



THE POLICE

MAGAZINE





“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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MINISTER BIZIMANA EMPHASIZE THE VITAL ROLE OF THE POLICE IN SAFEGUARDING NATIONAL UNITY DURING A GENOCIDE LECTURE



On April 24, Dr. Jean Damascene Bizimana, the Minister of National Unity and Civic Engagement, addressed the Rwanda National Police (RNP) in a public lecture commemorating the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

He highlighted the horrific events of the 100 days of the well-planned extermination of Tutsis emphasizing

the importance of unity, remembrance, and prevention of future atrocities, as part of Rwanda's ongoing efforts to honor victims and promote national reconciliation.

The Minister outlined how colonial rule laid the foundation for ethnic divisionism in Rwanda. He explained that identity-based segregation introduced by colonial administrators and reinforced

by missionaries, paved the way for decades of discrimination and, eventually, the Genocide against the Tutsis.

“The genocide was not a spontaneous act—it was a long-planned political project,” Dr. Bizimana said. “Colonial structures and post-independence politicians fueled and institutionalized ethnic hatred supported by different media outlets, political parties, and the army (Ex-FAR). This incited citizens to turn against their fellow Rwandans.”

The Minister narrated the escalation of anti-Tutsi violence since 1959, through waves of persecutions and exiles, to the extermination campaign between 1990 and 1994. Dr. Bizimana further highlighted the critical role of propaganda and state institutions in spreading hate speech and justifying mass killings.



Combatting Genocide ideology

To combat genocide ideology today, Dr. Bizimana emphasized on Rwanda's holistic approach through education and other sectors by educating youth through school curricula, promoting national identity through the "Ndi Umunyarwanda" programme, engaging communities through Itorero and dialogues, and preserving memory of the victims through visits to genocide memorials. There has also been legal accountability on the perpetrators, reintegration of former convicts into society, and digital strategies to counter online hate.

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), CG Felix Namuhoranye, commended the Minister for his in-depth presentation and called for the extension of such programmes to police academies, stating that every officer should be grounded in this history, since it shapes the institutional commitment to unity and justice.



OVER 800 POLICE OFFICERS COMPLETE BASIC POLICE SPECIAL FORCES COURSE



A total of 833 Police officers including 205 females, on May 16, completed the second intake of the Basic Police Special Forces Course at the Counter-Terrorism Training Centre (CTTC), Mayange, Bugesera District, marking another significant step in bolstering the country's specialized law enforcement capabilities.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), CG Félix Namuhoranye presided over the pass out of the three-month intensive course.

He congratulated them for their resilience and dedication throughout the training, emphasizing on a more challenging and long-term policing journey ahead.

“By concluding this training, you have started another journey in your career, which is longer and more challenging. It is a journey of implementing the knowledge and skills you acquired and providing security to Rwandans,” IGP Namuhoranye said.



He underscored that the security of Rwandans is a priceless asset that must be preserved and enhanced through unwavering commitment and professionalism.

“The security of Rwandans is costly to a very great degree, and the only course of action is to improve your skills to protect it and fight anything that can undermine it,” he added.

The Police Chief called for continued commitment, self-discipline, and accountability, reminding that appropriate policing requires constant evaluation and integrity.







34 SENIOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS COMPLETE SENIOR COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE



Thirty-four senior Police officers from nine African countries, graduated on June 20, from the National Police College (NPC) following their successful completion of the one-year Police Senior Command and Staff Course (PSCSC).

The 13th PSCSC intake was attended by 20 law enforcement officers from Rwanda as well

as 14 from allied students from South Sudan, Kenya, Namibia, Lesotho, Malawi, Somalia, Central African Republic, and Botswana.

The Minister of Interior, Dr. Vincent Biruta presided over the colourful graduation, which was also attended by Police Chiefs from Kenya and South Sudan, diplomats as well as families of the graduates.

It was also attended by Deputy Police Chiefs and high ranking law enforcement officers from Central African Republic (CAR), Botswana, Eswatini and Namibia.

Minister Biruta congratulated the senior law enforcement officers upon successful completion of the rigorous academic and professional programme.





“Today, we have gathered here to celebrate your achievements, as well as your efforts, hard work, team spirit, commitment, and resilience,” Minister Biruta said.

He reminded them that learning is continuous—there is still more to do, more to learn, and more to achieve.

“The world’s history shows that conflict is a constant feature of human society. In today’s world, modernization and globalization have made law enforcement more challenging and multifaceted. Maintaining peace and security therefore, requires even greater effort, not only to prevent and combat crimes, but also to address the underlying factors that can lead to conflict,” the Minister stated.

He expressed gratitude to the African countries that sent students to participate in this course,





highlighting the importance of collaboration in addressing challenges and fostering a peaceful continent. The Minister also said that fighting crimes and resolving conflicts on the continent calls for regional and international cooperation, especially in this technological era and globalized world.

The acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Rwanda, Assoc. Prof Didas M. Kayihura, said that a world increasingly marked by tension and volatility, the work of peace-builders and conflict transformation experts is more vital than ever.

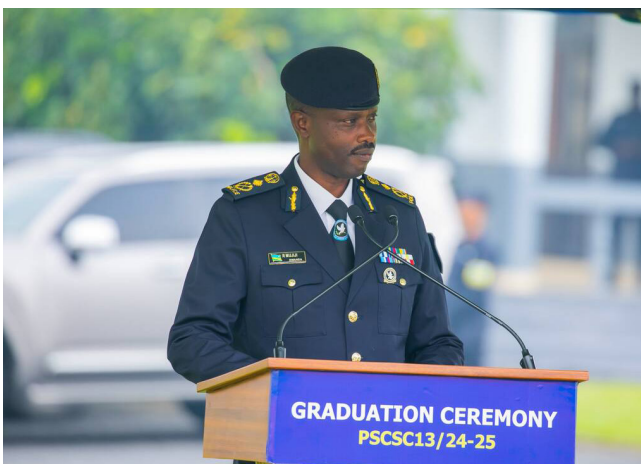
He congratulated them for choosing to be part of the solution—agents of healing, unity, and constructive change.

“The knowledge and competencies you have acquired at the National Police College, through this Masters Programme... place you at the heart of continental and global efforts to promote sustainable peace,” Kayihura said. “From mediation to negotiation, from conflict analysis to post-conflict reconstruction, you are now better equipped to lead with compassion, wisdom, and vision.”

Veda Sunassee, the Chief Executive Office of African Leadership University, said that the graduation reflects a vision rooted in trust, purpose, and progress.

He urged them to carry on with the values of integrity, excellence and nation-building, which define this programme.

