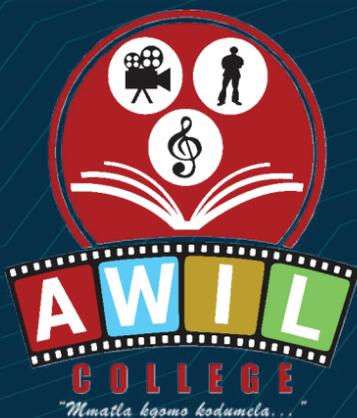


LESOTHO:

THABANE 'DIGNIFIED EXIT' DEAL SEALED



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Lesotho Prime Minister's Dignified Exit Sealed

BY THUSO MOTSHGWE

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's Special Envoy to Lesotho Jeff Radebe has said a peace deal has been brokered with the Lesotho government for its Prime Minister, Thomas Thabane to step down.

Radebe was addressing the media in Gaborone on Friday after meeting the incoming Chairman of the Organ for Politics, Defence and Security (Organ) and President of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi. The meeting was meant to give Masisi an update on the progress made to bring peace to the mountainous nation of Lesotho.

The SADC organ was launched in June 1996 as a formal institution of SADC with the mandate to support the achievement and maintenance of security and the rule of law in the SADC region.

Following a closed-door meeting with President Masisi, the SADC Chairman's Special Envoy to Lesotho, Radebe told the media that the Prime Minister Thabane will step down soon.

Radebe had prior to his meeting with Masisi been in Zimbabwe the previous day, where he met and briefed President Emmerson Mnangagwa, the Chairman of the Organ for Politics, Defence and Security about the developments in Maseru.



"Thabane was intending to resign end of July depending on the parliamentary process to amend the constitution to allow a resignation or retiring of the prime minister" said Radebe at Botswana's State House gardens.

The embattled Thabane is being accused of playing a role in the murder of his estranged first wife. This has plunged the country into a political turmoil, and Thabane has been under tremendous pressure to step down.

Ramaphosa's special envoy on Lesotho, Radebe told the local press that the deal brokered early this week has promised Thabane a "dignified and secure" exit from office.

"Thabane was intending to resign end of July depending on the parliamentary process to amend the constitution to allow a resignation or retiring of the prime minister" said Radebe at Botswana's State House gardens.

Radebe said the national assembly has passed the constitution amendment and the SADC is waiting for the Lesotho Senate to convene in the next week to finalize the parliamentary process. The Senate in Lesotho examines, and reviews draft Legislation/Bills passed by the National Assembly, however, does not

initiate Legislation.

Radebe was swift to allay fears that Thabane will not go back from his promise of going back from his promise, as he has done before.

Meanwhile, Radebe added that the meeting had to be held between him and President Masisi amid the novel coronavirus pandemic. He said the Covid-19 restrictions such as wearing of masks and exercising social distancing were adhered to emphasizing that there was no need to use technology to hold the meeting.

The accusation on Thabane for his alleged hand in the murder of his then wife Lipolelo Thabane in 2017 has plunged the mountain Kingdom into a political crisis.

Recently, Thabane deployed the army in the streets, accusing law enforcement agencies in the kingdom of undermining democracy. Mediators from South Africa intervened to calm tensions.

Here's what COVID-19 Teaches us about 'social learning' and the Environment

Madhur Anand

The dire social and economic impact of COVID-19 could worsen environmental destruction in the long run.

- But the pandemic is also teaching us how to use individual choices to tackle a global disaster.

- "Social learning" is a powerful tool for lasting change. It involves people learning from each other and adapting their behaviour as a result.

The horrors of the global human death toll of COVID-19 confront everyone daily in the news. The economic and other hardships so many are facing due to physical distancing measures also deeply us. Moreover, as a global change ecologist whose lens has been the whole wide world and everything in it – the millions of other species, the air we all share, and the water we all depend on – the environmental dimensions of COVID-19 are impossible for me to ignore.

COVID-19 itself is not good for any of the seventeen UN

Sustainable Development Goals. Human wellbeing, the economy and the environment are all interrelated, and the pandemic is certainly not helping us achieve our goals for protecting them. However, the pandemic is teaching us lessons in human behaviour that could bring us closer to these goals in the future.

A mere year and a half ago, in October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published an alarming Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees C. It started with a quote from The Wisdom of the Sands, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: "Your task is not to foresee the future, but to enable it."

