

POLICE

AUGUST 2025

YOUR OFFICIAL FREE SAPS MAGAZINE

Special Issue



INTERPOL



SOUTH AFRICA 2025

**27TH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
CAPE TOWN | SOUTH AFRICA**

ON A JOURNEY TO A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA



THE 27TH INTERPOL AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE CONVENES IN CAPE TOWN



INTERPOL member states present at the 27th INTERPOL African Regional Conference convened in Cape Town.

The much anticipated 27th INTERPOL African Regional Conference convened in Cape Town, under the theme: Leveraging Cooperation, Innovation, and Partnerships to Fight Transnational Organised Crime from 27 – 29 August 2025. The conference hosted by the South African Police Service (SAPS) saw about 250 senior law enforcement officials from across the globe converge to deliberate on transnational, terrorism, environmental, cyber and drug crimes affecting their states.

The INTERPOL is an International Police Organisation comprising of 196 member states. As part of its multi-lateral platforms, the INTERPOL African Regional Conference is hosted by INTERPOL member states in good standing within the African continent.

Delivering his opening address, the President of INTERPOL, Maj Gen (Dr) Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi appreciated the South African authorities for their outstanding organisation and warm hospitality that set the tone for the important gathering. "Our host, the South African Police Service, has long been a pillar of international police cooperation. Their commitment to tackling complex threats reinforces South Africa's standing as a key force in regional and global security. We thank them for leading by example," said Major Gen Al-Raisi.

The President stated that throughout his INTERPOL career, he has had the pleasure of witnessing first-hand the efficiency, resilience and ingenuity of African law enforcement. The collaboration of INTERPOL's member states is proving to be yielding positive results and are waging war against transnational organised crimes across the globe. The President shared INTERPOL's achievements for the past 12 months. Amongst some of the successes - 987 victims were rescued and 651 illegal migrants identified and saved, making a joint arrest of 2,322 criminals. "In terms of seizures, authorities have confiscated more than 30,000 kilograms of cocaine, close to 137- kilograms of cannabis, 63 000 capsules of Tramadol, and 8.7 million doses of illicit pharmaceuticals," said President Major General, Dr Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi.

He went on to say that the achievements reflect the dedication and effectiveness of African law enforcement in protecting communities and dismantling criminal networks.



Members of the INTERPOL Executive Committee with the Secretary General and the SAPS leadership.

Africa has 54 countries, and each country has its own unique needs, challenges, and strengths. President Maj Gen, Dr Al-Raisi reminded member states that INTERPOL is here to support them. Their role is to empower them and learn from them. "We are committed to optimising the services we provide, fostering deeper collaboration, and ensuring our tools and resources meet your needs and goals. Our investment in Africa goes beyond technology and training. We continuously strive to understand and address the evolving needs of the continent."



Acting Minister of Police, Prof Firoz Cachalia stated that the Conference lies not only in its policy agenda, but in its practical orientation. "We are gathered here to generate solutions that are both strategic and pragmatic solutions that can be implemented effectively within our countries and within the frameworks of our regional and continental organisations."

Speaking at the opening of the Conference, Acting Minister of Police, Professor Firoz Cachalia told delegates that the Conference is convened at a critical juncture where transnational organised crime remains one of the most serious threats to peace, stability and development across Africa and beyond.

“Its manifestations are diverse: drug trafficking, human trafficking, illicit firearms, cybercrime crime (as technology evolves), wildlife crime, money laundering and terrorism are the most threatening,” said Professor Cachalia.

He further hinted that the SAPS is mindful of the constantly changing nature of syndicated crime plaguing the world. “The evolving nature of criminal activities, the emergence of new trends, and the use of sophisticated technologies by criminal networks compel us to constantly adapt our response,” said Acting Minister Cachalia.

The Minister underscored the fact that transnational organised crime does not only undermine development but also corrodes governance by weakening institutions, fuelling corruption and diverting resources. He emphasised that the conference should not only be a talk shop but a catalyst for renewed determination and practical collaboration. “Let us leave here not only with well-articulated strategies, but with actionable plans that we are committed to implementing,” emphasised Acting Minister of the South African Police Service.

