

## **Ministry of Sports, Culture & Heritage**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

26<sup>th</sup> April 2021

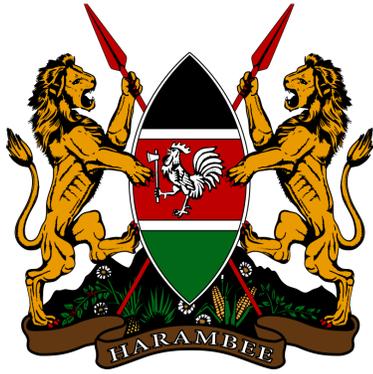
**Attn: SPORTS EDITORS**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Our attention is drawn to an email sent by an individual known as Christian Rohde to the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK) claiming to work for a German Television Network known as ZDF. In the email, Mr. Rohde alleged that he received information that Kenya, through ADAK and Athletics Kenya [AK] are engaged in a systematic coverup of doping cases among Kenyan athletes.

Upon receipt of this email, and owing to the seriousness of the allegations, ADAK alerted the office of the Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) who swiftly took over the matter for investigation.

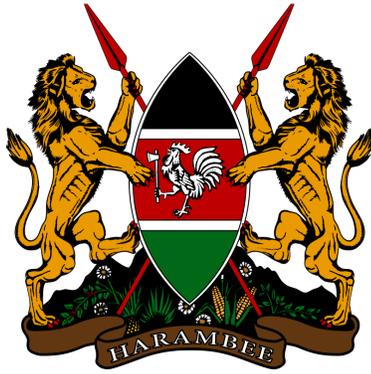
The 'alleged informant' was arrested and found in possession of several copies of forged letters supposedly



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sent from ADAK and Athletics Kenya (AK). He was also found in possession of three laptops and several mobile phones which have been confiscated for analysis. This individual was charged with twelve counts of forgery and arraigned before a Court of Law this morning for plea taking. The Criminal Justice System is now seized of this matter and we will therefore not further delve into the details.

Nevertheless, we wish to state that the Ministry has noted with great concern that whenever Kenya is about to participate in a major International Sporting event, unscrupulous characters embark on a mission to disparage Kenya's decades of well-deserved sporting repertoire and our leadership in the global anti-doping efforts. Kenya has served on the WADA Foundation Board and collaborated with WADA to align our laws to international standards, anti-doping education, comparative anti-doping efficiency systems, athlete education, technological advancement for results management and many other core areas necessary to build an effective anti-doping ecosystem. Kenya was the second country in Africa to enact the anti-doping law.



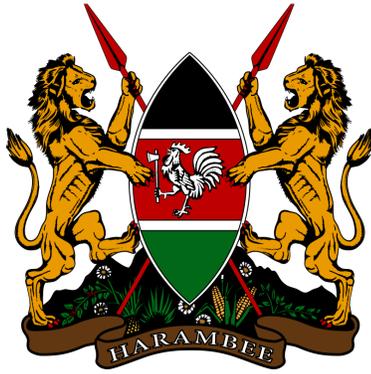
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Kenya has also earned global recognition as a competitive athletic country with undisputed command in long-distance running with steady expansion into field disciplines such as Rugby, Volleyball and Basketball. Similarly, Kenya has hosted some of the most successful international events including the World Athletics Cross Country Championship in 2007, World Athletics Under-18 Championship, 2017, the World Athletics Continental Tour, 2020 and the African Rally Championship-Equator Rally Kenya, 2021.

Kenya is set to host the World Athletics Under-20 Championship, Nairobi 2021, the World Athletics Continental Tour 2021 and FIA/WRC Safari Rally Kenya. We have also submitted an active bid to host the World Athletics Championship, 2025.

A lot of resources have been devoted to sports and to building solid sports governance processes with the **ATHLETE** at the **CENTRE** of our determination to excel.

More importantly, Kenya has welcomed the world to witness and interact with athletes in the form of sports exchange programs, sports tourism, education and

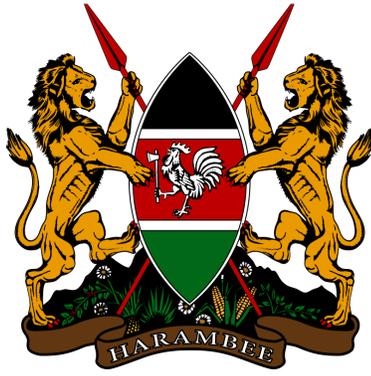


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professional sports management. We have always been open, friendly, warm and welcoming to all our visitors including journalists.

It is unfortunate that this generosity and openness has in rare, but extremely damaging circumstances such as the present case, been abused to the detriment of our national image and the impeccable global reputation of our hard-working athletes. It is particularly disheartening to note that while our local journalists accord international athletes competing in our country and externally full support and respect, certain international journalists have made this 'doping' crusade a personal mission and progressed journalistic material in the form of documentaries, digital and print press based on false information aimed at destabilizing the fabric of our national sporting heritage. Thankfully, this crusade is limited to a small number of journalists from Germany and more recently Denmark and Norway.