The PSCSC is a one-year programme delivered by the National Police College in partnership with the University of Rwanda and the African Leadership University. It combines three components; the Police Command and Staff, which awards successful participants with the Passed Staff College (Psc) title; Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Leadership and Management, and a Master of Arts in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation.





RNP IN **BLOOD** DONATION DRIVE



On April 22, 184 police officers participated in a blood donation drive at the Rwanda National Police (RNP) General Headquarters in Kacyiru, demonstrating a commendable commitment to community service and public health.

Donating blood is in line with

the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RNP and RBC and part of the institution's human security program to promote the health and well-being of the community.

"It is a periodic and voluntary action that also falls within the institution's initiative to

support the human security programme, including health. The safety and health complement each other in ensuring the well-being of the community we serve," said the RNP spokesperson, ACP Boniface Rutikanga.

Dr. Andre Munyemana, from the RBC Blood Transfusion Division, in charge of donor selection, expressed gratitude to the Rwanda National Police for the ongoing partnership in promoting voluntary blood donation campaign.

He emphasized the importance of the life-saving commitment exhibited by Police officers who donated blood.





“Donating blood is saving the life of someone in need of blood. A person in need of blood has no other alternative. If he is not supported on time, he may lose his life,” he added.

Dr. Munyemana urged the public to consider blood donation a responsibility and a reciprocal action because anyone or their relatives may also need it.

EAPCCO ORGANS MEET IN KIGALI



Senior law enforcement officers from the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) convened in Kigali in April for the organs meeting to discuss regional security issues, enhance cooperation, and strengthen collaborative efforts to combat crime and maintain peace within Eastern Africa.

The EAPCCO Organs meeting was under the theme: “Strengthening Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation to Counter Terrorism, Transnational, Organized, and Emerging Crimes.” The Inspector General

of Police (IGP), CG Felix Namuhoranye, while opening the meeting on April 23, at the Rwanda National Police (RNP) General Headquarters in Kacyiru, reiterated the need for bold, collective, and actionable strategies to combat crime across the region.

“There is no silver bullet that can replace trust and mutual understanding among ourselves. That is why partnership remains our major strength and our priority,” he said.

“I urge all of us to open real-time communication channels and remove any barriers—small or big—that disrupt collaboration and information sharing,” he added, stressing the importance of putting strategies into action to build a safer region.





IGP Namuhoranye also challenged participants to identify key areas needing intervention or improvement, based on a review of progress made on previous decisions and recommendations.

Africa Apollo Sendahangarwa, the Chief Executive Officer of EAPCCO and Head of the Interpol Regional Bureau, said the meeting was timely in orienting actions based on

resolutions from recent Annual General Meetings, including those of the Chiefs of Police Council.

“We are here to assess crime trends, the modus operandi of criminals, and to recommend more effective ways to tackle crime—not only within individual member countries, but also as a unified region,” noted the EAPCCO CEO.

The EAPCCO Organs also witnessed the handover of the chairmanship of the Permanent Coordinating Committee (PCC) from Col. Aimable Mutagatifu, Director of Criminal Investigation in the Burundi National Police, to Jean Marie Twagirayezu, Director General of Criminal Investigation at the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB).



PEACEKEEPING: UPHOLD MISSION OBJECTIVES, DIGP SANO URGES POLICE OFFICERS AHEAD OF CAR DEPLOYMENT



The Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) in Charge of Operations, Vincent Sano on May 6, briefed two contingents of 320 Police officers, which were deployed for peacekeeping operations in Central African Republic (CAR), and emphasized the importance of upholding the mission's objectives and professionalism.

He urged the officer to remain focused on their duties and the overarching goals of their mission, highlighting their critical role in maintaining peace and security, and particularly protection of civilians. The two contingents--Rwanda Formed Unit One (Rwafpu-1) of 140 officers and Rwanda

Formed Police Unit-Two (Rwafpu-2) of 180 officers replaced their colleagues in Bangui and Kaga Bandoro, respectively. Rwafpu-1 is commanded by Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Bernardin Nsengiyumva while Rwafpu2 is under the command of Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP)

Jules Rutayisire.

DIGP Sano reminded the officers of the significance to carry the Rwandan flag with honor and dignity to uphold the Rwandan legacy.

He further emphasized the core values such as teamwork, discipline, loyalty, and patriotism towards a successful tour-of-duty.



The Deputy Police Chief also reiterated the importance of operational readiness, handling contingent owned equipment well, mental resilience, and cultural sensitivity.

“You are entrusted by your country to undertake Police related duties under the UN flag. The guidance you receive reinforces the training you have undergone, and it is essential to integrate this knowledge into your work. By conducting yourselves with professionalism, you will enhance the reputation of the nation you represent,” DIGP Sano said.

“You are deployed to contribute to peace and restore security in the CAR. To fulfill your responsibilities effectively, it is essential to follow in the footsteps of your predecessors with professionalism, integrity, commitment, and diligence” the Deputy Police Chief said. Rwanda started its peace support operations in CAR in 2014, and currently maintains four contingents there--three Formed Police Units and a Protection Support Unit (PSU) PSU operates in the capital Bangui while RWAFFPU-3 is deployed in Bangassou.

The PSU is largely charged with ensuring protection for high profile government and UN officials, including the Prime Minister, President of National Assembly, Minister of State in charge of Justice, and MINUSCA Head of Police component, among others.



HONORING RETIRING POLICE OFFICERS FOR DEDICATED SERVICE



On May 3, Rwanda National Police (RNP) bid farewell to 150 Police officers, who retired from active service.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) in Charge of Administration and Personnel, DCG Jeanne Chantal Ujeneza, presided over the send-off ceremony of the junior and Non-commissioned Officers, at the RNP General Headquarters in Kacyiru.

She thanked them for serving their country with dedication, discipline and without reservation in the execution of their duties.

DIGP Ujeneza also thanked their families for the unwavering support throughout their service journey, enduring long periods apart due to the nature of their work.

“As you transition into the new life, the duty to fight any threats to national security continues. We will maintain close collaboration to enhance efforts in ensuring national security and your well-being,” DIGP Ujeneza said.

She urged them to maintain the same spirit of patriotism, discipline, and dedication adding

that the RNP will continue to draw strength from their contributions to national security and development.

CIP (rtd) Benard Gahonzire, who spoke on behalf of the retirees, expressed gratitude to His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic, for granting them a well-deserved send-off.

He further thanked the RNP leadership for the unwavering support, which was instrumental





in fulfilling their responsibilities effectively.

