



**41<sup>st</sup> ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**  
**29<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Arusha Tanzania**

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**REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

(Agenda item 10)

<b>Subject</b>  Report of the Chairman of the Administrative Council	<b>References/Paragraphs</b>  - Article 5 of the Rule of Procedure of the Administrative Council of the Union  - Article 5 of the Detailed Regulations
<b>Decision expected</b>  Take note of the report	

## **DRAFT ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE CHAIRMAN 2022-2023**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

First and foremost, permit me once again to express my sincere gratitude to the PAPU Membership who gave Madagascar the opportunity to lead the Council during the period 2022 to 2023.

At this moment, I am pleased to present my report as the Chairman of the Council and give an account of what has been accomplished during the period under review, as annotated hereinafter.

### **2. SESSION OF THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY PAPU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL HELD IN JULY 2022, IN KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

As per the provisions of Article 5 of the Rule of Procedure of the Administrative Council of the Union, the Chairman shall organize the work during sittings. He shall open and close sittings, direct the debates, grant the use of the floor, submit to a vote matter under discussion when deemed necessary, announce the results of votes, and rule on points of order per the present Rules of Procedure.

Furthermore, Article 5 of the Detailed Regulations charges the Administrative Council with the responsibility of directing, controlling, and coordinating financial and administrative activities of the union, among others in between ordinary sessions of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

In line with these provisions, distinguished Delegates, I am pleased to report that during the year under review, Madagascar successfully carried out this responsibility in collaboration with the Secretary General and his Staff. I therefore sincerely thank them for their cooperation and support, which made our stewardship smooth and successful.

You will recall that at our meeting held in Kinshasa, we considered and approved the under-listed activities, among others, that were submitted to the Council for consideration:

- a) Theme of PAPU Day Celebration 2023;
- b) Programme of Activities for the 2022/2023 financial year;
- c) Budget of the Union for the 2022/2023 financial year;
- d) Appointment of the External Auditor.

I am glad to report that all these activities were fully executed and are contained in detail in the Administrative & Technical Committee's reports as well as in the Report of Activities the General Secretariat for the year 2022/2023 that you will consider and adopt later.

The other activities which were carried out during the period under review are as follows:

### **3. SIGNED AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

The signing of the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st May 2021 was my first official assignment. This I performed in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, during the 40th Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council. I have confirmation from the General Secretariat that the audited financial statement was circulated to all Member States in line with the Financial Regulations of the Union.

### **4. ATTENDED PAPU DAY IN DODOMA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

As you are aware, Africa's postal fraternity comes together on 18<sup>th</sup> January each year to celebrate the Pan African Post Day around a theme defined by ministers responsible for postal services during the ordinary session of the Plenipotentiary Conference held on a quadrennial basis. The commemoration of this day is meant to raise the stakeholders' and general public awareness of the role of the postal industry as a socio-economic player making a positive impact on the everyday lives of the people, businesses, and the community at large.

This year's theme: "The Post, an established promoter of cross-border commerce in Africa."

In light of the above and at the invitation of the General Secretariat as the Chairman of the PAPU Administrative Council, I am glad to report that I participated in the PAPU Day Celebrations on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in Dodoma, where I was privileged to address the audience during the Ceremony which was graced by the Minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Nape Moses Nnauye (MP).

During the occasion, I expressed my appreciation to the founding president, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, for his selfless and visionary leadership, crystallized by the land offered to PAPU in Arusha to construct a befitting headquarters building for our Union.

I also seized the opportunity to congratulate the United Republic of Tanzania for partnering with PAPU and specifically for ensuring that all resolutions passed by the PAPU Administrative Council on this project are duly implemented for the ultimate successful completion of this project.

All in all, I stressed my gratitude to the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania for the continuous support extended in various forms, financially, materially, and morally, acknowledging that as a member of the PAPU Administrative Council, Tanzania is the first point of call, in other words, the eyes and ears of the Council, in the absence of all other members, before escalating matters for consideration.

