in fighting cross-border crimes, including identifying and apprehending officials suspected of corruption.

I-24/7 is a global police network that helps to share urgent police information between Interpol member countries to search for suspected criminals or wanted persons, stolen and lost documents, stolen vehicles, among others.

Rwanda is the third country in Africa to have the Interpol system (I/247) operating at the border after Botswana and South Africa.

Father drags daughter to police for discarding own baby

A man in Rulindo District dragged his daughter (name withheld) to Murambi Police Station after she reportedly abandoned her seven-months old baby girl in the bush.

The suspect, who was staying with her father, allegedly told the latter that she was leaving for Kigali to take the baby to its father.

The following day, she returned without the baby, prompting the father to drag her to Murambi Police Station on suspicion that she could have killed the child.

“My daughter had declined to tell me who the father of the baby was. On Tuesday, she surprised me with news that she was going to Kigali to take the child to its father,” the suspect’s father said.

“I suspected she could have harmed the child, which prompted me to take her to Police,” he added.

It is alleged that the suspect, on reaching Kigali, abandoned the baby in a wetland in Akarubimbura village, Gatsata sector, Gasabo District.

Police in Gasabo confirmed that they rescued the baby on Tuesday and took her to Malaika Murinzi Orphanage in Gatsata.

The baby, who was wrapped in clothes, was seen by a passersby who heard her groaning at about 7am.

Senior Superintendent Urbain Mwiseneza, the Central region police spokesperson, described the act as “merciless.” Mwiseneza said the baby was first taken to Gihogwe Health Centre in Gasabo and that she is now healthy.

Under the Penal Code, a parent or guardian who abandons a child in a solitary place is liable to a term of imprisonment of five to seven years and a fine of between Rwf50,000 to 200,000.
Football

Police FC thrash Bugesera to advance in ‘Peace Cup’

The Rwanda National Police (RNP) football club eased through to the next round of the ‘Peace Cup’ with a comfortable 5-0 win over Bugesera FC in a match played on March 19 at Stade de Kigali.

The Police side secured their first goal on the second minute of the game kick-off through Imran Nshimiyimana before striker Sina Jerome tripled the score on the 15th and 20th minute respectively.

Bugesera’s woes continued to deteriorate when their defender also put himself on the score sheet, this time, with an own goal to make it 4-0 before rest-time.

Sina Jerome sealed the win and his hat-trick on the 55th minute with a well-converted penalty kick awarded when goalkeeper fouled Innocent Habyarimana inside the box.

The only chance for Bugesera FC in a one-sided-match came in the dying minutes of the normal time when they secured a penalty after a foul by Gabriel Mugabo but their player put the ball far wide.

Police FC Spokesperson, Chief Inspector Jean de Dieu Mayira praised the team’s composure and determination throughout the game.

He said both players and management are focused at winning the Peace Cup.

Elsewhere, Rayon Sport also put 5-0 past Sunrise, APR 2-0 Akagera while Etincelles bowed-out of the competition after a 0-1 shock loss to Kibungo-based, Etoile de l’Est.
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