The report called for "rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes" in all aspects of society to avert the worst disasters of climate change. It predicted dire consequences for human well-being, the economy and the environment if those warnings were not heeded. Despite the shift in language from "climate change" to "climate emergency"

over the past year by many institutions, we have not seen these recommendations being implemented.

And yet, COVID-19 has forced us to make dramatic changes in every area of life in the space of only a few weeks. Cities and entire countries were shut down overnight, leaders declared national and international emergencies, people and institutions adapted to unprecedented societal change.

COVID-19 is also transforming our relationship to the environment. The origins of emerging infectious diseases, including COVID-19 but also HIV, Ebola, Nipah, SARS, pandemic influenza and others, are at least partly linked to the growing human impact on the environment. Acknowledging this is crucial as we try to address the root causes of pandemics. These days, many cities are reporting cleaner air and lower pollution. In some places, this is literally changing how we perceive nature. Some

communities in India are able to see the snow-capped Himalayas for the first time in their lives. However, these changes are also revealing the magnitude of these chronic problems, and the importance of tackling them. As the pandemic limits access to green spaces such as parks and conservation areas, many are becoming painfully aware of how fundamental these natural oases are to their wellbeing.

It appears that in times of crisis, we connect even more strongly with our natural surroundings. In the short term, this may well have a beneficial impact on some aspects on the environment. However, in the long term, the picture is more complex. Economic recession could exacerbate environmental degradation, as resources are diverted from efforts to protect and restore habitats. It could also worsen existing poverty traps. As the UN Climate Change Executive Secretary said: "COVID-19 is the most urgent threat facing humanity today, but we cannot forget that

climate change is the biggest threat facing humanity over the long term." The acting executive secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity put it bluntly: "The message we are getting is if we don't take care of nature, it will take care of us."

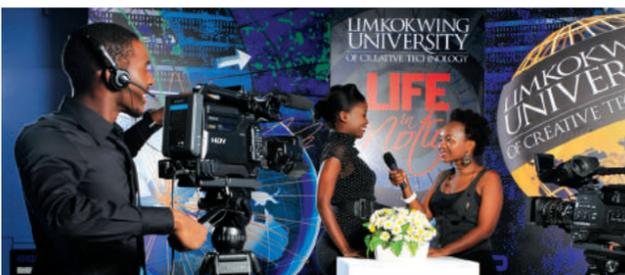
Right now, we are learning valuable lessons in resilience and human adaptability. We are learning how quickly humans can respond when faced with a common enemy, be it a novel virus or the well-established physics of climate change. Let us examine these lessons, reflect on our new respect for the natural world, and consider what enabled us to adjust to such profoundly challenging and unfamiliar new norms. Let us take note of how some of the ideas put forward by different countries now are very much in line with UN sustainable development goals, such as the elimination of poverty, good health and wellbeing, reduced inequality, and responsible production and consumption. And let's imagine how we might be able to harness these lessons to reduce the risk of catastrophes - disease, climate change or other threats - in the future.

(World Economic Forum.)

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Sex Workers Face Harsh Impacts On The Face Of A Pandemic

BY BOKANI KING

Sisonke Botswana has encouraged Sex workers to incorporate technology to connect with their clients amid the lockdown as a way of diversifying their product offering.

Sisonke Botswana Programs officer Mandla Pule says sex

workers are still approached by clients for services, but urged them to adhere to the mitigation protocols in order to keep themselves and their clients safe. Sex workers have been advised to incorporate virtual services such as selling video content and video chats to avoid close contact and ensure that they paid through online

payments.

This comes as the sex workers across the world take a blow from lockdowns which make it difficult for them to practice their trade due to the COVID 19 mitigation protocols. Most sex workers around the country say they have taken been affected by the lockdown as demand has gone down due mitigation

protocols. This has also taken a toll on their income as they can no longer afford to take care of themselves and their families.

However, most sex workers in Palapye area are yet to feel the pinch of the lockdown. Sex worker lead paralegal for Palapye, Segolame says they have regular clients who still approach them for services. She noted that they take precautionary measures such as using masks and sanitizers.

Meanwhile Director of Public Health, Dr Malaki Tshipayagae said although they are aware that sex workers are a vulnerable population, they are expected to adhere as non-essential service. Tshipayagae said sex workers are at a risk of spreading the virus as the act itself requires close human contact. He however said if there are any people who are forced into sex work, they should come forward for assistance. He said precautionary measures would not be effective as human to human contact is the most common way of spreading the virus.

