Enhancing International Cooperation

The Minister of Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harelimana flagging-off the PCPX
Rwanda National Police has embraced social media

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We Are Here For You. Help Us To Help You

Twelve years down the road since Rwanda National Police (RNP) was established, the force continues the road to creating a more secure and peaceful Rwanda for all.

A lot has been achieved and more is still underway (and more is still to come) to create a safer Rwanda which further facilitates investment.

Crimes ranging from Gender Based Violence (GBV) to drug abuse, from theft to traffic accidents, have all decreased tremendously compared to the past. And the campaign is still on to deal with cases that still exist.

More and more officers have acquired modern techniques (training) to deal with such and other emerging crimes and the process continues.

Capacity building in the force is an incessant process and the road to professionalism is becoming smooth each day that pass by.

Investigating cases is also becoming softer as days go by as officers learn new ways to get evidences.

The road to professionalism and fighting crimes doesn’t only stop at the national level. Rwanda National Police has joined hands with other regional countries to fight crimes. The Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) and its just concluded PCPX, is a perfect example in this case.

RNP has signed agreements with other countries to join forces to fight crimes and to support each other in capacity building, as has been the case with local institutions in fighting crimes.

Back to our ‘Land of Thousand Hills,’ the journey continues to create an environment that further facilitates development.

However, as these campaigns to create a safer country for all continues, there is still need for the community to join hands with security organs through information sharing on wrong doers.

Rwanda National Police is here for you…help us to serve you ‘more better’ by standing up against criminal acts of all sorts.

We are here for you. Help us to help you.
Rwanda National Police (RNP), in August, hosted the first ever Police Command Post Exercise (PCPX) codenamed “Solidarity” as part of the regional police chiefs body – EAPCCO – to further promote their cooperation in combating cross-border and organized crimes.

The seven-day exercise which was launched on August 22 aimed at promoting, strengthening and perpetuating cooperation between member countries through sharing of information and intelligence as one of the effective ways to combat the vice in the region.

The exercise had been agreed during the 12th EAPCCO annual general assembly held in Khartoum – Sudan – in 2010.

It is seen as a response to increased security challenges in the region such as terrorism, human and drug trafficking and piracy, which have affected some of the member states such as Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

A total of 60 officers from twelve EAPCCO member countries benefited from the exercise which covered specialized areas of counter terrorism, human trafficking and Peace Support Organisation (PSO).

The 2012 PCPX Solidarity also exploited the use of Interpol communication tool – I-24/7, a global police communications system which connects law enforcement officials in all of its 190 member countries.

The tool provides them with the means to share crucial information on criminals and criminal activities 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
The Minister of Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harelimana, who flagged-off the exercise, described it as a “noble task” which will seek immediate solutions to security challenges in the region.

“Combating transnational and organized crimes requires cooperation to overcome some of the man-made limitations and to give no work in favor of criminals,” the Minister said.

He noted that the spirit of partnership should expand beyond law enforcement forums of EAPCCO and other law enforcement organizations, to include other governmental and non-governmental entities which share security concerns.

“Our countries and region should take time to find home ground solution to terrorism, drug and human trafficking, cyber crimes, counterfeit, motor vehicle theft and carjacking, cattle rustling, piracy and money laundering as well as peace support matters,” said the Minister.

He urged them to make “practical and focused decisions” in seeking remedy to real issues that enhance joint venture in combating transnational organized crimes.

He also urged them to take advantage of the Interpol existing tools – I-24/7 – to improve intelligence sharing and to establish best practices that will go a long way to streamline day-to-day behavior of the frontline officers with the overall effort of better performance.

The Inspector General of police, Emmanuel K. Gasana, who is also the current chair of EAPCCO, explained that the seven-day exercise was organized to train police officers in efficiency and effectiveness in combating transnational organized crimes.

“This exercise also demonstrates the seriousness of EAPCCO leaders to move from commitment to action. Criminals not only take advantage of our porous borders but also use the availability of modern technology to expand their network and operations to cause insecurity to our citizens and their property,” he said.

He called upon law enforcement agencies to continue to pursue collective security measures to
establish strong partnership and ensure capacity building strategies to enhance joint operations and timely exchange of information to combat cross-border crimes.

“Understanding these dynamics and security complexes in our policing regime, we will continue to reform our security architecture and other initiatives to create a security framework that enhances sustainable peace and security for our region,” said Gasana, adding that this exercise will enhance the campaign to train and exchange on best practices in combating global crimes and design harmonized procedures to effectively deal with these crimes.

“Our mission, as police force, is to have a region where citizens enjoy maximum security and human rights,” IGP said.

Since its establishment in 1998, the IGP said, EAPCCO has strived to put in place concrete strategies including signing of regional cooperation agreements, developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), capacity building for the regional police forces, which have laid a strong foundation for this exercise.

“There is no doubt that our drive to address both known and unknown security challenges, understanding the tactics involved to such threats and the effective use of the Interpol tools, will serve to further cement our organisation’s founding principles, which is to create a safer environment for all,” he noted.

He thanked the Rwandan government which immensely supported the exercise through provision of financial and other support, and commended Interpol and other partners for their support towards the success of the exercise.

The exercise was planned and organized by a steering committee composed of representatives from EAPCCO member countries, the Eastern African Standby Force Coordination Mechanism (EASFCOM) and Interpol.

Elizabeth Kutesa, the Director of Interpol’s National Central Bureau and Regional Police Services, pledged Interpol’s commitment in providing a global secure communication network and to work with national central bureaus to enable frontline officers get connected to the I-24/7 tool.
PCPX to be held annually

During the official closure of the exercise on August 24, the IGP Gasana announced that the regional police joint-play will be held annually to further equip regional forces with modern techniques in the fight against trans-border and organized crimes.

“Every sitting chairman is required to host and prepare joint exercise play; it can be CPX [Command Post Exercise] or FTX [Field Training Exercise],” said Gasana.

Gasana, who commended the trainees for their resilience, described the joint play as the “pride of EAPCCO.”

“I can see light at the end of the tunnel. Though there are still challenges, it is a great achievement having moved from commitment to action jointly to create a safe region for our citizens,” he underscored, urging the participants to use the acquired skills and knowledge as a special tool in creating a secure and peaceful region for all.

He noted that with the introduction of the international police body – Interpol – communication tool – I-24/7 – countries will effectively fight crimes, if they work jointly through timely information exchange and sharing of best practices.

“Action should be the language and the grand vision should be training and working together. This is the only way to move forward to fight emerging crimes and creating a safer and secure region,” he said.

The exercise director, Felix Namuhoranye, also recommended that the exercise be given more time, noting that seven days are not enough to exhaust all the topics.

Namuhoranye appealed to member states to also have shared responsibilities in planning such exercises. About 75 percent of the exercise was financed by Rwanda.
Rwanda National Police (RNP) has decentralized its Office of the Spokesperson to the regional level.

