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PRESS RELEASE

PERSONAL SAFETY DURING THE CHAN-2024 TOURNAMENT IN UGANDA

Good morning!

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) joins the people of Uganda and the passionate football community in congratulating the Uganda Cranes upon the outstanding performance in their Second Group C Game in the on-going TotalEnergies CAF CHAN PAMOJA 2024 at Namboole Stadium.

The Uganda Cranes demonstrated great ability not only recover but also to win in an emphatic manner. The win brought unspeakable joy to the millions of well-wishers that followed the match through various media as well as the 34,000 fans that electrified the stadium at Namboole.

As the LOC, we deeply appreciate the fans for showing up in such huge numbers at Namboole Stadium compared with the previous match against Algeria, to provide the wind beneath the Uganda Cranes wings to soar to the level of performance witnessed on Friday against Guinea.

Your cheers from the stands were a shot of energy to the Uganda Cranes to make that extra flight to recover the ball, to defend the goal, and to score the goals! We thank you for standing with our team in the good times and challenging times – that's what passion is all about.

Relatedly, the LOC also thanks our visiting fans from Guinea who lightened up the atmosphere in the stadium with the delightful support for their team throughout the match! Your presence in the stands, tirelessly cheering your team was the spice that flavored the historic experience of co-hosting CHAN-2024 tournament in Uganda.

Just as it was for the first match of 04th August 2025, when all the 29,000 tickets CAF availed for the Match Day were sold out, so was it for Friday's 34,000 tickets. The LOC has observed that the demand for match tickets has been very high for CHAN-2024 matches so far. At one point, more than 10,000 tickets were sold within about 8 hours.

As said before, all the CHAN-2024 match tickets are sold online. Fans interested in watching the match from the Stadium stands at Namboole are encouraged to make early purchases to avoid last minute frustration.

CAF has clarified that Gates shall be closed fifteen minutes to the end of normal time (that is 90 minutes) of the second match on days when there are two matches to be played. This means that even if you are holding a valid ticket, you shall not be allowed to access the stadium 15 minutes to the end of normal time of the last match of the day.

We received feedback from the public about displeasure regarding the ban on allowing vuvuzelas into the stadium. The other prohibited items include whistles, Face masks, Laser pointers, weapons, sharp objects, tools including the Swiss Army knife, Cigarettes, Lighters or matches, Alcohol or narcotics, food, food containers, or cutlery, articles with inappropriate discriminatory, offensive, or politically motivated messages, Umbrellas and helmets, inflatable items, pets, Flags or banners larger than 1 metre-by-2 metres, Professional cameras, flammable substances, Promotional material for any business.

The public should note that the prohibition of the above items is both for the good and safety of all – the young and old, that come to have a memorable experience of being in a stadium to watch a match from the stands.

Though some of these prohibited items have been associated with being a symbol of in-stadia fan experience in some cultural contexts, there is good scientific evidence that they pose health risks.

For example, evidence that shows vuvuzelas produce dangerously high levels of noise; enough to cause temporary hearing loss that can become permanent if one attends 3 to 5 events with vuvuzela noise in proximity. To put the noise generated by the vuvuzela into perspective, the vuvuzela generates noise of 131 decibels compared with a jet engine noise of 130 to 140 decibels when the airplane is taking off.

Hearing loss that is a result of noise such as that of the vuvuzela is most of the time painless, progressive, but irreversible. The challenge is that because the hearing loss is so gradual, victims do not associate it with a particular event that they were exposed to as the cause of the initial injury.

Therefore, to avoid any inconveniences, fans who intend to watch matches from the stands in Namboole are encouraged to leave any such items at home because they shall be confiscated at the Gates into the Stadium.

Relatedly, we thank the fans for cooperating with the Uganda Police Force in following the guidance about prohibited items and other guidelines issued by the UPF for a safe and secure fan experience during the CHAN-2024 tournament in Uganda to-date. These guidelines for safety apply not only at Namboole but also at the various fan zones and parks that have been held around the various regional cities, KCCA, and King's Park Arena in Bweyogerere, Kira Municipality.

The kiosks within the stadium are now fully operational and stocked with adequate foods and drinks as approved by CAF.

