



VYG FOOTBALL ACADEMY

**VISION YOUTH GROUP
SET FOR AN
ITALIAN TOUR**

**PROLINE HOSTS
VISION ACADEMY**

**VYG TO LAUNCH
KIGALI KIDS LEAGUE**

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VYG FOOTBALL ACADEMY



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 Vision 2020 Football Club
 Jean Pierre Karabaranga (PS MINISPOC).
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John Bosco BIRUNGI, President and Founder
 (CEO Crystal Ventures Ltd, Rwanda).
 Afrique RAMBA, Secretary General
 (AG. Director General,
 National Social Security Fund of Rwanda).
 Faustin MBUNDU, Chairman VYG
 (Chairman, East African Business Council)
 Dr. Lonzen Rugira PHD, Career Mentor VYG
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 Raymond KARANGWA, Treasurer VYG
 (MD, Kigali Ceramica Rwanda)
 Riccardo Lazise, Special Advisor (AVSI Rwanda)
 John Paul Mudaheranwa,
 General Manager VYG
 Kassim Rugamba, Head Coach
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WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The future is bright for the group

Vision Youth Group is celebrating its second anniversary in a very special way by organizing a regional football tournament; I'm extremely delighted and very excited about the event. In the beginning, it was just a dream but from the most two recent games a 1-0 win against Ferwafa Academy and a bitter 4-0 loss against SEC Kicukiro Academy, the boys of Vision Sports Academy are beginning to mature as footballers developing a professional mentality and conduct of true sportsmanship! It has been amazing for me and my colleagues who support the academy to watch the kids through a journey that started in 2008 with a hand full of players and now the numbers have surpassed 100 with 2 under-12 teams, 2 under-17 teams and a girls' team. Vision is now a popular name in the local communities of Kigali given performance that the kids have been putting up and the fact that the activities of Vision Youth Group have brought a sense of togetherness and belonging among these youth. Our biggest problem is that whenever we go to watch the kids training, there is a dozen other who want to join the team but because of limited resources we are not able to grow as fast as we would like. For us the kids are more like family and we have had many memorable events with them.

The pillars of our organization are discipline, education and sportsmanship and over the last 24-months we have seen the kids develop in each of those aspects nevertheless we all know it's just the beginning because there is still so much to do to achieve our goals. Until such a time when Vision has international players in the World's most popular leagues like the 'Premier' and the "Serie A", until the time when our players join the Amavubi Stars, can we really talk about success. We thus can't claim to have achieved much thus far because of the very ambitious goals that we set out to achieve. We are inspired by the success of other organizations that started in a similar way notably Asec Mimosa of Ivory Coast which has many professionals in Europe like Didier Drogba and the Toure brothers. Our partnership with Proline Academy in Uganda has had a huge impact on Vision; we have been able to learn from how they have achieved great success having started just over 4 years ago and now have several international players and almost half of the national team. We are also seeking affiliation with some European football clubs through their academies.

The success of Vision is also highly dependent on success of other academies in the country because our kids will not develop into professionals without competitive and challenging interactions with their colleagues in other organizations and this sort of organized football among the youth is what has been lacking in Rwanda. This is why we have invited all the Kigali football academies in the upcoming tournament so that we can interact with all other promoters



of academies and allow the kids to get to know their colleagues and learn from each other through a competitive event. Bringing in foreign academies from Congo, Burundi and Uganda will also give the kids more exposure and competition. Corporate sponsors have not featured much in youth football and this time around we have managed to get a number of sponsors to whom we are very grateful for their sacrifice and support. Hopefully after this event, many others will come in to support the sport as is the culture elsewhere in the World.

The time has come for real big things to happen to Rwanda's football and Vision Sports will be at the helm of it. All promoters of Kigali football academies recently came together through Ferwafa to form an organized forum through which their activities will be routed and recognized. The academies formed a steering committee which was charged with setting up the National Association of Football Academies which will seek registration and be a recognized body by Ferwafa and Ministry of Sports and Culture. Ferwafa has also launched a big regular event being the first of its kind in the country – the Under 17 national league which will give academies visibility and exposure! With commitment from the Ferwafa as the umbrella organization, coordination and respect among all the football clubs and academies in the country, we believe that Rwanda will finally make it to the World Cup in a few years' time and this should be the target for all of us football lovers!!



