



INTERVIEW:
SHEENA KEEZA

**Proline, Vision
partnership reaps big**

Vision Youth Group
set for European Tour

Vision to open
Remera chapter

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From our

Editor

Amavubi future rests in youth dev't

In 2004, a team of unknown footballers made history as Rwanda made her maiden appearance at the African Nation's cup in Tunisia.

Players like Jimmy Gatete, Olivier Karekezi, and Jimmy Mulisa enjoyed a heroes' welcome on their return to a grateful nation.

However much of the team disappeared in oblivion immediate after the 2004 showing, some of the players have disappeared without trace and the team's fortunes have been mixed since.

Coaches have come and gone without achieving any success compared to 2004.

For now three qualification campaigns have passed, Rwanda has tried to revive the 2004 memories however with no success, and this may be the case this time around as the team struggles to qualify for 2012.

The success of 2004 was not taken as the stepping stone to greater heights.

Rwanda may not be one of the powerhouses of African football, but on many occasions they have proved more than capable against some of the continent's top teams like Nigeria and Ghana.

The chance of 2004 was not built on; many chances have passed, of the team that featured in Tunisia only Said Makasi, Hamad Ndikumana, Olivier Karekezi and Jimmy Gatete are still donning the national colours. The team wasn't followed up to ensure continuity.

The football administrators only looked at short time results without looking to the future.

With odds against Rwanda, the team will need to play beyond their expectations or they will be playing for pride.

“The football administrators only looked at short time results without looking to the future”



The next challenges for the Organization

VYG is reaching new heights and my recent discussion with his Lordship the Mayor of Kigali City could only give me more joy and excitement about VYG – The mayor gave a green light for VYG to hand in a formal proposal to request for the famous “Tapis Rouge” land that VYG intends to develop as a sports centre. We are now going out to actively seek sponsorship our planned Vision Sports arena. Over the past 3 years, the organization has grown and made significant achievements and we thank God for this and pray that we can ultimately achieve the vision of creating a continual talent development structure for the next generation of Rwandan sportsmen and women.

Our biggest achievement has been the October 2010 regional Under-17 tournament which attracted 12 academies from the region and was the first of its kind. The event gave all participants very good exposure but notably prepared the Rwanda Under-17 side for the CAN tournament that was held a few months after. The tournament was flashed with trophies and prizes and the kids were very excited; we at VYG once again congratulate SEC Kicukiro for winning the tournament!!

VYG’s partnership with Proline is now stronger than ever having started in 2009 when I was introduced to Mujib Kasule by a mutual friend Arthur Byasima. Mujib is not just a true sportsman but a real revolutionary given what he has managed to achieve with Proline in Uganda over the past five years. We share the love for kids but his exemplary commitment to developing young talent and being a spokesman for real sportsmanship is something I admire and it is also changing the way sports in perception and management is done in this whole region. Proline’s now Rwandan stars like Tibigana and Butera would never have been if it was not for that initial visit to Uganda of Vision Academy to interact and play with Proline Academy and the corresponding participation of Pro-

line in the VYG regional tournament. Of course we are very proud of this and we wish all the boys good luck in Mexico! Proline now has international players in Europe and from being an academy is now one of the best football clubs in Uganda’s super division and we at Vision intend to keep learning from them.

Our next stride is to try to get into the Rwandan second division football club competition and hopefully after one season make it to the super league just like Proline did. We promised the kids a tour to Europe but it has been hard to achieve for all of them given the costs involved but we are very excited to be sending our head coach and a few of our top players for trials in Italy with top clubs, thanks to our partners and supporters in Italy like Igan Uwimana. Opening the Remera Chapter will also go a long way in assisting us to develop the quality of our selection of players and give a chance to other kids given that we have largely focussed on Nyamirambo area thus far.

