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INTERPOL AGM COMES TO RWANDA

“INTERPOL 2020: Policing Global Threats in a Dynamic Environment”

Mission: “Preventing and fighting crime through enhanced cooperation and innovation on police and security matters”

The organization has a research and development facility known as Interpol Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) located in Singapore. It is a cutting-edge research and development facility for the identification of crimes and criminals, innovative training, operational support and partnerships.

Interpol has four core functions namely:

- Secure global police communications services known as I-24/7 (Information flow 24 hours/ 7days),
- Operational data services and databases for police
- Operational police support services
- Police training and development.

RWANDA JOINS INTERPOL

Rwanda applied for Interpol membership on November 27, 1973 and was affiliated along with Honduras and Qatar on September 19, 1974 during the 43rd Interpol General Assembly held in Cannes, France.

Rwanda’s rebirth, following the liberation and stopping of the genocide in 21 years ago, saw a number of reforms in all sectors including in security that brought into being the current Rwanda National Police in June 2000.

As Rwanda reclaimed her position at the international arena, so did Rwanda National Police in the international police organisations.

RWANDA VOTED TO HOST 84TH INTERPOL AGM

During the 82nd Interpol General Assembly held in Cartagena De Indias, Colombia from 21-24 October 2013, Rwanda was

A photograph showing two men on a stage holding a large white flag with the Interpol logo. The man on the left is wearing a grey suit, and the man on the right is in a dark police uniform. Behind them is a large screen displaying the slogan 'TOGETHER, WE CAN TURN BACK CRIME'. The stage backdrop features logos for 'TURN BACK CRIME', 'MONACO 2014 83rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY', and '100 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL POLICE COOPERATION'.

BACKGROUND

Interpol, as an international police, was created in 1914 and is the world’s largest police organization with 190 member countries. It marked 100 years of existence in 2014.

In 1914, officers, lawyers and magistrates from 24 countries converged in Monaco for the

first ever ‘International Criminal Police Congress’ to discuss challenges of arrest procedures, identification techniques, centralized international criminal records and extradition proceedings.

At the conclusion of the congress, delegates agreed to form an International Criminal Police Organization – The Interpol.

With its General Secretariat located in Lyon, France, Interpol facilitates cross border police cooperation, supports and assists all organizations, authorities and services, whose mission is to prevent or combat crime.

The General Assembly is the supreme governing body of Interpol that meets once every year and takes all the major decisions affecting general

policy, the resources needed for international cooperation, working methods, finances and programmes of activities.

It has an Executive Committee composed of members representing all continents elected in AGM to serve for a period of three years.

Vision: “Connecting police for a safer world”

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unanimously voted to host the 84th AGM.

Rwanda was later during the 83rd AGM in Monaco in 2014, handed the Interpol flag as a symbol of the next host.

The 84th assembly will be held in Kigali between 2nd and 5th November, 2015 under the theme: "INTERPOL 2020: Policing Global Threats in a Dynamic Environment,"

The event will bring together over 1000 delegates that include heads and representatives of law enforcement institutions and agencies from 190 member countries including Chiefs of Police, prosecutors, heads of regional and international police organisations, partners in policing and senior government officials, among others – to discuss a range of policing and security issues.

Discussions at this year's AGM in Kigali will address some of the most pressing cross-border challenges faced by police today such as terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters, the organized criminal groups behind drug trafficking and people smuggling, and the different facets of cybercrime.

SECURE RWANDA

Along with previous prestigious conferences hosted by Rwanda, the 84th AGM will boost the country's image of a secure country with conducive atmosphere for international conferences, tourism and investment opportunities.

It provides an opportunity for them to have a true image of Rwanda and her hospitality. It will be an opportunity too, to tell the world what it has and what it can offer.

RNP'S PARTICIPATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Rwanda National Police was created in the year 2000, and for the last 15 years of its dedicated service, the force has not only contributed to security at home, but has also contributed to a safer world in collaboration with law enforcement agencies around the world through peacekeeping,



Internet photo



exchange of best practices and information, among others.

RNP started its peacekeeping operations in 2005 and has contributed personnel in Haiti, Chad, Mali, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Darfur, Abyei, and Central African Republic.

RNP has over the years sent officers to serve at Interpol General Secretariat in Lyon, France, at Interpol Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore and at the Eastern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) Sub-regional Bureau for Eastern Africa in Nairobi, Kenya.

RNP has also joined and played an active role in other regional and

international police groupings like EAPCCO, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA) and Africa Standby Force (ASF). Rwanda is also the brain behind the creation Africa Police Organisation - AFRIPOL - adopted by African Police Chiefs during their meeting in Algiers, Algeria in February 2014.

RNP also signed MoUs with police institutions in the Eastern Africa region and beyond, including Police forces of Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Turkey and Qatar.

This partnership has been vital in responding to cross-border and transnational crimes, joint operation and training and apprehension of fugitives

including those wanted for their role in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, among others.

RNP has held several leadership positions; chair of EAPCCO twice from 2001 to 2002 and from 2012 to 2013, delegate for Africa on the Interpol Executive Committee (2011-2014), current chair of the IACP Sub-Saharan Africa, headed different positions in UN missions.

Furthermore, Rwanda National Police, through the Government of Rwanda has hosted regional and international conferences and training including Command Post Exercise (CPX) - AFRICA UNiTE I and II and EAPCCO.

The hosted conferences include IACP 3rd Sub-Saharan Executive

Policing Conference, the 6th Interpol Expert meeting on Genocide, War Crimes and crimes against humanity and the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy Associates (FBINAA), among others.

Rwanda's hosting of the 84th Interpol AGM is another milestone achievement for RNP and Rwanda in general in its greater vision of cooperation to make the world a safer place.

Cooperation with Interpol, for example, has seen a number of red notices issued against genocide fugitives executed.

Since 2009 RNP has handled over 36 cases of human trafficking involving 153 victims, including 51 Bangladeshi nationals intercepted in Kigali in 2009 en route to Mozambique.

In 2014 alone, RNP recorded 19 cases of human trafficking involving 25 victims; 26 suspected traffickers were apprehended thanks to partnership with police forces in the region.

Over the past four years, RNP intercepted over 20 foreign registered vehicles that had been stolen from Japan, UK and The Netherlands and majority from Kenya that were either in transit or sold in Rwanda.

Drug traffickers and hard drugs, stolen vehicles, forged documents and counterfeit money, illicit goods and fake pharmaceuticals, among others, have also been detected and intercepted in Rwanda.

At the heart of the achievements against trans-national and organized crimes, lies the Interpol communication system - I-24/7 - that connects 190 member countries that provides real time access to critical criminal databases such as nominal data, DNA profiles, fingerprints, stolen and lost travel documents and stolen vehicles, among others.

With Interpol support, RNP has extended I-24/7 to our airport and all our border posts.

Given the sophisticated nature of crime in the 21st century, it's imperative that the security and law enforcement institutions cooperate globally.