Vision Youth Group set for an Italian Tour

THE Vision Youth Group's football academy is under intensive preparations that will see them jet out for an Italian tour where they are expected to play against several Italian sides.

According to the group's Secretary General Africa Ramba, the Italian tour will be aimed at engaging the Vision Youth Group U-16 side in rigorous build-up matches with A.C. Chievo Verona as well as other Italian first and second division youthful sides.

"We are now looking for travel documents for the players and we will soon be specifying the exact dates and all details concerning the Italian tour," he said

The Vision Youth Group football academy is

one of the emerging academies in the country alongside Ferwafa, Sec Kicukiro, Imena, APR, Esperance, Shinning and Kiyovu. In a related development, Vision Youth Group has established a girls' team to promote female football in the country.

According to Ramba, Vision Youth Group is aiming at nurturing skilled players for the national teams.

Vision Sports Academy is part Vision Youth Group, a local talent development nonprofit making organization established in 2008 with the aim of supporting and empowering the less advantaged children of the nation through sports, education and other extra-curricular activities.

INTERVIEW:

Academies vital for football elevation—Tetteh



AMAVUBI Head Coach:
Sellas Tetteh

AMAVUBI Head Coach; Sellas Tetteh has admitted that football academies are important if Rwanda is to improve on her football standards.

Tetteh confirmed the development while asking him to comment on the emerging Vision Youth Group as well as other academies on the local scene.

“Football academies are vital in nurturing the future country’s footballers. It is not an easy task and it needs patience if you are trying to get fruitful products in academies,” he said

“But as long as you’re focused and have the necessary support, these young players will grow up to replace the current players in the Amavubi stars,” Tetteh said.

The former Ghanaian U-20 Fifa world cup winning coach said that establishing football academies in Rwanda comes at the right time when the whole world’s football has turned to engaging the youth in different competitions.

“Professional clubs are investing in youth development. Developing young players may reap both sporting and financial rewards,” Tetteh added.



Interview: One on One with MUJIB KASULE



In April, Vision Youth Group's football academy toured Kampala where they played friendly games against region's renowned Proline football academy. We caught up with the academy's founder, ex-Uganda Cranes player Mujib Kasule. Below is the interview.

How did you come up with the idea?

I used to coach young boys in the United States where I had gone to pursue my degree in Economics. When I came back, I felt that Uganda needed academies and youth programs more than any other country because there were so many underprivileged kids with a lot of energy, I thought that if they were well guided, Uganda's declining standards at the sport would be improved.

What motivated you to start the Proline academy?

The declining standards of the game in Uganda and my need to give back

How was the beginning?

The beginning was very tough, being the first of its kind, it did not make sense to a lot of people. People in football circles also tried to fight the idea and of course it's a very expensive venture so you can imagine (how difficult it was).

What keeps you going?

The smiles I now see on the kids' faces and when I meet people who stop me to thank me for the job I am doing for this country.

Do you have any potential sponsors that do finance your football academy?

VYG making progress

We have been sponsored by MTN before, Nike are our equipment sponsors and currently, we are talking to many potential sponsors.

What is your thought about Vision Youth Group?

I was amazed with what Vision group has done. They are very organized and professional. The boys are very talented and disciplined. They matched us very well.

What should the group do to progress?

I think they are on the right track. I think Rwanda as a country should support them and think they should now start soliciting for sponsorships and international affiliations.

What is the level of cooperation between Proline Academy and Vision Youth Group?

PSA is very privileged to have a partnership with Vision group. They are now our biggest partners in the region and we shall share so much in a bid to lift the standard of the sport in this region.

How do you see their progress so far?