For football and other sports to develop effectively, corporate sponsorship is a key catalyst and of course an avenue for value creation for big corporate advertisers. This has not fully taken off in Rwanda and we hope that more corporates get involved. We thank our tournament sponsors very much notably Bralirwa, MTN, BRD, Ecobank, BPR, Magerwa, MINISPOC, FERWAFWA, Inyange and Masaka Farms. Companies should not stop at sponsoring events but become partners in sports development especially in the area of education support which many of the kids involved in sports need.

We thank FERWAFWA for putting emphasis on Academies and the recently created Academies league will enable us to improve on quality and discipline through fair competition among all the junior sides in the country. If more support is given to young talent developers like SEC, VYG, APR and KIYOVU, then the National Academy will be even much stronger and for sure Rwanda will make it to the World Cup in the few years!!

Sports 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 Deputy Director General of Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB) 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 high-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.

Football and education should complement each other 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.



Sheena Keeza

What is your relationship with Vision Youth group?

There is a great relationship because I got a possibility to be able to share stuff with one another by talking to them about football and other personal things to some of them and I gave them a great reassurance. Playing together is just a special relationship and the bond I created with the group. To watch the group play and foundations that they will need throughout their lives it's just a relationship that I truly need. We share the same passion and football has made me meet lots of people. There are always some new developments to talk about and discuss, through out the bond between me and JB my

brother (The President of the group).

What motivated you to be part of the group?

I was more motivated by their performance. Being a Rwandan girl at the same time a fan, makes me more determined to see this group progress and win trophies and have titles at a national level and at an international level. The group has the determination, technical, tactical, and performance which motivated me to know more about it and having a desire to develop new skills that can benefit my performance as well.

Football is clearly an element of links between generations and it is a social interact that brings families, friends and even strangers together. I would also like the group to be like the group to be successful which I believe this will happen later on in life.

How did you get involved in football?

I got involved in football when I was four years old when I used to play football in our compound with my brothers and I continued to have the interest while growing up in the city of London. I regularly played football with boys in London during summer holidays, having in mind that girls were not supposed to play football that challenge built my self-confidence to overpower them in every skill in football which I was talented to gain knowledge more rapidly than a good number of them since I was enthusiastic and keen in learning the football techniques.

I started off playing for a school team at the age of 10 and after that the scouts from Charlton athletics selected me up for a trial; subsequently I went through 5 stages and I successfully passed all of them. I played for Charlton Girls Academy under 14s and managed to score regularly during my seasons at Charlton. I played against Chelsea Women FC and scored two goals which gave me a release and an encouragement. The Women's Football Academy Director appointed me as first full-time at Chelsea FC playing mainly as an attacking midfielder.

What keeps you going?

Well, it takes a combination of both talent and hard work to be successful at any level of football. I have not just been able to compete, but excel at the highest level of the game. My efforts on the training ground have translated into success on the pitch and earned me the place in Chelsea Ladies Academy.

My goal was to become a football star which I have achieved so far and the advice from my brother Bosco and my mum who keeps me in form.

Do you have any ambitions of playing for Rwanda's women team?

Yes of course football became a metaphor for national identity to be played out symbolically although women

football inherently varies from country to country and from individual to individual. Yes, in future, I hope to play for women's team in Rwanda because I am a Rwandan and I have the skills to be able to demonstrate my achievement and to be able to pass it to other people more especially my country. I hope to teach women in Rwanda to be more competitive and to be successful no matter what they do to inspire them also to be football stars. That's my best chance of turning around the quality of achievement for this group.

What is your thought about Vision Youth Group?

My view is that the group is very focused which is excellent at their age in this field. They are also motivated in their performance with quality skill. I have much expectation on this Youth group which is going to outshine all other academies in Rwanda and in Africa.

What should the group do to progress?

The group should be able to progress if given a good quality coach, advisors and more training and opportunities in their matches. I hope they will have fantastic supporters. It is the winning and performance that is more important to a player at the same time loving the game which will also involve managers and be able visit other grounds to play friendly matches to learn more skills.

