

THE POLICE

MAGAZINE



“ Rwanda National Police Bids Farewell to 74 Retiring Officers ”





“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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From queues to clicks: How Testing and Licensing Department resolved the mystery of owning driving Licenses



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For years, earning a driver’s license in Rwanda felt like a never ending hustle. It has been about endless queues, long travel to test centers, delays in results, and paperwork that tested patience as much as driving skills.

Many saw the process as cumbersome and intimidating, while others argued that Rwanda had simply set the bar high to ensure discipline and safety on the roads. That mystery has been steadily unraveled.

Through reforms led by the Testing and Licensing Department of the Rwanda National Police (RNP), the journey to securing a license has become faster, smarter, and more accessible. Today,

applying for a permit no longer means wasting weeks in line. With a few clicks, citizens can schedule tests, pay fees, and even choose where to collect their licenses.

A department born out of necessity

Initially, licensing was handled by the Traffic and Road Safety Department, but as Rwanda's population and road traffic grew, the system was pushed to more demand. It became clear that a dedicated structure was needed.

In 2021, the independent Testing and Licensing Department was established. "The institution saw the need for a unit dedicated to licensing and upholding high standards," explained Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Dr. Steven Rukumba, Commissioner of the department. "This has improved our capacity and efficiency."

Today, the department operates 17 testing grounds for permanent licenses and an equal number of computer-based centers for provisional permits. The numbers are impressive: in July alone, 62,136 applicants were tested. Across 2024, the figure reached 811,249.

A legal mandate with national reach

The mandate of the Rwanda National Police in matters of licensing is clearly established in national law. Article 34 of Law n° 026/2023 of 17/05/2023 governing the Rwanda National Police, published in the Official Gazette n° 22 Bis of 29/05/2023, stipulates that the Rwanda National Police is responsible for issuing licenses, including those required for driving vehicles.

This legal provision provides the foundation for the work of the Testing and Licensing Department, ensuring that the issuance of driving permits is not only an administrative function but also a statutory obligation. It



ACP Dr. Steven Rukumba, Commissioner for Testing and Licensing Department. To him the institution prioritized and worked hard on building a licensing system that is faster, smarter and accessible

affirms the department's role as both a service provider to citizens and a critical actor in safeguarding road safety nationwide.

Technology at the heart of reform

The turning point has been the adoption of digital systems. The Busanza automated testing center in Kigali, the first of its kind, uses machines to determine results, minimizing human involvement.

"Busanza has become a model. People trust it 100% because results are based purely on performance, without bias," ACP Dr. Rukumba explained. Plans are in place to semi-automate all permanent testing grounds.

Digitalization has also redefined the applicant's experience. Through Irembo (www.irembo.gov.rw), Rwanda's national e-governance platform, applicants can register, pay, and track progress online. Provisional tests are computer-based with instant results. Once successful, learners move to accredited driving schools for practice before returning for the permanent license exam. Licenses can then be collected at any of the 30 District Police Unit offices nationwide.

"Today, an applicant has control of the entire process, from registration to selecting the testing center and even where to collect their license," said SSP Gad Ntakirutimana, Director of IT in the department.

Challenges along the road

Nevertheless, not everything has been smooth. Some applicants still struggle with digital systems, while brokers sometimes misregister candidates. "We discourage use of brokers. Anyone able should handle the process themselves for accuracy and convenience," SSP Ntakirutimana cautioned. Paper-based support remains available to bridge the gap.



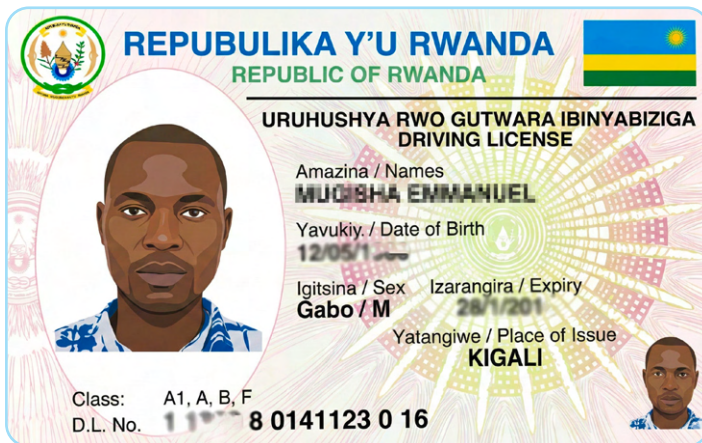
A vehicle in- built system that communicates with Control Tower to help candidates execute instructions before or during the test

A license as a pillar of safety

Beyond convenience, licensing is treated as a pillar of road safety. “Licensing ensures drivers have the skills and discipline to protect lives. Many accidents are caused by human error, so licensing directly contributes to safer roads,” said SP Emmanuel Kayigi, spokesperson of the Traffic and Road Safety Department.

The emphasis is not only on efficiency but also on producing competent drivers who understand the responsibility of protecting lives and property every time they sit behind the wheel.

It is in this context that applicants like Nizeyimana Ignace notice the transformation most clearly. Having gone through the old system in 2012 and recently applying for a supplementary license, his experience tells the story best.



SP Emmanuel Kayigi, the Spokesperson for Traffic and Road Safety Department speaks on the importance of conducting rigorous tests to have competent drivers who understand responsibilities in protecting lives

therefore more than a service, it is an achievement with real impact on people’s lives.

Looking ahead

The TL Department is, more than ever determined to keep improving. “We are building a licensing system for the future, faster, smarter, and more accessible,” ACP Dr. Rukumba said.