“Throughout our time in service, we have embarked on a long journey filled with valuable lessons that will accompany us in our future endeavors, as we continue to embody the values instilled in us,” Gahonzire said.

As they embark on another life out of active service, he reiterated their steadfast commitment to nation-building, and ready to serve when called for.

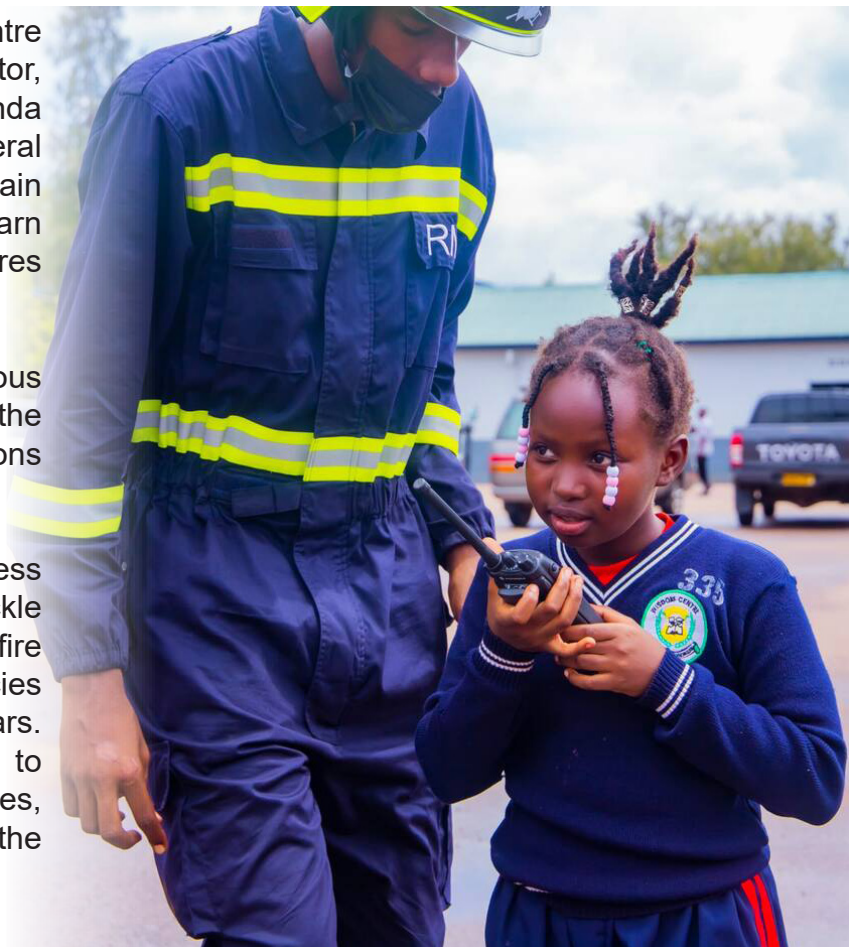
EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION: WISDOM CENTRE STUDENTS VISIT RWANDA NATIONAL POLICE TO LEARN ABOUT FIRE SAFETY



Students from Wisdom Centre located in Ntarama Sector, Bugesera District, visited Rwanda National Police (RNP) General Headquarters in Kacyiru on May 8, to gain insights into fire safety protocols and learn effective strategies for preventing fires and mitigating their consequences.

The students were introduced to various types of fire safety equipment and had the opportunity to witness live demonstrations of fire extinguishing techniques.

They had the opportunity to witness firsthand how firefighters tackle emergencies. They also observed how fire trucks operation during fire emergencies and the importance of protective gears. Additionally, students were allowed to handle some of the equipment themselves, enhancing their understanding of the firefighters' critical role in public safety.



“Investing in fire safety education for children is essential for enhancing national security. By equipping them with knowledge about fire safety, we ensure their protection at home and in school, fostering a positive mindset that encourages them to share this vital information with family and peers,” said ACP Paul Gatambira, the Commanding Officer for Fire and Rescue Brigade.

Lubega Smiles Collins, the school headteacher, explained that the aim of the visit was to equip students with safety skills while fostering respect and appreciation for the vital work carried out by police in rescue services.

“We want to spark interest in public service careers, and there is no better way than seeing these heroes in action. This experience goes beyond the classroom. It shapes responsible, safety-conscious citizens and future leaders who understand the value of community service,” said Libega.





RWANDA NATIONAL POLICE ENGAGES TAXI-MOTO OPERATORS ON ROAD TRAFFIC REFORMS

Rwanda National Police (RNP), in collaboration with the City of Kigali and Rwanda Utility Regulatory Authority (RURA), on Wednesday, April 30, met with taxi-moto operators working in Kigali as part of the efforts to improve road safety in the city. High on the agenda was raising awareness about

changes contained in the draft law governing road traffic and other issues, to ensure professionalism and efficiency of the moto-taxi transport sector.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Infrastructure, Olivier Kabera, reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing remaining

challenges, particularly those related to infrastructure and regulatory gaps.

"We are doing our best to address key issues such as designated parking areas and traffic signs to facilitate you, but you also have a duty to obey traffic rules and regulations to make the roads safe for all," Kabera said.





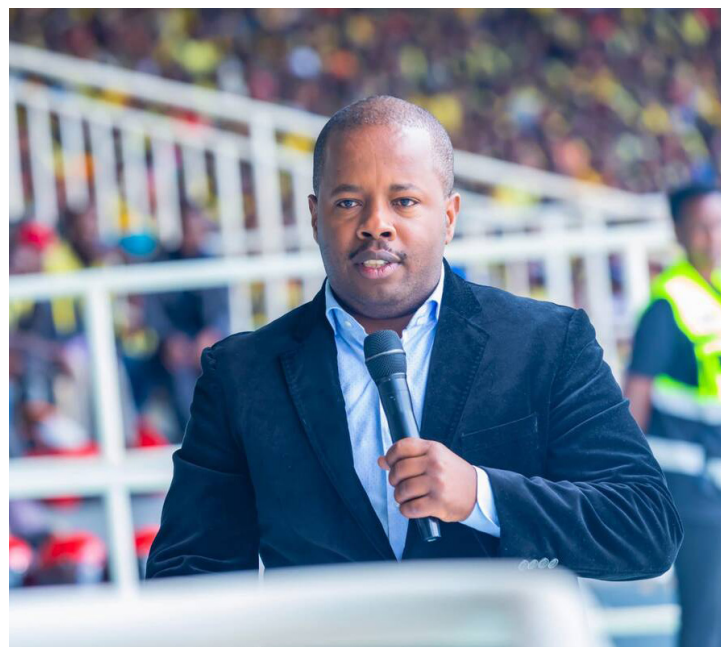
The Inspector General of Police (IGP), CG Felix NAMUHORANYE, said: **“For certain offenses, the penalty amount is also expected to drop from Frw25,000 to Frw10,000 while also introducing the merit and demerit points to ensure professionalism of motorists. We will reward points to those who drive responsibly and penalize those whose behaviors put roads users at risk.”**

He emphasized that the traffic reforms aim to create a more enabling traffic environment for all road users.

