SWAHILI TODAY WEEKLY

WEEKLY NEWS · FEATURE 9 - 15 NOV 2026

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African Union Discusses Sudan's Recovery With Ambassador as Khartoum Visit Is Considered



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BY SWT NEWS DESK · 10 NOV 2026

The African Union Commission has held fresh discussions with Sudan's ambassador to Ethiopia and permanent representative to the AU, Elzein Ibrahim Hussein, as the continental body continues its diplomatic engagement over the conflict and the country's recovery.

In a statement published on Tuesday, the African Union said Commission Chairperson Mahmoud Ali Youssouf received the Sudanese envoy for talks focusing on the situation in Sudan and the organization's continued efforts to support peace, stability and recovery.

The discussions also covered possible cooperation in health and education, alongside broader social and economic recovery programmes. Youssouf reaffirmed the AU's commitment to supporting Sudan as it works towards peace and stability, while the Sudanese ambassador expressed appreciation for the organization's diplomatic efforts to end the conflict.

The two officials also discussed the possibility of a visit by the AU Commission Chairperson to Khartoum. No date for such a visit was announced.

The meeting comes as Sudan continues to face the consequences of the war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which began in April 2023. The conflict has caused widespread displacement, civilian suffering and damage to public infrastructure, while disrupting essential services across the country.

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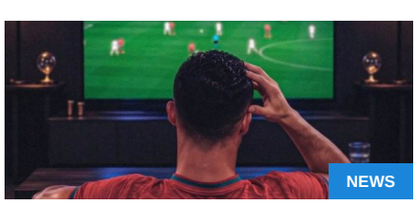
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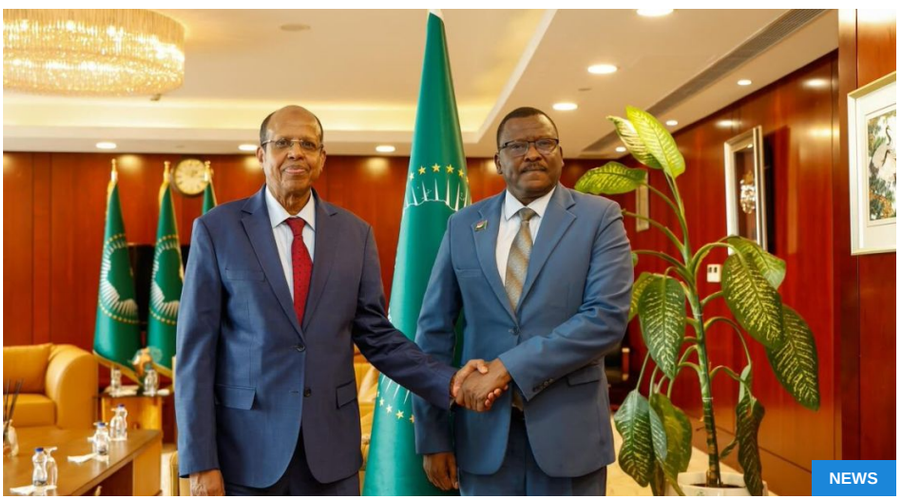
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The meeting comes as Sudan continues to face the consequences of the war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which began in April 2023. The conflict has caused widespread displacement, civilian suffering and damage to public infrastructure, while disrupting essential services across the country.

The AU has been working with regional and international partners to support efforts towards a ceasefire and an inclusive political process. In September, Youssouf joined a high-level meeting involving the African Union, the United States and other partners to coordinate efforts towards ending the conflict. He called for a humanitarian truce, protection of civilians and a Sudanese-led political process.

The organization has also been working to restore its presence in Sudan. Its plans to reopen the liaison office in Khartoum are intended to strengthen engagement with Sudanese stakeholders and support an inclusive political process.

For Sudan, the discussions extend beyond ending the fighting to the difficult task of rebuilding institutions, restoring public services and addressing the economic and social damage caused by the war. However, the latest meeting did not produce a new ceasefire agreement or announce a concrete recovery package.

The possibility of a visit to Khartoum would offer another opportunity for direct engagement, but the central challenge remains turning diplomatic discussions into progress towards an end to the conflict.



Tanzania: Unpaid Wages Dispute Alleged After Excavator Operator Damages Employer's Property

BY NYAMBITA MAGOMA · 12 NOV 2026

Police in Dar es Salaam have arrested an excavator operator accused of using heavy machinery to damage vehicles, gates, fencing and temporary accommodation belonging to his employer following a workplace disagreement in Kigamboni.

Police arrested the suspect, identified as Halidi Seleman Kalaghe, 45, after the incident, which occurred on November 10 at around 6:05 p.m. on Mvumoni Street, Somangila, within Kigamboni Municipality.

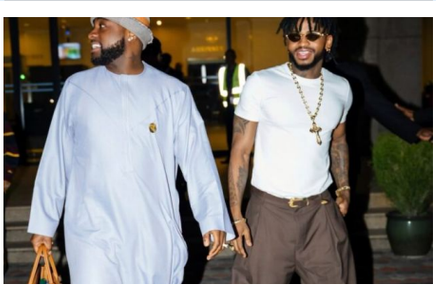
According to a public police statement issued on November 11 by Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander SACP Jumanne Muliro, Kalaghe allegedly entered an excavator and used it to destroy two gates and their surrounding fence, a Toyota Sienta with registration number T 282 DEM, and a fuel tanker bearing registration number T 391 EUN.