“At the end of the day, a driving license is not just permission to drive, it is a responsibility to protect life and property on our roads.”

“Back in 2012, registering was difficult. There were delays, long travel, and endless paperwork. Today, I can do everything from my phone, registration, payment, and scheduling. The automated system is far better. This technology really beats the old, primitive way,” he said.

For Nizeyimana and many others, a driving permit is more than just a document. It is access to opportunities, sometimes even a livelihood. Making the process efficient and transparent is

What was once considered a difficult and confusing ordeal has now become a modern, trusted process.

Rwanda has not only resolved the mystery of owning a driving license but also set a benchmark for how technology and discipline can reshape public service.



For definitive driving test, Busanza Automated driving Test Center provides vehicles and motorcycles to be used during test as one of the services prepaid for by the candidate



Busanza automated Driving Test Center uses a computerized system that plays a key role in the promotion and improvement of service delivery

Rwanda, Indonesian Police forces sign agreement to enhance bilateral cooperation



The signing ceremony was also witnessed by Rwanda's Ambassador to Indonesia, Sheikh Abdul Karim Harerimana.

The MoU established a framework for collaboration in combating transnational organized crime, sharing information and expertise, training, and other capacity-building programmes aimed at enhancing policing capabilities between the two countries.

The partnership marked a significant step in bilateral relations between the two law enforcement institutions, reflecting the growing commitment

Rwanda National Police (RNP) and the Indonesian National Police, on October 6, 2025, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Police cooperation.

The cooperation pact was signed in Jakarta, Indonesian between Inspector General of Police (IGP), Felix Namuhoranye and General Listyo Sigit Prabowo, the Indonesian Chief of Police.



by both countries to strengthen international police cooperation in addressing evolving security challenges through joint efforts and knowledge exchange.

IGP Namuhoranye, who was on a four-day visit to Indonesia at the invitation of his host, also toured the Indonesian Police College, where he interacted with over 300 commissioned officers attending various courses.

The engagement provided an opportunity to share experiences and explore avenues for future cooperation in police education and professional development.





Joint operations crack down on counterfeit goods to protect consumers



A coordinated joint operation code named **USALAMA XI-2025**, conducted across the country led to the seizure of assorted quantities of substandard, counterfeit and outlawed goods.

The five-day operations were conducted from October 13, by Rwanda National Police (RNP), Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB), the Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), and the City of Kigali, among others.

Usalama, meaning 'safety' in Swahili, is conducted periodically in Interpol member countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, to tackle serious and high-impact crimes.

During the operations, more than 19000 litres of substandard and

counterfeit alcoholic beverages worth over Frw67 million, were seized.

Also seized are expired soft drinks and foods including spoiled and uninspected meat valued at over Frw36 million, as well as outlawed cosmetics, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and pharmaceuticals.

A number of factories producing substandard alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages operating illegally, were also closed and owners arrested. At least 72 people were arrested across the country, including 14 in City of Kigali.

In total, over Frw107 million in fines were imposed on companies and individuals involved in producing or selling substandard or counterfeit goods.

The RNP spokesperson, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Boniface Rutikanga, said the Police will continue collaborating with institutions and the public to fight such crimes.

“We will keep working with partners and citizens to prevent and combat these offenses,” he said, adding that awareness campaigns will continue to educate the public on the dangers of producing and consuming such harmful products.



He further urged consumers to buy only from authorized outlets, noting that purchasing from approved sources makes it easier to trace illegal goods and hold offenders accountable.

One of the factories closed is Joyland company Ltd, producing Salama juice, operating in Mageragere, Nyarugenge District, which was found operating in deplorable hygienic conditions with its juice now deemed unsafe for consumption.

Dr. Thierry Murangira, the RIB spokesperson, said some individuals were under investigations for varied crimes, including production and sell of harmful products, and forgery.

Dr. Eric Nyirimigabo from FDA warned that substandard drinks, food, and medicines pose serious health risks.





“These products can cause various diseases. People should avoid them to protect their health but also report those who produce or sell them,” he said.

Emma Claudine Ntirenganya, Director of Communication and Education for the City of

Kigali, called on local authorities to enforce hygiene standards.

“As local leaders, we must monitor hygiene in all areas, including factories and production sites, and take the lead in ensuring cleanliness everywhere,” she said.



Rwanda's relentless war on drugs: Police and communities are turning the tide



The battle against drugs in Rwanda has often been a coordinated fight where police, communities, and even former users are rewriting the script of survival, recovery, and resilience.

Between June to August, last year, Police operations together with communities intercepted over 300 kilograms of cannabis, traces of heroin, and litres of the outlawed gin known locally as Kanyanga.

These are not just numbers; they represent lives that could have been poisoned, families that could have been shattered, and youth that might have slipped further into addiction.





What do numbers say?

Quick statistics show that over 680 people were arrested last year for allegedly trafficking, transporting and distributing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Beyond the arrests, the impact of these efforts is visible. In some parts of the country, trafficking and abuse of kanyanga have fallen by nearly 80 percent, largely due to vigilant communities and tighter border controls.

At a national level, Rwanda has also invested heavily in rehabilitation, with more than 6,200 people currently receiving treatment in four centres. Among them are over 1,500 individuals recovering from cannabis use and hundreds more battling heroin or multiple substances.

How drugs trap the youth

Experts agree: drugs rewrite the brain. Whether smoked, injected, or swallowed in pill form, they distort judgment, fuel violence, and plant seeds of crime. In Rwanda, it is the youth who fall victim the most. From theft to assaults, drugs are often the silent instigator.

“It’s a cycle,” explains Dr. Rukundo Arthur, a psychiatrist. “Addiction damages the mind, destabilizes behavior, and if not treated, it becomes a chronic mental illness.”

