

Nairobi, Kenya, December 4 (Infosplushgabon) - Hosts Kenya on Sunday began their 2017 CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup campaign on a positive note, beating Rwanda 2-0 in Kakamega, western Kenya, to go top of Group A with Libya and Tanzania playing a barren draw in the other group tie in Machakos, 45km away from the capital city, Nairobi.

Harambee Stars, playing at the newly refurbished Bukhungu Stadium, brought life to the venue that hasn't seen much football for the last three years after it was closed down for renovations. Duncan Otieno and Masud Juma scored in the opening half, giving new coach Paul Put a perfect start.

"It was good to see the players playing with heart and dedication. It was not the exact way I wanted us to play but I will take the victory. We have a lot of work to do and now focus is on the next game against Libya," Put said after the match.

Skipper Musa Mohammed was elated with the victory and said it was a dedication to the fans who had come out in their numbers to support them.

"The first game is always key and winning (today) gives us a good start. Hoping we can maintain this kind of performance moving forward. We are a new team and we will continue building cohesion as we progress," the skipper said.

Rwanda coach Antoine Hey is using the 3–17 December tournament as part of his preparation for the Total African Nations Championship (CHAN) next year and he fielded most of the players who will be in action in Morocco in Janu.

Libya drew 0-0 with Tanzania in another Group A match on Sunday.

The tournament enters Day 2 on Monday with Uganda taking on Burundi at the Bukhungu Stadium in Kakamega while Rwanda and Kenya return to Machakos for their second group matches on Tuesday.

The groups are as follows:-

Group A

1 Kenya

2 Libya

2 Tanzania

4 Zanzibar

5 Rwanda

Group B

1 Uganda

2 Burundi

3 Ethiopia

4 South Sudan

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