

Dear Sir/Madam,

The designated operator of **RWANDA**, the *Office nationale des postes*, asks me to inform the designated operators of UPU member countries of the following:

"The designated operator of Rwanda has recently learned that several illegal postage stamp issues are currently on sale on an Internet site.

"The designated operator of Rwanda denounces and condemns such practices and recalls that illegal issues jeopardize not only the reputation of the Rwandan Post, but also philately as a whole. Moreover, these issues constitute a flagrant violation of national legislation on the production of postage stamps, and of the provisions of article 8 of the Universal Postal Convention and Congress recommendation C 26/2008.

"The designated operator of Rwanda is counting on the initiatives taken by the Universal Postal Union and its bodies to seek an end to this problem. It is also relying on the solidarity of other designated operators in helping to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice. Finally, it is counting on its philatelic partners, which have always complied with the regulations governing the circulation of philatelic products by contacting designated operators to alert them about irregularities in stamp issues.

"The designated operator of Rwanda informs its partners that its most recent postage stamps were issued on 15 November 2010 ("Mountain gorilla" and "Arts and culture of Rwanda" series). As the postal operator of Rwanda participates in the WADP Numbering System (WNS), those stamps are visible on the WNS website at www.wnsstamps.ch/en. All issues bearing a date after 15 November 2010 are therefore illegal and should be treated as such."

Yours faithfully,

K.J.S. McKeown
Director of Markets Development