He also cautioned against reckless behavior, warning that penalties for serious offenses could become stricter.

Taxi-moto operators welcomed the proposed reforms and praised the government for its timely and responsive engagement.

One taxi motor operator noted: “We appreciate how the government listens to our concerns. We are re committed to operating as professionally as possible.”



***Samuel DUSENGIYUMVA ,
Mayor of the city of Kigali***

THE RIGHT HELMET, SAFETY FOR YOUR HEAD



Rwanda National Police (RNP) convened a meeting with motorcycle taxi operators in Nyagatare District on Wednesday, May 28, to enhance road safety, and underscored the importance of adhering to operational standards. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) and Health People Rwanda (HPR) under the theme: “The Right Helmet, Safety for Your Head

It underscored the importance of wearing helmets to enhance the safety of both riders and passengers. The nationwide outreach advocates for the use of certified helmets while urging motorcyclists to embrace disciplined and professional riding practices that significantly reduce the incidence of road accidents.

Alfred Byiringiro, the Chief Technical Advisor for Transport at MININFRA, highlighted the

extensive consequences of road accidents.

“As a motor rider or even those using vehicles or pedestrian, a single accident affects many,” he said. “An accident can leave you disabled, even if it doesn’t kill you. It can destroy your future, your family’s wellbeing, and the service you could provided to your country.” He also urged riders to hold each other accountable.

“Sometimes we see people without road traffic documents like insurance or driver’s licenses, transporting children or expecting mothers – and the police hesitates to chase them for fear of causing more danger. Hold your errant colleagues accountable by reporting them. In many other countries, motorcycle taxis are even banned in cities. Don’t take this trust for granted.”



Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Vincent Habintwari, the Deputy Commissioner at Traffic and Road Safety department in charge of Motorcyclists, reminded riders of the importance of shared responsibility among riders to uphold safety and adhere to legal standards in their profession.

“We will continue educating you, but also enforcing laws where necessary to eliminate misconduct that cause fatal accidents. We enforce the rules to protect you and ensure that only qualified people are in this profession,” CSP Habintwari

said.

He highlighted key areas of concern including lack of proper traffic related documents, reckless driving, and riding under the influence of alcohol.

“Let’s make motorcycle transport a profession and a respected job. That means having the required documents, using bikes with proper plates, wearing standard helmets, and ensuring your passengers wear them too.”

Eric Kabanda, a standards officer at RSB, provided valuable insights to attendees regarding helmet safety

standards and highlighted the country’s initiative to use only certified helmets.

“A proper helmet is one that meets safety standards, and we have specific methods to test and verify that. That’s why the country established a special laboratory to test helmets,” Kabanda said.

“Our laboratory is equipped with the latest tools, and helmets that pass the tests will carry a standards label. We urge you all to buy helmets that meet these safety standards for your own protection,” Kabanda added.



GERAYO AMAHORO AWARENESS IN SCHOOLS



The Rwanda National Police (RNP) extended its nationwide Gerayo Amahoro road safety campaign by actively engaging students across the country, aiming to instill safe driving habits from a young age, raise awareness about road safety protocols, and reduce accidents, thereby fostering a culture of responsibility and safety among the youth.

Road safety awareness in schools highlights the significance of early education in cultivating a culture of responsible road usage among young learners.

The campaign follows a similar campaign held on May 4 in Gisagara District, where students from E.S. Mamba were also educated on safer road usage.



The outreach in schools emphasizes safe pedestrian practices and other traffic regulations.



**Gerayo
Amahoro**



**ROAD SAFETY,
EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

FROM CHAOS TO CONTROL, HOW POLICE MARINE UNIT BROUGHT ORDER AND SAFETY



At sunrise on Lake Kivu, the fishermen push off quietly, their nets coiled like secrets. For years, these shores echoed with chaos—smugglers, drownings, and vanishing boat engines. But today, a new force watches over the waters: Rwanda’s Police Marine Unit.”

Although Rwanda is landlocked, its waterbodies are vast and cut across the entire country, from east to west. The Rwanda Water Resources Board notes that over 2,100 square kilometers of the country’s landmass is covered by water. These waterways are vital to the country’s economic and social activities, necessitating full-time safety and security measures. That’s

where the Rwanda National Police Marine Unit comes into play.

Established in 2005, the Marine Unit was created to respond to rising insecurity on water—illegal fishing, theft, accidents, and cross-border smuggling. It began with just 35 officers operating from a single station in Rutsiro District, equipped with five inflatable boats (Zodiac type) and no dedicated rescue tools.

“It was a massive task for such a small team. We had to cover multiple lakes and rivers with almost nothing,” recalled Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Charles Butera, the commandant of Rwanda Police Marine Unit.



Today, the unit has grown into a critical part of Rwanda’s maritime security infrastructure. It now operates 10 permanent stations across the country, covering 14 lakes and one river on a full-time basis. The number of officers has grown from 35 to over 150, and they now work with more than 15 modern boats, from the old vintage five boats.

From training to a full professional unit

In response to challenges in the country’s maritime sectors, the Rwanda National Police prioritized training and on top of basic police instruction, every new officer undergoes a specialized program tailored to water security. “No one starts immediately,” says Chief Inspector of Police (CIP) Vincent Ntamahungiro, who oversees training. “They must learn swimming, vessel navigation, water rescue, self-defense, and how to assist victims of water accidents.”



The training also covers maritime law enforcement, first aid, boat engine mechanics, use of firearms in water environment and emergency evacuation procedures. “We even train them in firefighting and ethics, and once they finish the basic training, more advanced courses follow,” CIP Ntamahungiro added.

This approach has led to faster, more effective response times. Depending on distance and conditions, officers can now arrive at emergencies within 10 to 30 minutes—crucial in preventing loss of life and property.

What causes most accidents?

According to ACP Butera, the most common accidents in waterbodies are drownings, often due to recklessness and lack of suitable equipment by fishermen or commuters. Reports indicate that many incidents stem from preventable mistakes—overloading boats, lack of swimming skills, and failure to wear life jackets.



“People often don’t check if their engine works or if they have enough fuel. Sometimes they ignore weather warnings or exceed passenger limits,” he explained.