Superintendent Benoit Nsengiyumwa was appointed the Spokesperson for the Eastern Region (Eastern Province), Supt. Albert N. Gakara for the Central Region (City of Kigali), Supt. Francis Gahima takes up the Northern Region (Northern Province) while Supt Hubert Gashagaza and Supt Urbain Mwiseneza takes up the Southern Region (Southern Province) and Western Region (Western Province) offices respectively.

The officers started their new duties on August 12, and will work under the guidance of their respective Regional Police Commanders (RPCs) and the newly created department of Public Relation and Community Policing (PR & CP).

The new Spokespersons, who have been working as Regional Judicial Officers, will now combine the two responsibilities.

The acting Commissioner for PR & CP, Supt Theos Badege said the appointment of ‘Regional Police Spokespersons’ is timely based on the fast growth of the media industry in Rwanda.

“Previously, there were few media outlets, most of them which were also in Kigali; but the industry have grown and media houses have been established even in the countryside, which requires this office to be decentralized for ease and fast access of information,” said Badege.

Official contacts for the new Spokesperson offices

Southern Region: 0788311818
Central Region: 0788311829
Eastern Region: 0788311774
Western Region: 0788311696
Northern Region: 0788311828
The Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC), Ambassador Dr. Richard Sezibera emphasized the need for joint efforts to suppress emerging security threats in the region, noting that the success of bloc’s integration process relies heavily on its stability.

While presiding over the 5th meeting of Sectoral Council on Inter-State Security in Kigali on August 27, Sezibera noted that the implementation of the freedoms and rights enshrined in the Common Market Protocol largely depends on the sector.

“As East Africa deepens her integration process, the people of the region expects their individual and collective security to improve. The expectation is that the threat of terrorism, trafficking in persons and narcotics as well as other transnational security threats will be managed in a smarter way,” Sezibera said.

Ambassador Sezibera noted that as the bloc enters a Single Customs territory and also within the tripartite arrangement, it will certainly come with challenges.

He called for increased information sharing and more pooling of national resources to deal with ever evolving global and regional security landscape.

“Cooperation with other organizations with peace and security mandate is critical to removing artificial geographical barriers, contradictions duplication and wastage of resources and time,” he explained.

He commended the regional Police Chiefs’ move to address concerns related to numerous roadblocks, which he said hinder free movement of goods with resultant costs transferred to the community in higher costs of goods and services.

The Secretary General commended the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) for its proposed decision to implement Motor Vehicle Clearance certificates to facilitate safe and secure movement of vehicles in

He also commended Rwanda for hosting the first ever Regional Police Command Post Exercise (PCPX) and the regional Police Chiefs’ decision to establish a regional Forensic Referral Centre to be established in Uganda, adding that the EAC Secretariat will support resource mobilization to realize “this noble venture that will enhance our crime management capabilities.”

Rwanda’s Minister of Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Hareliriana, who observed that security is the foundation to development, said Rwanda is committed to ensuring that all adopted resolutions are implemented.
Rwanda and Tanzania Police forces, on September 5 signed a bilateral agreement that will see the two Police forces boost ties in various cooperation areas.

The Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana and his Tanzanian counterpart, Said Ally Mwema, signed the agreement in Zanzibar on behalf of the two forces.

Under the agreement, Rwanda and Tanzania Police forces will cooperate to enhance border security and share information using Interpol tools at the two borders.

Both forces will also conduct joint training and exercise plays, joint operations, joint acquisitions of equipments, exchange programmes and best experience, collaboration in disasters and traffic management among others.

“In combating crime, both Police forces will exchange information related to the activities of criminal elements through all methods and techniques at various levels,” said IGP Gasana.

Rwanda and Tanzania will exchange bilateral expertise and visits in order to develop the training strategies in the fields of preventing and combating crime within the scope of this Memorandum.

The two forces agreed upon the development of curriculum and the rejuvenation of training activities in the fields related to prevention and combating crimes, development of joint training programs, exchange of trainers and students.

Work on the enhancement of co-operation and provision of mutual assistance relating to investigation procedures and seizing criminals according to their national laws will also be implemented.

The Tanzania-Rwanda Joint Permanent Commission shall have the mandate to discuss issues related to combating crime.

Regular meetings will take place alternately in both Rwanda and Tanzania as follows: once a year for Police Chiefs and quarterly for District and Regional Police Commanders on the common border.

IGP Gasana, in his capacity as Interpol Delegate for Africa also attended the Southern Africa Regional Police Chiefs. Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) extraordinary meeting which studied issues related to transnational organised crimes.

The signing of the pact followed talks between the two police chiefs held in August in Rwanda during the just concluded Police Command Post Exercise (PCPX) where they agreed to enhance their cooperation to effectively fight crimes.

This was also followed by visit of a delegation from the Tanzania police force in late August, to learn best practices from the RNP and to identify special areas where the two forces can cooperate.
Experts in crime investigation and prevention have lauded the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) member states for their collective initiatives against crimes, but expressed the need to enhance their partnership to effectively deal with the vice in the region.

Micheal Wiso, the Legal Advisor to the East Africa standby force, commended the “tremendous progress” by the regional body, but added that countries need to exhaust even other angles to fight crimes like terrorism, motor vehicle theft and human and drug trafficking, which he said are the “major security threats in the region that need immediate approach.”

“Fighting against such crimes requires all EAPCCO countries and other stakeholders to be engaged in this process,” said Wiso.

He said international criminals are graduates and rich class, which requires countries to coordinate and to always be updated on better strategies to fight them, through continuous training.

He noted that member states should not compete, but rather strengthen their cooperation and think together and work as a team towards a common goal.

The just concluded Police Command Post Exercise (PCPX), he noted, will enable participants get the real sense on how to fight such organized crimes.

Wiso noted that the EAPCCO treaties and laws will have a great impact to fight the vice, but added that there is need for these treaties to be implemented.

Charles Njiri, the Network Analyst Interpol Regional Bureau, said states need to coordinate and utilize the Interpol tools to investigate, and share information to track down illicit firearms which are in most cases used by criminal, and also to apprehend people involved in such acts.

“Countries should make use of the firearms tracing system and successfully fill request forms including serial numbers, caliber and model of arms to aid the forensic unit trace suspects. Those working outside NCBs should also liaise with NCBs to use the Interpol Firearms Reference Table (IFRT) to facilitate them in their process of tracing and apprehending criminals,” Njiri said.

Njiri said Interpol is also developing a system – Interpol Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System (IARMS).

Francois Perrenoud, the Criminal Intelligence Official (CIO) at the Interpol headquarters in Lyon, also said countries need to work jointly to effectively combat terrorism.

Perrenoud also disclosed that 10,690 terrorism related entities had been registered by June this year and that over 2,000 red notices have been issued.

He called on countries to build their capacities and have a multinational approach against crimes.
As the country strives to move towards sustainable development, there are some people who still jeopardize this noble cause of our country’s vision.

While talking about development, it is worth noting that our country’s goals cannot be achieved if there are still obstacles on the way involving criminal activities such as defilement and rape.

Such acts deny our treasure – our dear sisters – to be part of the future.

