



THE POLICE

MAGAZINE



A PUBLICATION OF
RWANDA NATIONAL POLICE





“Rwandans must be able to take their safety and security for granted. Rwanda National Police is one of those important institutions trained to exactly ensure that is the case.”

H.E. Paul KAGAME

The President of The Republic of Rwanda

At the occasion of cadet commissioning, PTS Gishari, 11 May 2015.



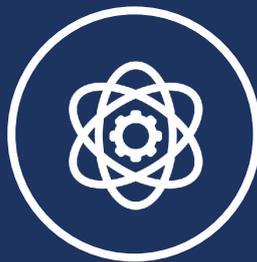
OUR VISION

People in Rwanda are safe, involved and reassured.



OUR MISSION

Rwanda National Police is dedicated to deliver high quality service, accountability and transparency, safeguard the rule of law and provide safe and crime free environment for all.



CORE VALUES

Justice and respect for human rights, Integrity, Stability and social order, Team work and partnership, Openness, Accountability, Community relation focus, Professional conduct, efficiency and effectiveness.

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RNP, RDF LAUNCH ‘DEFENCE AND SECURITY CITIZEN OUTREACH PROGRAMME’ TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Rwanda National Police (RNP) and Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) launched community development initiatives under the “Defence and Security Citizen Outreach Programme 2025,” to further contribute to the development of the country. The launch was conducted

concurrently in all provinces and the City of Kigali. The three-month COP2025 outreach activities rolled out on Monday, March 17, are part of Kwibohora 31. COP2025 is under the theme: “Rwanda Citizens in Partnership with Defence and Security Organs celebrating Kwibohora 31, and 25 years of RNP contribution to National Development.”

The countrywide human security initiatives focuses mainly on providing free medical services, heifer; construction of houses for the disadvantaged families, constructing roads connecting communities, extending clean water to remote communities, construction of Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres, and environmental protection.

The Minister of Infrastructure, Dr. Jimmy Gasore and Inspector General of Police (IGP),



CG Felix Namuhoranye launched the initiatives in Cyanika, Burera District, where they handed over a dummy cheque of Frw10 million, to a cooperative of former smugglers.

In Rulindo District, the Minister of Local Government, Dr. Patrice Mugenzi alongside the RDF Army Chief of Staff, Maj Gen Vincent Nyakarundi, officially

launched the construction of a 2.5km water supply system to Cyinzuzi Health Center and neighbouring communities, which were facing water challenges.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana together with the RDF Medical Health Service Chief of Staff, Maj Gen Dr Ephrem Rurangwa, launched the COP25 activities in Nyagatare District focusing on the



Launch of COP25 activities in Nyagatare District focused on the provision of medical services

provision of medical services, including orthopedics, general surgery, urology, ENT, dental, ophthalmology, dermatology, gynecology and obstetrics, internal medicine, pediatrics and family planning.

In Nyabihu District, the Minister of Interior, Dr. Vincent Biruta accompanied by the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) in Charge of Administration and Personnel, DCG Jeanne Chantal Ujeneza launched the construction of ECDs.

The launch of COP25 in City of Kigali was presided over by the Minister of State for Education, Claudette Ihere together with the Deputy IGP in Charge of Operations, Vincent Sano. The RDF Reserve Force Chief of Staff, Maj Gen Alex Kagame and the Executive Secretary of the Southern Province Nshimiyimana Vedaste, launched the construction of 10 houses for disadvantaged families in Nyanza District, Muyira Sector.



ENHANCING SECURITY AND PROSPERITY: IGP'S VISIT TO NIGERIA



The Inspector General of Police (IGP), CG Felix Namuhoranye visited Nigeria for an official visit, at an invitation of his counterpart of Nigeria Police Force, IGP Kayode Egbetokun.

Federal Republic of Nigeria, HE Kashim Shettima. The conference and retreat were under the theme: "Improving Nigeria's Internal Security and Economic Prosperity through Inclusive Policing."

IGP Namuhoranye was invited as the resource person in the 5th Conference and Retreat for Nigeria Senior Police Officers, held on Tuesday, February 25, and presided over by the Vice President of the

IGP Namuhoranye said that achieving internal security requires close cooperation and collaboration of security agencies and the public.