To combat this, the Marine Unit now trains local cooperatives and boat operators in basic water safety. They teach users to inspect vessels before boarding, limit passenger numbers, and always wear life jackets. “It’s about prevention, not just reaction,” he says.

In the early years, the unit had no divers. Today, it boasts a trained team—including women—capable of underwater search and rescue. “We’re still expanding,” ACP Butera notes. “Our goal is to be closer to the public, with more stations, better tools, and constant readiness.”

Operations, community policing, and benefits



For communities living near Lake Kivu, Lake Burera, or Lake Mugesera, the Marine Unit’s impact has been transformative. Jean Baptiste Nsengiyumva, a fisherman in Rutsiro’s Kigeyo Sector, remembers a time when waters were ruled by chaos.

“We were often attacked by thieves—armed with machetes, stealing our nets, engines, even fish,” he recalls. “People died. But since the Marine Police came, everything changed. We feel safe now.” He praises recent operations in which police recovered stolen boat engines and returned them to cooperatives.

Florida Mukamazera, who leads an association of fishing cooperatives in Rubavu, agrees. Her members once feared crime on the water, but that fear has faded. “Police check for life jackets, boat safety, and compliance with passenger limits,” she says. “They respond quickly and take crime seriously.”



Despite improvements, some crimes remain persistent—illegal fishing, assaults, and border-related smuggling among them. “We still face challenges,” says ACP Butera. “Some try to cross borders illegally. Others fish without licenses, conflicts between fishermen among others.”

The unit tackles these issues with public cooperation. “We can’t reach every place at once,” he says. “That’s why community reports are important. The people living by these lakes are our first line of defense.”

The unit also works closely with water users—fishermen, transporters, tour operators, and researchers. Through education and trust, they help reduce accidents and detect crime early.

Future prospects

Looking ahead, the unit is intensifying its public education efforts. Fishermen’s cooperatives are being trained on water safety, boat maintenance, and emergency response. Partnerships with local leaders are helping identify suspicious activities early.

As Nsengiyumva puts it, casting his net as the sky brightens over Lake Kivu: “We’re no longer alone out here. The lake still holds danger, but now—so do the people who guard it.”

With support from the public and ongoing investment in equipment and training, Rwanda’s Police Marine Unit is quietly redefining water safety in a region where water often meets danger.



INSIDE RWANDA POLICE'S HIGH-TECH SHIFT TO SAFER, SMARTER POLICING



“According to the Global Cybersecurity Index by the International Telecommunication Union, Rwanda ranks in the top cybersecurity tier globally—with a near-perfect score.”

In a fast-moving world, effective policing goes beyond physical presence, it's about being swift, smart, and secure in how services reach citizens.

Rwanda National Police (RNP) has been making a good shift in digitizing core operations like road safety management, driving and licensing services, motor vehicle inspections, criminal investigations while confronting modern cybercrime threats with advanced tech.

Gone are the days of long queues, paper exams, and lost licenses. With systems now automated and interconnected, the RNP is redefining efficiency—and building trust along the way.

Policing with a digital backbone

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Oscar Sakindi, who heads the Information Technology Department, says technology has become central to Rwanda's policing strategy.

“We can't have an officer on every street, but we do have cameras and drones monitoring key zones,” he says. These tools, especially in Kigali



and hard-to-reach areas, help detect crime in real time and support investigations with solid evidence.

Beyond physical crime, cyber threats are also on the radar. “Criminals evolve with tech, so we must stay a step ahead,” ACP Sakindi adds. RNP now runs cyber-monitoring units and uses

national networks to track malicious online activity.

The Musanze-based National Police College (NPC) has also introduced information security into its curriculum, with officers and civil servants trained regularly in cyber awareness.

The results are showing. According to the Global Cybersecurity Index by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Rwanda ranks in the top cybersecurity tier globally—with a near-perfect score.

Testing and licensing, from paper trails to digital track

Perhaps nowhere is this digital visible than in the Testing and Licensing Department. A decade ago, acquiring a driving license was a paper-based process.

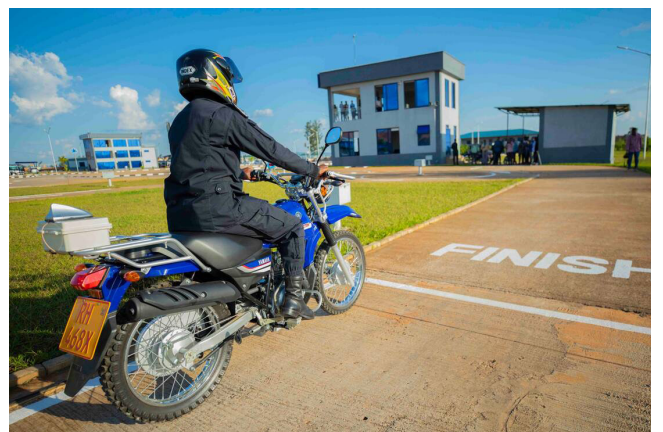
“We had to travel to provinces with stacks of paper exams,” recalls ACP Dr. Steven Rukumba, head of the department. “Correction took weeks, some licenses would get lost, and the process dragged for more than 21 days.”

Now, candidates apply through Irembo, the government’s digital services portal, where they book exam slots, and get tested electronically.

At the Busanza Automated Driving Test Centre, candidates complete driving tests without an officer in the vehicle—motorcycles and cars are monitored remotely, and results are immediate. ACP Dr. Rukumba notes that digitalization has improved service delivery by 90 percent on their end, and 99 percent from the citizens’ perspective. “We now operate 17 automated centers across the country, serving over 3,000 applicants daily,” he says.

One such applicant is Jean Paul Karamaga, who recalls how his older brother lost a paper license in the wash sometimes back. “Now, I applied online, paid on my phone, chose my exam date, and got my results instantly,” he says. “It took 20 minutes.

Technology made the whole experience smooth and transparent.”





Road safety in the digital age

The Traffic and Road Safety Department has also gone digital. With automated speed cameras, digital fine systems, and a revamped approach to accident investigations, enforcement has become more precise.