As a way to ensure that sex workers do not default from taking their ARV treatment, Sisonke is working with health officials to provide 3-month ARV refills for local and foreign sex workers.

Pule said this move is intended to assist sex workers, have

access to medication during the period of the lockdown. Pule further said their members are in dire need of relief from the government so they can be able to survive during the lockdown. Sisonke has however established a Covid-19 emergency fund, whose purpose is to assist with buying essentials for non-citizen sex workers.

It has further been highlighted that outside the challenges presented by Covid -19, they have to deal with police brutality and lack of access to proper medical care. She said they are often victimised for in their line of work by the public, their family and health workers. The organisation has also highlighted how they are often marginalised when safety and social protection measures are put in place.

The laws of Botswana criminalises sex work, however it has always existed and authorities have been urged by advocacy groups to legalise the profession. Section 155 Botswana's constitution states that every person who knowingly lives wholly or in part on the earnings of prostitution is guilty of an offence; and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction under this section the court may, in addition to any term of imprisonment awarded, sentence the offender to corporal punishment.



African Farmers Lose Export Market Access Amidst Covid-19 Crisis

According to the Impact of Coronavirus on Africa's Agriculture April 2020 report released by Selina Wamucii, family farmers across Africa are facing economic devastation as Covid-19 pandemic disrupts exports and global food supply

chains.

The report provides a recent and ground-up perspective on how the pandemic is affecting African farmers.

Millions of African smallholder farmers who grow fruits and vegetables (FFV) for export have

lost market access as flights are cancelled and borders restricted around the world. Global disruption of supply chains is also affecting the import of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, and insecticides.

John Oroko, CEO of Selina Wamucii, intra-Africa says that trade is around 2% while exports from Africa to the rest of the world range from 80% to 90% of total exports, of which a huge share is made up of agricultural produce. "The Covid-19 pandemic has unfortunately come at a time when our farmers depend largely on exports to markets outside the continent and also before the commencement of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that was scheduled to commence on July 1, 2020, thereby creating a single continental market of more than 1.3 billion people.

"Now, unlike no other time, we can see a demonstration of why the success of the African Continental Free Trade Area will be directly linked to securing the livelihoods of African farmers in the future," says Oroko.

"Covid-19 is severely disrupting trade in key markets for Africa's agricultural produce and African farmers are bound to experience a nightmare in export market access," adds Oroko.

African farmers are a relatively elderly demographic and 70%

of Africa's food is currently produced by women, who are also primary caregivers across many of Africa's rural regions. This means that a key segment of the farmers in the region is also at a higher risk of contracting Covid-19.

Export restriction risk

Morocco tops the list of African countries whose agricultural exports face the highest risk largely due to the country's over-reliance on the European market given its close proximity and well-established traditional trading ties.

In 2018, Morocco's FFV, fish, seafood and cut flowers, worth \$3,024,724,000 was exported to the European Union, translating into over 78% of the FFV, fish, seafood and cut flowers worth \$3,846,083 exported by Morocco to the rest of the world in that year.

Kenya's agricultural exports also face a great risk mainly due to the over-reliance on fresh-cut flower exports, the bulk of which end up in the European Union. Additionally, over 50% of Kenya's FFV exports and nuts go to the European Union and China, which are markets that have already been shaken up. In 2018, Kenya's FFV and nut' exports worth \$223,113,000, out of the total \$482,559,000 exported, went to European markets.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, farmers in Kenya and other East

Africa countries were already suffering severe locust invasion and now Covid-19 has worsened the situation.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has warned that a new wave of locust swarms are starting to form, representing an unprecedented threat to farmer livelihoods - specifically in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia. As a result, farmers are facing a double catastrophe from the impact of Covid-19 and the locusts at the same time, a combination that will negatively affect their farm yields.

While the agricultural production in South Africa has not been adversely affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, logistics and border restrictions are likely to affect South Africa's agricultural exports. The country has closed 35 land borders and two seaports.

Coupled with the fact that the county also has prohibited crew changes in all of its ports amidst a looming container shortage, the export volume is bound to go down especially for fish, seafood and fresh vegetables.

Other African countries that will experience significant drops in the FFV, fish and seafood exports are, in order of the projected severity include Tunisia, Senegal, Cameroon, Uganda, Mauritania, Tanzania, and Egypt.