John Birungi has done great work with this group and his visionary leadership and commitment will definitely propel the academy to international heights. Already they are beating up on everybody in Rwanda. They have started exposing their boys internationally which is key. You would think that they have been around for decades.

What does Vision Youth Group need to do in order to be linked with top football sides just like you have managed to do with Manchester United as well as other clubs abroad?

I think playing in international tournaments is one of them but partnerships like the one with us will also lift them because we share experiences. We shall work together to invite big stars like from the premiership or any other top league.

What does Vision Youth Group need to do in order to always take part in the international competitions as well just like Proline?

As long as they have the financial muscle, they can always apply to these so many youth cups all over the world.

Tell us about the October event when Proline will visit VYG in Rwanda?

VYG visited us and we enjoyed their stay, the boys played so well and our boys learnt a lot from them. To cement our relationship, we feel it's important for us to visit them in Rwanda and see how they do their business. We shall bring three or four age groups. We are looking forward to the trip.



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Youth soccer development academies important to our society

Academy players are considered as an insurance policy for the club that many safeguard the club's future. The academy system is now an established cornerstone of elite youth player development.

As part of sporting revolution, Rwanda has embarked on youth development initiatives as the key tool to achieve the vision 2020 millennium development goals.

Football is one of the most favorite sports in the country. To develop and promote football at the grassroots' level, soccer development academies have been set up since two years ago. Soccer academies are important not only to soccer teams but also to our society. Today, soccer clubs recognize the need to provide more effective coaching and sophisticated development programmes than those that existed previously for their young players.

It should be understood that the importance of producing talented players is not only important to clubs but also to the national teams.

The question of the importance of soccer in children's lives really cannot be overstated. Sports such as soccer are central to a child's upbringing in most parts of the developing world, and can be a provide children with discipline benefits

and connect with their community in the hope of building a brighter future.

Many creative societies leverage sports for social change, and the Rwandese society hopes to build on that vision.

Through sports, young people can become great agents for exposing the truths about HIV/AIDS in the area, domestic violence and even employment opportunities if gathered around common interests.

The sporting mission is important to improve community health and education, but the way to get to this has to be creative. Today, soccer is perceived in our community as a great tool to work towards healthier living and increased collaboration.

By combining traditional academic studies, with an artistic and physical component, sport does not only sharpen the minds of players but also encourage the exploration of their own creativity while inspiring confidence in their own bodies. Like any other sport, soccer is more than just an activity to take part in. It is an opportunity to impart the importance of discipline, communication and teamwork to those involved.

People should understand that soccer programs





do not only provide an outlet for young players but also creates a supportive community. They learn how to work together successfully and accomplish a goal.

Key aspects to mention is motivation and discipline for stardom in the world of professional sports, in particular soccer.

The competition for aspiring professional footballers all over the world has become even more intense now with the level of participation rates and professional leagues beginning to appear across more countries than ever.

Aspiring to become professional is good. Looking at it all from a bird's eye view, it seems that the competition for the very few professional places available in squads has significantly increased, adding to this the amount of distractions readily available to aspiring players today is at an all time high.

Motivation is something that keeps you going when you feel there is nothing left to give. Motivation is something that drives to the point of no return. For each aspiring footballer their motivation can be different.

For some young players, it may be the freedom from poverty for both themselves and their families. For others, it may simply be the money and fame whilst for someone else it may be purely for the love of the game.

Discipline is also an important contribution that soccer academies offer to the society. Since discipline is an integral part of the sporting psychology, our society reap benefits from such aspects especially for academy groomed players

A player without discipline is destined to grace the amateur fields of football forever. You achieve discipline by consistently working towards your goals and objectives.

People should understand that discipline is not a sometimes thing, it is a characteristic, a habit. If a player is disciplined in his football career, he will be disciplined in his academic studies, his work life and everything else life throws at him.

With the competition for professional footballers at all time high, all young and rising future stars get motivated and disciplined in the due course.