Defilement and rape remains one of the major crimes committed in the category of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The world seems to be turning into a crazy one. Today, parents defile their daughters.

Children are the future leaders of the country; this is a reality to which every Rwandan is conscious about. Nurturing the young stars to become capable citizens is a supreme ideal especially as it is known that citizens are the major resources of the country.

The government has done lots of initiatives to purposely turn the youth into more responsible citizens, and consequently spearhead the country’s development dream.

The Nine-Year Basic Education (9-YBE) and Twelve Year Basic Education (12-YBE) are perfect examples, which are aimed at breaking the illiteracy rate by providing free education for all.

Instead of joining hands to support the government’s long run investment (education) some people seem to have taken a different direction by indulging in such inhuman acts, which in one way or another, slows down the level of development.

Last year, according to Police statistics, 1779 defilement cases were registered. And between January and August this year, 1120 cases of defilement have so far been recorded.

Development cannot be achieved while our sisters continue to be deprived of their individual key rights and probably denied a better future.

Psychological analysts argue that, when a girl is defiled, this leads to occurrence of anti social consequences such as loneliness, trauma, infertility, resentments, frustration, contraction of HIV/AIDS, hatred of opposite sex among others.

Some victims end up losing hope of life thus affecting their performance in school and sometimes commit suicide, especially those who find themselves HIV infected.

According to article 190 of the new Rwandan penal code, defilement is defined as any sexual intercourse or any sexual act with a child regardless of the form or means used.

Article 191 states that, any person, who commits child defilement, shall be liable to life imprisonment with special provisions.

Think of those children who will live without parental care, if the father is handed a life sentence or just knowing that you will spend your whole life in prison.

Though the penalty seems suitable, it cannot collect the wrong…it cannot make the wrong right.

But the whole incense of a life imprisonment is to impose a zero tolerance on this crime and make people learn a big story and as a result keep away from such crimes. Such crimes have resulted into school drop-outs, suicide and murder in form of vengeance.

As efforts to curb down the crime, Rwanda National Police (RNP), through Community Policing, has sensitized the local community on the dangers and the consequences of defilement.

According to Inspector of Police, Berine Mukamana, the Director of Anti GBV and Child Protection, Rwanda National Police has embarked on awareness campaigns which she said are carried out right from the grass root.

These campaigns are conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion and local leaders.

Emmanuel Nzaramba, the Director of Family Promotion in the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion said that the awareness campaign has yielded impressive result as people now report such cases contrary to the past, a reason why the cases are on the increase.

“Sensitization is a gradual process. When awareness campaigns are carried out, citizens including children get to know the truth and thus encouraged to report these cases,” said Nzaramba.

Parents should take the lead by sparing some time from their busy schedules and attend to their children.
The Rwanda National Police (RNP) on September 7 contributed Frw502 Million to the Agaciro Development Fund. The money is total contribution from the staff of the Rwanda National Police.

The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, John Rwangombwa received the cheque of Rwf502,471,027 in a ceremony held at the Police General Headquarters in Kacyiru. The Minister for Internal Security Sheikh Musa Fazil Harelimana graced the event.

Rwangombwa thanked the police for their great contribution and added that the act of contributing to the fund is a signal that Rwandans are committed to achieve a lot together.

“Each staff agreed to pledge money equivalent to each of their monthly salaries but in installments for a period of one year,” said Badege.

The Agaciro Development Fund is a Rwanda’s first solidarity fund, based on voluntary donations to finance key priority projects for the Nation as identified by Vision2020.

Rwandans are committed to achieve a lot together.

said the donation was initiated to help in preserving dignity and striving for the development of Rwanda.

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Rwanda National Police (RNP) has been supportive to other government development programmes such as Gir’Inka, where they gave out Rwf75 million for this initiative alone.

During this year’s ‘Police Week,’ Police also paid health insurance for 500 vulnerable people, gave out 500 mosquito nets and built houses for the poor among others.

Police also planted over 300 hectares of trees, more than 10 hectares in each of the 30 districts in the country.

The Ministry of Finance, which is the custodian of the money contributed towards the Agaciro Development Fund (AgDF), has announced the contributions for the fund are now over Rwf18 billion.
Rwanda National Police (RNP), on August 27, inaugurated the newly constructed Peace Support Operation (PSO) training centre in Gishali Police Training School in Rwamagana District.

The centre will facilitate RNP peacekeeping mission programmes.

The centre, which boosts of three blocks, is a donation from the Germany International Cooperation Agency (GIZ).

During the event, GIZ also handed over to police two vehicles, which will facilitate the force in its peacekeeping training activities.

GIZ is one of Rwanda National Police’s major partners, and has supported the force in other programmes such as forensic science in photography, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and traffic policing.

Ambassador Valence Munyabagisha, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Internal Security, who presided over the event, lauded GIZ for its continued support to Police, which he said has been fundamental in professionalizing the force.

The support, he noted, contributes to ensuring peace and security in Rwanda, but also facilitates to bringing peace to the rest of the world through peacekeeping missions.

The Germany agency has been working in Rwanda for the last forty years and is among the first international organizations that resumed its activities immediately after the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Stanley Nsabimana appreciated the long standing cooperation between Rwanda National Police and GIZ under the frame work of strengthening Police structures in Africa.

DIGP Nsabimana noted that Rwanda National Police has invested a lot in professionalizing the force to deal with emerging crimes such as terrorism, human and drug trafficking and cyber crimes.

He said peace and security is a foundation for sustainable development both nationally and internationally.

Mr. Nils Warner, head of Development Cooperation in the Germany’s embassy in Rwanda, who represented the ambassador, commended Rwanda’s enormous contribution to promote peace in the region and beyond.

The inaugural event was also attended by senior police, Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) and Rwanda Collection Services (RCS) officers.

Rwandan police peacekeepers are deployed in various missions around the world namely; South Sudan, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Sudan, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

There are about 450 police officers in all missions.
On September 5, a 12-year old Maldoche Dusingizimana died following a grenade explosion at her home in Nyarurama cell, Ntongwe sector, Ruhango District.

The blast which took place right at her family’s store, is an indication that there are still firearms and weapons scattered or held illegally despite repeated calls to voluntarily surrender these dangerous weapons.

Similar blasts have occurred before in different parts of the country, claiming innocent lives.

Rwanda National Police (RNP) has for the past years been conducting campaigns calling on the public possessing firearms and weapons or who know their whereabouts to surrender or report them.

According to ACP Sam Karemera, the National Focal Point on small arms and light weapons, there is still need for timely sharing of information on the whereabouts of firearms and those that still keep them.

Some of the surrendered arms
He says Community Policing Committees should take such campaigns seriously.

RNP, in November 2009, launched a six-month ‘Grace Period’ for the community to surrender arms willingly, which yielded positive results, according to police.

Even though the grace period expired, there is no penalty handed to anyone who surrenders firearms willingly now, according to Karemera.

Article 671 of the penal code stipulates that ‘any person who illegally possesses, lends or gives an arm, or falsifies its identification marks, is liable to a term of imprisonment of six months to one year and a fine of Rwf300, 000 to Rwf3 million or one of these penalties.’