The Toyota Sienta belongs to Brighton Abraham Mfangavo, while the fuel tanker belongs to the company. Police also reported damage to temporary accommodation consisting of five rooms and five toilets.

Kalaghe was employed by China Energy Engineering Group Guanxi Hydroelectric Construction Bureau Co. Ltd, a company involved in road construction works in Kigamboni. Police said the incident followed a disagreement between him and his employer, although the statement did not provide further details about the cause of the dispute.

A report published by Habari Digital, however, alleged that the disagreement concerned unpaid wages. It claimed Kalaghe had worked for approximately three months without receiving payment and that his employer repeatedly told him he would be paid once funds became available. The report further alleged that he had been given only three days of leave to attend a family funeral but stayed away for a week before returning to find that he had lost his job.

The police statement does not detail these claims or independently confirm them, but it identifies the dispute with the employer as the circumstances preceding the alleged destruction.



Davido and Chioma Arrive in Tanzania, Welcomed by Diamond and Zuchu

BY JOSEPHS QUARTZY · 10 NOV 2026

Nigerian music star Davido and his wife, Chioma Avril Rowland, have arrived in Tanzania, where they received a warm welcome from Bongo Flava star Diamond Platnumz and his wife, Zuchu, at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam.

The arrival brought together two of Africa's most recognisable music figures, renewing memories of a collaboration that helped

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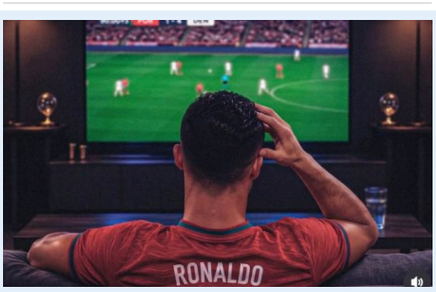
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strengthen musical connections between East and West Africa.

Diamond and Davido first joined forces on the remix of Diamond's hit song Number One in 2014. The collaboration became a major success, introducing Diamond to a wider West African audience and helping establish his presence beyond East Africa. Davido, meanwhile, gained a strong connection with East African music fans through the record. The song's official video, directed by Nigerian filmmaker Clarence Peters, remains one of the notable collaborations between the two music industries.

More than a decade later, their reunion in Dar es Salaam has naturally raised curiosity about whether the two artists could be preparing another musical project. Neither a new collaboration nor details of the purpose of Davido's visit have been confirmed, but the meeting has given fans a reason to revisit the possibility.

For now, the airport welcome offers a memorable reunion between two artists whose 2014 collaboration helped bring their audiences closer.



Højlund Turns Ronaldo's Farewell Night Into a Nightmare for Portugal

BY JOSEPHS QUARTZY · 15 NOV 2026

Portugal's first major night without Cristiano Ronaldo was supposed to celebrate the legacy of a player who carried the national team for more than two decades. Instead, it became a painful reminder of how much responsibility now rests on the shoulders of those expected to lead the country into its next chapter.

Denmark beat Portugal 4–1 in Braga on Saturday, November 14, handing the hosts their heaviest defeat in a competitive home match. The occasion had been prepared as a tribute to Ronaldo, with Portugal's players wearing the famous No. 7 shirt in his honour. Supporters also paid tribute to the former captain, whose international career ended with 234 appearances and 146 goals.

But while the shirts carried the number of a legend, the performance on the pitch offered little of the authority associated with him.

Pierre-Emile Højbjerg opened the scoring from the penalty spot shortly before half-time. Rasmus Højlund then took control of the evening, scoring twice after the break before Joachim Andersen added Denmark's fourth. Bernardo Silva eventually scored a late consolation, but it did little to change the story of a night Portugal would rather forget.

The result also brought back an uncomfortable piece of history. The last time Portugal conceded four goals at home was on September 3, 2010, when they drew 4–4 with Cyprus in Guimarães. That match at least ended with Portugal collecting a point. Against Denmark, they conceded four again, but this time left the pitch beaten.

Saturday's defeat was not simply another bad result. It was Portugal's biggest loss in a competitive match on home soil and a particularly difficult outcome for a team beginning life without its most recognisable figure.

Højlund: The Ronaldo admirer who spoiled the tribute

There was an extra layer to Højlund's performance. The Danish striker has openly admired Ronaldo for years, and his celebration against Portugal on October 1 had already attracted attention when he performed the Portuguese forward's famous "Siuuu" after scoring in Denmark's 4–2 defeat.

That gesture made his performance in Braga even more striking. On a night when Portugal were honouring Ronaldo, the player who idolises him became one of the main reasons the celebration turned into a humiliation.

Højlund scored twice, giving Denmark the attacking threat Portugal struggled to contain. His brace was not just a personal achievement; it also exposed the difference between paying tribute to a great player and producing the kind of performance that made him great.