This is why the Rwanda National Police has gone beyond arrests. They are dismantling networks while simultaneously detoxing the young and linking them to rehabilitation programs to give them a better future.



Countermeasures in place play a key role in detecting and apprehending drug traffickers who use various tactics



Policing with prevention

According to Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Boniface Rutikanga, the RNP spokesperson, police are not only seizing drugs but also preventing them from reaching vulnerable users.

Smugglers often sneak narcotics into the country through porous borders. Yet tighter surveillance, intelligence-sharing, and the cooperation of local communities have helped corner many traffickers.

More importantly, prevention has taken center stage. Police run school campaigns, radio talks, village meetings, and social media awareness drives. Youth volunteers in community policing now number over two million, spreading the message and spotting suspects. Anti-crime clubs in schools also keep students alert to the dangers of drugs.

“We are constantly raising awareness in schools, churches, workplaces, and through rehabilitation centers,” ACP Rutikanga notes. “The goal is not just to punish, but to prevent and heal.”

Anti-drugs campaign awareness in schools is one of the key priorities of Rwanda National Police especially at the end of school terms before students head to their families for holidays

These campaigns have not only intercepted drugs but also disrupted the cycle of youth addiction. Most of those arrested are under 30, a group often hardest hit in the region.

Dealing with tactics, tricks, and the chase

According to police officials, traffickers are not without creativity. Some disguise drugs under fake pregnancies, others use children, or modify car parts to hide contraband. But for every trick, there is a countermeasure. The Anti-Narcotics Unit has stepped up its capacity, investing in technology and training while keeping its ear to the ground through community tip-offs.

From addiction to advocacy

Iradukunda Trésor knows the cost of drugs too well. Once a user, he spent two years at Iwawa Rehabilitation Center.

“I realized I was drinking poison with my own hands,” he recalls. Today, he is an agent of change, counseling youth to step away before it is too late. His story echoes Rwanda’s belief that rehabilitation is as critical as policing.

Smuggling, distributing and selling narcotics like cannabis fall under crimes that are severely punished, with offenders risking life imprisonment and heavy fines

According to the country’s laws, very severe narcotics like cannabis fall under the toughest category, where offenders risk life imprisonment and heavy fines. The law was designed not just to punish but to deter anyone from flirting with the trade.

A collective shield

While no country has beaten the scourge entirely, Rwanda has moved beyond reactive policing. It is showing that with political will, community ownership, and a comprehensive strategy, drug abuse isn’t an inevitable curse, it can be curtailed.

From crackdowns at borders to the patient work in schools and rehab centers, Rwanda is proving that fighting drugs requires more than handcuffs. It requires education, partnerships, and above all, hope for the young who might otherwise lose their future.

In this war, the message is clear: Rwanda is not just seizing drugs. It is seizing back its youth from the jaws of addiction.

Smuggling, distributing and selling narcotics like cannabis fall under crimes that are severely punished, with offenders risking life imprisonment and heavy fines

GERAYO AMAHORO: Rwanda National Police, partners launch “Turindane” road safety campaign in Rubavu

Rwanda National Police (RNP), in partnership with other government institutions, in November last year, launched the “Turindane Tugereyo Amahoro” road safety campaign, calling on all road users to protect one another and uphold shared responsibility on the road.

The countrywide road safety awareness campaign is under the theme: “Let us protect one another to arrive safely.”

The campaign was launched by the Minister of State for Infrastructure, Jean de Dieu Uwhanganye alongside the Inspector General of Police (IGP), CG Felix Namuhoranye.

It was also attended by the Governor





of Western Province, Jean Bosco Ntibitura and representatives from security organs and local government.

Addressing motorists and pedestrians in Rubavu District, Minister Uwiganganye emphasized that Rwanda's growing road infrastructure is meant to facilitate development and connectivity, not tragedy.

"The leadership gave us better roads to work and develop, not to lose lives," he said. "Obey the rules and regulations governing road use, protect each other, and yourself."

He further highlighted that road safety aligns with environmental responsibility, urging drivers to maintain their vehicles and comply with emission inspection requirements.

"Ensuring your vehicles are in roadworthy condition and undergoing regular emission inspections is also part of protecting others — because clean and well-maintained vehicles contribute to safe and healthy roads," he added.



In his remarks, IGP Namuhoranye explained that the Turindane Tugereyo Amahoro campaign extends beyond commercial drivers to include all categories of road users.

“We commenced this campaign here in Rubavu where trucks, public transport and private vehicles park in large numbers – Turindane means taking responsibility to protect others as you protect yourself,” CG Namuhoranye said.

He reminded public transport drivers of the heavy responsibility they bear daily.

“You are carrying families that have a future, plans, and expectations ahead. Recognize them all and help them reach safely,” he urged.

The IGP warned against behaviors that commonly cause accidents, such as fatigue, drunkenness, speeding, reckless overtaking, phone use while driving, and poor vehicle maintenance.





Governor Ntibitura, on his part, noted that the region's mountainous terrain and cross-border traffic make it prone to road accidents.

“In the past three months alone, our province registered 341 road injuries and 26 fatalities. The terrain requires us to be extremely cautious,” Governor Ntibitura said.





He called for continued collaboration among law enforcement agencies, transport operators, and the public to curb road accidents and save lives.

The Turindane Tugereyo Amahoro campaign is a continuation of the national Gerayo Amahoro initiative spearheaded by the RNP aimed at fostering a collective sense of road safety responsibility among all road users.