(TheConversation)

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How Africa Risks Reeling From A Health Crisis To A Food Crisis

In Nigeria's Benue state, the food basket of the country, Mercy Yialase sits in front of her idle rice mill. Demand is high across the nation, but she already has mounds of paddy rice that are going nowhere amid the COVID-19 lockdown.

"I can't mill because the marketers are not coming," Yialase said, referring to wholesale buyers, as she sat at a market stall in the city of Makurdi with dozens of other millers.

Although food truck drivers are meant to be exempt from lockdown restrictions, many are afraid for their own safety, or fear they will be fined or arrested by overzealous police.

The situation in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is reflected across sub-Saharan Africa.

Trucking logistics firm Kobo360 said 30% of its fleet

across Nigeria, Kenya, Togo, Ghana and Uganda was not operating as a result. Several farmers said crops were rotting in the fields or at the depots waiting for trucks that never arrive. And millers cannot get their milled rice to buyers.

"There is no clarity around what can move around... or what is essential transportation," said Kobo360 co-founder Ife Oyedele, adding that truck bosses were afraid. "They're scared to go out and have their drivers on the road."

Millions of people in the region are at risk of not getting the food they need due to coronavirus disruptions, according to the United Nations and World Bank.

While domestic crops and capacity go to waste, the imports the region relies on have also dried up as major suppliers, including India, Vietnam and Cambodia, have reduced or

even banned rice exports to make sure their countries have enough food to cope with the pandemic.

Meanwhile, scarcity has driven up prices of the main staple food beyond the reach of some people since lockdowns were announced in three states at the end of March to tame the spread of the virus.

Sub-Saharan Africa, the world's largest rice-importing region, could be heading from a health crisis straight into a food security crisis, the World Bank warns.

More widely, the United Nations says coronavirus disruptions could double the number of people globally without reliable access to nutritious food, to 265 million.

"There is no question about it that there is an imminent problem of food insecurity, not only in Nigeria, but also

in nations all over the world," Nigeria's Agriculture Minister Muhammed Sabo Nanono told Reuters.

Nanono said Nigeria had at least 38,000 tonnes of grains in government-controlled strategic reserves. It is looking to replenish with 100,000 additional tonnes.

However the region has among the lowest inventories relative to consumption, so export restrictions mean rice shortages "could happen very quickly," according to John Hurley, lead regional economist for west and central Africa for the U.N.'s International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Nigeria has substantially increased domestic rice production in recent years. But figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) show it still imports at least a third of what it consumes. Across sub-Saharan Africa, countries rely on imports for roughly 40% of rice consumption.

This puts these countries at particular risk.

India, the world's largest rice exporter, temporarily stopped new export agreements earlier this month, while lockdowns and supply chain disruptions in Pakistan, Vietnam and Cambodia have limited available exports.

Since only 9% of global output is traded internationally, the curbs hit prices immediately, the USDA said.

"We need to make sure we're not taking policy measures that are going to hurt the rural poor and people in developing

countries, said Hurley.

The price of a bag of imported rice rose by more than 7.5% in Abuja and Lagos between the third week of March and early April, according to SBM Intelligence, while bags of local rice became about 6%-8% more expensive.

LOCUSTS PLAGUE

In Kenya, panic-buying and government programmes to distribute rice to low-income households have already depleted reserves.

If imports don't pick up, East Africa alone could face a shortfall of at least 50,000-60,000 tonnes by the end of the month, said Mital Shah, managing director of Kenya-based Sunrice, one of the region's largest rice importers.

"The entire supply chain has been disrupted," Shah said. "In the next couple of weeks, East Africa is going to have a huge shortage."

Getting the bills of loading for imports into Kenya has also stretched from three to four days to three to four weeks. In Nigeria, clearing imports has gone from weeks to months.

Senegal's rice imports have fallen by around 30% due to international supply disruptions, said Ousmane Sy Ndiaye, executive director of UNACOIS, a Senegalese commerce industry group. He estimated the nation had enough in storage to cover two months. Growing rice in nations outside East Africa, such as Nigeria, is also more important now due to a plague of locusts in East Africa that has decimated crops this year.

BROKEN CHAINS

Domestic movement restrictions and import delays are also hindering farmers, and some are warning that production will fall if governments do not act.