The symbolism was difficult to miss. Portugal had the No. 7 shirts, the banners and the memories. Denmark had Højlund, who delivered when the match demanded it.

Gonçalo Ramos had 90 minutes, but what did Portugal get?

Gonçalo Ramos was among the players expected to carry the attacking responsibility in Ronaldo's absence. He had previously spoken about wanting to establish himself as a starter for the national team, making this match an opportunity to demonstrate what he could offer.

However, his individual figures from the Denmark match make uncomfortable reading. Ramos played all 90 minutes but finished without a goal or assist. He recorded no shots on target, no shots off target, created no chances and completed none of his attempted dribbles. His passing record was 12 accurate passes from 17 attempts, while he had 22 touches throughout the match.

Those numbers do not tell the entire story of a striker's contribution, but they do show how little attacking influence he managed to produce during a match in which Portugal needed someone to step forward.

A forward does not have to score in every match to justify his place. He can contribute through movement, link-up play, pressing and creating space for others. But when a striker plays the full 90 minutes without registering a single attempt on goal or creating a chance, questions about his impact are reasonable.

Ramos had an opportunity to make a statement. Instead, Denmark's defence kept him quiet.

João Neves and the competition for places

João Neves is another player whose role deserves attention as Portugal move forward. His quality is not in question, but his place in the starting eleven cannot be treated as guaranteed simply because of his reputation or club status.

The competition in midfield is becoming increasingly difficult. Rúben Neves is back in the national-team picture, while João Palhinha offers another option in the defensive midfield role. Vitinha, Neves' Paris Saint-Germain teammate, is also competing for central midfield responsibilities.

There is also the possibility of João Neves being considered in a deeper role or even being tested at right-back, depending on the coach's needs and the availability of Diogo Dalot and João Cancelo. Those are possibilities rather than established plans, but they illustrate how many decisions Portugal's coaching staff must make.

His recent involvement also gives the debate some context. Neves was on the bench against Norway on October 4 and played only nine minutes against Denmark on October 1, according to the match record supplied. He featured for 58 minutes for Paris Saint-Germain against Le Mans on October 10, but club appearances do not automatically guarantee a starting position for Portugal.

The question is not whether Neves is a talented footballer. It is where he fits, what role the coach wants him to perform and whether he can secure a regular place in a midfield with several established alternatives.

For a player who has been widely discussed as part of Portugal's future, the challenge is to turn that promise into consistent involvement.

The team wanted to move forward. Now it must prove it can.

There is nothing wrong with Portugal preparing for a future without Ronaldo. Every national team eventually has to move beyond its greatest generation, and no player can remain available forever. The question is how that transition is handled.

Ronaldo's departure leaves a gap in goals, leadership, experience and the psychological presence he brought to the team. Those qualities cannot simply be transferred to another player because he inherits a shirt number or takes up a position in the starting eleven.

Portugal still have talented players, and one defeat does not erase their achievements or determine what the team will become. They had already secured a place in the Nations League quarter-finals before facing Denmark and remain top of their group despite the result.

But the performance in Braga should be examined honestly. Denmark scored four times, while Portugal's attacking players struggled to turn their possession and opportunities into goals. The hosts had more possession and more shots on target, yet Denmark were far more effective in front of goal.

The players who now carry the responsibility must show that Portugal can remain competitive without relying on the presence of one extraordinary individual. That means producing results, accepting competition for places and delivering when the pressure is greatest.

There is an old saying that a lion's roar is enough to scatter the jackals. Another says that even a sleeping lion commands respect. Portugal may now discover that the respect attached to Ronaldo's name cannot be inherited automatically. It has to be earned on the pitch.

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Zanzibar's ZECO Announces Three Planned Power Outages in Unguja for Undersea Cable Maintenance

BY NYAMBITA MAGOMA · 14 NOV 2026

The Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO) has announced three scheduled electricity interruptions in Unguja this month to allow major maintenance work on the undersea cables that supply the island with power from mainland Tanzania.

In a public notice dated November 13, ZECO said the first interruption would take place on Saturday, November 14, affecting the entire island of Unguja from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Two further interruptions are scheduled for November 15 and November 22, also from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. However, these two outages will be limited to urban areas of Unguja.

ZECO General Manager Haji Mohamed Haji said the maintenance was necessary to address faults in the two main undersea electricity cables and improve the reliability of power supply to Zanzibar.

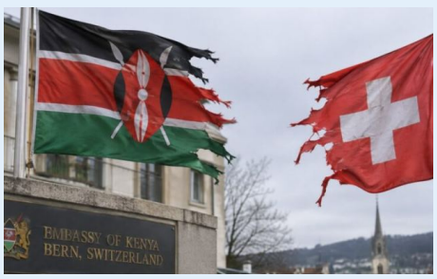
In his announcement, Haji explained that Zanzibar receives electricity from mainland Tanzania through two submarine cables. One was installed in 1980 and has experienced significant deterioration, while the second was installed in 2015. Both require major maintenance to address existing faults and support a more reliable electricity supply.

The work will involve technical repairs to the cable infrastructure. The electricity supply from mainland Tanzania will need to be switched off during the scheduled maintenance, resulting in the announced interruptions.