The ongoing phase emphasizes education, engagement, and enforcement — particularly targeting heavy vehicle drivers, motorcyclists, cyclists, and pedestrians — to reduce accidents and ensure that everyone reaches their destination safely.





Citizen Power and Security: The story of Rwanda National Police partnership with Youth Volunteers

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Born from a bold idea to involve youngsters in crime prevention, contribution to human development programs and assisting law enforcers, youth volunteerism has now become one of the strongest pillars in the country's pursuit of social transformation, lasting peace and security.

Many have seen them wearing their fluorescent ‘yellow or lime green reflective vests’ at public events, from the **COVID-19** response period, to the recent **Global Cycling Championship** held last September in Kigali. Their visibility reflects not only dedication and successes but also a quiet discipline that has redefined civic responsibility among Rwanda’s youth.

Public perception has always been one of admiration. The work carried out by these young men and women is widely praised. Yet, many still wonder how the government managed to convince such a large number of young people to work tirelessly without pay. As their name suggests, they are volunteers.

The explanation is both simple and systemic. According to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), 27 percent of Rwanda's population is youth; defined as between 16–30 years old, an energetic workforce eager to contribute, learn, and shape the future. Channeling this energy toward national security and social well-being was not an accident but a deliberate policy choice.

From vision to action

The idea of youth involvement in security matters took formal shape in 2015 when the Rwanda National Police (RNP), through its Community Policing Department, began working with young volunteers to promote awareness and cooperation in crime prevention.

“The youth are the strength of a nation. They can build fast, but when misguided, they can also destroy fast,” said Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Teddy Ruyenzi, who heads the department. “That is why we engaged them early, to channel their potential towards safeguarding peace and promoting development.”

Since then, the partnership has grown into one of the country's most effective civic movements. Today, more than two million youth volunteers (2million+) are active across Rwanda, working hand in hand with the Police and local leaders to promote safety, discipline, and community welfare.



In collaboration with security organs, Youth Volunteers support families in enhancing nutrition through community sensitization and the establishment of kitchen gardens

How the partnership works

Under the Community Policing framework, the Rwanda National Police established a clear structure for coordinating youth volunteer activities. Officers from the department are deployed at regional and district levels to oversee operations, conduct inspections, and provide regular training sessions.

The community work/ Umuganda in Gasogi/Gasabo district, brought together members of the public, security organs and youth volunteers in a collective activity of tree planting to fight soil erosion



“A lot has changed over time,” ACP Ruyenzi explained. “We have been monitoring their performance, supported their leadership, and ensure they receive the skills needed to perform effectively.”

Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Jackline Urujeni, who heads the Youth Volunteers Coordinating Office at the department described them as a living example of citizen centered security.

“Most volunteers are students and workers, future leaders who have proved their strength in contributing to the country’s security and development,” CSP Urujeni said. “They have played a key role in fighting crime, preventing accidents, and even supporting national efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Service beyond policing

The contribution of youth volunteers extends beyond crime prevention. Working closely with the Police, local authorities, and the community, they engage in activities that directly improve people’s lives, from building houses for vulnerable families to rehabilitating genocide memorials and promoting health insurance registration.

“Security is not just about patrols or arrests,” CSP Urujeni noted. “It is about solidarity, compassion, and supporting those in need. That is the spirit these youth volunteers represent.”

Short term joint initiatives are often organized where youth volunteers work alongside Police officers and local residents, digging kitchen gardens (uturima tw’igikoni), rebuilding damaged homes, or helping genocide survivors.

These efforts bridge the gap between law enforcement and community service.

Richard Kubana, the Director General at the Ministry of Local Government in charge of community mobilization and youth volunteers, noted some of the significant impacts countrywide in promoting security and development.

“Going by our analysis, since 2013 to this date, the monetary value for services provided by Youth Volunteers is estimated at around 64 billion Rwandan Francs.

Building houses for disadvantaged families falls within separate activities youth volunteers are regularly engaged to improve people’s lives

During the recent nationwide outreach dubbed “Youth Volunteers Month,” which concluded on November 6, 2025, activities included the construction of 234 new houses and the repair of 516 others.



Building houses for disadvantaged families falls within separate activities youth volunteers are regularly engaged to improve people’s lives

In addition, 1,337 new toilets were built and 448 rehabilitated, 5,066 kitchen gardens were established, and nine cows were donated to disadvantaged families.

It is also worth noting that during the UCI World championships conducted in Rwanda in September, over 500 members of the RYVCP were deployed across the roads in the City of Kigali, to help riders bike freely and safely.

Voices from the field

For Eric Bayisenge, the National Secretary of youth volunteers, the cooperation with the Rwanda National Police remains the cornerstone of their success.

“We cannot achieve our goals without the support of the Rwanda National Police,” he said. “Through the Community Policing Department and in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, we receive guidance, follow up, and training that enable us to fulfill our mission effectively.”

Yvette Uwase, who is in charge of promoting youth volunteers’ activities at the secretariat, shared a similar view. “Police support us whenever we face challenges in our work,” she said. “Our main focus is preventing crime, assisting vulnerable people, monitoring community patrols (ironondo), and encouraging families to join health insurance schemes.”

Building professionalism and trust

The Community Policing Department continues to strengthen youth volunteerism through systematic reforms that ensure accountability, training, and performance evaluation.

“We now have a national database of youth volunteers who are disciplined, visionary, and ready to play their part in keeping Rwanda free from crime,” ACP Ruyenzi said. “Our focus now is on improving timely reporting and professionalism to make their work even more impactful.”



As Rwanda continues to grow, with expanding cities, more roads, and larger public events, the need for organized community based vigilance will only increase. The department plans to further build capacity and integrate technology to support their operations.

