



PAPU STATEMENT ON THE WORLD POST DAY - 9TH OCTOBER 2023

The World Post Day is commemorated every year to celebrate the existence of the Posts that deliver communication services to serve communities across the world. This day has been celebrated since the formation of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on 9th October 1874. This year's theme "**Together for trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future**" is a call by UPU "to action for all governments and their postal operators to support the development of a digital single postal territory to match the physical network built over centuries.'

The Universal Postal Union Director General Mr. Masahiko Metoki in leading this year's celebrations made the following important observations about the Post:

- The Post's success as a service provider is anchored in the trust it has earned from people over centuries;
- Posts have supported citizens in organizing supplies during times of conflicts, disasters or pandemics e.g. COVID 19 period;
- Posts can help bridge the digital divide by connecting their expansive physical network to the digital sphere.

In pursuance of its Mission, the UPU is endeavoring to ensure that all Posts have sufficient access to the Internet, by ensuring that Posts access affordable, state-of-the-art tools and technologies to support e-commerce, e-government and e-finance services.

The African postal fraternity is urged to raise public awareness and bring to the fore the role of postal services in people's daily lives and the Post's contribution to the inclusive socio-economic development of countries in our continent by emphasizing on trust, collaboration, safety and innovation as the major ethos.

While the Designated Operators of the African continent are seized with digital transformation and modernization, they are urged to be customer-centric as they engage on value-adding partnerships with Wider Postal Sector Players in the delivery of digital services. In Africa today, the areas that the Post has to prioritize and vigorously pursue for the benefit of citizens especially rural dwellers, Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) include e-Government services, e-commerce facilitation and financial inclusion. In this regard, the postal sector in Africa has to re-double its efforts in catching up with the constantly changing business and technological environment.

The Pan African Postal Union works collaboratively '**Together for Trust**' with the African Union Commission; the UPU; the African Telecommunications Union (ATU); Africa-based training institutes i.e. the African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALT) and Ecole Multinationale Superieure des Postes (EMSP); and Private Partners in ensuring that Digital transformation as enunciated in the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy (DTS) 2030 is embraced and implemented by the Posts in Africa as they embark on the journey to establish the 'Smart Post Offices of the future'.

In highlighting the significant role of the Post in facilitating international trade, delivering essential goods, and connecting individuals as well as communities across borders, the Pan African Postal Union has worked closely with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in the development of the Digital Trade Protocol which will ease trade facilitation by the Post once launched.

As we celebrate this day in Africa, we acknowledge with appreciation the various measures taken by Governments of our Member States, Regulatory Authorities and Designated Operators in reinvigorating postal services by including them in National Development Plans and directly linking them with digital deliveries. It is through these collaborative actions at national level that will help to elevate the Post to higher levels for the benefit of Citizens.

My Statement will be unmerited without the mention, acknowledgement and expression of gratitude to our hard-working and committed Post-men and Post-women of Africa for their consistent and dependable performances that are keeping the postal flame burning.

'Together for trust' we will deliver the Africa we Want, **collaborating for a safe and connected future**, sooner rather than later!!!

Long Live the Post!!

Long Live African Postal Solidarity!!!

I wish you all, wonderful World Post Day Celebrations for the year 2023.



Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo

PAPU SECRETARY GENERAL.