I am currently very passionate about the grassroots football and the development of our Youth group, who will become the next generation of home-grown players who will also benefit from the way we conduct the development of footballers in Rwanda. Firstly, I believe that our group should set up committees to address the standards of development of our Youth group. Furthermore, encourage more people to enter in to coaching and fundraising more money for courses and a playground. Finally, let us set up an example to Rwanda and the world by revolutionizing football development and reaping the rewards for generations to come.

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

I think our cooperation is great even though I live on the other side of the world, whereby I don't get enough chance of having a physical involvement in helping the group but each chance I get I share information and seek help and advice when necessary, offering suggestions and listening to the ideas of others within the group. Whenever I come to Rwanda, I also play with them which and it's very exciting!

How do you see their progress so far?

Since the team started with a few players and now that the numbers are increasing, that shows a lot of interest within the youth in football. At the same time they are promoting the development of women's football and pledge to support women to get more involved in to the game of football, this will help popularize the game by increasing public awareness and conducting information campaigns as well as overcoming social and cultural obstacles for women with the ultimate aim of improving women's standing in sport.

What does Vision Youth Group need to do in order to be linked with top football sides?

Footballers should start at the base of a national level. Players should be competitive, healthy and successful which will attract top footballers and fantastic fans. Our motto is to build from the base, build on the best and build for success. The key to this is to build on our talent and potential. We need to build capacity and capability for the long term in order to link with top teams in the World.

I suggest that combining education and sport for talented children and young people enhances their academic achievement and also avoids the situation where the excitement of the game and a possible football career can destroy, within a young person, any continuing interest in education which is essential for any human being.

Building the base

- The need for bigger partnership with government
- To become the key sports player in the fitness, health and well-being revolution
- Reach out to the world of sport
- The importance of schools in this renaissance
- The importance of integrated football and education
- Generating new finance for youth development both within and out with the game and making more sense of current finance and investment.
- Serious long term commitment to sustainable change
- Have a clear vision for the future
- Construct well-conceived aims and targets
- Expand our grassroots and recreation base to allow more children, youth - male and female to get involved in the game of football.



Proline, Vision partnership reaps big

As a young boy growing up in a tough end populated suburb of Kampala, Charles Tibingana Mwesigye learned his football on rough dusty numerous make-shift fields of Nakivubo Blue primary School.

This was an education that he says gave him the confidence he exudes.

'We normally played a side games. We had to hit the target with stones that were make- shift goal posts; you had to use your skill to score a goal. This helped us get solutions for everything,' said Mwesigye.

He has the confidence that he has little doubt in his mind that he is headed for the top.

One year ago, just before the African Junior Championships that was hosted by Rwanda he turned down a chance to play for Uganda's junior side preferring Rwanda

the land of his forefathers.

'I didn't have much to think about when it came playing for Rwanda. I just consulted my mother, who encouraged me to play for Rwanda'

Everybody else was sad but I knew he had taken the right step to develop my career.

'I was happy with everything, the team and the federation. It didn't take me and my team-mate Andrew Buteera who is also my team-mate at Proline long to settle in'

Mwesigye is now a regular, and Proline's improvement in the last few years can be attributed in part to giving chancing to the young players.

Mwesigye didn't turn up in the national U-17 team by chance. A glowing reference from Proline's coach and director Mujib Kasule about Rwanda's youth development



also did the trick.

'I was happy for the advice Mujib gave me and his national team-mates and coach.

I Like Flis, he keeps the ball well and he has a lot of strength which allows Butera and others to create go forward and make myself available for long range shorts.

'There were a lot of factors in choosing to play for Rwanda. Last year the National U-20 team played well in the African Youth Championship so it made think that Rwanda has invested a lot in youth football development with a great mentality and which will personally benefit me'.

That was also really important for me. Mujib through Vision Academy told me that Rwanda takes good care of its players and the relationship between players and managers is very good. I recognise that now.

Before he moves on to paid ranks possibly in Europe, Mwesigye wants to ensure Rwanda put up a good show at the Fifa U-17 world cup in Mexico.