Youth volunteerism in Rwanda has evolved from a small awareness campaign into a nationwide movement for peace and accountability. It has

shown that the country's greatest resource, its young people, can be a force for both security and human development.

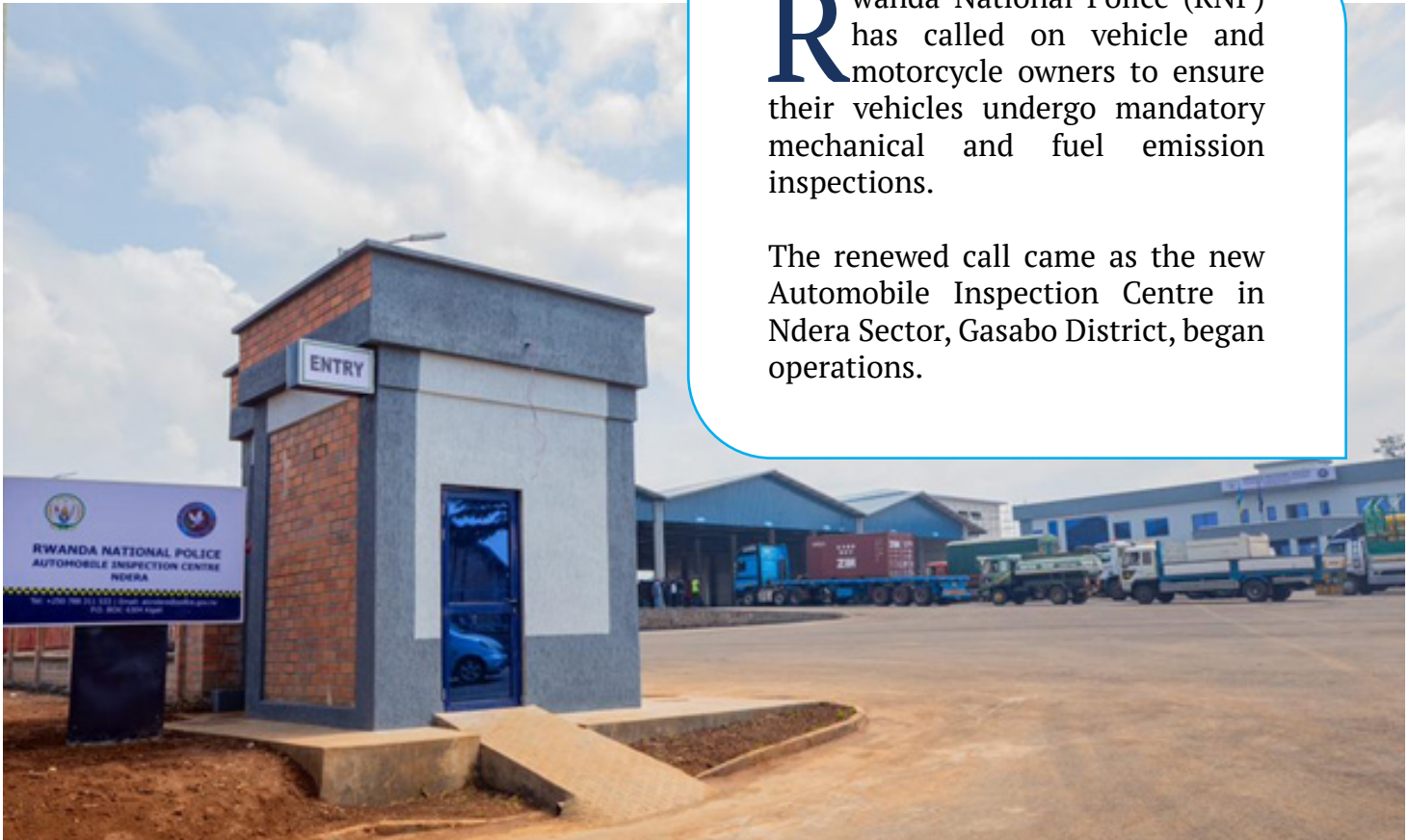
Through their work, these volunteers are redefining what it means to serve. Their lime green reflective vests are no longer just a uniform; they are a symbol of discipline, patriotism, and shared responsibility.

Youth volunteerism has played a major role in supporting the enforcement of regulations on road safety, COVID-19, and the recent UCI World Championships, among others

Police urge motorists to comply with mechanical, emissions inspections

Rwanda National Police (RNP) has called on vehicle and motorcycle owners to ensure their vehicles undergo mandatory mechanical and fuel emission inspections.

The renewed call came as the new Automobile Inspection Centre in Ndera Sector, Gasabo District, began operations.





The RNP spokesperson, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Boniface Rutikanga, said the expansion aims to meet public demand and promote responsible vehicle maintenance.

“This facility in Ndera is open to all motorists seeking mechanical checks and emissions testing. It handles heavy trucks from 3.5 tonnes and above, motorcycles for emissions testing, and other categories of vehicles,” ACP Rutikanga said.

“It has the capacity to inspect 450 cars and 200 motorcycles per day. It complements other centres in Remera, Rwamagana, Musanze and Huye. It will reduce congestion especially at Remera AIC and improve service efficiency, including quick emissions testing for motorcycles.”

Owners of motorcycles are encouraged to take advantage of the new facility with inspection taking just 60 seconds.

ACP Rutikanga reminded the public that motor-vehicle inspection is a legal requirement aimed at safeguarding lives and ensure healthier environment.

Eng. Innocent Mbonigaba, Coordinator of the Rwanda Emissions Inspection Program (REIP) at REMA, emphasized that vehicle emissions harm both the environment and public health.