In the final analysis, I expressed hope that upon completion of the project, the PAPU House building, Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the Republic of Tanzania, will inaugurate the PAPU Tower and ardently wished that she would invite her colleagues across Africa, looking at the profile of

the project, which is of a continental scale, among others. I am gratified that this will finally happen on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.

The above notwithstanding, I had a Working Session with the General Secretariat Staff on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at the Union's Headquarters in Arusha, during which we deliberated on several issues affecting the day-to-day operations of the Union.

I also signed letters of reminder contributions during the Working Session.

## **5. APPROVED THE ADMISSION OF BENIN, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, AND MOROCCO INTO THE PAPU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

As you may be aware, the 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the PAPU Administrative Council held in July 2022 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, adopted **Resolution No.7/PAPU/C1/XL/2022** on Policy and Regulation, which approved the conditional or unconditional admission of three Member States, namely Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo and Morocco to the Administrative Council as representatives, respectively, of the West, Central and North regions for various reasons as detailed below:

- a) Firstly, Benin's original request could not be tabled for consideration before the Plenipotentiary Conference was concluded in June 2021 in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) as it was received after the Conference even though Benin had fulfilled all the eligibility criteria for Council Membership;
- b) Secondly, the Democratic Republic of Congo cleared its outstanding mandatory financial contributions amounting to US\$ 224,814.28 (two hundred and twenty-four thousand eight hundred and fourteen US dollars and twenty-eight cents only), thereby meeting all the requisite criteria;
- c) Lastly, in line with the Acts of the Union, the Kingdom of Morocco agreed on an amortization plan for US\$ 206,943.63 (two hundred and six thousand nine hundred and forty-three US dollars and sixty-three cents only) payable in four installments from 2023 to 2026.

Given the aforementioned resolution, once the admission requirements had been fulfilled before the end of January 2023, the Chairman of the Administrative Council was supposed to refer the matter to the Chairman of the Plenipotentiary Conference to secure the latter's endorsement.

In his response received on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the Chairman of the Plenipotentiary Conference approved the Resolution submitted to him and signed **Decision No.01/PAPU/PCP/2022** admitting new Members to the PAPU Administrative Council for the remainder of the 2021/2022-2024/2025 cycle.

I, therefore, have the honour to announce that following the signing of the aforementioned Decision, the Republic of Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Kingdom of Morocco formally became Members of the PAPU Administrative Council, representing the West, Central, and North Africa Regions, respectively.

## **6. PAYMENT OF PAPU ONLINE BILLS USING DEBIT CARDS**

The Secretary General of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) informed me by a letter dated 12 October 2022 that the General secretariat was constrained to make some online payments outside the standard banking requirements due to restrictions placed on transactions by some service providers who insist that the payments be paid using Debit Cards like VISA or Master Card.

These online payments relate mostly to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) transactions, such as renewing Zoom and Webinar licenses, which require online payment using a Debit card. The banks in Tanzania do not issue Debit Cards to Businesses or Institutions but only issue them to individuals. This means that these payments can only be made by an individual using his/her personal debit card. The said individual will, after that, be refunded the total amount paid and the ensuing card charges when the payment for the bill is successful.

Although this type of transaction is electronic and not explicitly taken care of in the Union's Financial Regulations, it has become imperative for staff to do these transactions to support the Union in settling bills for such transactions and seeking a refund.

