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Police to Be Role Model for EA

East African Business Week (Kampala)

NEWS

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Kigali

The Rwanda National Police (RNP) is to become a role model for the region using its blue print in the fight against sexual and Gender based violence.

The regional programme director of United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Ms. Josephine Odera made the call during a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony in which RNP got a boost of US\$1,064,000 (Rwf575million) from the body. The function was held at the RNP headquarters in Kigali on April 23.

UNIFEM and the RNP have shared a unique relationship since the establishment of the sexual and Gender Based Violence (GBV) desk two years ago. Today, it is fully operational at the RNP head offices.

"We are gratified to partner with the Rwanda National Police. The RNP experience needs to be replicated in other countries in the region," Ojera said.

The social development adviser in the conflict, humanitarian and security department at the DFID offices in London Mr. Jeremy Stickings was impressed by the giant strides of the Rwandan Government.

The Department for International Development (DFID) provided the US\$1million through UNIFEM to promote the GBV desk for the next two years.

The deputy commissioner general of the RNP, Ms. Mary Gahonzire was upbeat by Rwanda's choice as host for the pilot project. She said this was a sign of confidence in the country in addition to the prevailing peace.

The GBV desk was set up at the RNP headquarters in May 2005 to act quickly on cases of gender violence against the most vulnerable groups; women and children. The desk that was set up by the ministry of gender and UNIFEM to train investigators and police officers on how to follow up GBV cases and handle victims in the most professional manner.

The GBV desk at the RNP has a building of its own with modern video screening facilities of suspects. A toll free number 3512 can be called by anybody in Rwanda experiencing any form of GBV; be it emotional or physical.

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