The first outage on November 14 will affect all of Unguja, while the two subsequent dates will affect only the island's urban areas. Residents and businesses in the affected locations have therefore been advised to plan for the temporary interruption.

ZECO apologized for the inconvenience and said the work was necessary to support the continued and reliable provision of electricity to the island.

Since the electricity supplied to Zanzibar comes from mainland Tanzania through the national grid, TANESCO will be responsible for switching off the mainland supply to allow the scheduled work to proceed. ZECO, meanwhile, is responsible for the electricity service on the islands and has communicated the outage schedule to consumers.



Kenya Announces Permanent Closure of Embassy in Switzerland

BY ANNA FARAJA · 10 NOV 2026

Kenya is preparing to permanently close its embassy in Switzerland as the government reorganises its diplomatic presence abroad, a move that will change how Kenyans living in the European country access consular services.

The Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Bern announced the decision in a public notice dated November 9, saying it had received a directive from the Kenyan government to permanently end its operations in Switzerland.

The embassy's Consular Section is scheduled to close on Monday, November 30, 2026. Kenyan nationals and other clients with pending applications have been urged to collect any processed documents before that date.

Those who have already received notifications that their documents are ready must collect them from the embassy before the deadline. Applicants who submitted requests for consular services from November 1 will be contacted separately and informed of arrangements for collecting their documents.

The embassy has also advised applicants to carry valid identification and their application receipts when collecting documents.

While the announcement confirms the permanent closure of the mission, it does not mean Kenyans in Switzerland will be left without government assistance. The embassy said information about alternative consular arrangements would be communicated through its website and official channels.

Kenya's Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Korir Sing'Oei subsequently confirmed that the decision forms part of a wider review of Kenya's diplomatic footprint across the world.

In a statement on November 10, Sing'Oei said the government was undertaking a process that would involve closing some diplomatic missions while opening others in locations considered more important to Kenya's strategic interests.

He assured Kenyans abroad that the restructuring would not cut them off from essential government services, adding that a more comprehensive statement on the changes would be released in due course.

The announcement has particular significance for the Kenyan community in Switzerland, which has relied on the Bern mission for consular assistance and other government services. The exact arrangements for handling services such as passport applications, document processing and emergency assistance after November 30 have not yet been outlined.

The closure also raises wider questions about how Kenya intends to distribute its diplomatic resources and which regions it considers priorities in the coming years. Rather than simply reducing its overseas presence, the government's explanation suggests that it intends to redirect some of its diplomatic capacity towards other locations.

Kenya has continued to expand its international engagement through trade, investment, diaspora relations and political partnerships. The latest restructuring therefore represents a change in the location and organisation of its diplomatic representation, although the government has yet to identify all the missions affected or the countries where new ones may be established.



Kagame Arrives in Cambodia as Rwanda and DR Congo Face Off Over Francophonie Leadership

BY SWT NEWS DESK · 12 NOV 2026

Rwandan President Paul Kagame and First Lady Jeannette Kagame have arrived in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, ahead of the 20th Summit of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), where a closely watched leadership election is expected to bring the diplomatic differences between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo into focus.

The summit, scheduled for November 14–16, comes as Rwanda's incumbent Secretary-General, Louise Mushikiwabo, seeks a third term against a challenge from Juliana Amato Lumumba, the candidate backed by the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mauritania's Coumba Ba and former Romanian Prime Minister Dacian Ciolos are also contesting the position.

The election is expected to take place on November 16, when leaders of the OIF's 53 full member states and governments will select the organisation's Secretary-General for the 2027–2030 term.

Mushikiwabo has led the organization since 2018 and was re-elected in 2022. Rwanda has formally backed her bid for another four-year term, with Kigali pointing to her experience and work in leading the organisation.

Her candidacy, however, faces strong opposition from Kinshasa, which is supporting Lumumba, a former Congolese culture minister and daughter of Patrice Lumumba, the country's first prime minister and a prominent figure in Africa's independence history.

The contest has taken on wider political significance because of the strained relationship between Rwanda and the DRC, particularly over the conflict in eastern Congo. Kinshasa has repeatedly accused Rwanda of supporting the M23 armed group, an allegation backed by findings from UN experts but rejected by Kigali.

Congolese officials have argued that Mushikiwabo's re-election would be difficult to reconcile with the principles and values the organisation is expected to uphold. The DRC has also indicated that it could reconsider its membership if she secures another term, raising concerns about the possible consequences for

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the organisation.

Rwanda, meanwhile, has defended Mushikiwabo's record and rejected attempts to turn the leadership contest into a judgment on its bilateral relationship with the DRC.

The four candidates represent different proposals for the organisation's future. Mushikiwabo is campaigning on her record in office, while Lumumba has presented a programme focused on making the Francophonie more people-centred, strengthening cultural and linguistic diversity, and expanding access to digital knowledge. Ba is presenting herself as an African alternative, while Ciolos has called for a more practical organisation with stronger economic opportunities for French speakers.