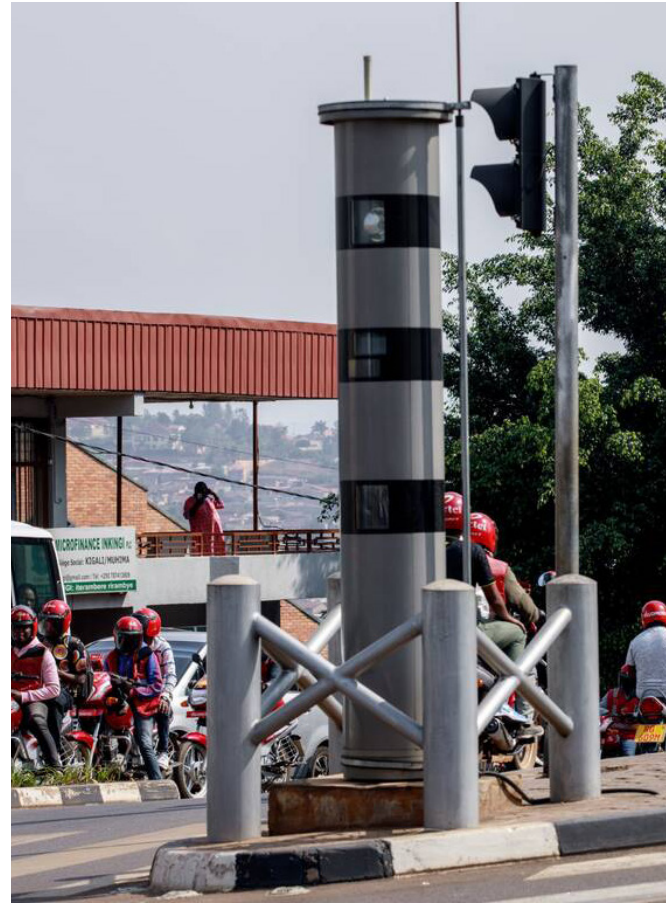
ACP Gerald Mpayimana, who heads the department, says they've moved from handwritten tickets to smart enforcement tools. "We now fine speeding motorists based on camera data, seize and auction vehicles digitally, and record violations electronically," he explains. This transition has raised the department's digital service capacity to 85 percent.



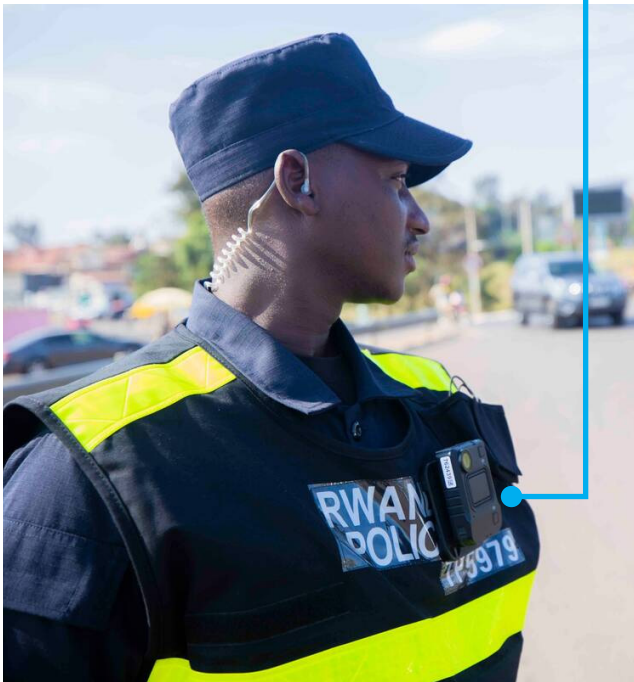
Technology hasn't just streamlined internal systems—it's also made the force more accountable. "Body-worn cameras now help us tackle police misconduct and corruption during traffic stops," ACP Mpayimana adds.

Still evolving, but on the right track

The Rwanda National Police acknowledges that the digital journey is ongoing. But from cybercrime to licensing and traffic safety, the pace of progress is undeniable. Every automated process means less bureaucracy, fewer loopholes, and more trust between citizens and law enforcement. In a region where efficient policing is often the exception, Rwanda is quietly making digital excellence the new standard.



ROADY SAFETY BODY CAMERA



THE GUARDIANS OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITY: RWANDA'S COMMUNITY-LED APPROACH TO PUBLIC SAFETY



As evening falls in the clean and green Kigali, the sun sinks beneath the horizon, casting a warm glow over the city as its lights begin to twinkle. In this tranquil setting, a dedicated group of citizens takes to the streets—not equipped with sirens or official insignia, but rather clad in reflective vests and armed with flashlights, driven by a steadfast commitment to safeguard their communities.

These ordinary individuals embody Rwanda's spirit of vigilance, diligently watching over their neighborhoods, one attentive glance at a time.

In a time when crime adapts

faster than resources can keep up, Rwandans are proving that safety doesn't always begin at a police station—it starts at home, on your street, on your social media, and within your sense of civic duty. Across Kigali and four provinces of our country, a grassroots revolution in public safety is underway. From youth volunteers to digital neighborhood watch networks, citizens are not just supporting law enforcement—they are reshaping what it means to be safe.

As the Inspector General of Police (IGP) CG Felix Namuhoranye put it: "Security is everyone's responsibility; it



is a shared duty. Criminals live among us — they strike within our communities, harming the very people of the same community. They aim to disrupt peace we all value. That is why every citizen must take an

active role in safeguarding their neighborhood, standing united with law enforcement to prevent and confront crime making the first and strongest line of defense.”

The volunteers are often the first to show up at community events, share safety information, and mobilize peers during emergencies. They are not just preventing crime—they are creating a culture of care.

“Ironto ry’Umwuga”: The Night Shift Heroes

In many Rwandan villages, the hum of nightly patrols has become a familiar sound. Known as Ironto ry’Umwuga—professional community night patrols—these community-led teams take charge of safety. Armed with flashlights and whistles, they navigate their neighborhoods during peak hours, acting as first responders and the community’s eyes and ears.

If safety is the foundation of progress, Rwanda’s youth are its builders. With over 1 million members, the Rwanda Youth Volunteers in Community Policing (RYVCP) are making waves of success and community development nationwide. These young people—students, professionals, and future leaders—are participating in awareness campaigns, crime detection, and educational outreach.

Digital Vigilance: Social Media as the New Walkie-Talkie

In an age where smartphones are everywhere, neighborhoods connect faster and smarter. Social media platforms with hundreds of active members are being used to report suspicious activity, coordinate patrols, and issue safety alerts. They are our online soldiers and law enforcers.



“We realized we can’t expect the police to be everywhere, every time,” says irondo sector commander from Nyarugenge. “So we became our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers.”

These patrols are not ad hoc efforts. They are organized, locally funded, and supported by local authorities and Rwanda National Police (RNP), reflecting a partnership model that values cooperation over command.

Youth Volunteers: Over a Million Strong Force Multiplier





“Someone saw a strange car outside our estate at midnight,” recounts a resident of Remera. “Within minutes, others chimed in, and a patrol was on the way. That’s the power of the community and digital watchdogs.”