A survey by AFEX Commodities Exchange Limited, a Nigerian company that assists the agriculture sector with logistics and financing, found that Nigeria's fertilizer stocks are currently 20% below normal levels. There are only enough seeds and other inputs to farm 1 million hectares out of the roughly 30 million typically farmed, the study showed.

Other farmers say the lockdowns are hindering farm inspections by banks, putting their financing at risk, and creating problems physically getting tractors - which are often hired - to fields. Planting rice would typically start in May.

Nigeria's government has created a task force to minimize the coronavirus's impact on agriculture. Nanono said it was creating ID cards for those in the agriculture sector, from farmhands to food truck drivers, to enable them to move freely.



DEBSWANA'S SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES AND THE NATIONAL COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

The outbreak of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had an unprecedented impact on the entire global community and the diamond industry, of which Debswana is a significant stakeholder, has suffered greatly from the inability to sustain sales due to global movement restrictions implemented as an infection spread response measure.

As part of these world-wide interventions, the Government of the Republic of Botswana (GRB) has also effected a number of swift interventions to prevent and manage the spread of the virus. These include a request by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi for the private sector to contribute towards the national COVID-19 Relief Fund, whose primary objective is to cushion the impact of the pandemic on the cross-section of Botswana's economy and communities.

Since the spread of the pandemic escalated, Debswana has committed resources to provide financial and in-kind support towards corresponding relief efforts, these also being in line with the Company's Corporate Social Investment programme's focus area of SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES. The Company has so far spent P14 million on the pandemic preparedness of our hospitals and operations, as well as support to communities. Over the next few weeks Debswana will contribute a further P10 million towards national relief efforts and community support.

In formulating its contributions Debswana has taken the following aspects into consideration:

1. The current interventions are focused on Prevention and Response, albeit with plans already developed for the pandemic Recovery phases.
2. Communities within our mines' environs are a particular focus area due to their resource constraints to respond to the pandemic, relative to urban areas of the country.
3. Debswana runs two district referral hospitals which are already at the core of the Boteti and Jwaneng-Mabutsane sub-district's response to the pandemic.
4. Debswana is a member of the Joint (Government and Debswana) District Disaster Management Committees through which the Company implements its Emergency Response Preparedness Plans in the event of any crisis. Both sub-districts' clinics are experiencing significant shortages of resources, such as front-line personnel protective equipment (PPE), for which requests for support have been submitted to the Company's respective operations.
5. Lack of access to remote learning due to limited or no internet connectivity, as well as a lack of access to broadcast media (radio and TV) for students in all of these outlying communities.

Since the previous month, Debswana has been proactively engaging stakeholders in our immediate impact communities, as well as at national level, such as the District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC), District Health Management Teams, National Emergency Operation Centre, Ministry of Health and Wellness, community leadership, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders, to work on prevention and response initiatives. The Company conducted risk assessments from which an inventory of its resources and assets that can be mobilised was formulated.

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS FOR ALL DEBSWANA OPERATIONS AND IMPACT COMMUNITIES

Debswana has to date spent P14 million to prepare its operations and hospitals to fight the pandemic.

This consisted of procuring related medical supplies, PPE, testing equipment, converting some of its accommodation facilities into isolation centres, as well as pandemic educational materials and communication platforms. Of this figure P7,682,758 was spent on local suppliers. In addition, Debswana's mine hospitals also serve as district referral hospitals in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and have to be adequately prepared.

Other funds and efforts were spent on:

1. Re-allocation and streamlining of hospital services at both Jwaneng and Orapa towards COVID-19 treatment and patient care.
2. Availing funds, facilities and Company employees to assist the District Health Management Teams.
3. Enabling Government to convert some district clinics into COVID-19 treatment centres.
4. Re-deployment of mine hospitals' ambulances to support wider healthcare efforts around the communities: Jwaneng (two ambulances) and Orapa (one ambulance).
5. Provision of water and sanitisers to the Company's impact communities.
6. A cash donation to the Boteti DDMC to purchase masks, gloves and other medical supplies.
7. Provision of self contained porta cabins for a period of six months to use by a clinic in Jwaneng and Mabutsane to house health personnel (eight rooms in Jwaneng and sixteen rooms in Mabutsane).



Jwaneng Mine Hospital doctor, Dr Rachel Seleke, shows traditional leaders the Isolation Centre.