The selection process has also attracted attention because of changes to the organisation's rules. Although the Secretary-General has traditionally been selected through consensus, a procedure adopted in 2022 allows a simple-majority vote if consensus cannot be reached.

The election will therefore test not only the candidates' support among member states but also the organization's ability to manage a contest carrying significant diplomatic implications.

The OIF brings together 90 states and governments, including 53 full members, five associate members and 32 observers. Its work covers cooperation in areas such as education, culture, democracy, human rights and economic development, with French serving as a shared link among its members.

This year's summit is being held under the theme "Reinvest in Peace for Shared Prosperity and Lasting Stability." Cambodia's hosting of the gathering is also a historic first for the country.

Kagame's arrival places Rwanda at the centre of the high-level diplomatic discussions taking place in Phnom Penh. Beyond the summit's broader agenda, the leadership vote will be closely watched across Africa, particularly in the Great Lakes region, where the outcome could affect relations between Kigali, Kinshasa and other Francophonie member states.

The decision on November 16 will determine who leads the organisation for the next four years, but it will also reveal how its members navigate a leadership contest shaped by competing national interests and wider regional tensions.



Botswana: Duma Boko Announces P39 Million for Creative Content, P81.1 Million for Arts

BY ANNA FARAJA · 10 NOV 2026

Botswana has approved the release of P39 million from its Alcohol Levy Fund to purchase locally produced creative content, as President Duma Boko announced a wider allocation of more than P81.1 million for arts and cultural programmes.

The announcement, made during his State of the Nation Address in Parliament on November 9, marks the first release towards a P200 million commitment the government announced in 2025 to support creative arts production, particularly among young people.

Botswana's President, Duma Boko, described the P39 million allocation as an important step towards strengthening the sector, saying the money would be used to procure creative content and increase local production. Rather than simply providing financial assistance, the approach is intended to create opportunities for local creators by making their work eligible for government-supported purchasing.

The additional P81.1 million will support various arts and culture programmes, including the National Arts Festival and locally produced audio-visual content for the Now! IPTV platform. Together, the two allocations represent a significant government commitment to supporting Botswana's creative economy.

The P200 million commitment was first announced during the 2025 State of the Nation Address, when Boko said the Alcohol Levy Fund would fund creative arts content from young people. The government presented the initiative as part of its broader effort to turn talent, creativity and innovation into employment and business opportunities.

For musicians, filmmakers, actors, producers and digital content creators, government procurement could offer an important route to reaching audiences and earning income from their work. It could also allow local production companies to develop projects for platforms and programmes that might otherwise depend heavily on content sourced from outside the country.

The support comes as Botswana's creative industry continues to face familiar challenges, including limited financing, production infrastructure and access to distribution markets. In November 2025, local industry figures welcomed the proposed P200 million commitment but also raised concerns about ensuring that the funding reached the intended beneficiaries and produced lasting results.

There are also wider efforts to develop the sector beyond direct funding. In October 2026, the National Arts Council of Botswana announced plans for a creative industry fund and an investment arm to address financing gaps, develop facilities, and support the industry's long-term growth. Its proposals include support for film crews, international exposure for filmmakers, studios, performance venues and cultural centres.

These initiatives point to growing recognition of the creative industry as an economic sector capable of supporting employment, entrepreneurship and cultural identity. However, funding announcements alone cannot guarantee that outcome.

The impact of the latest allocations will depend on how the money is distributed, the transparency of procurement processes and whether emerging as well as established creatives can access the opportunities. It will also matter whether the programmes create sustainable markets for locally produced work rather than offering only short-term financial support.



Rema Puts Tanzania on the Tracklist of Upcoming EP 'E-Mortal Boy'

BY JOSEPHS QUARTZY · 14 NOV 2026

Nigerian Afrobeats star Rema has announced a new seven-track extended play titled E-Mortal Boy (EMB), scheduled for release on November 20, with one song in the reported tracklist already attracting attention in Tanzania because of its title.

The song, titled "Tanzania", appears as the fourth track on a tracklist circulating online, with American record producer BNYX listed as a collaborator. Its appearance has sparked interest among Tanzanian music fans, who have been discussing the possibility of hearing the Nigerian singer release a song carrying the country's name.

For Tanzania, the title has become one of the most interesting details surrounding the announcement. While the track's subject and the reason behind its name have not yet been explained publicly, some fans have seen its inclusion as a notable gesture from an international artist whose music reaches audiences across the continent.

The upcoming project will also bring together Rema and Nigerian music heavyweight Wizkid on a song titled "Feel Alright", which appears first on the circulating tracklist. The reported collaboration is notable because it brings together two generations of Nigerian Afrobeats, with Wizkid helping take the genre to international audiences before Rema emerged as one of its prominent younger stars.

The other songs listed on the project are "Oh No", "Velvet", "TEA", "SUGA" and "Bang Bang". The latter reportedly features London and Kah-Lo, adding further names to the project's list of collaborators.

The tracklist also includes "Oh No" and "TEA", two songs that Rema released ahead of the EP, giving listeners some familiarity with the material expected to appear on the project.

Although the reported tracklist has circulated across music platforms and entertainment publications, the full details of the songs and collaborations should be treated with caution until confirmed by Rema or his record label.