“Homeland security is based on public peace and stability. No law enforcement agency can achieve much without the cooperation, trust and partnership of the citizens it serves. Therefore, the cooperation of the Police and the citizens in maintaining security should not be an option but a necessity,” IGP Namuhoranye said. In Rwanda, he said, security activities and collaboration with the population are a catalyst for security, well-being of the citizenry and sustainable development.



The Inspector General of Police (IGP), CG Felix Namuhoranye at the opening of the 5th conference and retreat for senior Police officers in Nigeria



POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL GRADUATES 25 OFFICERS IN MOTORCYCLE DRIVING



The Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) in Charge of Administration and Personnel, DCG Jeanne Chantal Ujeneza, on Thursday, February 13, presided over the pass out of 25 officers, who completed the ‘Motorcycle driving in emergency situations’ course at the Police Training School (PTS) Gishari in Rwamagana District.

Trainees included those from Rwanda National Police (RNP) and Rwanda Defence Force (RDF). The course was conducted in partnership with Carabinieri, the Italian Police.

The five-week course covered safety procedures and equipment, hazard awareness and safety, safe riding techniques, emergency braking techniques, motorcycle riding and patrol techniques as well as patrol tactics and motorcycle accident handling.

DIGP Ujeneza appreciated the excellent cooperation between Rwanda National Police and Carabinieri through which various courses have been conducted both in Rwanda and Italy.

“Rwanda National Police prioritize capacity building to accomplish its mission and build a professional and capable force. To achieve this

requires us to conduct career, professional and specialized courses like this,” DIGP Ujeneza said. Rwanda’s economic growth and its openness to



DIGP in Charge of Administration and Personnel, DCG Jeanne Chantal Ujeneza at the closing of the motorcycle driving in emergency situations course

foreign investors, VIPs and dignitaries, she said, expanded the RNP tasks from the maintenance of road safety to escort duties, which are vital in modern policing.

“Motorcycles play a key role in ensuring road safety and intervening against security threats due to speed, the ability to maneuver during traffic jam situations; which provide an upper hand to the police in emergency situations,” she said.

DIGP Ujeneza also observed that with the increase in road safety demands, and acquisition of new motorcycles, resulted in skills gaps and created

need to increase the number of officers, who are able to competently operate motorcycles.

“The knowledge and skills you acquired will only serve the purpose if they are effectively used. I, therefore, urge you to practice what you have learned and maintain discipline on and off duty,” she emphasized.

Training facilitators also included five RNP under study trainers. The commandant of PTS, Commissioner of Police (CP) Robert Niyonshuti, said that RNP will now start conducting similar courses on its own.





POLICE CRACK DOWN ON MOTORCYCLE THEFT

A crack down on motorcycle theft in February 2025, led to the arrest of 15 suspects and recover of four stolen motorcycles. The separate Police operations to break the rackets were conducted in the districts of Nyagatare and Gicumbi where series of motorcycle theft had been reported in the previous three months.

The 15 suspects belonging to the same ring, were apprehended as a result of good collaboration between the Police and the public, through information sharing, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Boniface Rutikanga, the RNP spokesperson, said. Nine of them are residents of Nyagatare and the other six are from Rukomo sector in Gicumbi.

“Police started receiving cases of violent theft of motorcycles in these two districts, in November, last year. Investigations revealed that there was a coordinated group, which was stealing the

motorcycles and taking them to neighbouring countries where they are sold,” ACP Rutikanga said.

He added: “Each member of the group had specific roles. Some of them were responsible for stealing motorcycles and taking them to their focal point, who was taking them to neighboring countries.”

The group was using different methods to steal the motorcycles, including breaking into houses, especially at night, and guising as passengers to lead their targets into an ambush.

They would then remove plate numbers before sneaking them out of the country, after few days or weeks.

ACP Rutikanga appealed to anyone with information about such criminal acts, to come forward to facilitate ongoing investigations.

RWANDA POLICE TEAM SETS NEW RECORD IN UAE SWAT CHALLENGE



Rwanda National Police (RNP) SWAT Team One broke their record time as they emerged the overall best in 'Obstacle Event' at the UAE Special Weapon and Tactics (SWAT) Challenge, which concluded on Wednesday, February 5, in Dubai.

