

Rwanda has launched a nationwide vehicle emission testing campaign aimed at cutting air pollution and promoting cleaner transport across the country.

The initiative—jointly implemented by the Rwanda National Police (RNP) and partner institutions—was unveiled at the Remera Automobile Inspection Centre in Kigali. It seeks to ensure vehicles meet environmental standards while safeguarding public health and the environment.

The launch event brought together senior government officials, including Minister of Environment Dr. Bernadette Arakwiye, Minister of State for Infrastructure Jean de Dieu Uwihanganye, Minister of State for Sports Rwego Ngarambe, and RNP spokesperson ACP Boniface Rutikanga.

Dr. Arakwiye emphasized that routine vehicle inspections play a crucial role in improving air quality and protecting vulnerable populations.

“Our air is not as clean as it should be, and this negatively affects our people—especially children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions,” she said. “Testing vehicle emissions helps us understand the state of our vehicles and take measures to reduce pollution.”

She encouraged motorists to take advantage of available services, noting that emission tests can be done alongside roadworthiness inspections. “Some vehicles fail inspection because they are old or have mechanical issues,” she explained. “We urge all vehicle owners to get tested. The process is simple—you can do both inspections at once.”

Minister of State for Infrastructure Jean de Dieu Uwihanganye revealed that a new, modern vehicle inspection centre is under construction in Ndera Sector, Gasabo District, to boost testing capacity. “The Ndera facility will increase efficiency and allow us to test more vehicles faster and with better service quality,” he said.

According to ACP Boniface Rutikanga, emission testing services are now available at all automobile inspection centres in Gasabo, Rwamagana, Musanze, and Huye districts, as well as through a mobile lane serving remote areas.

“Citizens can easily book appointments through the Irembo platform, choose their

preferred date and time, and receive confirmation on their phones,” he said.

He added that emission testing will be fully integrated with the existing roadworthiness inspection system.

“When a vehicle inspection certificate expires, owners will be able to renew both the roadworthiness and emission tests together. This saves time and ensures full compliance with environmental standards,” Rutikanga explained.

The campaign reflects Rwanda’s broader effort to promote environmental protection, reduce carbon emissions, and advance towards a cleaner, healthier future.