Although illegal possession of firearms has tremendously reduced, available information shows that firearms are still scattered in different parts of the country following the 1990-1994 war and the 1997 insurgency which affected most of the Northern parts of the country.

Most of the weapons are said to have been distributed to the population by the genocidal government of Prime Minister Jean Kambanda in 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, especially in the Southern Province.

Hundreds of thousands of small arms and light weapons have since 2006 been destroyed in the region following the signing of the Nairobi Protocol in May 2005 which brings together 11 member countries from the Great Lakes Region, the horn of Africa and bordering states, aimed at prevention, control, and reduction of small arms and light weapons in the sub-region.

Regional countries established protocols including the Nairobi Protocol; the declaration of Kinshasa; Bamako declaration and the Central Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (CAPCCO) declaration, all aimed at bringing to an end the escalation of fire arms and light weapons in the region.

“Some of these arms have landed in the hands of the wrong people who have continued to cause insecurity in the region,” said Karemera.

“There are international organized threats, but there are also security threats in communities resulting from illegal possession of arms. Some people holding these arms have also used them in criminal activities like theft,” he added.

He outlined Rwanda National Police (RNP), Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) and Rwanda Correctional Services (RCS) and other registered private security companies as the only institutions entitled to posses arms.

He, however, clarified that the public can also possess’ arms, but only through legal procedures.

Currently, RNP has received a fully equipped vehicle-machine to facilitate the marking of firearms in the country, and customized software for proper record keeping.

Over 46, 000 firearms, over 266 tons of ammunitions and 52, 486 tons of explosives, Karemera said, were destroyed.

It is estimated that about 500,000 illegal Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) are in circulation in East Africa, a situation the region considers a major threat.

In 2007, Rwanda established a Central Firearms Registry (CFR) to strengthen firearms registration, stock heap management and trace any illicit firearms within the country.
Rwanda and Uganda police forces held a two-day meeting from August 16th to 17th, to seek solutions to security challenges at border posts linking the two states.

The meeting held in Musanze District and brought together heads and representatives of police departments and immigration officials from the two countries, was officially opened by the Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K Gasana.

While officially opening the meeting, Gasana emphasised the need to hold joint cooperation to effectively deal with cross borders crimes.

“Transnational organised crimes and terrorism are emerging threats in the region and beyond; no doubt in our region, we have experienced terrorist organisations and other armed groups, such as Al-Shaabab, FDLR, ADF and LRA. The police forces’ role is to detect, fight, combat and prevent these threats,” Gasana said.

“The existing bilateral cooperation under which we have a regional mechanism is a very good initiative to ensure safety and security of our region, hence joint security framework, joint security steering committee, joint information sharing and joint operations,” he added.

The meeting followed the one that was held in May between police chiefs of the two countries – IGP Gasana and his Ugandan counterpart Lt. Gen Kale Kayihuhu – which recommended that a technical committee composed of technicians, especially directors of Interpol, directors of operations, officers responsible for fire, traffic chiefs, directors from counter terrorism and intelligence units among others, be formed to identify security challenges at all outlets and lay strategies on how they can be effectively combated.

Gasana urged them to draw the road-map under which sustainable security will be guaranteed.

He noted that the partnership will supplement other regional and international organisations such as the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) and the international police body – Interpol – in their security framework.

“We are moving to another level, and we should pursue collective security through cooperation, coordination and timely exchange of information. I am happy that we are now moving from commitment to actions,”
IGP Gasana, who is the current chair of EAPCCO, said.

Senior Commissioner of Police Kenneth Womanya, Uganda’s Deputy Director of Interpol, who headed the Ugandan delegation, noted that there is need to cooperate to effectively deal with border security challenges such porous borders which criminals take advantage of.

“Uganda and Rwanda share common border, right from Ntungamo up to Kisoro; and in the spirit of bilateral cooperation, our aim is to ensure that the existing relationship between the two countries is strengthened. This can only be possible as long as there is security between the two states,” noted Womanya.

“Crimes have no boundaries. Criminals commit crimes in Uganda and even cross over and commit crimes in Rwanda; unless we work closely, in terms of sharing information, hold joint operations and share experiences, we shall not be able to have peace in either of the two states,” added Womanya.

He outlined smuggling, human and drug trafficking and motor vehicle theft as some of the challenges.

During the meeting, the two forces agreed to conduct joint operations at all border entries linking the two East African states to stamp-out security challenges.

Both parties also agreed to establish border security units responsible for curbing drug trafficking and other cross border crimes, share timely information on the plight of human trafficking and sensitize the general public on the existence of the phenomenon.

Last year, a total of 2,720 cases of illicit drug trafficking and abuse were recorded, according to police statistics.

A total of 592 people, among them 57 females, were also apprehended during this year’s first two months for narcotics related crimes, according to the latest report of the anti-narcotics unit of the national police.

Nearly all drug abuse cases registered involved marijuana and illicit liquor, commonly known as Kanyanga.

Over 1,000 litres of the lethal brew were seized and 136 suspects arrested in connection with the offence, while 659 kilos of cannabis were impounded and 456 suspects taken into custody between January and February this year.

The two police bodies also agreed to station sniffer dogs at all border posts, establish fire fighting stations and to hold joint operations targeting smugglers and drug dealers.

They agreed to fast track the establishment of joint centres at un gazetted borders of Kizinga and Rwempasha within 30 days, and to establish police posts with a distance of about 3 kilometres at each side of the borders.

Regional Police Commanders (RPCs) from the Northern and Eastern provinces in Rwanda and that of the South-South West on the Ugandan side were tasked to identify “all unnamed entry points” which will see police posts and other infrastructures erected at these points.

Others include lighting all entries within 30 days, to jointly procure scanners and erecting signposts.
PCPX in Pictures

The Exercise Director Felix Namuhoranye handing over the EAPCCO flag to the Minister of Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harelimana

The Exercise Director, Felix Namuhoranye introducing the course during the official launch
PCPX in Pictures

Regional Police Chiefs also graced the event.

Elizabeth Kutesa (In white) and the Interpol crew

EAC SG Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera and Monique Mukaruliza, the Minister in charge of EAC.
Enhancing mechanisms against crimes

During the meeting, they also discussed other key issues such as Community Policing, partnership with other stakeholders to prevent crimes, discipline of the force and customer care service.

Minister Harelimana urged the force to take the lead in supporting the country’s home-grown solution programmes.

He commended the Police on the way it organized and hosted the just concluded Police Command Post Exercise (PCPX), noting that the Exercise has started to yield results.

“The exercise was well organized and the results it left are tangible,” Minister Harelimana, said.

He called for more initiatives aimed at enhancing cooperation with regional police institutions to further fight and prevent crimes.

The Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana, who said Police is committed to supporting home-grown solutions, urged the officers to put into action all the force’s policies to further reduce on the crime rate in the country.

Police, RRA up against fraud

Rwanda National Police (RNP) and Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA), on August 31, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the existing partnership and streamline cooperation.