The Rwanda elite Police team won in record time 03:46.2, to take gold, beating other 102 teams from over 70 countries that participated in the five-day Challenge.

They smashed their 03:54 record,

which they set in the fifth edition, last year. China Police Team B came second to win silver while China Police Team C won bronze.

RNP SWAT Team 2 came 12th in Obstacle Course, which was the last event of the sixth edition.

Overall, RNP SWAT Team One came in the 10th position while SWAT Team Two was 18th.

The five-day Challenge saw 103 teams from across the globe, competition in five high demanding challenges. They

include Assault Event, Tactical Event, Officer Rescue, Tower Event and Obstacle Course.

This was Rwanda National Police's fourth participation in the global SWAT Challenge.

It is designed to enhance global law enforcement practices, strengthen cooperation and sharing of best practices among SWAT teams worldwide while highlighting mental sharpness and physical endurance in diverse tactical scenarios.

CRACKDOWN ON VANDALISM OF POWER LINES: TRADERS ARRESTED SELLING STOLEN ELECTRICAL MATERIALS



Police arrested seven people following investigations and operations against vandalism of power transmission and distribution infrastructure. They were allegedly selling electrical materials stolen from vandalized electricity lines.

Rwanda National Police (RNP), Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (RICA), and the National Energy Group (REG), conducted the successful operations jointly. This was in response to series

of vandalism on utility line, especially electricity, water and telecommunication lines.

During the operations in City of Kigali and in Rulindo District, RNP, RICA and REG recovered combined 445 fuse devices and 295 meters of cable from the suspects' shops.

The RNP spokesperson, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Boniface Rutikanga, warned that all those connected to these criminal activities, will be arrested.

“As it has been explained, arresting vandals alone is not enough; we also have to pursue those who buy these items, and these operations are still ongoing,” ACP Rutikanga said.

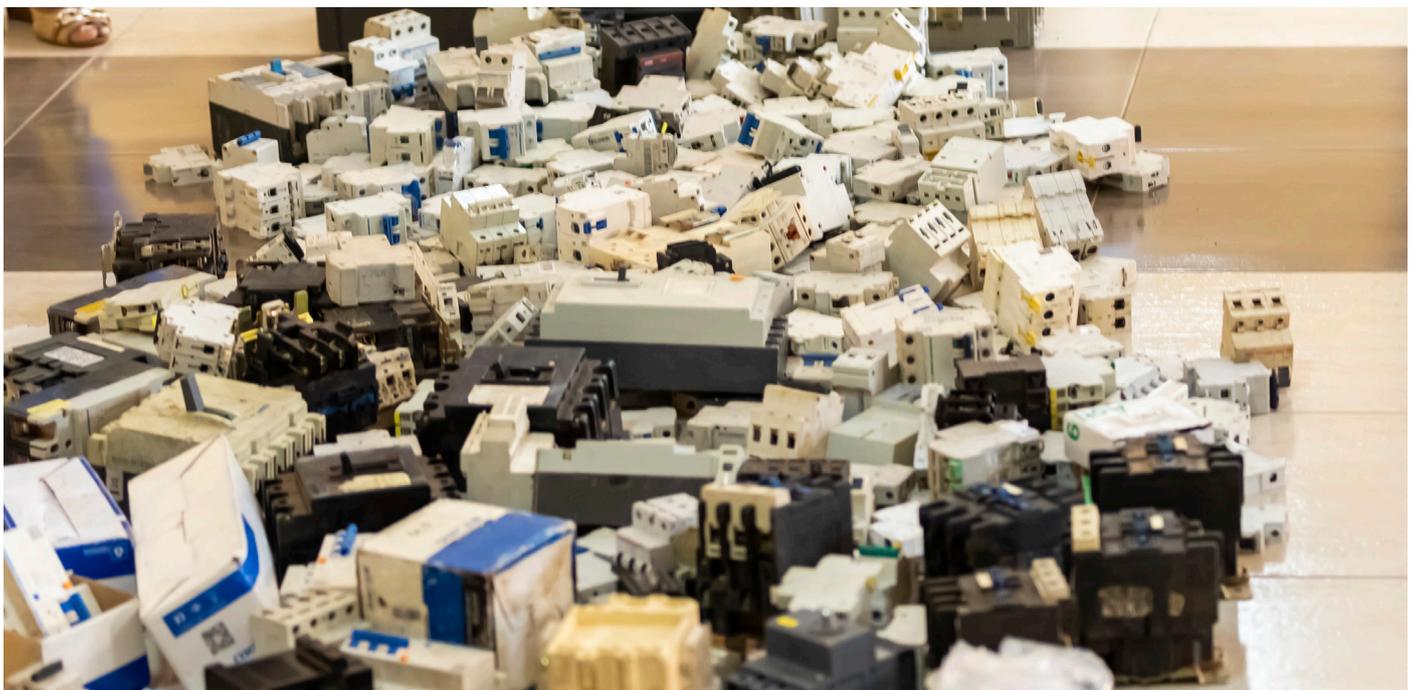
Geoffrey Zawadi, Head of Partnerships department at REG, said such vandalism hinders development. “The government spends a lot of money to build electricity infrastructure and