Given the foregoing, the Secretary General requested me, as the Chairman of the Council, to recognize that this payment method is being used to pay for essential services required by the Union as and when the need arises. I, consequently, approved in October 2022

## **7. CONVENED TWO MEETINGS ON THE DATE OF CHANGE OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

I convened a meeting in June 2023 on the hosting of the 41<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council scheduled to take place in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to align them to be back-to-back with the inauguration of the PAPU Tower to give delegates to the Administrative Council Session an opportunity to attend both events. Consequently, the 41<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the PAPU Administrative Council, initially scheduled from 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023, will be postponed to 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023. This would be followed by the new PAPU Headquarters Inauguration initial programme which was set to be from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

As Chairman of the PAPU Administrative Council, I convened another Virtual Emergency Consultation Meeting of the Council on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 following the advice received from the Ministry of Information, Communication, and Information Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania on the availability of the Head of State of the United Republic of Tanzania **Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan** as the distinguished Guest of Honour for the PAPU Tower Inauguration on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 which, in essence, would be a 3-day forward shift from 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 set initially. This meeting unanimously agreed and approved that Members adopt the proposed new dates for the 41<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council to align to the PAPU Tower Inauguration dates in pursuance of the original objective of affording Members the chance to attend both events with lesser financial burden on their side. Hence, the new PAPU Headquarters building will be inaugurated in the presence of VVIPs that will include other Heads of PAPU Member States, Ministers responsible for the Post in Africa, Ambassadors, Postal Officials and Plenipotentiaries, African Union Commission Dignitaries, Universal Postal Union leadership, Partners and Friends of the African Post.

## 8. APPROVING COST VARIATIONS FOR THE “PAPU HOUSE” PROJECT

As The Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), I approved the Cost Variations on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 for the “PAPU Tower” Project vide Decision **No. 04/PAPU/CAC/2023**, being mindful of Article 12 of the Convention and Article 5 of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention as well as having regard to Article 10-3 of the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) between the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) and the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), whereby each of the Parties is required to obtain authorization from its Council or Board for any matter related to investment in the “PAPU House” Project. Furthermore, the Decision to approve the Cost variations was made having perused the Joint Venture Committee (JVC) recommendation to the Joint Management Committee and having examined the Joint Management Committee’s meeting Resolution ensuing from the said JVC Recommendations.

That notwithstanding, the approval was given considering the usefulness that the variations would bring to the PAPU House Project, particularly in terms of durability, lowering maintenance costs, guaranteeing adequate security, and overall improvements.

Finally, I approved, acknowledging that the proposed change warranted urgent action that could not be delayed until the next Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council, which is scheduled to take place in August 2023.

## 9. APPROVED THE REQUEST FOR PAPU PROVISIONAL BUDGET

In line with Regulation 14, paragraph 4 of the Financial Regulations of PAPU, which states that ***“If for any reason, the Council has not approved the budget of the Union before 1<sup>st</sup> June, the Chairman of the Council may authorize the Secretary General to disburse provisionally one-twelfth of the provisions of the previous budget, every month until the new budget has been approved”***.

Furthermore, in line with the approved budget for the 2022/2023 financial year totaling **USD 2,013,850.23**, the requested amount applied for each month was the sum of **USD 167,820.85**, being one-twelfth of the approved budget for the previous financial year.

Accordingly, as the Chairman of the Administrative Council, I authorized the Secretary General to disburse provisionally one-twelfth of the provisions of the previous budget every month until the new budget has been approved. Thus, the request for a provisional budget for the Union for June, July, and August 2023 was granted in May, June, and August 2023, respectively.

## 10. CHAIRING THE FIRST PART OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

As per the provisions of Article 5 of the Rule of Procedure of the Administrative Council of the Union, the Chairman shall organize the work during sittings. He shall open and close sittings, direct the debates, grant

the use of the floor, submit to a vote matter under discussion when deemed necessary, announce the results of votes, and rule on points of order per the present Rules of Procedure.

Furthermore, Article 5 of the Detailed Regulations charges the Administrative Council with the responsibility of directing, controlling, and coordinating financial and administrative activities of the union, among others in between ordinary sessions of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

In line with these provisions, distinguished Delegates, I chaired the 41<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the PAPU Administrative Council until the new Bureau was installed under Agenda item 6 a while ago. I still echo my words by I, representing my country, Madagascar, successfully carried out this responsibility in collaboration with the Secretary General and his Staff. I therefore sincerely thank them for their cooperation and support, which helped steer the ship smoothly.