Self contained porta cabins provided as accommodation for health workers



Assistant Minister of Health checks OLDM hospital readiness

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT

With an additional contribution of P10 million the Company will continue to support interventions at both impact communities and national levels.

Debswana will commit the P10 million as follows:

- a) **P5 million** for the production of 250,000 re-usable masks and distribution to front-line workers such as the Police and Military; as well as Government essential workers and communities around our Mines. The masks will be made by pre-existing tailors in Botswana and around our communities, thus stimulating economic activity such as local production, import substitution and socio-economic development during this time of economic downturn.
- b) **P3 million** to purchase food packages, provide water and various supplies requested by communities around Orapa and Jwaneng.
- c) **P1.3 million** to support education programmes around the communities in Orapa and Jwaneng.
- d) **P700, 000** to augment costs for medical Personnel Protective Equipment being purchased by the Anglo Foundation for 24 clinics in the 200 kilometer radius around our Mines.
- e) **Technical support** in the form of Emergency Preparedness training.

With regard to Debswana's employees and contractors we have ensured and continue to further consolidate the following;

1. Purchased disposable masks, sanitisers and gloves for **Debswana's 12,000 employees and contractors** who work at our operations.
2. In the next few weeks, spend **P480,000** for the production of re-usable masks for all employees and contractors.
3. Provision of **daily medical screening to employees and contractors** (currently only essential services and skeleton staff are working).
4. Providing **daily COVID-19 educational messages and advice** to employees via SMS and email.
5. Provision of a **toll-free number with 24-hour** for communication and wellness support services for employees.
6. Our crisis management teams have put in place robust plans for post lockdown re-entry to our operations that will ensure compliance with COVID-19 **safety protocols**.

The Acting Managing Director, Ms. Lynette Armstrong had confirmed that; "Debswana remains committed to play its part in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Our efforts in mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 extend way beyond this pledge. Through our existing and long-term socio-economic development, Corporate Social Investment programme, Citizen Economic Empowerment programmes and our Debswana Values, we will ensure the continued support in the best way possible even post the COVID-19 crisis."



Africa: Leading the Way in Wealth Transformation

By Emmanuel Allotey

Africa is a true example of the old adage “Rags to Riches.” Despite accounting for 16% of the world’s population, Africa only accounts for 1% of total worldwide wealth a proportion that was previously non-existent. Labelled a poor continent, Africa is now thriving and producing some of the fastest growing economies in the world and creating with it the rise of the largest emerging affluent population in the next 20 years.

Africans have become wealthy

through opportunities created by business ownership, formal employment, entrepreneurship among others. Financial Institutions have accelerated the pace of wealth creation in Africa. The number of financial institutions in Africa has exponentially increased in the last 50 years.

From International Banks to local investment institutions there is intense activity in the financial services industry with Africans emerging as the winner. Financial service providers have evolved from providing bank accounts to

offering access to offshore investment opportunities. Financial Institutions are the secret behind the wealth transformation in Africa.

The number of Individuals with bank accounts or access to financial services has more than doubled in the last 15 years. Africa is leading the way in wealth transformation driven by Financial Institutions empowering individuals to Save, Borrow, Invest and Protect their wealth.

The most basic way to acquiring wealth is Saving. Savings accounts exceed the number

of ordinary or transactional accounts across most markets in Africa. The principle of savings through a financial institution is put money away and over time with compounded interest it multiplies.

Previously, out of ignorance Africans were known to keep money at home or hidden in beds without enjoying the benefit of compounded interest that causes their money to grow. Financial institutions now offer numerous saving account types; fixed deposits, regular savings, annuity savings the options are endless, but the objective is

the same – grow your wealth by putting money away and receiving interest.

The expert way to acquire wealth is through Investing. The introduction of formal Investment structures such as a local Stock Exchange House, facilitated the ecosystem for the creation of wealth across Africa through company ownership. Today South Africa is one of the wealthiest nations in Africa with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange the largest stock exchange in Africa.

In Botswana, the public offering of Botswana Telecommunication shares on the Botswana Stock Exchange is an example of a formal investment vehicle to acquire wealth. Financial institutions now offer diverse investment plans and options for the individual looking for ways to grow their wealth.

Africa as continent will improve its position in worldwide Wealth as more of its inhabitants leverage the opportunities generated by Financial Institutions to create Wealth – Visit your nearest Financial Institution and explore how you can grow your Wealth.