spends a lot more when they are vandalized.”

The Head of the Inspection department at RICA, Joseph Mutabazi, urged traders of used electronic and electrical equipment, to ensure that they comply with the regulations, including proper records when buying used items.



L-R: Head of the inspection department at RICA, Joseph Mutabazi; The RNP Spokesperson, ACP Boniface Rutikanga and the Head of partnerships department at REG, Geoffrey Zawadi



DIGP UJENEZA RECEIVES GUINEA'S MINISTER OF SECURITY



The Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) in charge of Administration and Personnel, DCG Jeanne Chantal Ujeneza, on January 21, received at the Rwanda National Police (RNP) General Headquarters Kacyiru, a delegation from Guinea headed by the Minister of Security and Civil Protection, General (rtd) Bachir Diallo.

Their discussions focused on sharing experiences and professional practices, particularly

in citizen engagement, counter-terrorism and road safety management.

DIGP Ujeneza expressed gratitude to the delegation for choosing to visit Rwanda and the RNP in particular.

The visit, she emphasized, reflects the commitment to strengthening collaboration and sharing professional best practices between the two countries as

demonstrated by their respective leaders.

Minister Bachir explained that they chose to visit Rwanda to learn how to achieve significant progress within a short period.

He acknowledged Rwanda as an exemplary nation that has overcome major challenges to attain sustainable peace and security, making it a model for others.



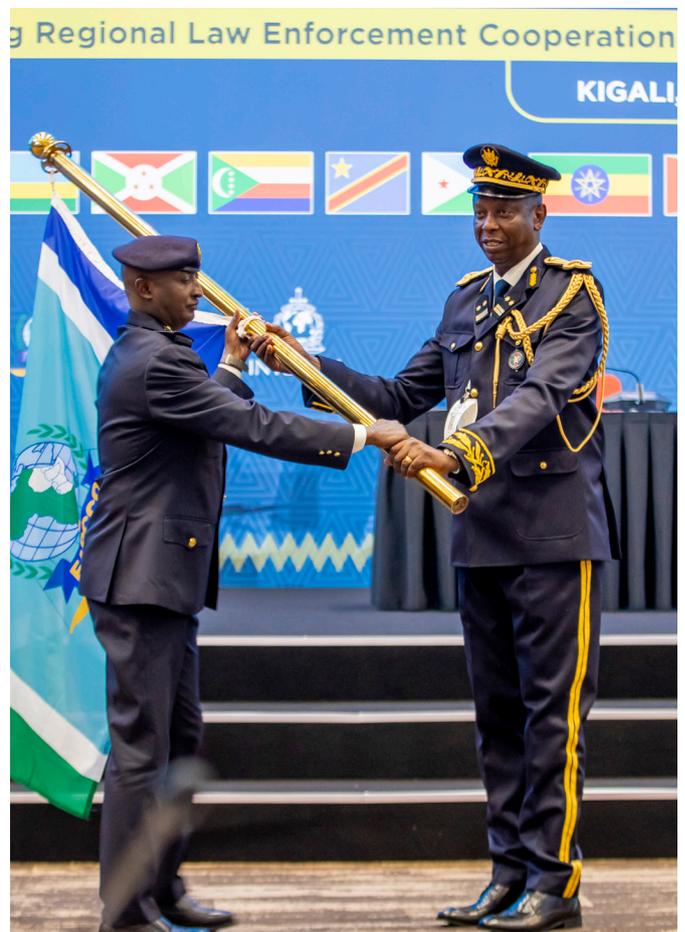
RWANDA TAKES CHARGE AS HEAD OF COUNCIL OF POLICE CHIEFS AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



From January 26 to January 31, 2025, Rwanda hosted the 26th Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) Annual General Meeting, under the theme: “Strengthening Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation to counter Terrorism, Transnational, Organized and Emerging Crimes.”