## **11. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Considering the importance of increasing the level and robustness of participation in the framework for dialogue between stakeholders of the postal sector, enhancement of participation in studies aimed at developing the postal industry as well and increasing the level of funding for the Union's activities, it is imperative for Member States to own the drive for more Associate Members by scanning for and recommending Organizations that can become Associate Members. In this regard, let me sincerely thank the Government of Uganda for facilitating the Membership of one more Associate Member, namely, GovNNet, into the PAPU family.

## **12. CHALLENGES**

During my tenure, I encountered the following inherent challenges:

- a) Representation of Member States at the UPU Committees and the UPU Bodies remains weak. This is despite reminders to members who were elected into the CA and POC to represent the Union in the various UPU committees and working groups, mainly to serve as Chairpersons or deputy Chairpersons;
- b) Representation of PAPU officials at the UPU meetings remains inadequate due to austerity measures imposed by the Council;
- c) The current but outdated scale of assessment for annual financial contributions to the budget of the Union and the failure of Member States to pay as and when due also continues to affect the smooth implementation of our activities;
- d) The advent of the Russia/Ukraine War, Civil Strife in some African Member States, natural disasters, and their untold ramifications on economies and indirectly on the postal sector.

### **13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

For the smooth running of our organization, I wish to recommend as follows going forward:

- a) Payment of mandatory annual financial contribution to the budget of PAPU within the first six months of the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November of every year. This action will not only enable the General Secretariat to plan and execute the approved activities seamlessly. It will also enable Member States and Associate Members to avoid the 2% statutory surcharge for late settlement of annual contributions. Possible increase in the annual mandatory contributions of Member States to improve the cash flow of the Union given that the last slight review was during the 34<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Administrative Council held in Khartoum, Sudan in 2015;
- b) Strong appeal to member states who are members of the POC & CA for more presence and effective participation at UPU meetings;
- c) Sustained drive for more Associate Members to ensure sector-wide collaboration towards rapid development of postal services in Africa and attainment of the single global postal territory through public-private partnerships;
- d) Finally, express appreciation to the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania for Hosting the PAPU headquarters.
- e) Appeal to Member States to deal with Natural disasters in line with the Disaster and Risk Guidelines developed by the Union.

### **14. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, on behalf of the Government and people of Madagascar and, indeed, on my behalf, I wish to seize this opportunity to sincerely thank all members of the Administrative Council who served in the Bureau during the year 2022/2023 and will conclude their mandate this week, namely Nigeria, Algeria, Burundi, and Malawi, for the unwavering support that was given to Madagascar as Chairperson during the period under review.

I am also highly indebted to the Secretary General and his entire staff of the General Secretariat that have satisfactorily worked with us and given us all the support that we needed from them.

Furthermore, I will fail in my duty if I do not thank all Member States for their cooperation throughout my tenure. It is on record that we have been extending this brotherly cooperation to every Member State elected to chair the Administrative Council of the Union. In the same spirit, I wish that you extend the same gesture to the Chairperson and members of the incoming bureau after elections during this Council Session.

I, therefore, wish to seize this moment to sincerely congratulate the incoming bureau in advance for the well-deserved nomination as office bearers of the Administrative Council of the Union for the next year, which will hopefully be an exciting period despite the challenges that they continuously present themselves to the Union.



As I hand over the mantle of leadership to them, I am very confident that they will take over from a relatively solid foundation and sincerely believe that they will take the Union to greater and loftier heights. I practice an “open door” policy, and as such, should they need any assistance from me during their tenure, I will be available at their behest.

Lastly, but of course not least, I wish you and the entire Union very exciting and successful deliberations during this meeting and in future interactions.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

**Richard Ranarison**

**Director General of Paositra, Malagasy and Chairman of PAPU Administrative Council 2022/2023**