Rema, whose real name is Divine Ikubor, rose to international prominence through a series of successful releases, particularly "Calm Down". The song gained an even wider global audience through its remix featuring American singer Selena Gomez, becoming one of the most internationally successful Afrobeats releases of recent years.

The singer has continued to build his international profile through projects including his 2022 debut album Rave & Roses, the 2023 EP Ravage and his 2024 album HEIS.

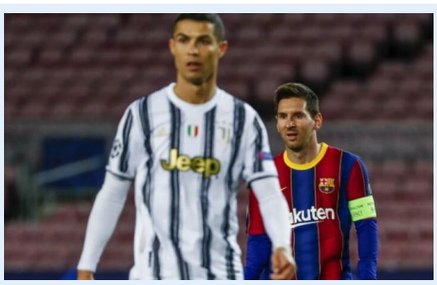
E-Mortal Boy will mark his return to the EP format following Ravage. Its seven-song format brings together Nigerian and international collaborators, while the appearance of

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"Tanzania" has given the forthcoming release a particular point of interest among listeners in East Africa.

With the November 20 release approaching, fans will be waiting to hear what Rema has prepared, especially whether the song carrying Tanzania's name will live up to the attention it is already receiving.



Juventus Closes English X Account, Fans Revisit Its Famous Barcelona Banter

BY JOSEPHS QUARTZY · 11 NOV 2026

Italian football club Juventus has shut down its English-language account on X, ending the platform's activity after attracting approximately 3.3 million followers.

In a farewell message posted on November 10, the club thanked its international supporters and announced that the account, @juventusfcen, would no longer be active. Fans were directed to follow @juventusfc, which Juventus described as its only official active account on the platform, or visit the club's official website for updates.

The decision brings an end to a major English-language channel through which the Turin-based club communicated with supporters beyond Italy. It also follows a wider move by Juventus to consolidate its international social media presence under fewer accounts.

However, the closure has brought renewed attention to one of the account's most memorable moments: its exchange with Spanish giants Barcelona during the 2020 UEFA Champions League campaign.

The rivalry between the clubs spilled onto social media after Barcelona defeated Juventus 2-0 in Turin on October 28, 2020. Cristiano Ronaldo missed the match after testing positive for COVID-19, while Lionel Messi featured for Barcelona.

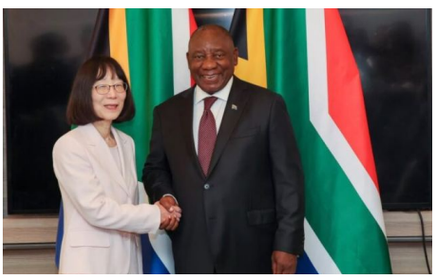
After the victory, Barcelona posted a photograph of Messi with the message: "We are glad you were able to see the GOAT on your pitch, Juventus." The term GOAT, short for "Greatest of All Time," was a clear reference to the long-running debate between Messi and Ronaldo.

Juventus responded with a warning of its own: "You probably looked it up in the wrong dictionary. We'll bring you the right one at Camp Nou."

The Italian side delivered on that promise when the teams met again on December 8, 2020. Juventus defeated Barcelona 3-0 at Camp Nou, with Ronaldo scoring twice and Weston McKennie adding another goal.

Following the match, Juventus posted: "We kept our word: we brought it!" alongside a goat emoji and a book, completing the joke that had begun weeks earlier.

Although the English account is now inactive, that exchange remains one of the club's most widely remembered examples of football banter on social media.



Ramaphosa Meets ICC Leadership as South Africa Reaffirms Support for Court's Independence

BY ANNA FARAJA · 12 NOV 2026

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has met senior officials from the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as South Africa uses an international justice conference to reaffirm its support for the independence and integrity of the ICC.

The meeting took place during the official opening of the International Conference on Access to Justice at the Sun City Convention Centre in the North West Province. The gathering, running from November 11 to 13, brings together international and regional representatives to discuss access to justice, constitutional democracy and the strengthening of legal institutions.

Among those attending were ICC President Judge Tomoko Akane, UNODC Executive Director Dr Monica Juma and ICC Acting Prosecutor Mame Mandiaye Niang.

The engagement provided an opportunity to discuss matters concerning the ICC and South Africa's relationship with the Court. It also allowed the country to restate the importance of protecting the institution from external pressure and safeguarding its ability to carry out its mandate independently.

The discussions come as the ICC faces growing pressure from the United States. On October 9, Washington imposed sanctions on the Court as an institution, following earlier sanctions targeting individual judges and prosecutors. The ICC condemned the move, saying it threatened the independence of an international judicial institution established to investigate and prosecute genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.

The sanctions have raised wider concerns about the ability of the Court and its personnel to carry out their work without intimidation or interference. The ICC has called on its member states to provide continued support and help protect its operations.

South Africa has been an important participant in debates over the Court's role and the application of international criminal law. Its engagement with ICC leadership at the conference therefore carries significance beyond the formal meeting, particularly as questions about international accountability and the independence of judicial institutions remain under discussion.