“Since late August, more than 12,400 vehicles have been tested for emissions, and around 20 percent failed the test” he said. “We want to bring that number down significantly, that is why we continue to encourage vehicle owners to maintain their engines, replace faulty parts, and fix any issues that emit harmful emissions.”

Alphonse Tubarimo, who has been operating a moto-taxi in Kigali for the last 16 years, was the first rider to have his motorcycle tested for emissions at the Ndera centre

His motorcycle received a compliance certificate after passing emission tests.

“I am happy that my motorcycle, which I have used for five years, was the first to be inspected and to be certified under this new motorcycle emissions testing programme,” the smiling Tubarimo said.

Tubarimo recognizes the critical need to address air pollution. He draws a parallel between the soot-covered roadside poles, which were once pristine white, and human lungs that suffer from exposure to toxic fuel emissions.

This, he says, should motivate all riders to embrace emissions inspection to protect their health and the environment.

With the Ndera centre now operational, authorities say the responsibility lies with motor-vehicle owners to ensure their automobiles meet the required safety and environmental standards.

RNP and REMA continue to encourage motorists to take inspection seriously—not as a burden, but as an essential contribution to safer roads and cleaner air for all.



Smart Classrooms, Smarter Policing: How Digital Learning is Overhauling Police Training in Rwanda



From hackers stealing money at the click of a button to networks running cross border crimes through hidden cyber trails, there is no doubt, digital crimes today are taking the world by storm. Technology is reshaping life, and with it comes threats which police forces have to confront keenly.

In response, the Rwanda National Police (RNP) has taken a visionary approach by establishing a modern, technology-driven model of police education through the National Police College (NPC) in Musanze District. Here, modern training meets innovation, equipping officers with the knowledge, digital competence, and ethical leadership to counter 21st-century security challenges with precision and professionalism.

A legacy of transformation

Since its establishment in 1974 as the “École de Gendarmerie Nationale” (EGENA), the college has undergone several transformations, becoming the National Police Academy (NPA) in 2001 and later adopting its current name, National Police College (NPC), in 2013.



The National Police College, Senior Command and Staff Course Wing, a modern facility comprising lecture halls and residential accommodation designed to support advanced leadership training and professional development

Today, NPC stands as a regional beacon of excellence, dedicated to nurturing competent, ethical, and tech-savvy police officers capable of addressing complex security challenges both locally and internationally.

So far, the college has graduated 400 officers from the Police Senior Command and Staff Course (PSCSC). These include 237 Rwandans and 163 international students. The current group, which is the 14th intake, has 38 participants made up of 23 Rwandans and 15 officers from other countries.

For the Police Junior Command and Staff Course (PJCS), a total of 419 officers

have completed the programme between 2017/2018 and 2024/2025. Out of these, 409 were Rwandans and 10 came from allied African countries. The 14th intake is now in progress with 47 Rwandan participants.

For the tactical course, from the first intake in 2017/2018 up to the 17th intake planned for 2025/2026, the college has trained 630 officers. Among them, 611 were Rwandans and 19 were from allied African countries.

In the bachelor's degree programmes, 1,275 students have graduated in ICT, Professional Police Studies, Law, and Modern Languages. This group includes 145 graduates from RIB, 6 from RDF, and 1,124 from RNP.

Modern learning for modern challenges

At NPC, learning goes beyond traditional policing. The college offers a comprehensive range of programs from undergraduate and master’s degrees to professional command and tactical courses, all designed to equip officers with the knowledge and strategic insight required for 21st-century policing.

Professional courses such as PSCSC where participants earn master’s degree upon completion, Police Junior Command and Staff Course (PJCSC), and Police Tactical

Command Course (PTCC), alongside specialized training like Basic Criminal Investigation (BCIC) and Firearms and Leadership Training (FLT), ensure officers at every rank are well equipped to respond effectively to evolving security threats.

The academic undergraduate wing boasts five faculties; Police Professional Studies (PPS), Law and Criminology (LLB), Computer Science & Information Security, Modern Languages, Journalism and Communication, providing a multidisciplinary foundation that integrates theoretical knowledge with practical experience.



PSCSC graduates and officials following a presentation in one of the Model Rooms during the launch of Smart Classrooms

Smart Classrooms: powering digital policing

A defining feature of NPC's modernization is the integration of Smart Classroom technology, which represents a fundamental shift in how police education is delivered.

The Smart Class setup includes computer laboratories, syndicate rooms, model rooms, and various specialized classrooms for all categories of trainees; each classroom is equipped with e-podiums, cameras, microphones, digital displays, and high-speed internet, enabling

interactive, hybrid learning that blends theory with digital innovation.

Commissioner of Police (CP) Rafiki Mujiji, Commandant of the National Police College, (NPC) delivering remarks during the graduation ceremony of the Police Senior Command and Staff Course (PSCSC)

Commissioner of Police (CP) Rafiki Mujiji, the Commandant of the college defined Smart Class as an environment where modern technology facilitates interactive, efficient, and practical education with the help of integration of digital tools and multimedia systems.



Undergraduate students from Faculty of ICT participating in a scheduled class session



Commissioner of Police (CP) Rafiki Mujiji, Commandant of the National Police College, (NPC) delivering remarks during the graduation ceremony of the Police Senior Command and Staff Course (PSCSC)

“In this century, nothing can be done effectively without embracing technology. Guided by our national leadership, we have integrated advanced digital systems into our learning environment to prepare officers who can deliver security services through technology.” He said.

“These facilities enable multimedia learning, virtual simulations, and online research, allowing an officer to analyze real-world scenarios dynamically which is a crucial skill in the digital era,” he added.