'I'm waiting for my chances. The established teams may have more quality players than us but as a group we are stronger with good mentality. You can feel that everybody is confident. Nobody thinks we are going out in the group stages and we are not an easy team to beat. We play as a team and lose as a team so we shall not be scared of any team in Mexico.

'I feel really comfortable with the current team and I believe we can go further in the tournament'

Mwesigye hopes he can be a part of the rebirth of the national football side with the likes of U-17 skipper Emery Bayisenge, defender Faustin Usengimana and of course Andrew Buteera.

A few years ago he was languishing in Villa's junior team; a stint that he believes was unproductive.



VYG moving towards self-reliance

The chairman of Vision Youth Group (VYG) Faustin Mbundu Kananura believes that it's just a matter of time before the group can be self-reliant, financing all its activities from the several profit-making projects that they plan to set up.

"We have not heard about many academies in Rwanda except for the few like APR, Ferwafa and Kiyovu. Many of these academies are financed by individuals"

We are planning to start up profit-making ventures to help us run the group's activities"

"We are expanding and we need sources of income to finance our entire project; we are enlarging the probability of having many youngsters in our academy".

"We are creating many chances for these kids to feel useful to society,"

He noted, "We think we (VYG) are extremely disciplined than other academies because of the motivation that we have added in our academy to give value to the future of these young players."

"These youngsters will grow up as professionals thus be able to play for their national teams and even create more chances for them to head to different African and European clubs,"

"Much as we are young in this business, we have created contacts to enable these players interact. They have been invited to Italy for a series of build-ups and I hope they will get a chance to improve their game,"

After establishing Vision Sports Ltd, a sports apparel trading company, 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 5,000 per quarter 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 group currently is seeking for external funding and external 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.





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Tardy's Wasps pack a sting

When Rwanda takes to the pitch in Mexico at the FIFA U-17 World Cup later this year, they will be one of the great unknowns at the event. The Junior Wasps will undoubtedly be hoping for big things, but their coach, Richard Tardy, knows that managing expectations will be vital to their cause.

Earlier this year, the Frenchman used his considerable experience to guide the side to the final of the African U-17 Championships, where they became the first-ever Rwandan

team to qualify for a global competition. The excitement generated by that run has barely abated in the small central African country.

"I noticed how when we were competing in the African competition earlier this year, people sat up and took notice. And when we qualified for the semi-finals, the whole country supported us. Everybody was talking about the team. Even the president of the country came to the semi-final and the final," Tardy said in an exclusive interview. "And now going to Mexico and playing there will be a very big event, not only in terms of



I noticed how when we were competing in the African competition earlier this year, people sat up and took notice

football, but for the whole country [in general]"

Hard at work

When the 60-year-old arrives in Mexico for the junior world finals, which will be held in seven cities between 18 June and 10 July, he and his team will have completed a

preparation most other coaches would envy. He says the team will have played friendly matches against first division clubs in Rwanda as well as U-19 professional sides in France and the France U-17 team. They will then go to the USA for a three-week camp before arriving early in Mexico to learn the lay of the land.

But while some coaches will have much less time to train with their teams, the Marseille-born boss points out that he needs the time to prepare. Tardy has already been working with mainly locally-based players, who will be joined by a few French-based youngsters for training in Europe. "For me, three months preparation is the minimum. I would prefer to even have had a longer time, but that was not possible," he explained.

"For some people three months might seem a long time, but virtually all of my players lack regular playing time," the coach went on. "The Under-17 league that was recently started in Rwanda is not yet functioning fully, and I only have a small number of players playing outside the country."

Surprisingly, traditional African powerhouses Ghana and Nigeria, who have reached the FIFA U-17 World Cup six times each, will not be among the four African representatives. The Junior Wasps are joined by African champions Burkina Faso, Congo and Côte d'Ivoire.

The Frenchman is reluctant to predict how well the team will do in Mexico. However, he is confident that his team will perform well. "We don't have too much pressure, but this will also increase as time goes on," he says.