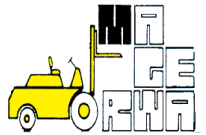
VISION YOUTH GROUP REGIONAL ACADEMIES' UNDER-17 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT – KIGALI, RWANDA 15th to 17th October 2010

MATCHES SCHEDULE (From 15th -17th /10/2010)

PRELIMINAIRES (Friday Afternoon)

GROUPE A	GROUPE B	GROUPE C	GROUPE D
Mumena Field	Kicukiro- Tech Field	Nyamirambo Regional Stadium	Ferwafa Field
VISION F.C POLICE F.C GOMA	SEC F.C SHINNING F.C PROLINE	APR F.C KIYOVU Sport KIMISAGARA	FERWAFWA ESPERANCE REMERA BUKAVU
14h 30			
VISION GOMA	SEC F.C SHINNING F.C	APR KIYOVU Sport	FERWAFWA ESPERANCE REMERA
15h30			
GOMA POLICE	SHINNING F.C PROLINE	KIYOVU ESPERANCE KIMISAGARA	ESPERANCE REMERA BUKAVU
16h30			
VISION POLICE	SEC PROLINE	APR ESPERANCE KIMISAGARA	BUKAVU FERWAFWA

TERRAIN 1(Kicukiro)	¼ FINAL (SAMEDI A. MIDI) A 10H00'	
1 ER GROUPE A	2 EME GROUPE C	Match 1
1 ER GROUPE B	2 EME GROUPE D	Match 2
TERRAIN 2(Ferwafa)	¼ FINAL (SAMEDI A. MIDI) A 10H00'	
1 ER GROUPE C	2 EME GROUPE A	Match 3
1 ER GROUPE D	2 EME GROUPE B	Match 4
TERRAIN 1(Kicukiro)	½ FINAL (SAMEDI P. M) 15H30'	
VAINQUEUR MATCH 1	VAINQUEUR MATCH 2	
VAINQUEUR MATCH 3	VAINQUEUR MATCH 4	
TERRAIN (Amahoro)	MATCH 3 EME PLACE (DIMANCHE P.M) A 14H00	
FINALE : 2 X 35min		



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VYG features in US magazine

By Nader Masrouf

Nobel Prize dinners, churches, U.N. Peacekeeping meetings. These are a few examples of where you will meet Saints, or people who are “acknowledged as holy or virtuous”. These are the kinds of people who are hell-bent (that’s right) on expending a majority of their intellectual, physical, and monetary resources on making this world a better place.

A Dynamo soccer game? Not exactly a haven for the heavenly. Yet, in the midst of the “Sea of Orange” that flooded Robertson Stadium night for the Dynamo’s 0-1 loss to FC Dallas, a soccer saint watched on.

John Birungi, a U.S. citizen of Rwandese descent is a financial expert from New York, who is most interested in Houston Dynamo soccer. Why, you may ask? A month before the Dynamo turned in a mediocre performance against FC Dallas, the Houston Dynamo Academy won the Dallas Cup U-16, and this was of particular interest to him. You see, Birungi isn’t a regular soccer fan. He recently took part in creating an NGO called the Vision Youth Group in his mother

country of Rwanda whose goal is to “Empower underprivileged youth through discipline, education, and sports”.

The NGO seeks youth and young adults, mainly orphans, in the streets of Rwanda to “provide a lifeline through soccer and education”. In the event that some of these youth make it to the premier leagues in Europe, a percentage of their earnings would be given back to the NGO to help finance it’s efforts. If not through soccer, he hopes that the education and discipline Vision Youth Group seeks to instill will lead to a better life for the children of Rwanda. He also believes that youth soccer academies are MLS’ future. “Building good young talent here in America is the real future of the MLS and where it must concentrate its money and efforts”.

Birungi is hoping to strike a partnership with the team, especially their U-16 academy, to help him develop the “sports” aspect of the NGO. This is the kind of endeavor the Dynamo, and their fans would be proud of.