The conference also coincides with the 30th anniversary of the adoption of South Africa's Constitution in 1996. Organised under the theme "Strengthening People-Centred Justice Systems: Deepening Democracy", it seeks to examine how justice systems can become more accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of the public.

The gathering brings together government representatives, judicial officers, prosecutors, academics, civil society organisations and international institutions to discuss challenges facing justice systems and ways to strengthen the rule of law.

For the ICC, South Africa's reaffirmation of support comes at a time when the Court is seeking to maintain its ability to operate despite sanctions and other forms of external pressure. The broader question facing its supporters is whether states that established the Court will continue to defend its independence when its work becomes politically contested.



South Africa Launches Digital Asylum System to Tackle Backlogs and Fraud

BY ANNA FARAJA · 10 NOV 2026

South Africa's Department of Home Affairs has launched the first phase of a new Digital Asylum System, introducing an online process through which people seeking asylum can register their intention to apply, as the government moves to address lengthy processing delays, decades-old backlogs and alleged abuse of the country's asylum system.

Announced on 10 November by the department, the new platform allows individuals to submit personal information, facial biometric data and supporting documents digitally. The government says the system is designed to improve identity verification, reduce opportunities for corruption and help officials plan for the number of applications expected.

The platform is currently live for an initial batch of test cases. Public registration is expected to begin after the department's next scheduled software release, due this coming weekend.

However, registering an intention to seek asylum does not amount to a formal asylum application and does not automatically grant an individual asylum or refugee status, or South African citizenship. Applicants will still have to complete the formal process under South African law.

The department says the first phase will help it understand expected application numbers, allocate resources and prepare for the wider rollout. Later stages are expected to introduce appointment scheduling, further biometric checks and the digitisation of asylum applications and appeals.

Home Affairs Minister Leon Schreiber said the system could help address long-standing weaknesses in the asylum process, including delays that have allowed some applicants to exploit the time taken to decide their cases.

The department also plans to use machine-learning and artificial intelligence tools

in subsequent phases to help process applications and appeals more quickly. It says these measures will support the handling of a large backlog while enabling faster action on rejected applications, in accordance with the law.

The launch follows a July 2026 Constitutional Court judgment that found several provisions of the Refugees Act unconstitutional. The ruling concerned restrictions that could prevent some people from having their asylum claims assessed on their merits because of how or when they entered the country.

The government has since been working on a revised approach to processing asylum claims while responding to the legal implications of the judgment. The new registration platform forms part of that effort, although the department has made clear that registering an intention to apply does not provide blanket protection against immigration enforcement.

For people without internet access or suitable digital devices, the department says assisted registration will be available at Refugee Reception Offices.

The success of the system will depend not only on its technology but also on whether it can reduce delays without creating new barriers for people seeking protection. For now, the launch marks the beginning of a phased change to how South Africa records and processes asylum claims.



Ramaphosa Arrives in California for Week-Long Artificial Intelligence Engagements

BY JOSEPHS QUARTZY · 15 NOV 2026

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has arrived in California, United States, leading a high-level delegation on a working visit to Silicon Valley aimed at strengthening the country's understanding of artificial intelligence (AI), attracting investment and expanding its technological capabilities.

Ramaphosa arrived in California on Saturday, November 14, where he was received by Santa Clara Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor and South Africa's Ambassador to the United States, Roelf Meyer, according to an announcement by the South African Presidency.

The President is leading a delegation comprising government officials, business representatives, academics, researchers, technical experts and university students. The visit, scheduled to run from November 15 to 21, is intended to expose South African stakeholders to developments in the global AI industry and help shape the country's approach to developing and adopting the technology.

The programme includes engagements with leading technology companies, investors, research institutions and academic experts, with discussions covering artificial intelligence, robotics, cloud computing, cybersecurity, data infrastructure and digital innovation.

One of the major engagements will take place at Stanford University, where the delegation is expected to meet academics and venture capital investors to discuss the relationship between technological research, commercial innovation and investment. The programme will also include a visit to a robotics laboratory.

The delegation is also scheduled to visit major technology companies, including Google and Cisco in Mountain View on November 19, followed by engagements with Palo Alto Networks and Microsoft's Experiential Centre in Santa Clara on November 20.

A central part of the visit will be the South Africa AI Opportunity gathering, organised under the theme "Building the African AI Economy: Infrastructure, Investment and Innovation". The discussions are expected to examine what is required to develop a competitive AI industry, including investment in data centres, computing capacity, reliable electricity supply and technology start-ups.

These issues are particularly important as artificial intelligence increasingly becomes part of economic activity, government services, education, healthcare and business operations. Countries seeking to benefit from the technology need more than access to AI applications; they also require the infrastructure, skilled workforce, research capacity and investment needed to develop and deploy them.

For South Africa, the visit offers an opportunity to examine how experience from established technology centres could inform its own development plans. The government has identified AI as an important part of its digital economy ambitions, with potential applications in public administration, healthcare, education, criminal justice and other sectors.

The delegation will also explore opportunities for international partnerships, investment and research collaboration, while considering issues surrounding AI safety, data protection, digital sovereignty and the impact of automation on employment.