Sports is a core part of Kenya's national identity and any threat to our patriotic pride as a nation can only be termed and treated as a threat to our national security.

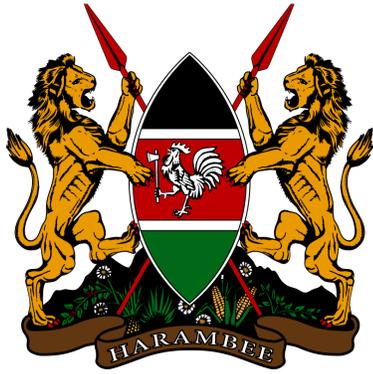


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Regrettably, these isolated foreign journalists collude with a few unpatriotic and corrupt Kenyans to compile this false information on their behalf in an attempt to false authenticity. We have carefully evaluated their patterns and note that these falsehoods are peddled against Kenya's most celebrated and admired athletes. We can only presume that this strategy is meant to demoralize our athletes and distract them from focused training.

We can trace this trend to the eve of the 2012 London Summer Olympic Games, 2016 Rio Olympic Games, the 2017 IAAF World Championships in London, 2019 World Athletic Championships in Doha and most recently, an ongoing attempt to tarnish our respected national standing as we prepare teams for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

These allegations are baseless, careless, reckless and attack the credibility of an entire country and our hard working, globally renowned athletes who have worked tirelessly to earn their place on the international hall of fame.

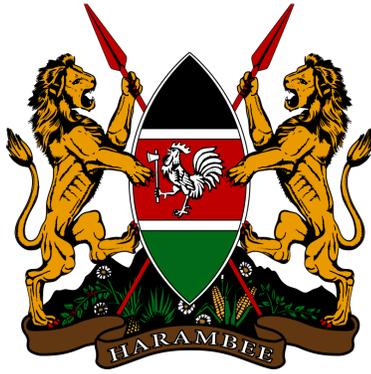


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It is common knowledge that any athlete found culpable of doping globally in any country is sanctioned in accordance with international anti-doping regulations. This has been the case since doping was recognized as a crime at the beginning of the previous century.

The athlete is the center of Government policy on sports. Accordingly, the Ministry has put in place a myriad of measures to protect and support the athlete as well as secure the integrity of sports in Kenya. The measures include the following:

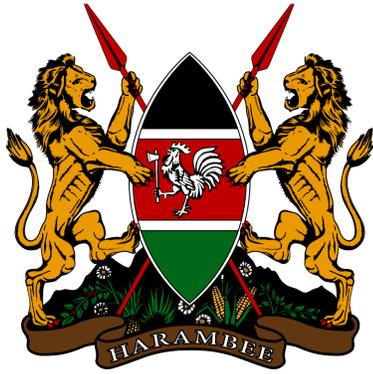
1. The National Assembly passed the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya Act. No. 5 of 2016 to provide for the implementation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention Against Doping in Sport; the regulation of sporting activities free from the use of prohibited substances and methods in order to protect the health of athletes; the establishment and management of the Anti-Doping Agency and to



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provide for the Agency's powers, functions and management and for connected purposes.

2. Consequently, ADAK was established in 2016 to undertake all Anti-Doping Activities in the country.
3. In 2018, ADAK established the Intelligence and Investigation Unit in accordance with the international standard for testing and investigations;
4. In 2020, ADAK established an e-learning portal to reach out to all our stakeholders. This is the only one of its kind in Africa to date;
5. Over 80,000 athletes have been educated on Anti-Doping matters and more than 4,200 samples collected from athletes for analysis at WADA accredited laboratories in Doha, Qatar and in Bloemfontein, South Africa.
6. To align our laws to the new World Anti-doping Code (2021) and newly introduced international



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standards, H.E the President signed into law the Anti-doping Amendment Act (2020);

7. Elaborate, water-tight systems have been put in place to protect the integrity of the Anti-Doping program which is managed in strict adherence to the World Anti-Doping Code, its related International Standards, the Anti-Doping Act and the Anti-Doping Rules. Those relating to testing are described below:
  - a) Any collected samples are transported to a WADA accredited Laboratory for analysis. The Lab does not receive names of athletes. The only information accompanying the sample is a sample code.
  - b) Upon analysis, the findings are posted on a web-based portal known as the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System [ADAMS]. ADAK and the respective International Federation(s), have a "READ ONLY" access to this system.



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- c) Once the results are posted in ADAMS, ADAK takes over and prosecutes any positive cases with regular updates to WADA on the progress of each case.
- d) This system cannot be tampered with or altered by any person or entity.

Kenya is committed to the fight against doping and has put in place all necessary structures and systems to support the realization of this commitment.

We remain steadfast in our efforts to ensure that the agenda of anti-doping and clean sport is achieved in our country and across the world. We further pledge to continue in our determination to bring to book all those involved in tarnishing the good name of our athletes and country.



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We thank the Media for their continued support in this noble agenda and invite you to engage the Ministry on any information requiring verification.

Thank you.

*Issued at the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage  
Headquarters on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.*

**Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohamed, EGH, CAV**  
**CABINET SECRETARY**

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