A well-travelled coach

Tardy spent 17 years working for the French Football Federation. He was then compatriot Henri Michel's assistant with the Moroccan national side and also the national team of the United Arab Emirates. He has also coached club teams in Morocco, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Côte d'Ivoire and Greece.

The coach does not see his work with Rwandan football to be completed at the end of the World Cup in Mexico. He has just signed a new two-year deal with the country's football federation that will see him stay in the land-locked nation until March 2013. "I think the success of the Under-17 side is just the beginning. I would like the team to advance to the Under-20 level before becoming the Rwanda Olympic team and hopefully their success can continue."

Tardy credits much of the side's advancement to the football academies in Rwanda. "Through the FIFA Goal Project, a very successful academy has been built and many of the players in the squad come from that academy," he said. "We also have an artificial pitch that was built through the Goal Project and that means we can play at any time. We are now reaping the rewards of those projects, and I think it is a sign that football in Rwanda is developing."

The unfortunate reality of football in Africa and Rwanda's unique case— Mujib Kasule



Football, despite being the World's and Africa most loved and popular sport is faced with classic irony about its hindered development caused especially by those who are elected or appointed to manage it.

In most African countries the so called federations set up to support the sport unfortunately usually turn out to be driven by personal interests of the individuals who run them especially financial interests. Available funds in most cases are not spent on the critical areas that would drive success especially supporting those who are involved in developing young talent through academies but rather on other things that may not really benefit the nation.

Even the selection of the players to be in the national teams is usually biased by influential decision makers which totally destroys the game and hinders success at a continental and global level. The most successful football nations on the continent are those that have developed talent at the lower teen youth level (ages 10 to 16) like Egypt, Ivory Coast, South Africa, Ghana and Tunisia. The West African nations have survived on the financial support of their player trades in Europe to maintain good academies and junior sides of major league clubs.

East and Central Africa hardly has any stars in Europe and most of the countries' national teams don't feature in most continental and global events because of the above reasons. Some specific clubs though have been successful because of dedicated financial strength from

owners and promoters who buy the best players and pay them highly and on top of that do whatever is possible to win games in competitions.

TP Mazembe is the most recent and best example of this. One wonders why their success has not helped push the national team to the big continental and global competitions; they are obviously not building from the youth levels! And the level of organization and dedication they have as a club has not been extrapolated to the national level.

The case of Rwanda is quite different with a lot

Seeing the national side drop out of the tournament in the Quarter finals encouraged the players to work harder because they knew that if they misrepresent their nation, their other colleagues would not be proud of them.

of commitment from the senior leadership of the country; a president who personally supports the game of football and sponsors a regional tournament! The creation of the Ferwafa Academy has driven other clubs and football promoters to create other academies and this has created competition and identification of very good youth talent.

The future of Rwandan football lies in these academies which include APR, SEC, VISION, KIYOVU and POLICE. I attribute the success of the Rwanda Under-17 national side in the recently concluded CAN tournament to the wave of academy football that has recently swept over the country.

Rwanda can now proudly boast of being the first country in the regional to send a team at this

level to a global event in the recent past. Their team was fully prepared and went through the necessary drills but there was no greater preparation they had than the regional academies tournament organized by Vision Sports Academy in September last year.

Seeing the national side drop out of the tournament in the Quarter finals encouraged the players to work harder because they knew that if they misrepresent their nation, their other colleagues would not be proud of them.

The final team was also constituted by a few members of the other academies which boosted their strength. Of course we all congratulate SEC Kicukiro academy for winning the tournament last year but more importantly we are grateful to Vision Sports for organizing the event not forgetting the support of the Ministry of Sports and FERWABA and being able to also get some corporate sponsors for the very colorful event which attracted 12- teams three being foreign. When I brought the Proline kids for the event, we were confident that we would win the event but we only managed a 3rd place win after a very competitive match against Vision which we luckily won in the last 5 minutes of the game.