The 27th INTERPOL African Regional Conference will significantly strengthen South Africa’s law enforcement collaborations in several keyways:

- Enhanced Regional and International Partnerships
- Shared Best Practices and Innovation
- Strengthened Security and Crime Prevention
- Formal Agreements and Protocols
- Capacity Building and Professional Development
- Visibility and Leadership



The SAPS National Commissioner, Gen Fannie Masemola in his welcoming address explained that the Conference offers an opportunity to assess crime threats and emerging trends. It also strengthens INTERPOL’s core capabilities and reinforces the global policing cooperation that links Africa to all 196 member countries of INTERPOL.



Head of INTERPOL NCB in Pretoria, Brigadier NS Mokhine was the programme director for the official opening of the 27th INTERPOL African Regional Conference.



Deputy Minister of Police, Dr Polly Boshielo; Secretary General of INTERPOL, Mr Valdecy Urquiza; Police Minister, Prof Firoz Cachalia and SAPS National Commissioner, General Fannie Masemola responding to media questions with regards to the INTERPOL Conference in Cape Town. They highlighted the importance of African countries fighting organised cybercrime and co-operation for extradition cases alongside INTERPOL.



The SAPS National Commissioner, General Fannie Masemola met with Colonel Ali Al -Ali of INTERPOL Executive Committee (centre) for a brief session to strengthen relationships between the SAPS and Asia.

INTERPOL TO SUPPORT AFRICA IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CYBERCRIME



President of INTERPOL, Maj Gen (Dr) Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi assured all member states that INTERPOL is here to support them in fighting transnational organised crime.

The INTERPOL has vowed to support Africa in the fight against cybercrime and to keep up with the evolving crime trends where the use of technology such as Artificial Intelligence is fast permeating and becoming a new threat to its member states.

Opening the 27 th INTERPOL African Regional Conference, President of INTERPOL, Major General (Dr) Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi said the INTERPOL is committed to optimising the services they provide and foster collaboration while ensuring that their tools and resources meet the needs and goals of the African continent.

President Al-Raisi reassured African member states that the INTERPOL's investment is more than what meets the eye. "Our investment in Africa goes beyond technology and training. We continuously strive to understand and address the evolving needs of the continent," he said.

He told approximately 250 delegates that the INTERPOL launched the 2025 Africa Cyberthreat Assessment Report. "The 4 th edition offers an up-to-date overview of the region's cybercrime landscape, based on operational intelligence, law enforcement input and private-sector collaboration, and highlights new threats such as Artificial Intelligence driven fraud that require urgent attention," he highlighted.

The President reported that in the 2025 Cyberthreat Assessment Report, it indicated that two-thirds of African member countries reported cyber-related crimes accounting for a medium to high share of all crimes. As part of curbing the scourge, Operation Serengeti 2.0 which involves 18 African countries resulted in the arrest of 1,209 cybercriminals who had targeted almost 88,000 victims. From June to August 2025, the crackdown has recovered USD 97.4 million and dismantled 11,432 malicious infrastructures.

Mr Valdezy Urquiza, the Secretary General (Sec Gen) of INTERPOL mentioned that they have recently conducted a study where their experts worked with national law enforcement agencies in Africa and their findings were that cybercrime is the latest thorn in the flesh. "The result of the stats appoints the main growing threat for the region is cybercrime. There are threats related technology which is becoming more present and more challenging to investigate," explained Sec Gen Urquiza.



Secretary General of INTERPOL, Mr Valdezy Urquiza stated that the INTERPOL is there to come up with solutions by providing tools to curb the scourge of cybercrime.

He echoed that organisations are more sophisticated, using more technology and adopting new technologies to commit new crime. In one of those technologies is Artificial Intelligence. Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the development of computer systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as reasoning, learning, decision making, and perception. AI encompasses a wide range of technologies, including machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing.

According to INTERPOL Secretary General Urquiza, criminals are leveraging from it and it is becoming more difficult for law enforcement agencies to investigate and prevent those crimes. It is also becoming difficult for victims to prevent themselves from it.

He further stated that the INTERPOL is there to come up with solutions by providing tools to curb the scourge. "That's the role INTERPOL is playing right now. Developing tools and capacity building, especially training for law enforcement agencies all over the globe, especially here in Africa. This with the objective of providing them with the tools they need to investigate and fight those threats," Sec Gen Urquiza said.