Oarabile Nchalupi Creates A Covid:19 Digital Permit

-Appeals for Software Engineering Experts to assist with generating the App and Software.

Limkokwing University provides an environment that nurtures and promotes creative talents through various programmes that are accelerators of creative possibilities. It is the leading creativity and innovation driven university with a strategy to link industry and government to the university as channel for students to work on actual industry or government projects.

As a globally recognized and well respected University, Limkokwing prides itself in contributing towards economic endeavors that shift communities, engages the youth and drives the use of new technologies while answering the call to new markets and working beyond the mark of creativity while pressing towards contributing to the needs of the national development plan.

It is because of this unique Limkokwing DNA, that propelled Oarabile Nchalupi, a 23 year old BA (Hons) in Professional Design 3rd year student to start developing a Covid:19 Digital Permit that one can apply for, from the comfort of their home.

Speaking about his invention, Oarabile stated that he was pushed by the rising cases of Covid:19 infections globally and

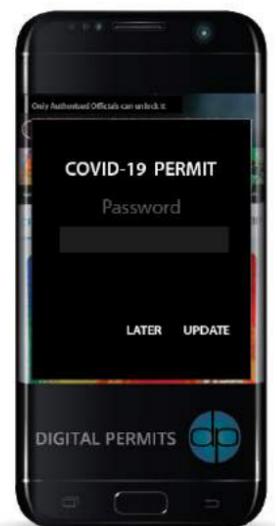
locally to design a digital permit that will respond effectively to the issue of social distancing, time management and strategic monitoring. He stated; ‘With effect from COVID-19, I had realized at that time that our government was still using the traditional method of authorizing permits to citizen’s logistics, with the design skills I acquired from my studies at Limkokwing regarding bank note security features study, I thought of designing a PDF Digital permit which consists of design security features as well as an authorization security code. I also realized that many people do not afford internet bundles at homes and I intended to take advantage of social media especially WhatsApp which is the most affordable and tested this process through WhatsApp and it worked well, meaning that anyone who has subscribed for WhatsApp can have access to the service’.

Oarabile highlighted that he used Adobe Illustrator CS6 to make the PDF Digital Permit and used more than 10 security features that are of the same standard as a bank note to restrict duplication in case anyone tries to copy it illegally.

He further stated; I made this permit ready for a software and app which can later be developed and be used by administrators who issue out the permits. The app is currently being developed by Frank Manyuwa who is a Software Engineering student at Limkokwing. For now, I have created a second option that instead of the software, other students can volunteer to edit this permit and submit to people via WhatsApp for a limited number of people in a district e.g hundred people daily in each district. The number of Limkokwing Design students nationwide is enough to keep the permits running in each district with minimal should it be adopted. All they need is a daily list of people who need permits and do it on behalf of the district commissioner. Instead of people going to crowd at the district council they can receive this permit in their smartphones via app. The next stage of this invention requires for software engineering experts in the school to help generate the App and Software.

For his part Limkokwing Senior Faculty Manager for Design Innovation Faculty Mr. Otsile Molome applauded the

COVID-19 Digital PERMIT



This app is currently under development.
The permit is the only one readily available and can be used through whatsapp while we are waiting for the app.

students for their innovative initiative, and appealed to Government to recognize and embrace such talents highlighting that creativity is not about artistry alone but activities that stimulate one’s creativity and critical thinking which then offer prospects of new economic opportunities and rapid responses to such situations. He concluded by saying that as a University they are exploring ways in which they can assist the students to finalize their design and bring it to life for the benefit of the nation at large.

Limkokwing students have

in the part used their skills and talents to excel and represent the country at national and international events such as the CIPA Logo Design Competitions, London Fashion Week, Miss Botswana, Presidents Day Competitions and many design related competitions. The University continues to do its part in the fight against Covid:19 by designing and producing public service announcement videos that assist sensitizing the public about the virus amongst its corporate social responsibility activities.

Lesotho PM Shows No Signs Of Leaving To Defuse Crisis



Lesotho Prime Minister Thomas Thabane has said he will not be told when to leave office, a national newspaper reported on Thursday, resisting efforts to defuse a political crisis with the offer of a “dignified retirement.”

The independent weekly Lesotho Times -- the most popular paper in the mountainous kingdom -- quoted Thabane as saying he would not be pushed out before he is ready, apparently rejecting a deal between South African mediators and his own coalition government that he would step down.

