

APR FC Chairman Brig Gen Déo Rusanganwa has expressed uncertainty over Rayon Sports' last-minute decision to withdraw from the club's upcoming pre-season tournament, hinting that fear could be a possible reason.

The tournament, dubbed "Inkera y'Abahizi," translated into English as: "The Warriors' Assembly" is part of APR FC's preparations for the 2025/26 football season, during which the club aims to perform strongly in both domestic and international competitions.

Speaking through the club's official social media platforms, Brig Gen Rusanganwa confirmed that while several invited teams had already confirmed participation—including Zambia's Power Dynamos, Tanzania's AZAM FC, Rwanda's Police FC, and AS Kigali—Rayon Sports pulled out unexpectedly.

"We had also invited Rayon Sports, but at the last minute they said they wouldn't make it," he said. "They later mentioned it might still be possible, but we're not sure—maybe it's fear."

The Inkera y'Abahizi event is inspired by Rwandan royal-era traditions, where warriors would gather and prepare before major battles. Rusanganwa explained that the tournament is meant not only to ready the players for competitive fixtures but also to provide entertainment for fans.

"This concept is drawn from ancient Rwanda during the time of kings. Before launching attacks, soldiers would come together to plan and hunt. APR will be doing most of the hunting on the pitch, but fans should also have a good time," he said, adding that more information on entertainment activities will be released in the coming days.

With the 2025/26 season set to begin soon, including continental engagements for APR FC, the pre-season games are seen as vital for building match fitness and team cohesion.

The tournament kicks off on August 17, 2025, with the opening match between league winners APR FC and Power Dynamos scheduled at Amahoro Stadium. Additional games will be held at both Amahoro and Kigali Pelé Stadium.