PRESIDENT OF AFRIPOL BIDS FAREWELL



President of AFRIPOL, Mr Douglas Kanja Kirocho delivering his farewell speech at the gala dinner in Cape Town.

The President of African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) and Inspector General of the National Police Service of Kenya, Mr Douglas Kanja Kirocho officially announced his retirement from AFRIPOL and bade his heartfelt farewell at the 27th INTERPOL African Regional Conference Gala Dinner held on 28 August 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa.

He expressed his appreciation for being recognised and embraced as the President of AFRIPOL by member states. He thanked the President of INTERPOL for the support the organisation has given to the police of the Republic of Kenya. “We are grateful as Kenyan police. I must recognise the kind of organisation that I have seen at these INTERPOL conferences as it includes us as members of AFRIPOL. I must also appreciate the Police Chief of South African Police for the work you have done. I know it is not easy to organise the event of this magnitude the way you have done it. It calls for a lot of planning and I know your man and women have put in a lot of effort and hours to ensure that it is successful. For that reason, as Africa we appreciate you in a special way,” expressed the retiring President of AFRIPOL.

AFRIPOL is the technical institution of the African Union mandated to strengthen and harmonise the capacities of law enforcement agencies across Member States. Its mission is to support African police services in preventing and combating transnational organised crime, terrorism, cybercrime, and other emerging threats to continental security.

While welcoming the delegates to the gala dinner, the SAPS National Commissioner, General Fannie Masemola relayed



SAPS National Commissioner, General Fannie Masemola with Secretary General of INTERPOL, Mr Valdecy Urquiza appreciating the support given by INTERPOL to host the 27th INTERPOL African Regional Conference convened in Cape Town, South Africa.



INTERPOL Vice President for Africa, Mr Mohammed Dkhissi being appreciated by the National Commissioner of Police, General Fannie Masemola for the role he plays in the fight against transnational organised crime.

that the night's gathering is not only about fellowship but to also reaffirm a collective resolve in the face of one of the greatest challenges which is transnational organised crime.

"As we set aside our formal deliberations and come together in unity, we do so at the backdrop of a continent under siege in terms of transnational crime, which of course has inrenched in all other countries, as well as the global world. We are police, our work is to deal with criminals. Criminal networks exploit our borders, traffic in narcotics, weapons, human life and infiltrate our societies in a devastating consequence.

But tonight, let's for a moment relax, from your hectic schedule you had during the day. It is a night to declare Africa neither helpless nor defeated... We are a continent of resilience, innovation and unity. Our strength lies in our cooperation and in our institution sharing intelligence. Let this evening be more that a celebration. Let it be a moment of renewal, inspiration and a reminder that the responsibility we carry is not only for today but for future generations," declared General Masemola.



The Director General of the National Police of Djibouti, Colonel Abdourahman Ali Kahin handing over a gift of appreciation to the host, the National Commissioner of Police, General Fannie Masemola at the gala dinner in Cape Town.



The multi-talented SAPS Band from the Western Cape serenaded the delegates throughout the night with their melodious sounds.



For a job well done, the Commissioner General of Zimbabwe Republic Police, Mr Stephen Mutamba hands over a token of appreciation on behalf of Police Chiefs in Africa to the President of INTERPOL, Maj Gen (Dr) Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi in Cape Town.



Constable Radebe directing the programme during the gala dinner with approximately 250 delegates from Africa and across the globe.



Delegates enjoying good wine locally produced in South Africa at the gala dinner.

WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE SHARED TO COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME



The INTERPOL member countries observing a moment of silence at the closing of the 27th INTERPOL Regional Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. Conference convened in Cape Town.

The three-day 27th INTERPOL African Regional Conference was hailed a success, with delegates upbeat about the wealth of knowledge they consumed to combat transnational organised crime during the informative sessions held in Cape Town, South Africa. Africa's Vice President of INTERPOL and Conference Chairperson, Mr Mohammed Dkhissi hailed praises to all the 41 countries who earnestly participated in the deliberations.

The successful INTERPOL Conference resulted in five draft recommendations that were unanimously adopted and endorsed by the member states.