These digital platforms—also popular in Rwanda’s secondary cities—are closing the gap between awareness and action. Social media has become a vital force multiplier in crime detection and prevention.

Training Tomorrow’s First Responders

Safety is not just about being vigilant—it is also about being prepared. That is why Rwanda National Police and partners are rolling out training sessions on first aid, self-defense, and emergency response across the country.

Workshops on fire safety, road safety awareness, and disaster response are empowering citizens with skills that once belonged only to professionals and particular institutions. It is not just a transfer of knowledge—it is a transformation of mindsets.

A Nation of Bystanders and Protectors

What Rwanda is witnessing is not merely a campaign—it is a cultural shift. Security experts

and sociologists agree that when people feel responsible for their surroundings, crime has little space to breathe.

“A web of accountability is forming,” says a sociologist at the National Police College. “It’s not just about catching wrongdoers—it’s creating communities where wrongdoing doesn’t stand a chance.”

Moreover, that web is being reinforced from the top down. The Ministry of Interior encourages citizen engagement, commending community policing committees for their vigilance and urging the youth to uphold the values of integrity and responsibility.

More than Peace—Pride

For many citizens, the reason they patrol, report, and volunteer is not complicated. It is pride.

“We want our kids to grow up safely,” says a mother of two, tightening her reflective vest before heading out on patrol. “And if that means walking a few hours every evening to protect our home, then so be it.”

Her words echo the spirit of a country writing its safety narrative—one act of community courage at a time. In Rwanda, safety has a new face, and it is yours, mine, and ours.



FROM GATEKEEPERS TO PROFESSIONALS: HOW RWANDA NATIONAL POLICE IS SHAPING PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICE



At first glance, the men and women standing at the gates of banks, supermarkets, and construction sites may look like ordinary guards. But behind their company-tagged uniforms and watchful eyes lies a quiet transformation that often goes unnoticed by the public.

Security and Private Security Service Providers (ISPSP) Department. Tasked with bringing order and professionalism to the private security industry, the ISPSP is reshaping these guards into a credible, disciplined front line in the country's broader crime prevention strategy.

providers of basic guarding services; they are now indispensable. The police may be the primary custodians of public safety, but they can't be everywhere, every time, and that's where the ISPSP comes in.

From chaos to coordination

That transformation has been steered by a powerful arm of the Rwanda National Police (RNP)—the Infrastructure

In a country where rapid development continues, private security companies have become more than just

Established back in 2014, the department was born from a simple but urgent realization: Rwanda needed to clean up and professionalize its growing private security industry, or risk having it undermine public safety altogether.

According to CP John Bosco Kabera, the Commissioner in charge of ISPSP, the sector has come a long way. "There were companies operating without licenses, guards with no training, even cases of abuse and negligence, and that wasn't acceptable, for a country that takes its security seriously."

"Today, things are different.



From its base at the RNP General Headquarters in Kacyiru, the ISPSP now oversees a vast network of private security actors across the country. Its officers are deployed at regional and district levels, conducting inspections, verifying licenses, monitoring training compliance, and investigating misconduct,” he said.

There are 15 licensed companies and over 75 cooperatives currently active in the sector, ensuring that every security operation meets legal and ethical standards.



At the heart of the department’s work, there is a strong focus on professional standards, starting with training. According to the Law No. 16bis/2020, any individual seeking to work as a private security guard must first complete at least three months of initial training at a centre approved by the Police. This training goes beyond basic physical readiness to include modules on Rwandan law, the rights of citizens, customer service, surveillance techniques, and the use of communication equipment.

Every guard you see at a commercial building or public facility must have passed through a standard, police-vetted programme. The ISPSP department does not just hand out licenses, they have been building capacity.

A partnership that works

Private companies say this support is not just formal, it’s practical and constant. Mathias Mbabazi, Director of Top Security Company, says the ISPSP Department is key to their operations. “You cannot provide security without working with the relevant institution. RNP is our main supervisor, they help us fulfill our responsibilities, give us guidance and support, and make sure we comply with the law. They even help us choose and train guards who are healthy and ready to

work well.”

He noted that thanks to improved training standards, “you can already see the difference in performance.”

At Guardsmark Security Company, the experience is the same. Vasco Butera, who oversees training, said, “**The police assist us in screening recruits, guiding training, and even checking on the wellbeing of our guards. Their teams monitor us day and night, from uniform standards to how our guards behave. Whenever we face challenges, we know we’re not alone. The relationship is strong.**”



Beyond training, strengthening the system

The department doesn’t stop at training new recruits. It also conducts periodic refresher courses, encourages audits within companies, and provides advisory support to infrastructure owners, especially those managing high-value or strategic installations. From the interior of stadiums to the gates of industrial parks, ISPSP officers make sure security is more than just a visible presence, it’s an effective deterrent. But the journey has not been without setbacks.





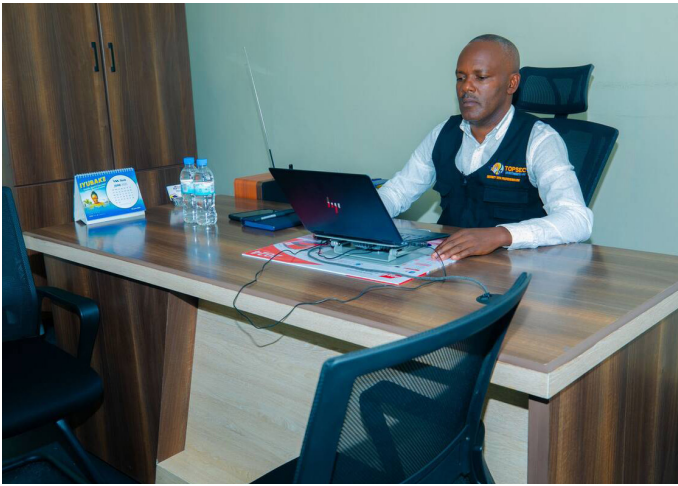
CP Kabera is candid about the challenges the department has faced. “We still encounter guards who sleep on duty, show up drunk, use phones while working, or fail to conduct basic searches. Some companies bypass training requirements or deploy unlicensed guards altogether,” he says. “But that’s exactly why this department exists, to detect, correct, and if necessary, punish.”

