

Kenya To Get Assistance From IAAF To Set Up Local Anti-Doping Lab

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) will support the plans of Kenya to set up an anti-doping laboratory in the country.

AAF Anti-Doping Manager Thomas Capdeville, speaking after a meeting with Athletics Kenya, Anti Doping Association of Kenya (ADAK) and government officials at Riadha house made this announcement.

Capdeville also remarked it is something we have been discussing and talked of length and added we at the world governing body of athletics are committed to ensuring this happens and most of the support we will give will involve us sending in specialists who are going to train the locals and if need be, we will even put in financial help. Capdeville also said he is happy with the efforts put in by Kenya to fight doping and the abuse of [performance enhancing drugs](#) and added more can be done to ensure the country remains clean and off suspicion.

ADAK Chief Executive Officer Japhter Rugut commented that a local anti-doping laboratory would prove to be advantageous for assisting the country step up its [efforts in fighting doping](#) as well as comprehensively reduce sample freighting costs. Rugut added it would be convenient to have the laboratory locally and also remarked that there is a challenge of ferrying the samples from the collection point, to Nairobi and transmitting the same to a WADA accredited lab. Rugut also said it would be great, logistically and financially. The ADAK Chief Executive Officer also said urine samples are not so hard because it can be ferried almost effortlessly and also said it would be more complicated now that we have to include blood samples given the time limits needed to reach the laboratory.

Director of Administration in the Ministry of Sports Harun Komen said fully equipped lab would be available to be inspected by IAAF and approved by the World Anti-Doping Agency. Komen affirmed that the government is aiding the process and the Kenyan government will look to use an already existing health facility and only equip it with necessary equipment other than building up an entirely new facility.

The process of blood testing will be introduced and implemented in phases, said Athletics Kenya president Gen (Rtd) Jackson Tuwei. The Athletics Kenya president also commented that we have not been doing [blood testing](#) in Kenya for quite a while but it has reached a stage where we need to introduce some of this. Tuwei added we will introduce that slowly, step by step because we need to educate our athletes in terms of what they are supposed to do.

The Athletics Kenya president also remarked that we have spoken to IAAF, given reports on our progress and to WADA as well. We don't want whatever happened to our athletes towards Rio last year to happen again this year and also commented that we want our athletes to go to London clean, confident and they go compete with the rest of the world with that confidence.

The African nation had been using labs in Doha and South Africa in the past.