The MoU signed between the Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana and RRA Commissioner General, Mr. Ben Kagarama, comes as a response to challenges faced by the tax administration in the enforcement of tax and customs laws, which is sometimes due to the nature of borders which are porous.

This therefore renders the efforts of fighting fraud and other forms of illegal trade, difficulty.

The agreement will, therefore, see RNP help the tax body in preventing, detecting and investigate cases related to combating tax evasion and smuggling.

During the signing held at the RRA head offices in Kimihurura, Gasabo District, IGP Gasana said police is committed to this “noble cause” and to cooperate to fight crimes of all sorts including tax evasion and smuggling.

RNP currently has a unit – Revenue Protection Unit (RPU) – attached to the tax collectors and the cooperation comes to cement the existing partnership.

Mr. Kagarama commended the Police for its commitment to fight crimes, noting that the partnership will further help the tax administration to accomplish its duties.

He also lauded the force for collaborating with other institutions to safe-guard public order and enforcing of law including fraud.

“Given the porous nature of our borders which renders the efforts of cracking down smuggling and other forms of illicit trade cumbersome, there is need to cooperate with other institutions to combat this,” said Mr. Kagarama.

It was agreed that new strategies be devised to further curb down crimes and to further improve on the officers’ welfare.

Police Council is the supreme organ of Rwanda National Police which brings together heads of units, directors of various departments, district and regional heads and other senior officers in the force.

The Council sits thrice every year to evaluate the implementation of resolutions taken in previous meetings, identify success and challenges and devise new strategies aimed at excelling in law enforcement duties.

The Council also discussed on how to further fight the vice of drug abuse, especially among the youth, who are the most victims.

It was, therefore, agreed during the meeting that all units across the country make fighting drugs one of the priorities in fighting crimes.
Road to stamp-out drug abuse

It is worth noting that though drug related crimes have continued to lead the crime list in the country, the vice is tremendously decreasing, thanks to the commitment displayed by the government and the Rwanda National Police (RNP) to be specific, which is spearheading the campaign against this vice.

A big number of dealers and consumers have been arrested and charged in courts of law while others still wait their fate. Millions of litres of local illicit liquor such as kanyanga and muriture and narcotics such as cannabis commonly known as marijuana have also been seized in various parts of the country, and destroyed.

A total of 1, 663 people, among them 163 females, were apprehended countrywide between January and May this year for narcotics related crimes, according to a police report.

Over 1, 300 of those arrested that include both dealers and consumers are aged between 18 and 35 years while only 57 are below 18 years.

About 1, 699 kilogrammes of cannabis commonly known as marijuana were also seized during the same period.

Over 3, 868 litres of illicit brew were also confiscated at the same period, and 163 suspects arrested.

Some of those arrested are the youth, who have dropped out of schools

One cannot ignore the support from the general public, who have also been vital in the campaign against drugs by providing information on the dealers.

Several campaigns have been carried out against the vice, which is high among the youth, the most recent one being the one conducted during the “Police Week,” all aimed at bringing everyone on board to join the campaign against such illegal acts.

Despite all the campaigns and messages, some people have kept deaf ears, and have continued to deal in these illegal activities, some luring the under aged group to this practice, including consumption and trade.

Almost every day, a number of people are arrested in connection with the crime and some drugs are confiscated.

To ensure that the campaign against drugs becomes a success, police and local authorities have now mapped areas and dealers, as an effective way to combat the crime.

With this new initiative of identifying the dealers, it is believed that the vice will gradually decline, and eventually made history in the country.

Continued cooperation between the public and security organs against such criminal activities through sharing timely information, is a cornerstone to creating a drug-free country.
The third contingent of 160 Rwanda National Police (RNP) officers under the Formed Police Unit 3 (FPU3), were on September 27 deployed to serve under the UN Mission for Stabilization in Haiti (MINUSTAH) mandate.

The officers replaced the second contingent of other 160 officers under Formed Police Unit 2 (FPU2) deployed in Haiti nine months ago, who returned home on September 28 after successfully completing their nine months mandate.

The FPU3 is headed by Chief Supt Desire Twizere.

The Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana, during the pre-deployment briefing on September 26 held at the Police General Headquarters in Kacyiru, urged the officers to be exemplary and maintain discipline and professionalism during their stay in the Caribbean nation.

"Execute your duties professionally so as to effectively achieve our mission. We have a tough responsibility to make Rwanda a model country. Rwanda has earned itself a big name on the international scene," said the IGP.

He appealed to the officers to strive to raise Rwanda’s flag higher.

The maiden FPU contingent comprising of 160 police officers was deployed in Haiti in January 30, 2011 and was replaced by the same number under FPU2 on December 15, 2011.

The mission was deployed mainly to oversee relief activities after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit the country in 2010, killing over 200,000 people and leaving millions homeless.

The MINUSTAH mission, among others, provide humanitarian assistance, conduct patrols and guard VIPs and key installations. They also help in crowd control and provide security of Internally Displaced People.

Rwanda National Police maintains over 450 officers in seven missions namely; Darfur (UNAMID), South Sudan (UNAMISS), Liberia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Haiti.

Rwandan peacekeepers have been recognized for their outstanding performance in missions.

Last year, the UN awarded 60 Rwanda National Police officers in Haiti with ‘Certificate of Completion’ for their excellent performance in crowd control, firearms and basic police techniques.

During his visit to Rwanda, recently, Colonel Babacar Sene, the UN Coordinator of the Formed Police Unit (FPU) commended the outstanding skills and professionalism demonstrated by Rwandan police officers describing them as "exceptional."

Sene said this during his visit to Gishali Training School on August 28 to inspect the just deployed contingent to Haiti, which was undergoing training.

He outlined crowd control, shooting and check point management as some of the required fields where the officers are skillful.

During the inspection, police officers also demonstrated skills in VIP protection, escort convoy, shooting and cordon and search operations.

The UN ranked Rwanda the eighth country worldwide in providing peacekeepers. It has also requested Rwanda to deploy a contingent of FPU in Liberia next year. This was due to the overall professionalism and excellence demonstrated by Rwandan police peacekeepers.

The UN also ranked Rwanda the first out of 84 countries in providing female individual police peacekeepers. Currently, there are about 140 female police officers in UN missions.
The Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana lauded a contingent of eighty female police officers who successfully completed their UN mandate under the United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), for exhibiting professionalism and discipline during their spell in the war-torn region.

Gasana gave the congratulatory message while addressing the female police officers on September 22 at the Police General Headquarters in Kacyiru, who returned home after serving 23 months in the Sudan's region of Darfur.

He commended them for their commitment to serve to the required standards.

“Rwanda has been praised for being ahead in offering female police officer in Peace Support Operations. This is a good thing to note. After nearly two years, in Darfur, we should be happy because your efforts have helped our country to continuously be acknowledged globally,” he noted.

The United Nations, in its recent rankings, ranked Rwanda the first out of 84 countries, in providing female individual peacekeepers.

“What you achieved is because of the positive values, doctrine, discipline and professionalism you demonstrated, which is what we expect of you during your return back to the force,” he added.