The EAPCCO AGM featured several key events and sideline activities, including training for the Gender Sub-committee, the 49th Permanent Coordinating Committee (PCC) meeting, the Council of Police Chiefs, the 24th Council of Ministers responsible for Police; and, for the first time, a competition among elite police units on the use of weapons and counter-terrorism tactics—the EAPCCO SWAT Challenge.

EAPCCO 14-member countries are Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Seychelles, and Somalia.



Rwanda also assumed responsibility from Burundi as Head of the Council of Police Chiefs and Council of Ministers.

The Prime Minister, Dr. Edouard Ngirente, while officially closing the AGM, called for law enforcement institutions in the region to put more efforts in aligning policing strategies to effectively respond to the ever-changing nature of crime driven by digital and technological advancements.



The Prime minister, Dr. Edouard Ngirente while officially closing the AGM.

He said: “Today, more than ever, the necessity to cooperate and assist each other is imperative. It is also worth noting that, Police officers will certainly continue to face unpredictable challenges in line of their duties.

This requires us to invest in their training and development, to ensure that they are prepared for whatever comes their way... I call upon all of you to renew your dedication to working together across borders and build a future where safety is a reality to the people you serve.”



First Ever EAPCCO SWAT Challenge

As part of the side events of the EAPCCO AGM, Rwanda organized a competition for special police units from the region, bringing together elite teams with specialized counter-terrorism training using advanced weaponry and tactics.

This competition, known as the EAPCCO SWAT Challenge, was held at the Counter-Terrorism Training Center (CTTC) Mayange in Bugesera District.



The challenge brought together ten elite Police teams from eight countries including Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, and Seychelles to showcase their operational readiness and skills required to respond to critical security incidents.





The Minister of interior, Dr. Vincent Biruta awarding RNP SWAT Team 1

This first ever EAPCCO SWAT Challenge, hosted in Rwanda, featured the following Events:

- Tactical Event: Simulated rescue missions for hostages or individuals in distress using strategic maneuvers.
- Obstacle Course: Navigation through complex and physically demanding terrains.
- Assault Event: Precision shooting and offensive tactics.

The SWAT Challenge is not just a competition; it serves as a platform for law enforcement agencies to learn from each other, share knowledge, skills, and best practices, and strengthening regional cooperation. Such events foster camaraderie, trust, and collaboration, ultimately enhancing collective operational capabilities for addressing security threats in the future.



CLAMPDOWN ON FORGERY OF REGISTRATION PLATES



In February last year, thieves attached a taxi-moto operator, assaulted him and took his motorcycle along with other valuables and personal documents.

This was less than two months after the victim's father—Hatangimana—had bought the motorcycle for taxi transport, as one of the family sources of income.

In January this year, the motorcycle was recovered by the Police alongside 15 others stolen in different parts of the country.

Thieves had changed its number plate from RH 022X to RF 178G. Eight individuals connected to these criminal acts, were arrested.

In January this year, Police showed 136 motorcycles impounded from different parts of the country, with number plates not corresponding

with their original chassis numbers.

“We have been showing moto-vehicles impounded during different police operations, particularly those with changed or falsified plate numbers. Some of these motorcycles have stolen plates, while others are stolen and given forged plates,” ACP Rutikanga said.

“These operations also target individuals who conceal plates, in most cases to violate road traffic rules and to evade related fines. These are the riders, who commit crimes like snatching bags, phones and transporting stolen goods,” said ACP Rutikanga.

Forgery or falsification of documents, including plate numbers, under article 276 of the law relating to offenses and penalties in general, is punishable with five to seven years of imprisonment and a fine of Frw3 million to Frw5 million.