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VYG to host academies' tournament

Vision Youth Group is to host U-17 Boys football tournament under the arrangement of Vision Sports. Teams from Kigali city and Kampala will take part in the one week tournament in a competition that will be officiated by Vision Sports President JB Birungi and Proline Academy Director Mujib Kasule among other officials.

The October 15th to 17th tournament is expected to attract Proline Academy (Uganda), academies from Goma and Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Amavubi Juniors Academy, APR Academy, Kiyovu Academy, Esperance Academy and hosts Vision Sports

Academy.

Recently select academies met in a tournament organized to give the country's U-17 coach Patrice Lair a glimpse of who can get into the team for the 2011 Africa U-17 Championship.

The continental showpiece will be staged in Kigali next January so the local football Federation (Ferwafa) is under pressure to make sure they assemble a formidable side for the championship.

Rwanda was approved to host the U-17 championship after successfully hosting the 2009 U-20 Youth Championship which was won by Ghana. Current Amavubi Coach Sellas Tetteh was the architect of Ghana's glory. The 2011 Youth Championship will be jointly held at Amahoro, Regional and Gisenyi stadiums.

The Vision Youth Group October tournament has been sponsored by Bralirwa, MTN Rwandacell, MINISPOC, FER-WAFA, BRD, BPR, MAGREWA, Papyrus, AVSI, Inyange and GPS.



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Proline hosts Vision Academy

Vision Youth Group, one of Rwanda's football academies, in April concluded a three-day tour in Uganda where they played a series of friendly matches with Uganda's Proline academy.

The academy's head coach Kassim Rugamba believes the tour was a learning curve for the group. "The tour was a success and proved to us that we can develop into a formidable side in the near future," Rugamba said of the academy.

The U-13 side was held to a goalless draw while the U-14s lost out 1-2 against a more mature and stout

Proline's U-17 side.

Proline academy is a brain child of former Ugandan international Mujib Kasule who now coaches Nalubaale FC, one of the top sides in the Uganda Super league.

The Ugandan academy assumed international acclaim in 2008 when they hosted England and Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand and his brother Anton Ferdinand who features for Sunderland.



The Kids League

VYG to launch Kigali Kids League

Vision Youth Group in conjunction with other academies and FERWafa are to launch a new league for children under 14 years of age. The new competition will give more children across the country the opportunity to emulate their football heroes.

The Kids league that is expected to be sponsored by several corporate bodies will give boys and girls a unique chance to showcase talents at a prestigious local league.

This will give every young competitor the opportunity to realize a dream by playing at a prestigious showpiece occasion.

Up to 20 clubs are expected to join initiative to attract more young people into the game of football.

The number of registered teams and players in the several age groups is expected to rise with time.

"We will be nurturing future stars not only the future of this club but they are the future of the game as a whole in the country", Ramba said.

"We need to encourage youngsters to play." he said

Recently FERWafa launched the Under-17 league where all academies and schools in the country will participate.

VYG to launch sports magazine

Vision Youth Group is planning to launch a monthly sports magazine linked to its flagship activities of nurturing sports Rwandan talent.

The new product called Rwanda Sports Illustrated is expected to debut soon with targeted circulation of over 5000, making it the largest sports magazine in the country.

Rwanda Sports Illustrated will profile Rwanda's elite sportsmen, provide monthly insights from the leading sports writers, and tell compelling sports stories from around the country.

The VYG committee discussed the Project recently, although details about the project were still being discussed between the broad and the editorial team.

The group's president and Secretary General are both said to be very keen on the project.

The magazine could be published later this year or early next year as the group seeks to get other corporate sponsors because the success and longevity of the magazine will depend on these sponsors.

The group is also currently seeking for external funding and support partners to set up Vision Table Tennis Academy, Vision Music Academy and accomplish phase 1 of Vision Youth Group sports centre.

Rwanda Sports Illustrated represents a new stage in Rwanda's sports development as the country's premier sports publisher.



Sheena Keeza with Rio Ferdinand in London

Ferwafa talks-up youth academies

The National football federation President Brigadier General Jean Bosco Kazura has commended the growing football academies in the country and acknowledged that the future of soccer in the country is in youth football academies.