He encouraged them to maintain three key values – disciplines, image and Agaciro in the Police force.

The IGP urged the female officers to use the experience gained in enhancing the force's professionalism.

He also briefed them on the current activities within the force which include the establishment of the Peace Support Training Centre which was inaugurated in August at Gishali Police Training School in Rwanagana District.

Other activities, he said, are the ongoing welfare support for police officers which include the housing scheme, Zigama CSS among others.

Continued bilateral relations with regional countries, electronic policing, logistic school and the ongoing exercise of sending officers for further studies both within and outside the country are the other activities within the force.

The female police officers were selected in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325/2000 which advocates for gender mainstreaming in all activities and ending violence against women.

The UN Resolution is aimed at protecting women and girls during and after armed conflicts, and to fully involve females in conflict prevention, management and resolution, peace building and reconciliation.

The female police officers provide protection to children, teach local police in Darfur how to handle children and female criminals and also work within Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps.

During their spell in Darfur, the female officers helped in the introduction of GBV desk in the area. Rwanda is among the countries that have been recognized by the international community for fighting GBV and giving women rights.

Rwanda has the highest number of women parliamentarians worldwide which currently stands at 56 percent.

To effectively combat the vice of GBV, Rwanda National Police established the gender desk, which was decentralized to the lower levels of governance.

The establishment of Isange One Stop Centre to provide free medical services to GBV victims has also been recognized by the UN as an effective way to deal with the crime.

Meanwhile, a contingent of other 100 female officers is also set to be deployed in South Sudan (UNAMISS) soon.
The Inspector General of South Sudan Police Services, Lt. Gen Acuil Tito Madut on September 19 arrived in Rwanda for a three-day visit aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two police forces.

On September 20, Madut paid a courtesy call to the Inspector General of Rwanda National Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana at the General Headquarters in Kacyiru.

The visit follows Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the two police chiefs in May this year.

The agreement will see Rwanda police train their South Sudan counterparts in the areas of road safety, basic and advanced investigation, intelligence, Information Technology (IT), communication skills, public order management, junior supervisory course and training of trainers.

General Madut said it is a great opportunity to partner with Rwanda National Police (RNP) because of their vast experience demonstrated in maintaining peace, not only in Rwanda, but also across the globe.

“The visit is important because it is meant to enhance and fast-track the implementation of the bilateral agreement,” Madut stated.

IGP Gasana lauded his South Sudan counterpart for honouring Rwanda National Police (RNP) invitation which he said is aimed at making a follow up of the implementation of recommendations signed previously by the two law enforcement institutions.

“This is more less a diplomatic security; I look at this situation as a win-win situation because both
nations have come far and are trying to build the capacity of the two police institutions,” noted IGP Gasana.

IGP Gasana said the visit will enhance and cement the relationship to search for common solutions for the well being of the citizens in the two countries.

According to Madut, the police force in the world’s newest born nation – South Sudan – which became independent last year requires more training to effectively deal with security threats.

South Sudan Police Service is also a member of the regional Police body - EAPCCO – and also a member of the international police body – Interpol.

“The agreement has many areas of cooperation like combating border crimes, exchange of information and training such that the best practices within Rwanda National Police are imparted to South Sudan Police force,” explained Madut.

“This will make South Sudan Police cope up with the emerging crimes and also cooperate with the Police in the region to bring stability to the region and also allow South Sudan citizens to move freely doing their business, thus facilitating development,” said Madut.

Madut and his delegation also visited Zigama Credit and Savings Society (CSS) and Gishali Police Training School before winding up his visit with a tour of the National Police Academy (NPA) in Musanze.
The world today is increasingly faced with transnational and organized crimes. Emerging threats such as terrorism, human and narcotics trafficking and piracy to mention but a few, have affected some states and criminals are taking both the advantage of the modern technology and the likely weakness of states to counter these threats, to decentralize their criminal activities to other countries.

Somalia, for years, has tussled with the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Al-Shabaab terrorist group, and has one of the worst pains to tell in the region and probably on the entire continent.

These inhuman groups have committed all worst forms of crimes ranging from chopping off hands, stoning people to death, gang rape and defilement. The group is blamed for causing famine in Somalia by forcing out many Western aid organizations, depriving drought victims of desperately needed food.

But thanks to the work done by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISON) composed of the Ugandan and Burundi forces, which have worked tirelessly to restore stability to our sister country.

The East Africa, Kenya and Tanzania to be specific, have also had their shares of these threats in the recent past, including the most recent attack at a Kenya church, which killed a number and injured others.

Uganda has also experienced the same fate including the most recent in 2010 which claimed over 70 people injuring other scores.

Such cooperation is critical for a secure Africa
The issue of human trafficking and children involved in exploitative and hazardous activities also remains a big issue, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where it has increased by 9 percent to 58.2 million in 2008, up from 49.3 million in 2004, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

In reality, among the 18 different categories of transnational crimes identified by the UN, the most well known are human and drug trafficking, piracy, corruption, money laundering and terrorism.

Transnational crimes are threats which take place in more than one country, but their consequences significantly affecting other countries.

In line with the increasing world population, poverty level globally, and globalization, all factors influenced transnational crime action scales worldwide.

States are mandated to protect their citizens and territory, and international relationships hold a very crucial and central position to combat the transnational crime. Hence, states mutual legal cooperation is a must in the globalization era. No states can stand alone in countering such action at this moment.

Thus, more and extra international cooperation is an essential component of criminal investigation or prosecutions. Since criminal activities go beyond the national borders, it is clear that the international community has recognized the need for enhancing cooperation, particularly with respect to gathering evidence located outside national state borders.

The Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) has seen cooperation and sharing of timely information as one of the best methods to counter such threats. The just concluded Police Command Post Exercise (PCPX) codenamed “Solidarity” is an indication of the regional police chiefs’ dedication to move from “Commitment to Action,” as has been emphasized by its current chair, Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana.

Looking at the tremendous step taken by this organization, one predicts enough light at the end of the tunnel very soon, if the pace is maintained.

Looking at steps taken just in the last two to three years (12 years since it was formed in 1998) to forge ways against such threats, there is no doubt that containing them will be a must, if the rhythm is maintained.

However, there is still need for EAPCCO member states to share responsibilities, especially in organizing such – PCPX – joint-plays. It is a step worth commendable to hold this exercise every year, but states need to face the music together through joint organization and joint funding to train a bigger number of officers annually, who will acquire vast knowledge of countering these threats.

States and institutions formulate policies to be implemented, but action remains a problem or at times such policies rot in stores. In such cases, institutions or governments need to know that they are straining their citizens’ pockets, who are the sole funders of these policies to be developed.

Back to our bloc – the East African Community (EAC) – the success of its integration also heavily relies on the delivery of practical actions. The bloc’s population is expected to reach 137 million by 2030, up from 120 currently, and this will come with security challenges if the capacity to handle them is not built at an early stage.