GERAYO AMAHORO: ROAD ACCIDENT VICTIMS NARRATE THE ORDEAL OF LIVING WITH LIFETIME INJURIES, ADVISE ROAD USERS TO EXERCISE CAUTION



Twelve years ago, Daniel Niyibizi, a former moto-taxi-operator, was involved in a moto accident, which left his leg amputated. It was in late December 2012, the day had started all well for Niyibizi, with shopping as he looked forward to joining his family to enjoy the festive season. The joy turned into despair later that evening, when he was involved in an accident as he was going home. "I lost my leg because of speeding," Niyibizi narrates.

"I think I was just happy that I was going home after months without going there, to enjoy Christmas and the New Year with them, and I forgot that I was on the road, which is shared with many other motorists and pedestrians. This ended up being my last ride," he reckons.

He recalls how carelessness and overexcitement cost him dearly. Having accepted the situation, Niyibizi now urges other road users to avoid making the same life-threatening mistakes.

"Towards the end of the year, people tend to over indulge, but that is dangerous for drivers and

motorcyclists. You will regret your whole life when you lose your limb; that is if you don't die and leave your loved ones heart broken for something preventable. When I see people walking, I feel like I've lost something invaluable. My advice to motorists is to stay cautious, not prioritize celebrations over life, avoid speeding, and refrain from drinking and driving. If you lose your life, you leave your family in distress," says Niyibizi.



Niyibizi recalls how carelessness and overexcitement cost him dearly



Ernest Ndayishimiye, a former truck driver, recounts the same ordeal.

Just like Niyibizi, Ernest Ndayishimiye, a former truck driver, recounts the same ordeal.

“I was involved in an accident in November 2011. I was driving a truck from Kigali to Rusizi, I had an accident in Nyamagabe, lost my limb, and this affected my life. Accidents have severe consequences; economically, I lost a lot having to spend years unable to work. I used to support my family, but now I can’t,” says Ndayishimiye.

Ndayishimiye advises road users to avoid driving under the influence, ensure vehicles are roadworthy, and observe speed limits. He also encourages pedestrians to use designated crossings.

“Whatever you want to achieve or to celebrate, you will only do it when you are in good health and without any harm. Drive sober, follow traffic laws, and as pedestrians, cross or use the road carefully.” ~ **Alice Mukamurenzi**

Another road accident victim, Alice Mukamurenzi, who lost her leg as a child in 1996 while crossing the road, now plays football and advocates for road safety.

“I live in Musanze and play football in a team for people with disabilities. I was a child when I was hit by a car while crossing the road, leading to my disability. Whether it was my carelessness or the driver’s speed, the accident happened because of negligence on both sides because we were not vigilant,” Mukamurenzi says.

“Whatever you want to achieve or to celebrate, you will only do it when you are in good health and without any harm. Drive sober, follow traffic laws, and as pedestrians, cross or use the road carefully.”



Alice Mukamurenzi shares how a road accident led to her disabilities.

Road traffic accident (RTA) victims suffer from different types of injuries and disabilities, which can affect their quality of life. They usually face with various physical, mental, and social problems.

Most traffic accident victims experience difficulties adopting to the new life.

Road traffic accidents are a global concern, as they are among the leading causes of death worldwide, claiming over a

million lives each year and leaving many others injured. From January to December 2024, Rwanda recorded around 9,600 road accidents, leading to 350 fatalities. Despite ongoing efforts by international organizations and governments worldwide to mitigate the effects of road accidents, the issue persists.

For the last five years, the Rwanda National Police (RNP) has been conducting the “Gerayo

Amahoro” road safety campaign to educate and influence all categories of road users to adopt safer behaviors on road usage.

The campaign focuses on eliminating human behaviors that lead to accidents, fatalities or permanent disabilities, and to increase visibility and enforcement.

Gerayo Amahoro or ‘arrive safe’ encourages safe driving behavior,



responsive use of road and to make road safety a choice and culture. The road security report indicates that road related fatalities reduced by 50 percent in 2024 compared to the previous year.

Accidents involving cyclists, who are among the most vulnerable road users, also dropped by 17%, reflecting significant changes in the behaviors of road users.

The RNP spokesperson, Assistant

Commissioner of Police (ACP) Boniface Rutikanga, echoed the message of road safety, urging people to drive safely without jeopardizing public safety. He advises the public against driving or riding under the influence, and to seek alternative safer means.