If I were asked to advise on Rwandan football, I would say that ultimately the same support and investment made in the Ferwafa national academy should be made in other academies so that the national team is selected from a wide variety of top academies. At the least Ferwafa must put dedicated efforts to support academies and promote competition through the national academies league which has already been started.

The country must also avoid having the one team syndrome where by there is only one or two strong clubs that win all national events and fail in continental or global events because of lack local competition. So some efforts have to be put in supporting clubs at the national level. Proline's partnership with Vision has already brought many good things, it's only getting stronger and we believe that we will see more come out of it.

This year we are planning coaching clinics and periodic player exchanges between the two to expose our players to different environments and prepare them for foreign competitions. Congratulations to Rwanda for doing things differently and the rest of the region can learnt from them.





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Message of Gratitude to our Sponsors:

Vision Youth Group would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all our sponsors of the recently concluded Vision Youth Group Regional Under-17 Football Academies Tournament that run from 15th to 17th October.

We congratulate the Winners of the Tournament SEC Kicukiro Football Academy!

We also thank the organizing committee and all the local and foreign participants for making the event a big success!! VYG intends to make the event annual and next year's tournament will feature 12 teams of which 6 teams will be foreign and 6 will be Rwandan.

Results of the Tournament:

VISION YOUTH GROUP'S REGIONAL UNDER-17 FOOTBALL ACADEMIES' TOURNAMENT							
OCTOBER 15 TH TO 17 TH , KIGALI, RWANDA							
GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C		GROUP D	
VISION SPORTS POLICE GOMA		SEC - KICUKIRO SHINING PROLINE		APR KIYOVO ESPERANCE-KIMISAGARA		FERWAFWA ESPERANCE-REMERA BUKAVU	
PRELIMINARIES FRIDAY 15th							
VISION	POLICE	SEC	SHINING	APR	KIYOVO	BUKAVU	REMERA
2	1	8	7 Penalties	2	1	4	0
GOMA	POLICE	SHINING	PROLINE	KIYOVO	KIMISAGARA	FERWAFWA	BUKAVU
1	2	0	2	0	2	1	0
VISION	GOMA	SEC	PROLINE	APR	KIMISAGARA	REMERA	FERWAFWA
3	4 Penalties	2	1	2	1	0	2
Group Winner - VISION Runner Up - POLICE		Group Winner - SEC Runner Up - PROLINE		Group Winner - APR Runner Up - KIMISAGARA		Group Winner - FERWAFWA Runner Up - BUKAVU	
QUARTER FINALS SATURDAY 16th							
FERWAFWA	1	APR	0	VISION	N/A	SEC	
PROLINE	2	POLICE	2	KIMISAGARA	Disqualified	BUKAVU	
SEMI-FINALS SATURDAY 16th							
PROLINE	1	POLICE	2	VISION	0	SEC	
3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF SUNDAY 17th							
		PROLINE	2	VISION	1		
FINALS SUNDAY 17th							
		SEC	3	POLICE	2		



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Vision trio for Italian trials

Vision Youth Group's football academy has recommended three youngsters to undergo trials at several junior sides of Italian Series A sides.

Twizeyimana Isaach, Umimana Idrisah Diddy and Nizeyimana Djuma will be traveling to Italy for trials for a fortnight with Series A U15 teams.

The trio is going on the recommendation of a Rwandan Association based in Italy.

The three vision academy trainees who are pioneers of the academy are currently under intensive preparations that will see them jet out for trials.

According to Head coach Bonny Kasim Rugamba, the trio will also engage Vision Youth Group in rigorous build-up matches tour with academies.

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

The Vision Youth Group is one of the academies that emerged in the country a few years ago alongside Ferwafa, Sec Kicukiro, APR and Kiyovu academies.



Vision to open Remera chapter

Vision Youth Group is planning to open up a branch in Remera to capture a slice out of the raw talent in the area.

VYG's president, John Bosco Birungi said "Remera just like Nyamirambo is another talent hub in Kigali City and we want to be there".