Training strategic thinkers and global leaders

Beyond technology, NPC focuses on developing leaders who think critically and act strategically as explained by Superintendent of Police (SP) Steven Nkurunziza, a participant in the 14th Police Senior Command and Staff Course.

“The PSCSC training strengthens our capacity to think critically and develop effective solutions to evolving security challenges, through designing efficient strategies to emerging threats,” he said.

“Through such training NPC has been producing officers who, not only enforce the law but also, contribute to shaping national and international security policies with professionalism.”



Undergraduate students from Faculty of ICT participating in a scheduled class session



The Minister of Interior, Dr. Vincent Biruta officiating the launch of Smart Classrooms Initiative, reaffirming government commitment to advancing technology-based learning and academic excellence

Global Partnerships and Regional Impact

The College since its renovation has registered massive impact both at home and abroad. Through its collaborations programs, it has partnered with different higher learning institutions like the University of Rwanda (UR) and African Leadership University (ALU) to deliver accredited academic programs that blend theory with real-world application.

Globally, it maintained partnerships with institutions like CoESPU (Carabinieri, Italy) for peace support

operations and Kent State University (USA) for academic staff development at the levels of PhD and Master's programs in various fields.

As a recognized Center of Excellence under the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO), NPC has trained officers from 25 African countries, reinforcing its regional leadership in professional policing.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

According to the NPC leadership, the college is expanding its facilities, increasing the number of smart classrooms, strengthening partnerships to enhance its academic and operational impact. The plans also include constructing additional student accommodations, wellness centers, and improving exchange programs to promote cross-border learning.

Through its progressive curriculum, digital infrastructure, and international collaborations, the College is redefining what it means to train for security in the modern age, continuing to produce a new generation of officers who are innovators, strategists and peacekeepers equipped to confront cybercrime, terrorism, and transnational offenses with confidence, integrity, and professionalism.

The fully equipped Smart Classrooms building, designed to facilitate modern and interactive learning for students



A modern computer laboratory integrated within the smart classroom environment designed to enhance research, innovation, and digital learning

Rwanda National Police bids farewell to 74 retiring officers

The Rwanda National Police (RNP) on Friday, December 12, 2025, held a send-off ceremony at the General Headquarters in Kacyiru, to honour 74 police officers, who retired from active service.

The occasion presided over by the Minister of Interior, Dr. Vincent Biruta, represented the peak of decades of dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to nation security.

Minister Biruta praised the retirees for their invaluable contribution to building a safe and stable nation.

He also acknowledged the crucial role the retiring officers played in shaping Rwanda's security landscape.

“Thank you for the contribution you made in building a peaceful country we enjoy today,” he stated.





Dr. Biruta noted that Rwanda's stable and reliable security has enabled citizens to participate fully in national development and has created a conducive environment for investment. He emphasized that the retirees were part of the foundation that made this progress possible.

As they transitioned back into civilian life, the Minister reassured them of the country's continued support.

"Retiring does not mean disengaging from matters related to security; the only change is where you will now deliver your contribution," he said, urging them to remain active in safeguarding their communities in collaboration with citizens, local leaders, and security institutions.

He further encouraged the retirees to draw inspiration and guidance from those who retired before them and successfully integrated into post-service life. He also extended appreciation to their families for years of unwavering support.

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), CG Felix Namuhoranye, also commended the retirees for their long-standing service and dedication.

"You loved your country, served it with dedication, and worked tirelessly to ensure lasting peace and security. The good work you did, the exemplary conduct you showed, and the values that guided you will always be remembered," IGP Namuhoranye said.

He emphasized that retirement does not mark the end of their contribution to national development.

“Even though you are retiring, you are not worn out. The country still needs you in various other responsibilities, and we will continue working together as always,” he noted.

The IGP also hailed officers who retired before for their contribution to community and national development, while supporting the force through mentorship and experience sharing.

He urged the retirees to carry forward the values that defined their service. “In the life you are entering, continue to uphold discipline, patriotism, and dedication... continue being the eyes and exemplary figures wherever you will be,” he advised.

Retired Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Sam Rumanzi, speaking on behalf of the retirees, described the day as “significant and proud milestone.”

“This is truly a remarkable and meaningful day in our lives. We feel honored, humbled, and deeply grateful for the recognition we have received.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to His Excellency, President Paul Kagame, for granting us the opportunity to retire with dignity. We will forever remember the privilege of having contributed to the development of our nation,” he said.





Reflecting on their years of service, he noted:

“Our journey has been long and transformative, filled with lessons that will continue to guide us beyond active duty. As we enter this new chapter, we assure you that we will remain faithful to the oath we swore and continue contributing wherever we are needed.”

He expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Interior, the RNP leadership, police officers, and partners who supported them throughout their policing and security careers.



“We retire carrying with us the discipline, professionalism, and values of the Rwanda National Police. We remain committed to upholding this legacy and serving our country wherever and whenever our contribution will be required.”

What shaped Policing in 2025, a year of service, partnership and progress



In 2025, policing in Rwanda moved decisively beyond routine enforcement into another year defined by action, accountability, and results.

Across cities and villages, highways and households, the Rwanda National Police translated responsibility into visible impact—strengthening safety, deepening community trust, and expanding its role in national development.

From crime prevention and community

policing to road safety, environmental protection, peacekeeping, and digital responsibility, the force operated across sectors that directly touch daily life.

Working within its core mandate of maintaining law and order and protecting people and property, the RNP can reasonably look back at the year with confidence. It was not just business as usual; it was a year of intensified delivery, broadened scope and tangible outcomes.



