

## CAA Hit Back At Doping Allegations

The [Confederation of African Athletics](#) (CAA) has become the latest organization after the International Association of Athletics Federations and UK Anti-Doping to hit out at the recent doping allegations that surfaced recently.

In a statement, CAA said it is disturbed that allegations have been aimed against athletes from African countries, like Kenya, when the overwhelming majority of athletes have never tested positive for any banned substance. CAA, which is led by Cameroon's Hamad Kalkaba Malboum, also said such sensationalistic journalism paints all athletes from these countries, and indeed the continent's athletes with a black brush. The CAA statement added it is with great sadness that the Confederation of African Athletics must say that our athletes have not been treated ethically by the press and that the press has revealed no consistency across the continents in their reporting.

It was recently reported by the Sunday Times and German broadcaster ARD that more than 800 athletes, including many from Kenya, had given suspicious blood samples that indicated doping or were "abnormal". The CAA rejected the doping allegations and claimed they are "disturbed" a lot of them are aimed at athletes from their country. The Confederation of African Athletics added "immense damage" has been caused to country's athletes.

The International Association of Athletics Federations branded doping allegations as "sensationalist" and accused ARD and Sunday Times scientists of "seriously incorrect assertions". The IAAF emphasized the results were not positive tests or [doping proofs](#). The world governing body of athletics also rejected the suggestion that it had done nothing to act upon data demonstrating "suspicious" results. The International Association of Athletics Federations criticized the scientists involved in the investigation and said they do not have access to IAAF testing records and are therefore not able to know if proper testing follow-up was conducted.

A few days back, UK Anti-Doping chief executive Nicole Sapstead said athletes could be falsely accused of cheating if blood data is not analyzed correctly. Sapstead also remarked you have to look at anonymous data in context and not in isolation. The UKAD

chief executive added you have to look at whether that data was collected when an athlete was at altitude, after they competed, after they were training, whether they had a medical condition that might justify some of those results.

Contrary to IAAF and other organizations, the World Anti-Doping Agency announced that the recent doping allegations were a cause of great concern. WADA constituted an independent commission quickly to investigate the claims. On the subject of the WADA investigation, Sapstead said she is very encouraged by the fact the World Anti-doping Agency is running an independent investigation on this and she can only hope at the end of that - which she believes is the end of the year - we can all be a bit more comfortable about the state of some of the sports out there.

In another development, eight British athletes including double Olympic gold medalist [Mo Farah](#) have agreed to some details of their anti-doping blood tests being made public to prove they are clean.