“Roads are used by many people, who wish to get to their final destinations safe. So, when you on the road as a driver, motorcyclist, cyclist, pedestrian or passenger,

behave or act in a way that guarantees your safety and that of other people sharing the same road.

Avoid speeding, using a phone when riding, driving or crossing the road; respect zebra crossing, refrain from drunk driving, wrong or dangerous maneuvers, reckless use of road; all of which increase risks of road crashes, injuries, loss of lives and destruction of property. Make road safety a choice and culture,” ACP Rutikanga says.

WISMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PUPILS EXPLORE POLICE'S COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS



On Thursday, March 6, pupils of Wisma International School led by their teaching staff, visited Rwanda National Police (RNP) to learn more about Community Policing. They visited the departments of Traffic and Road Safety (TRS), Canine Brigade and Fire and Rescue Brigade (FRB).

The visit to TRS department gave the pupils an insight on the national Gerayo Amahoro campaign, designed to drive behavior change on safer road usage, to make it a choice and culture.

At the RNP General Headquarters in Kacyiru, pupils were given both theory and practical fire safety sessions on components, types of fire emergencies, and preventive measures.



Training children in separate aspects of security is planning for the future of the country



Pupils were given insight on the national Gerayo Amahoro campaign

They were also explained on the lifestyle of sniffer dogs and how they support effective security operations against narcotics and explosives.



They were also given theory and practical sessions on Fire safety

WOMEN IN UNIFORM AND THE FADING ECHOES OF “IT’S NOT FOR WOMEN”



In the past, society neatly divided the world of labour force into two categories; jobs for men and jobs for women. Most professions were however, deemed “suitable” for men, as women were rarely seen as breadwinners. Instead, their role was confined to the home—nurturing families and raising children, a task both demanding and honorable. Yet, despite its complexity, this labor was often dismissed as insignificant, and women were labeled “incapable” of much else.

It’s baffling to think how societies could look down on those who kept households running while simultaneously underestimating their potential beyond family walls.

Thankfully, the tide has turned. Today’s generation operates in a world striving to shed off gender

discrimination. We no longer judge someone’s abilities based on their gender—at least, not as a rule. Women have shattered ceilings and stereotypes alike, rising to prominent positions, earning high ranks, and proving their worth across industries.

Their achievements stand as undeniable evidence that competence knows no gender. Fields once dominated by men now boast women who not only participate but also excel, driving progress and innovation. The idea that certain jobs are “for men only” has been largely debunked, and replaced by a growing consensus that capability, not gender, defines success.

Yet, despite this progress, whispers of doubt linger in some corners. There remains a tiny, stubborn place where the outdated notion of “it is not for

women” persists, particularly in careers tied to security. In Rwanda, for instance, a woman in a uniform—especially as a police officer—still raises eyebrows and sparks comments from a very few that reveal lingering surprise. I know this firsthand. As a female police officer in my fourth year of service with the Rwanda National Police (RNP), I have grown accustomed to the reactions.

When people hear what I do, I am often met with side-eye glances or remarks like “Uzi ko utabimenya” (loosely translated as; “Can you imagine, you can’t tell”). I have yet to decipher what they expect a female officer to look like or how they imagine I should carry myself. Another common question, “Ubwo se wabitekereje ute?” (“So, how did you think of that?”), implying my career choice to join the force was born of desperation rather than passion. Four years in,



I still have not found the perfect response—perhaps I never will.

These reactions do not necessarily stem from malice or disdain. Rwandans, in their own way, are often just expressing curiosity or support. The side-eyeing, the questions, even the occasional hype—it is all part of the cultural tapestry. I have been on the receiving end of speeches that range from mildly amusing to deeply touching, often accompanied by phrases like, “I wanted to join too, but life happened.” It is a familiar script, one that hints at admiration tangled with disbelief.

In addition, I get it. Years ago, I was part of the “Weird Looks” team myself—not the comment brigade, mind you, but definitely among those who silently questioned how women fit into such roles. Reflecting on my old perspective feels like confessing a long-held secret. Back then, those looks I gave were

not about doubting women’s abilities. Instead, they reflected my own misconceptions.