CRIME PREVENTION, COMMUNITY POLICING, AND COMBATING DRUG ABUSE

The year 2025, like years before, will go down as the period in which members of the police force expedited and maximized results across different sectors.

Over the 12 months, there was a significant 15.7 percent decrease in overall crime compared to 2024, attributed to heightened enforcement efforts and active community engagement initiatives.

In his End-of-Year message, His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda and Commander-in-Chief, said: “Through your shared determination, Rwanda continues to enjoy peace and stability.

Our nation has achieved remarkable progress across various sectors, and the people of Rwanda appreciate

your contributions, which have enabled them to carry out their socio-economic activities in a stable and secure environment.”

The RNP strengthened ties with citizens through proactive community policing. The Defence and Security Citizen Outreach Programme (COP 2025), conducted alongside the Rwanda Defence Force under the Kwibohora 31 and 25 years of Police-public partnership banner, reached thousands of households.

More than 41,800 citizens received free medical services in internal medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, orthopedics, and dentistry.

A total of 70 houses were constructed and handed over to disadvantaged families, 13 bridges were

built to improve connectivity in remote communities, and 10 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers were constructed to support early learning.

Additionally, 33 cooperatives made up of individuals who graduated from rehabilitation centers received financial support and various other forms of assistance to boost their livelihoods, while some 400 motorcyclists were provided with reflector jackets.

To promote sustainable living and clean energy, more than 100 households were connected to solar power, while clean water was extended to more than 3,000 households. The campaign also distributed water tanks and household furniture to communities.



ROAD SAFETY AND PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPAIGNS

Campaigns such as “Gerayo Amahoro,” launched recently with a renewed focus on shared responsibility among road users under the new theme “Turindane, Tugereyo Amahoro,” among others, maintained emphasis on traffic discipline and reducing road fatalities.

Launching the campaign with new themes in Rubavu District, the Inspector General of Police (IGP), CG Felix Namuhoranye reminded drivers of their key

responsibilities and invited them to be primary agents of road safety.

“You are carrying families that have a future, plans, and expectations ahead. Recognize them all and help them reach safely,” he said.

RNP combined enforcement with public awareness to protect citizens and instill a culture of responsibility on Rwanda’s roads. Throughout the year, the Police worked with local authorities and various safety stakeholders

to sensitize the public on road safety culture.

Since its initial launch on May 13, 2019, “Gerayo Amahoro” has contributed significantly to raising awareness about traffic laws and encouraging safe behavior among road users. Reports show that road accidents are largely caused by negligence, recklessness, and a widespread lack of concern for the safety of others.



SAFEGUARDING NATIONAL UNITY AND COMBATING GENOCIDE IDEOLOGY

Over the past 12 months, institutional officers continued educational programs and commemoration events to ensure the lessons of the past remain present.

By promoting national identity and unity, RNP strengthened the social fabric, emphasizing vigilance against divisive ideologies and fostering reconciliation.

While delivering a public lecture on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi at the Rwanda National Police Headquarters in April, Dr. Jean Damascene Bizimana, Minister of National Unity and Civic Engagement, reminded the audience: “The genocide was not a spontaneous act; it was a long-planned political project. 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.”

Minister Bizimana commended the Police for their cooperation in combating genocide ideology and urged members of the force to be grounded in the history of the country to counter hostile narrative shapers.



REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICING LEADERSHIP AND COOPERATION

The year 2025 will also be remembered as the year in which RNP hosted the EAPCCO Annual General Meeting and signed bilateral MoUs with different police forces worldwide. Notable partnerships included countries such as Djibouti, Nigeria, Singapore, and Italy, among others, with delegations from RNP paying and receiving courtesy visits.

“This is a testament to the strong will to cooperate in our region, with a view to ensuring security and a safer living

environment for our people,” said the Minister of Interior, Dr. Vincent Biruta, while officially opening the 26th Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) Annual General Meeting held in Kigali in January.

These engagements strengthened intelligence-sharing, joint training, and strategic coordination, reinforcing Rwanda’s leadership role in regional policing and international cooperation.



PEACEKEEPING AND GLOBAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS

RNP officers have, on a rotational basis, continued to be deployed on international missions, including the UN Peace support operations in Central African Republic (MINUSCA), and in South Sudan (UNMISS), and for security operations in Mozambique as well, where currently the force maintains over 2300 officers.

RNP also participated in the SWAT Challenge in Dubai and elsewhere.

These engagements highlighted the Rwanda National Police’s operational capabilities and commitment to continental stability, while enhancing the professional experience of its officers.



INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH AND CITIZEN-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT

Hundreds of new officer cadets and thousands of police constables completed training courses, while retiring officers were honored for decades of service.

The inauguration of new police facilities and service centers expanded the force's reach and efficiency, ensuring institutional capacity keeps pace with Rwanda's evolving security needs.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND SECURITY AT MAJOR EVENTS

Through sports programs, youth tours, and diaspora initiatives, RNP engaged communities, promoted civic responsibility, and strengthened national identity, while securing major public events such as the 2025 UCI World Cycling Tournament, which was successfully hosted at an incident-free rate.

Both domestic and international events reinforced confidence in the Police, demonstrating readiness, professionalism, and a commitment to incident-free operations.

His Excellency Paul Kagame, during the recent RPF Congress, and in

his New Year Message, said: "These forces, the Rwanda Defence Force, Rwanda National Police and other security organs, are the forces I have always wished to have."

As 2025 closes, the Rwanda National Police can reflect on a record of service that balances enforcement, partnership, and development.

From community programs to international cooperation, the force has shown that modern policing in Rwanda is as much about people as it is about the law, a model of trust, professionalism, and progress.

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