Speaking during the closing ceremony of the event which saw the police chiefs and police commissioners of National Central Bureau (NCB) in attendance. He implored the delegates from all the countries that drafted recommendations of the conference and stated that they should be translated into action. "I am delighted to witness the passion of delegates to unleash their expertise and innovative strategies on how to harness their collective achievements and the methods of fighting challenges, as well their willingness to use Nexus which is a new communication toolkit."

He further urged the delegates and the newly elected African Regional Committee, made up of eight African states to continue to play their role in the fight against crime.

South Africa's candidate Brig Mokhine was among eight countries represented that were elected to serve in the African Regional Executive Committee for INTERPOL. He received a whopping 42%. Each candidate had to make a three-minute presentation of why he or she should be elected. Other countries elected include Ghana, Nigeria, Botswana, Kenya, Egypt, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Vice President Dkhissi added that African countries should make a proper diagnosis of their needs and priorities. He said it was good that the conference delved into matters that pose a serious threat to peace and stability in the continent.

He thanked the experts, practitioners and commissioners who spent a considerable amount of time during the three days.

"The conference was a resounding success. Thank you to the National Commissioner, Gen Fannie Masemola and his team for the wonderful work in organising the event and for great hospitality and warmth as a host in the City of Cape Town.

A Brief Zoom into the Conference Panel Discussions

Various speakers took turns at the podium from different countries following the opening of the Conference. The delegates shared best practices, innovative ideas and remedies with fellow counterparts with the aim of curbing the scourge of transnational organised crime.

Day One - Member states engaged on some topics which included but not limited to Unlocking Success Together: INTERPOL And African Union Cooperation, The Fight Against Transnational Cybercrime in Africa, Policing the Vulnerable: Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling.

Day Two - Saw different topics of discussion touching on finance, how INTERPOL's innovative tools and partnerships are revolutionising the fight against financial crime in Africa. Amongst the speakers, Ms Anele Ncube from African Development Bank encouraged member states to form partnerships, capacity building and to utilise the African Development Bank for financial assistance.



Delegates from different member countries of INTERPOL during deliberations. The conference hosted by the SAPS saw approximately 250 senior law enforcement officials from across the globe converge to deliberate on transnational organised crime.

During the sessions, Mr Mohamed Amin from Kenya highlighted that financial crimes have a ripple effect on governance and fuels improprieties. Therefore, combating such crimes is important for sustainable development.

Members further presented on protecting Africa's health and environment which is a comprehensive approach to combating illicit activities. Mr Dominique Baya shared strategies for addressing environmental security threats in Central Africa.

Mr Thomas Ungerbuehler shared information on combating illicit pharmaceutical trafficking in Africa where he hinted that fake medications kill half a million of Africans annually which is a cause for concern. He encouraged that collaboration is key to success. They are also raising awareness, organising operations and hold more webinars and workshops as part of combating this crime.

Divisional Commissioner for Detective and Forensic Services in the South African Police Service, Lieutenant General Khosi Senthumule, presented on Wheels of Deceit: A Law Enforcement Perspective on Stolen Motor Vehicles. She touched on vehicle crimes such as carjacking, theft and smash and grab and how they pose threat to the safety of South Africans and the economy of the country. She further shared successes and hinted though that harmonisation of legislation would also help in repatriating vehicles.

In his closing remarks, Gen Masemola expressed his delight about the valuable contribution to the fight against criminals in the borders of the continent, which includes cross border smuggling of vehicles, illicit firearms that are in circulation, posing a serious threat to peace and weakens the economy of the country. "Cybercrime and wildlife crime are also becoming problematic. However, with interventions there is hope that the authorities will be a step ahead of criminals."

Meanwhile, Burundian Inspector General of Police, Major General Joseph Ninteretse said they were glad to participate in the conference for the first time as a country. He emphasized that the issue of money laundering and human trafficking was a thorny matter which must be dealt with by participating countries. He described the conference as a remarkable event and essential opportunity for his country.



SAPS' Top Bras at the closing engagements of the 27th INTERPOL Regional Conference on 29 August 2025.



A panel discussing Future Proofing Africa: Enhancing Policing Capabilities in Africa on the last day of the 27th INTERPOL African Regional Conference.



Parading with pride, police flag bearers marching during the closing ceremony of the Conference.