Indeed, enforcement is a critical part of the ISPSP’s mandate. Companies found violating the law risk suspension, withdrawal of licenses, or even prosecution. The department frequently reminds providers of offences outlined in the law governing private security services, such as giving false information when applying for certification or operating without approval from

the RNP. These are not minor infractions; they are treated as serious threats to national safety. Yet the department also operates on the belief that regulation must go hand in hand with mentorship. It actively works with security companies to help them improve, offering guidance on staffing, operations, and use of modern security technologies.

That approach is already yielding results. Many private firms now boast better-trained personnel, stricter internal oversight, and improved relationships with the communities they serve. More importantly, citizens themselves are beginning to trust private guards, not just as watchmen, but as legitimate actors in Rwanda’s broader security framework. As Rwanda continues to grow, building more

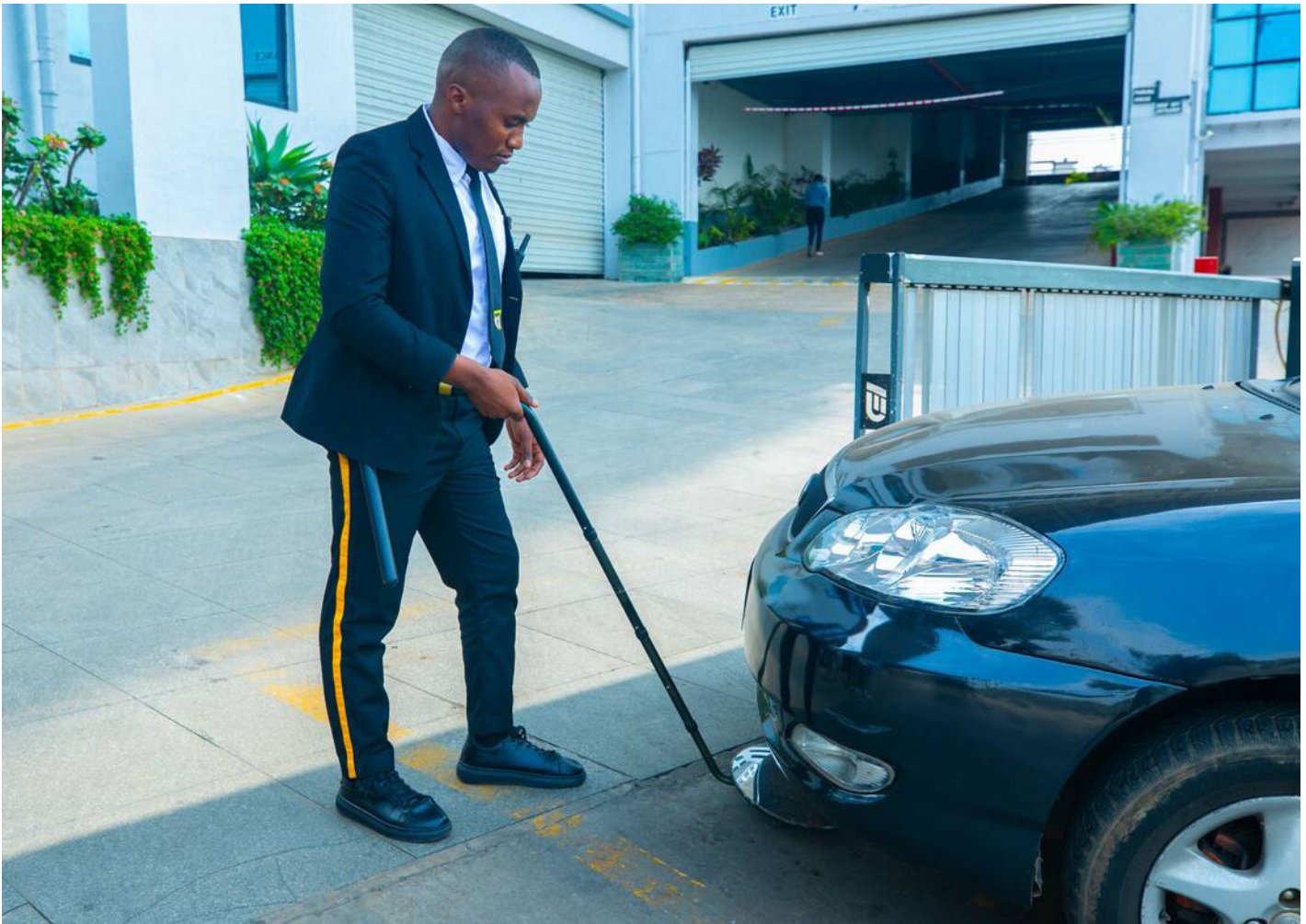




Securing the future

roads, schools, industrial parks, and public institutions, the role of private security is only expected to expand. The ISPSP Department is preparing for that future by creating a structured, accountable, and professional industry that can keep pace with the country's ambitions. So next time you walk past a uniformed guard at

a shopping mall or government office, remember this, they're not standing there by accident. Behind them is a rigorous process of training, regulation, and oversight. And behind that, a quiet but resolute department of the Rwanda National Police working to ensure that security in Rwanda isn't just a promise, it's a practiced standard.



ETHIOPIA: RWANDA SHINES AT EAPCCO GAMES, WINS 32 MEDALS



Rwanda clinched 32 medals, including 10 gold, 8 silver and 14 bronze at the 5th edition of the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) Games, which

concluded on May 3, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Rwanda, which participated in only three disciplines (handball, shooting and taekwondo), emerged the second overall best after Ethiopia with Kenya

in third position.

However, Rwanda claimed gold in both handball and shooting. This is the fourth consecutive year that Rwanda National Police (RNP) handball team, which beat Ethiopia 40-22 in the finals, has won gold.



The Games bring together police teams from 14 member states of the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) to compete in various sports disciplines.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Felix Namuhoranye, who is also the chair of EAPCCO, lauded countries and teams that participated in the week-long competitions, that featured

various sports disciplines.

“Each of you displayed more than just skill—you’ve shown dedication, integrity, and the spirit of cooperation that defines our police institutions,” IGP Namuhoranye said.

He thanked the Ethiopian Federal Police for successfully hosting the EAPCCO Games. The rotational competition, he said, is also a platform for deepening partnerships and building friendships that enhance regional peace and security.

EAPCCO GAMES 2025



“The friendships established, the experiences shared, and the knowledge gained here will strengthen our collective capacity to serve our communities better.”

“Let’s carry these lessons forward and continue to work together in building a safer, stronger, and more united region,” IGP Namuhoranye said.

Commissioner General of the Ethiopian Federal Police, Demelash Gebremichael, emphasized the deeper value of the Games beyond sportsmanship.

“EAPCCO Games are not only for entertainment but also to foster collaboration and professionalism among police forces in our region,” Commissioner General Demelash, said..



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