



PAN AFRICAN POST DAY CELEBRATIONS – 18TH JANUARY 2025
THEME: “A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT”

CONCEPT NOTE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) is a specialized agency of the African Union mandated with coordinating African Postal Services development. The Pan African Post Day (PAPU Day) is celebrated annually on 18th January to commemorate the establishment of the Union in 1980 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, during the Constitutive Plenipotentiary Conference of Ministers.

The 29th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU passed Resolution CM/Res.586 (XXIX) to establish the Union following the approval for the formation of PAPU that was granted in Gabon in 1977 by the 14th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU). PAPU has a membership of 45 African Member States.

The PAPU Day, while being a Celebration Day, also serves to raise awareness among postal stakeholders, private sector players, and the public about the role of the postal industry in fostering inclusive socio-economic development for communities, businesses, and individuals.

Each year, the celebration focuses on a theme aligned with the international postal development agenda approved by the Plenipotentiary Conference.

The theme for 2025 is **“A Socially Responsible Industry for Inclusive Development.”**

2. THE ROLE OF POSTAL SERVICES IN AFRICA

The postal service is a “platform that connects people through exchanges and flows of information, money, and goods.

- i) The Post provides logistics and distribution of goods, financial services, and mail matter
- ii) The Post is a developmental institution that can be utilised to roll out Government programs and projects as well as bridge the digital divide.
- iii) E-Government: provision of Government services through digital channels, e.g., national documents like passports, birth certificates, and various licenses.
- iv) Financial Inclusion – Sometimes, Post Offices are the sole outlets left in the community providing access to cash, remittances, and banking services.
- v) Trade Facilitation: promoting cross-border trade and provision of E-commerce to support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises that lack access to global markets.
- vi) Essential services provider, e.g., delivery of medicines, Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs), Vaccines, food hampers, financial remittances, etc., during COVID-19-induced National Lockdown periods.
- vii) Contribution to Regional and Global integration by playing a leading logistics role in the African Union’s African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- viii) Linking with the African citizens and their loved ones in the Diaspora

3. OBJECTIVE OF PAPU DAY COMMEMORATIONS

The main objective of the year 2025 PAPU Day Celebration at the General Secretariat is to engage with Member States through their High Commissions and Embassies, the Host country authorities, and partners to conscientize them on the Post being '**A Socially Responsible Industry for Inclusive Development**' and advocate for the integration of postal services into National Development Initiatives.

For activities across the PAPU Membership, the specific goals include to:

- i. Enhancing the visibility of PAPU's mission and relevance among decision-makers and African citizenry.
- ii. Raising stakeholders' awareness of the Pan African Postal Union's activities and the continental postal agenda.
- iii. Encouraging interest in advancing postal transformation, particularly in e-commerce and inclusive development
- iv. Fostering stronger connections with national authorities to elevate postal services on the development agenda.
- v. Show-casing the PAPU Tower facilities, including Office Space, Conference and Catering facilities (for invitees in attendance at the Head Office)

4. ACTIVITIES

The **PAPU Day Celebrations** may feature:

- i. Speeches by Government Ministries, postal Regulatory Authorities, Designated Operators, Private Courier Operators, and customers with messages about how the postal industry contributes to inclusive development in the country.
- ii. Goodwill messages (speeches) from key Stakeholders.
- iii. Involvement of school children and members of the public in awareness marches
- iv. Additional activities may include interviews with postal stakeholders.
- v. Press Statements and articles in media houses, electronic media, etc

**ISSUED BY PAPU GENERAL SECRETARIAT
PAPU TOWER
ARUSHA
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