The visit comes as South Africa seeks to strengthen its position in Africa's growing digital economy and attract investment into technology infrastructure and innovation. However, the extent to which the engagements will translate into tangible investments, new partnerships and expanded technological capacity at home will depend on what follows the discussions.

The South African government says the broader objective is to ensure that the country can participate more meaningfully in the global AI economy while developing its own capabilities and ensuring that the technology contributes to inclusive economic growth.



FEATURE

People miss the Old Twitter, but Are They Ready to pay for Its Replacement (Tweet.app)?

BY JOSEPHS QUARTZY · 9 NOV 2026

5 MIN READ

For many social media users, Twitter was more than just an app. It was the place where breaking news travelled quickly, conversations unfolded in real time, jokes became global trends and people built communities around shared interests. Even after Elon Musk acquired the platform and rebranded it as X in 2023, many users continued calling it Twitter, holding on to a name and experience they had grown accustomed to.

Now, a new platform is attempting to revive some of that familiarity. But while the idea of bringing back the old Twitter experience may appeal to people who miss the platform's earlier identity, its approach raises another question: are users willing to pay for a new social network and start building their online communities all over again?

The platform, called Tweet.app, is being developed by Operation Bluebird, a company that has presented its project as an effort to rebuild the public square around trust, user control and real conversation. It offers familiar features such as posting, replying, reposting, following accounts and exploring topics, while promising a different approach to advertising, algorithms and the spread of misleading content.

Operation Bluebird initially attempted to launch the service under the name Twitter. now. That plan ran into a legal challenge from X Corp., which argued that it continued to own the Twitter trademarks. In a September 3, 2026 ruling, a federal judge in Delaware granted X's request to prevent Operation Bluebird from using the Twitter name and related marks, but declined to block its use of the word "Tweet" and the former Twitter bird logo at the preliminary stage of the case. The company subsequently adopted the name Tweet.app. The trademark dispute has not been finally resolved.

The platform is now inviting people to join through a paid early-access membership programme. Its website lists a Founder membership at $20, a Fighter tier at $40 and a Centurion tier at $100. The company says the payments support development and help fund its legal battle, while allowing it to operate without relying on advertising revenue. It argues that a membership-funded model gives the platform an incentive to serve its users rather than advertisers.

However, the decision to charge people to join is also one of the biggest obstacles the new platform could face.

Reactions shared by users on X illustrate the difficulty. Some expressed excitement about the possibility of returning to a Twitter-like environment, with one user saying they would leave their current platform and create an account on a service offering the old experience. Others questioned why they should move to another network, while several insisted that they would continue calling X Twitter regardless of its current name.

One particularly critical user, who said they had signed up to test Tweet.app, described the experience as disappointing. They complained about service interruptions, the requirement to pay for access, concerns about having to renew membership and limitations when handling videos and images. These are individual user experiences rather than an independent assessment of the platform, but they highlight the kind of concerns a new social network must address if it hopes to attract people beyond its earliest supporters.

There is also the question of what happens after someone pays. Tweet.app's current website says the platform is moving towards monthly or yearly paid memberships as it expands, with existing early supporters receiving membership periods tied to the tier they purchased. Founder members are promised one year, Fighters two years and Centurions lifetime membership. The company says its browser version is available now, with an Android application planned for early November 2026 and an iPhone application to follow.

The company also has ambitions beyond simply recreating the familiar appearance of Twitter. Its roadmap includes features such as Vera, a system intended to provide sources and context around certain claims, alongside tools that would give users greater control over what appears in their feeds. However, the company acknowledges that some of these features are still being developed and are not yet available.

Operation Bluebird says more than 175,000 handles have been requested. That figure suggests considerable curiosity about the project, but it should not be confused with 175,000 active users or paying members. Reserving a username is not the same as regularly using a platform, and the real test will be whether those interested in the idea become an active community.

> *"Now, a new platform is attempting to revive some of that familiarity.*

That distinction matters because social networks do not succeed on their features alone. They depend on people being present. Users may appreciate a cleaner interface, dislike certain changes on X or miss the culture of the original Twitter, but they also want to find their friends, favourite creators, journalists, public figures and communities in one place. Convincing them to abandon an established network means asking them to leave behind years of connections and rebuild those relationships elsewhere.

There is a further challenge in persuading people to pay for something they have become accustomed to accessing for free. Tweet.app's argument is that free social media comes at a cost: users' attention and personal data help sustain advertising-driven businesses. Its membership model is an attempt to offer an alternative. Whether enough people agree that the alternative is worth paying for remains to be seen.

Ultimately, Tweet.app is competing with more than X. It is competing with habit, convenience, existing communities and the reluctance of users to keep creating accounts on new platforms whenever another company promises a better experience.

People may miss the old Twitter. They may still call X by its former name, remember the blue bird and wish some of the platform's earlier culture had survived. But nostalgia does not automatically translate into subscriptions, and a familiar-looking timeline cannot guarantee that the people who made the original Twitter special will move with it.

For Operation Bluebird, the challenge is no longer simply convincing people that the old Twitter experience is worth bringing back. It is convincing them that Tweet.app is worth joining, paying for and staying on.

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