Together, states can achieve the best for their citizens and pave way for fast development. Africa can overcome its challenges if states work together towards a common goal.
Thirty police officers from Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and Somalia, on September 14, completed a two-month supervisory course in Kigali to further meet today’s policing challenges.

Ten of the participants are from South Sudan, five from Somalia, five from Burundi and ten from the host, Rwanda. The Rwandan trainees also include one from Rwanda Correctional Services (RCS).

The Police Supervisory Course held at the Police General Headquarters in Kacyiru, was organized and conducted by Rwanda National Police Academy (NPA) as one of the strategies to enable regional Police institutions to meet today’s policing challenges both locally and internationally.

Course participants exhausted areas of Police operations, command, administration and supervisory duties among others.

The Minister of Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harelimana, who presided over the event, lauded regional countries for having honored Rwanda National Police’s invitation noting that it’s a milestone in the regional police institutions’ professionalization process.

“We all know that today, security problems in the region or even in the world cannot be dealt with in isolation,” the Minister said.

“It’s thus imperative that our law enforcement institutions train together, share best practices and come out with synergetic strategies to deter and to fight crimes in general and transnational organized crimes in particular,” he added.

He urged course participants to put into practice the skills and knowledge acquired in order to meet the demands and challenges of modern policing.

“Trust and cooperation should guide
Regional police officers complete supervisory course

"You to execute your responsibility diligently," the Minister said, adding that these are key tools that would lead to professionalism of any police force.

Lt Col Samson Lukwasa Peter Lomindait, one of the participants from South Sudan said the skills acquired will help to effectively fulfill their policing duties back in their home institutions.

"Given the new situations we are going through, this kind of training means a lot to us. It opened a new door to our knowledge and it brought us a light in the darkness," Lt Col Lukwasa, who is also a Director in the Ministry of Interior, said. He added that the training was an opportune to share views and experiences among colleagues.

"Computer skills, internal security operations, understanding command dimensions, contemporary issues in policing, especially stressing every time on command and control, were very important and relevant lectures to our careers," Lt. Col Lukwasa stated.

"Though we come from different countries and have different cultures, we share a common problem and common desire to our lives...every successful programme is the result of a collective effort," Lukwasa added.

Anne Marie Elise Nelly Umuhuza another participant from Burundi said she got vast experience and that the skills attained will help her to professionally execute her policing duties.

She commended the cooperation between Rwandan security organs, noting that this is an experience security organs from other countries should copy to effectively execute their duties.

"Such teamwork should be emulated in other countries and Burundi in particular, for sustainable security and peace," said Muhoza.
The Police Commissioner for the United Nations for African Missions in South Sudan (UNAMISS), Fred Yiga has applauded the professionalism and discipline demonstrated by Rwanda police officers on mission in the newly born state.

Mr. Yiga, said this during his visit to the country in August where he attended the launch of the Police Command Post Exercise (PCPX), and also met with the Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana at the force’s headquarters in Kacyiru.

Peace Support Operations is one of the themes that were covered during the joint-play which benefited 60 officers from the 12 EAPCCO member countries.

“This is very impressive… for people from the same base demonstrating the same source of information, expertise and presentation,” Mr. Yiga.

Rwanda maintains over 450 police officers in various missions, including South Sudan.

He noted that such good model by the Rwandan force “should be emulated by other contingents to promote peace in the region.”

Shortly after paying a courtesy call to IGP, the UNAMISS Police Commissioner toured several police facilities such as Police Ethics Centre, Anti Gender Based Violence block and Isange One Stop Center, which offers free medical services to GBV victims.

IGP Gasana pledged further support to bring about peace in South Sudan.

“We are determined to help South Sudan Police force get the necessary skills and knowledge to be able to prevent crimes. It is only through professionalism of the force that peace will reign in South Sudan,” said IGP Gasana.
After winning the national handball championship unbeaten, Police handball club earned an automatic ticket to represent Rwanda at this year's Africa club championship scheduled to be held in Tunisia in November.

Police handball club faced APR, UNR, KIE, G.S de Kigoma, G.S de la Salle and G.S de Rambura enroute to winning the title in July.

The Director of Sports at Rwanda National Police, Supt. Gerald Ntare attributed the success to good technically trained coaches which are working day and night to elevate the success of the club.

This is how it happened:
First Leg:
Police 36-20 ESI Kigoma
Police 39-14 UNR
Police 40-14 G.S Salle
Police 50-17 KIE

Second leg:
Police 42-21 Rambura
Police 32-24 APR
Police 39-14 KIE
Police 36-12 G.S Salle
Police 33-18 UNR
Police 35-29 Kigoma
Police 63-18 Rambura
Police 43-39 APR

Final:
Police 43-39 APR
Corporal Sylvain Rukundo is among seven athletes who have been picked to start preparations for the 20th IAAF World Half Marathon Championships which will be held on October 6 in Kavarna, Bulgaria.

Rukundo, a known athlete has featured for Rwanda in different international athletics competitions on regional, continental and global shoe pieces.

Born in Karagwe on December 12 in 1988, Rukundo clocked 58:12:08 to finish fourth in trials for the national half marathon trials held on September 9 at Nyarutarama tennis club.

Olympian Robert Kajuga won the half marathon trials after clocking 56.54.76 with Cyriaque Ndayikengurukiye from Kamonyi settling for the second position in a time of 57.80.16.

Other athletes from Police athletic club, Egide Harelimana and Noel Hitimana never qualified among the top ten after finishing 15 and 17th positions respectively.

Rukundo’s performance helped him to be among seven athletes who were picked to prepare intensively for the global show piece. The athletics federation’s Executive Secretary Raymond Bananeza said the athletes were but only four who will exercise good performances in preparations will head to Bulgaria to represent Rwanda.

Athletes from 50 countries have registered for the World Half Marathon. Thirty of the athletes, who registered for the World Championships, participated in the marathon at the London 2012 Olympics.

In 2010, Dieudonne Disi, Gervais Hakizimana, Sylvain Rukundo, Alexis Nizeyimana and Angeline Nyiransabimana represented the country when the event was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Disi steered Rwanda to sixth overall position after clocking 1.03.03 to pocket $3000 for his effort while Rwanda men’s team walked away with the same amount for finishing sixth overall.

The next 2014 IAAF World Half Marathon Championships will take place in Denmark’s capital Copenhagen.

Selected athletes:

Robert, Kajuga (SEC), Cyriaque Ndayikengurukiye (Kamonyi), Jean Marie Vianney Uwajeneza (NAS), Sylvain Rukundo (Police), Alexis Nizeyimana (Kamonyi), Godfrey Rutayisire (APR), Retien Ntawuyirushintego (RAS).
Twajamahoro wins Bronze medal in Africa championship

Assistant Inspector of Police, Sylvestre Twajamahoro

Twajamahoro won a bronze medal to help Rwanda's flag to be raised at the 14th African Karate Championships held in Morocco from September 2-10.

Twajamahoro won bronze in the men's Kata individual category. However, he was not the only medalist in the championship because national team mate Rehema Kabera also won a medal for Rwanda in the women's Kumite individual category.