Kazura, who was re-elected as Ferwafa President for a second term early this year has called on clubs in the country to invest in young players by setting up footballers. "Football Academies are very important for the future of soccer in the country. We have always encouraged clubs and any other person to start up a football academy to tap the raw talent in the country.

We started the National football Academy because we know there are enormous benefits in developing footballers from a young age."Kazura said.

There are four Academies in the country including the national football academy which was inaugurated by FIFA President Sepp in 2005.

The other three are: APR Football Academy,

Vision Youth Group and Sports Empowerment club.

Kazura also promised support to all private Academies.

"We are ready and willing to help any Private Academy that will solicit our support. They should tell us how they need us to support them." Kazura said.

Rwanda's football Academies were also praised by Barcelona President Joan Laporta when he visited the National football Academy at Ferwafa Headquarters in Remera.

Laporta said that his club is among the best in the world because they realized long time ago that investing in youth football had huge dividends

"Barcelona is one of the leading clubs in the world because of a lot of investment in youth football.

The key to success of any football club or country is how they develop youth structures like football Academies.

Our football Academy is the best in the world because we invested a lot of time and money in it." Laporta told his audience who included Sports Minister Joseph Habineza and Ferwafa boss Jean Bosco Kazura.



Profile:

VYG gets an Italian flavor



Recently Riccardo Bevilacqua Lazise became one of the latest members to join VYG. We took up with him to brief us on his aspirations and expectations.

Below is the interview;

How did you come up with the idea of teaming up with Vision Youth Group?

I love football and I appreciate the idea to build up football academies in order to develop Rwandan football. Playing in vision 2020 I knew John and Africa and so I knew also this project. Vision youth group is very well organised and has a lot of potentialities so I think that is the right project to bet on.

What motivated you to join?

I've been working for 8 years for an Italian NGO whose mission is to support vulnerable youth, children and families and I do believe in what I do. I was looking for a project that could integrate my two passions, football and support to vulnerable youth, vision group is what I was looking for. The development of a country passes through the development of the talent of its youths in every sector, and.... why not, sport is one of the possibilities.

What experience do you bring to the group?

I think that I can bring my experience in social welfare and youth assistance and some good contacts with Italian football.

What is your thought about Vision Youth Group?

I'm approaching the group now and what I have seen is the engagement and the motivation of the people involved. What I like is that there are good ideas not only on immediate goals but also on mid-terms and

long-term goals and that reflect the mentality of the board of the group.

One example of this mentality? The first ever organised tournament of academies in Kigali organised by VYG.

What should the group do to progress?

I think that the training of trainers is a key of success for this kind of academies so it is important to bet on trainers upgrade. Then looking for a sponsorship, work on the networking. Regarding the kids it should be important to find the way to improve the access to education and provide a good nutrition.

What is the level of cooperation between you and Vision Youth Group?

Till now I did few things, some networking and marketing for the group.

How do you see their progress so far?

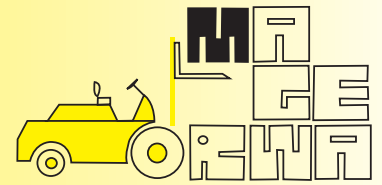
I think that the results are huge compared to the resources invested. I saw vision kids win the Amavubi academy. I'll not be surprised to see some of them playing with the national team in continental U-17 tournament in January 2011.