I assumed that to succeed in a security career, a woman had to shed her femininity—become “masculine” to fit the mold. In my naive imagination, it was as if the job demanded a trade: your womanhood for a badge. With every glance, a little voice in my head whispered, “Who would choose that?” I was wrong—spectacularly so. My views shifted when I got to know someone in a similar field. She was a revelation: poised, capable, and unapologetically feminine. Her career had not stripped away her identity; it complemented it. Looking back, I realize those contradictory thoughts were projections of my own fears, not reflections of reality.

That outdated mindset is not unique to me—it’s a relic some in our society still carry. But it’s baseless, and its days are numbered. The “it is not for

women” idea occupies only a shrinking sliver of space, dwarfed by the strides women have made across professions. I believe there will come a day when saying “I’m a police officer” elicits the same neutral reaction as “I’m a nurse”—no raised brows, no probing questions, just acceptance. It’s a future worth anticipating.

What is most encouraging, though, is that within the RNP itself, that tiny place of doubt doesn’t exist. In my experience, the workplace is a level playing field. I’ve never felt treated differently because of my gender.

There are no “men’s tasks” or “women’s tasks”—we’re all simply police officers. We undergo the same rigorous training, follow the same curriculum, and tackle the same challenges. Gender doesn’t dictate our roles; competence does. That equality is the backbone of the institution, and it’s what keeps me proud to serve.



Women make up 24% of RNP personnel today, a figure that speaks to their growing presence. For the past two decades, they contributed to peacekeeping missions through bilateral and multilateral agreements, helping restore stability in conflict zones worldwide.

Closer to home, they've been instrumental in operations, from combating gender-based violence to supporting survivors with compassion and resolve. Their impact is undeniable, a testament to their skill and dedication.

So why does society still cling to that faint echo of surprise? I don't have a definitive answer—

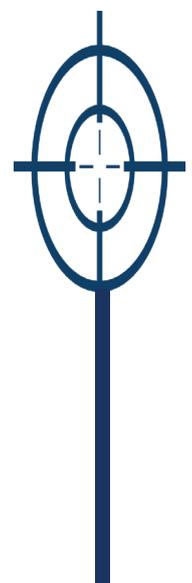
perhaps no one does. Maybe, it's a vestige of tradition, a hangover from a time when roles were more rigidly defined. Or maybe it's just human nature to marvel at the unexpected.

Whatever the reason, it's clear the perception lags behind the reality. Women in uniform aren't anomalies; they're trailblazers, reshaping how we view strength and service.

For me, this journey has been one of growth—both personal and professional. I've moved from being a bystander with misplaced assumptions to standing proudly in the ranks, challenging those same notions in others. The looks

and comments no longer faze me; they're just noise against the backdrop of purpose. And as more women step into these roles, that noise will fade entirely. The "it is not for women" idea will dissolve, not with a bang, but with the quiet certainty of progress.

In the end, it's not about proving anyone wrong—it's about proving what's possible. Women in uniform aren't here to fit someone else's mold; they're here to break it. And in Rwanda, where resilience is woven into our story, they're doing just that—one badge, one mission, one step at a time.



RNP INTER-UNITS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT CONCLUDE WITH POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL CROWNED CHAMPIONS



The Rwanda National Police (RNP) Inter-Units football tournament concluded on Saturday, March 22, with the defending champions, Police Training School (PTS) Gishari beating National Police College (NPC) 2-1 in the finals played at Kigali Pele stadium.

The entertaining match was also attended by the Inspector General of Police (IGP), CG Felix Namuhoranye and his two deputies; DCG Jeanne Chantal Ujeneza of Administration and Personnel,



PTS Gishari opened the score in the 10th minute as the first period ended 1-0. In the 60th minute, NPC found the net to make it 1-1, but PTS made it 2-1 in the 82nd minute to emerge victorious and to successfully retain the trophy. PTS booked the ticket to the finals after seeing off Task Force Unit (TAFU) while NPC eliminated Automobile Inspection (AI).

IGP Namuhoranye said that the tournament provides a platform for Police officers to socialize and relax, which helps them to perform their policing tasks effectively.



The Inspector General of Police (IGP), CG Felix Namuhoranye at the closing of the RNP inter-units football tournament

He thanked all players and teams that participated in the tournament and congratulated the finalists and the winner in particular. The Police Chief said that this competition will continue to be conducted annually and that more sports disciplines will be added in the next edition as it also helps in sports development in the country.







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