This was Twajamahoro's second bronze medal in two years. At the same event in 2010, Twajamahoro won a bronze medal. His career started in 1996 and he has shown great improvement according to Karate Federation national technical director, Guy Rurangayire.

Both Twajamahoro and Kabera's performances helped Rwanda move from fifteenth to ninth position in Africa out of 23 nations that had participated in the tournament.

There was no medal won in Kumite team category because Rwanda lost to Cote d'Ivoire in the finals after losing twice, drew one and won one 2 - 3, 2 - 4, 0 - 1, 0-0 and 5-2.

In Kata team category, Rwanda lost to Libya in the semi finals and went on to lose the bronze medal to Sudan.

According to Karate federation's technical director, Guy Rurangayire, lack of experience and exposure are the reasons why Rwanda didn't finish among the top three.

However, Rurangayire said that finishing ninth is something to be proud of. “Slowly by slowly, we are going into towards achieving the government's target of being among the best teams on the continent,” added Rurangayire.

Rwanda was represented by 11 players in the continental championship in both Kata and Kumite categories.

The championship had attracted teams from South Africa, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, hosts Morocco, among others.

Rwanda Team:

Individually: Jean Paul Shyirambere (Under 60kg), Eric Karegire (Under 67kg), Vincent Kamanzi (Under 75kg), Jean Pierre Kamanzi (Under 84kg), Christian Rurangayire (Over 84kg)

Men's Kata team: Sylvestre Twajamahoro, Didier Gaga Rukorera, Ismael Nshimiyimana

Women's Kumite team; Marie Claire Mukagakwerere (Under 60kg), Rehema Kabera (Under 50kg) and Razia Uwase (Under 65kg)

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2012/13 National Football League Fixtures

**First leg**
  - Police 0-0 La Jeunesse [Kicukiro]
  - Marines 0-1 Police [Umuganda]
  - APR 1-1 Police [Amahoro]
- Day 4: 06.10.2012
  - Police vs. Mukura [Régional]
  - Rayon sports vs. Police [Amahoro]
  - Police vs. Kiyovu [Regional]
  - Isonga vs. Police [Amahoro]
- Day 8: 04.11.2012
  - Police vs. Etincelles [Kicukiro]
- Day 9: 15.11.2012
  - Muhanga vs. Police [Regional]
  - Police vs. Musanze [Kicukiro]
  - Espoir vs. Police [Rusizi]
  - Police vs. Amagaju [Kicukiro]
  - As Kigali vs. Police [Regional]

**Second Leg**
- Day 14: 13.01.2013
  - La Jeunesse vs. Police [Mumena]
- Day 15: 20.01.2013
  - Police vs. Marines [Kicukiro]
- Day 16: 02.02.2013
  - Police vs. APR [Amahoro]
- Day 17: 10.02.2013
  - Mukura vs. Police [Kamena]
- Day 18: 16.02.2013
  - Police vs. Rayon sports [Amahoro]
- Day 19: 03.03.2013
  - Kiyovu vs. Police [Regional]
- Day 20: 09.03.2013
  - Police vs. Isonga [Kicukiro]
- Day 21: 20.04.2013
  - Etincelles vs. Police [Umuganda]
  - Police vs. Musanze [Kicukiro]
- Day 23: 05.05.2013
  - Musanze vs. Police [Musanze]
- Day 24: 12.05.2013
  - Police vs. Espoir [Kicukiro]
- Day 25: 18.05.2013
  - Amagaju vs. Police [Nyangambe]
- Day 26: 25.05.2013
  - Police vs. As Kigali [Kicukiro]
Football

Police FC eyes Africa & title next season

A fter finishing second in the 2012/12 Primus National Football league, Police FC will for the first time represent Rwanda in the next edition of the CAF Orange Confederation Cup which will start in January next year.

Draws for the competition are set to be held in December this year and this is when Police FC will know whom they will face in the preliminary round of the competition.

Apart from finishing second in last season’s league, Police FC was first runners-up in the MTN Peace Cup competition last season.

The club has also kicked off preparations for the upcoming 2012/13 National Football league season which begins on September 22. Police begins their quest against La Jeunesse at Kicukiro turf.

The head coach Goran Kopunovic said, “Next season (2012/13) is one of the seasons for Police FC to show what they have got in stock.”

“We want, at least, to finish among the top three in the national competitions and focus on a good representation in our first outing in the Orange Confederation Cup,” added Goran.

After passing a 4-7 quota by Rwanda football federation, Police FC has decided to give room to Rwandan born players meaning that many of their foreign players were offloaded in August.

The foreign players that have been offloaded include Burundian quartet of laudit Mavugo, Jean d’Amour Nkurunziza, Gilbert Kaze and Harerimana Moussa, Ugandan trio of Alimansi Kadogo, Deo Othieno and Salim, and Brazilian duo of Rivaldo and Ernandez Nani.

New recruitments that have been bought to boost the club include; Andrew Mazimpaka from La Jeunesse, Corneille from Mukura VC, Yusuf Ndayishimiye Kabishi from SC Kiyovu, Yahaya N girumuremyi and Innocent Habyarimana from AS Kigali.

Others are; Imran Nshimiyimana from As Kigali, Amani Uwiringiyimana from Bangladesh, Arnwal Kibaya of AS Kigali and striker Christian Uwumukiza from Amagaju.

“I am really delighted to have a team composed of Rwandan born players. They are talented players and am not worried of next season; these players will help us win a title whatsoever,” added Kopunovic.

Head coach Goran Kopunovic
Rwanda National Police has enhanced sports development in the country through the continuous monitoring and deploying of its sports clubs to compete in different national competitions.

With support from committed leadership, Police has sports clubs in football, athletics and handball. All these teams have excelled on regional and continental showpiece and the pillar of this success is a result of hard work, determination and discipline among its athletes.

The Director of Sports at Rwanda National Police, Supt. Gerald Ntare says, “We have had our teams going by the theme-Think Global, Act Locally.”

“For us to make a step in achieving international success, we must first have firm roots and achieve good status at home before finding mechanism of replicating the good success on the international stage,”

“The Rwanda National Police leadership is fundamental in the development of sports in the institution. We have good leaders who are passionate and will do everything possible to promote sports,” added Ntare.

Besides having men’s football team which participates in Rwanda’s Premier league, Ntare confirmed that they are working on a project to promote girl-child in Police as well as in the community. As a way of gender promotion concept in Police and in the community, the institution will form a women’s football team which will take part in 2013 Women’s national football league.

“The Directorate of Sports which oversees the sports sector of the institution is skilled thus the success that continue to be achieved, said Ntare.

The directorate wants to also spread the game to all Police stations in districts and provinces in order to have a competitive Police force to also improve their health and identify talents that can even be pivotal to the nation’s sports development.

Our edition will take you through sports disciplines that have held Police’s flag high in the past few months.
Capacity building in the Fire and Rescue Brigade

The newly acquired crane vehicle
Committed to Developing Sports in Rwanda

Website: www.police.gov.rw