He added that having a presence in the Remera which has a big football population and sound sports infrastructure with the presence of talent is vital for football growth.

The group believes the presence in the city suburb is important in the long run.

Apart from the Nyamirambo and Remera, VYG is also planning to open other

chapters in the country side to ensure a good selection of players for Vision's team A. "A recent visit to Bugesera really touched us when we found 20 young boys playing with a ball made out of banana fibers; the next day we sent them two new adidas balls and intend to keep supporting them so as to groom more players for the Academy".

Birungi added that expanding is important for the group and for football development in the country.

A branch in Remera aims to target at first 25 players from unprivileged families but with good talent that can be developed and exploited to create more meaningful lives for the kids.

Vision Youth Group set for European Tour

Vision Youth Group's Academy is under intensive preparations that will see them jet out for an Italian tour where they are expected to visit and play friendly games against Italian Series A junior sides.

According to group's president, the Italian tour will be aimed at engaging the Vision Youth Group side in rigorous build-up matches with soccer academies in Italy.

"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 is one of the emerging academies in the country alongside Ferwafa, Sec Kicukiro, APR and Kiyovu academies respectively. Plans are also underway to arrange several friendlies for the team in England.

Tibs would consider featuring for local side

Charles Tibingana Mwesigye has not ruled out playing in the national football league, the Uganda based U-17 star said.

The budding international turned in some brilliant performances in this year's Africa Junior Championship, including a goal in the 2-1 defeat to winners, Burkina Faso in the finals.

He has been linked with some of local top clubs, including Rayon Sport and military side APR, but he said in an interview, that he would only consider playing for APR.

As the national U-17 prepare for the Fifa U-17 World Cup in Mexico, Proline match maker was asked whether he would consider playing in Rwanda.

"You never know but I can consider playing for only APR in Rwanda," he said.

"But if a great opportunity comes along then you have to consider it seriously"

"If I leave Proline, my wish is to play in Europe. I still want to grow as a player and if I see another country then I will grow."

Asked about Mwesigye, Proline coach Mujib Kasule said he has matured and he is on the way to becoming a very good player.

"When he came back from the African championship, he was a different player and he was being looked up to by other players in our team"

"So I think he will make it".

"He'll be an amazing player and he was not known in Rwanda, just in Uganda till the African Championship," the former Fifa agent turned pundit said.

"So I know the great player he is, still young, time to improve. So he'll be really top player top. I have no doubt about that."



Rwf 3bn project gets city nod

Vision Youth Group's plans to build a state-of-the-art sports complex in Kigali which will cost an estimated US\$5 millions (Rwf 3bn) has received a boost from Nyarugenge District and the City of Kigali.

In a meeting held recently the district authorities gave the group a go ahead to apply for the land title and present their development proposal.

The project, which will be called Tapi Rouge (Red Carpet), is to be on a 31,500 square meter piece of land located next to Nyamirambo Regional Stadium. The planned estimated building area is about 6,000 square meters.

The concept of the project is to set up a fully fledged sports centre with a standard football ground which has a seating area, a sports hall for indoor racket games and events, a tennis court, a basketball court, a music studio, a gym, a recreational pub, an office

block and an apartment block.

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

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

The first phase will involve clearing, excavation, site preparation, parking lots and fencing and setting up tennis and basket courts and a football pitch with a pavilion – (US\$2m). Land is to be secured from Kigali City Council.

The second phase is the academy hostel and office blocks – US\$1.5m (these will house the senior teams of the Academy, VYG's offices and also generate some funds from rented office space).

The last phase is a Sports hall complex with a Gym, Music studio and Club House – US\$1.5m and this will also generate income from events like weddings and conferences.



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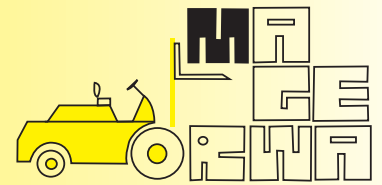








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