The LOC has also observed that more children are being brought to attend matches at Namboole Stadium. This is truly a memorable experience for these young people. To note is that adults accompanying these children need to take extra precautions to always ensure their safety. These precautions include:

1. When buying tickets, choose seats that are in the quieter Section of the Stadium.
2. Because the stadium can be unbearably noisy and uncomfortable, if you can afford, buy ear protection gear such as ear plugs or headphones for the child.
3. Choose appropriate warm clothes for the child especially for night matches.
4. The child should stay with the group or person he or she is familiar with. That is to say, the child should not be left unattended to at any one time.
5. The child should not accept food or drinks from people he or she is not familiar with.
6. Take time to identify and show the child a clear location with very distinct signage or landmark to meet with you again in case he or she becomes separated from you or the group.
7. Show the child where the exit route is in case of an emergency.
8. Always accompany the child to the appropriate restrooms.
9. Constantly talk with the child to ascertain that he or she is still next to you because you could have walked away from the child in the excitement of the moment in the stadium.

10. Have the child sit in position where you have them in your sight.
11. Identify and show the child responsible personnel (Stewards or Security officers) in the stadium to whom they should report any incident – an accident or emergency involving you the attendant or another person.
12. Write on a piece of paper a phone number and place it in the child's pocket for someone to call in the unlikely event that the child strays away from the group or attending adult.
13. After the match, do not try to exit the stadium when the exit routes are still congested. Sit back and give it sometime for the crowds to reduce before walking out with the child.

However, safety starts with you the individual. Therefore, we continue to encourage fans to observe safety precautions as follows:

1. Arrive at the stadium ahead of time.
2. Be patient and calm at access controls to have your ticket checked.
3. Be cooperative with the security procedures and instructions at the checkpoints.
4. If you have a phone, communicate with the people at home that you have arrived at the stadium; and do the same when you leave the stadium. Let someone know where you are or have gone.
5. Other than your phone, consider leaving any other valuable items such as wallets and the like at home or in the vehicle.
6. If you are carrying a car key with you, place it in a secure part of your pocket or handbag.

7. Avoid carrying a lot of cash with you in your pockets. Carry enough for drinks and snacks in the stadium and transport.
8. Refrain from consuming alcohol at the stadium when you are going to drive back home.
9. When you arrive in the stadium, look around and identify the various exit routes before you go to your specific Section or Seat.
10. Identify where the stewards and security personnel of the stadium are stationed.
11. Always respect the instructions of the stadium stewards and security personnel.
12. Do not occupy Sections of the stadium that have been set aside for the fans of visitors or foreign teams.
13. Inform the stewards or security personnel at the stadium if you observe any suspicious activity or items.
14. Wear shoes comfortable enough to walk along staircases.
15. For people with movement disabilities, come with an aide or seek assistance of a steward or security personnel, and they shall direct you to an appropriate area to sit.
16. Avoid any behavior that may be perceived as inciting, misinterpreted, or provoke hostility from other spectators.
17. Avoid rushing to the exits during the half-time break, end of the match, or during an emergency because there are staircases along the routes.
18. Plan your route and how you should get back home after the match. Do not simply follow the crowd.

19. Preferably walk with a group you are familiar with if you are walking back home.
20. Irrespective of the result of the match, remain sober-minded and cool-headed. Do not let emotions of the moment cloud your sense of good judgment.

It is important that as you plan to attend a fan park or come to Namboole for an in-stadium experience of CHAN-2024 tournament in Uganda, prioritize your own safety as well as that of those around you. Your safety is the beginning of a great experience.

We look forward to seeing you tomorrow at Namboole stadium for Match Day Three that has two matches to be played. The first match starts at 5 p.m. with South Africa vs. Guinea followed by Uganda vs. Niger at 8 p.m.

The ticket prices per Match Day remain: **Ordinary** ticket at Shs. 10,000/=, **Silver** ticket at Shs. 30,000/=, and **Premium** goes for Shs. 50,000/=. The payment platforms are MTN MoMo, Airtel Money, and Payment with a Bank Card (Visa or MasterCard).

We thank you and urge you to buy your ticket well ahead of time because the Namboole Stadium tickets for CHAN-2024 tournament are turning out to be very competitive.

We wish the Uganda Cranes good wins in the remaining two matches. Be part of the experience!

Blessings ~



Dr. Dennis K. Mugimba

CHAIRPERSON,

COMMUNICATIONS AND SIGNAGE SUB-COMMITTEE