Riccardo's profile

Name:	Riccardo Bevilacqua Lazise
Birth date:	12 September 1974
Birth place:	Verona, ITALY
Status:	Married and father of two children (a daughter of 2 years and a son of 11 months)
Education:	Degree in Political Science – Specialization in International Relations and Human Rights – University of Padua
Profession:	AVSI Rwanda country representative (since 2007 till now). AVSI is an Italian NGO working in Rwanda since 1994. The mission of the NGO is to reduce the poverty and support vulnerable youth, children and families.
Past professions:	AVSI Burundi country representative (2003-2007).
Hobbies:	Listening and playing music (hip hop and R&B) Playing football (Vision 2020) Spend time with friends
Supported teams:	Chievo Verona (Italy), Vision FC and Amavubi

How I knew Vision Youth Group: Playing football every Sunday in Vision 2020 I met John Bosco Birungi, Africa Ramba and other members of Vision Youth Group. I was suddenly interested by the project because I believe that Rwandan youth and children need to be supported to develop their talents, most of all the vulnerable ones. The mission of my NGO (AVSI) is very similar so the feeling was immediate. I wish the best for this project and I'll promote it widely.

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THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S VIEW

Football and education should complement each other

The Secretary General of Vision Youth Group (VYG) Afrique Ramba has urged the young aspiring footballers at the academy not to overlook education in preference for football.

Ramba, is also the coordinator for Vision 2020 football club. Vision 2020 FC is a club for the working class ex-footballers based in Kigali.

"We have a thinking that our own footballers should be educated and that's what we are aiming for at Vision Youth Group.

"We will help these kids gain more skills in football as well educate them. This will shape them to be real professional footballers but who can also do something else for themselves and the country besides playing football," Ramba said.

An avid sports lover, Ramba supports APR on the local scene and Liverpool in England. In addition to football, he is the Ag. Director General of Social Security Fund of Rwanda and has played different sports including karate, basketball, tennis and table tennis among others.

As a board member of Vision Youth Group, Ramba noted that its high time Rwandan young footballers and those aspiring to play the game up to the highest level realised that both football and education do complement each other.

"The reason why our own footballers have not reached far is because they don't have the opportunity to undergo enough formal education, which would widen their capacities."

That's why he stressed that Vision Youth Group is an important project for the country as it seeks to support and empower the less privileged.

"A player who is educated will not have the same thinking as one who's not educated, so at VYG much



as we preach football and other games, we do treasure education above anything else".

He noted that balancing education and sports is vital in shaping a footballer's career. Several retired African footballers are living a miserable life because they didn't pay attention to education. "They are several examples in Rwanda, East Africa and Africa as a whole."

According to Ramba, one of the major aims of VYG Academy is to help upcoming footballers get access to formal education on top of learning the game in a more organized manner and environment.

"Football should not be for the school drop-outs but should even be played by the highly educated people," he stressed.

"We should not have a negative mindset on football. Educated people tend to think that football is for the uneducated yet that's not the case. This mentality should stop.

"We want our academy to produce footballers who will not only play for top local clubs and their country but play it at the highest professional level.

"Why can't we produce our own Samuel Eto'o or Didier Drogba from? Ramba wondered before emphasizing that Vision Youth Group will achieve its goal in not so distant a future.

THE FUTURE:

Moving towards self reliance

Vision Youth Group plans to build a state-of-the-art sports complex in Kigali which will cost an estimated US\$4 m.

Project summary

The concept is to set up a fully fledged sports centre with a standard football ground with a pavilion, a sports hall for indoor racket games and events, a tennis court, a basket ball court, a music studio, a gym, a recreational pub, a Hostel for members and an office block.

Tapis Rouge (Red Carpet) is to be on a 31,500 square meter piece of land located next to Nyamirambo Regional Stadium in Kigali - the total project cost will be in the range of \$3-\$4mil.

The land belongs to the city of Kigali and is currently used for crusades, campaign rallies and sports (Vision FC sometimes uses it when the regular rented field is not available).

The project is to be implemented in three phases depending on availability of funds:

- i. Clearing, excavation, site preparation, parking lots and fencing and setting up tennis court, basket court and a synthetic football pitch and a pavilion – (US\$1.0m). Land is to be secured from Nyarugenge District and Kigali City Council.
- ii. Players hostel and office block – US\$1.0m (the hostel will accommodate the teams and office block will house VYG offices and generate income for VYG).
- iii. Sports hall, Gym, Music studio and Club House – US\$1.0m (The hall will also generate income from events like weddings and conferences).





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