“People who I don’t report to (are) setting the time for my departure ... They have no right to do so,” it quoted him as saying.

Thabane, 80, has been under pressure to resign owing to a murder case in which he and his current wife are suspected of assassinating his previous wife. They both deny this.

Last Saturday Thabane ordered soldiers and armoured vehicles onto the streets of Maseru to restore order against what he said were “rogue national elements”, prompting neighbour South Africa to step in to try to defuse tensions.

Mediators said on Monday they had agreed with the government that Thabane would go into “a dignified, graceful and secure retirement,” immediately.

Thabane’s spokesman, Relebohile Moyeye, declined to comment on Thursday on what the prime minister’s plans were.

Thabane has previously said he will step down at the end of July, but several senior figures in his own party and in the opposition want him out immediately.

In the interview, the paper quoted him as saying that he wanted to “ensure that all the plans that we have in motion are implemented before I leave,” without detailing what those were.

Pro and anti-Thabane factions within the ruling ABC party are in conflict over his future, aggravating political tensions.

“We still wish that he could leave as soon as yesterday,” Montoeli Masoetsa, spokesman of Thabane’s ABC party, said.

Lesotho has experienced several coups since gaining independence from Britain in 1966, and its conflicts often suck in South Africa, whose central mountains encircle it and to which Lesotho supplies vital drinking water.

Gunmen shot and killed Thabane’s previous wife, Lipolelo, 58, on June 14, 2017, in a case that was never solved.

This year, police charged Thabane’s current wife, Maesaiah, with her murder, and also named Thabane himself -- though he has yet to be formally charged in court -- plunging Lesotho into its current crisis.

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BBS Limited (BBSL) e itsise ba ba adimileng madi mo go yone go reka dikago kana go aga, ba dikgwebo kana bahiri ba bone ba ba kokonetsweng ke manokonoko a segajaja sa mogare wa Corona gore ba tla fiwa sebaka sa dikgwedi tse di sa feteng boraro ba sa duele.

Sebaka se sa go tlosolosa dituelo se tla fiwa fela ba eleng gore ga ba na makgwere ape mo tirisanyong ya bone le BBSL.

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Africa Must Make Sure It's Part Of The Search For A Coronavirus Vaccine

The search for a COVID-19 vaccine has sparked international media controversy and negative sentiment around the potential harm of people taking part in clinical trials once the research enters its human testing phase.

A wave of anger was ignited when two top French doctors said on live TV that coronavirus vaccines should be tested on poor Africans. The doctors later apologised for suggesting that COVID-19 vaccine trials should be carried out on a continent where the people were largely impoverished, with limited resources, and unable to protect themselves.

The statements made by Camille Loch and Jean-Paul Mira fed into a world already fissured by deep-rooted racial and economic discrimination.

Stigmatisation and discrimination in previously colonised African countries swung into focus, resulting in

research becoming the target of populist rhetoric. Didier Drogba, a retired footballer, raised the issue that African people should not be used as guinea pigs in a testing lab. Samuel Eto'o, another retired footballer, called the doctors "murderers".

The comments also resulted in the launch of a social media initiative in the form of a Change.org petition to stop coronavirus trials in Africa. The reasoning was that "Africa and developing countries have been testing grounds of large pharmaceutical companies" using the poor as the "guinea pigs of the wealthy".

Not unlike fake news, the resultant outcome of the doctor's racist comments was worldwide misinformation. Modern day research and clinical trials are highly regulated. In a COVID-19 world, scientific activity to develop a vaccine for global use is under careful scrutiny. Short of finding a cure,

a vaccine is the only viable means to manage the devastating future outcome of the disease. A vaccine will need to be tested, and the world is watching. The doctors' racism, however, unequivocally reminded the African continent of past medical discrimination at the hands of European countries. The result was a gratuitous attack on scientific research.

Finding a vaccine for COVID-19 is a worldwide medical emergency, necessary to prevent the death of millions of people. Should Africa participate in a global clinical trial? Absolutely. To refuse inclusion would prevent Africa's researchers from being significant players in the universal fight against the virus.

The extreme reaction from Africa was not entirely without merit. There are countries on the continent where vaccines and medical research are viewed with suspicion, and where both have been linked to activities, in

the name of medicine, which were carried out in a grossly unethical manner.

During a meningitis outbreak in Nigeria, pharmaceutical company Pfizer tested Trovan, an experimental antibiotic drug, on 200 children without proper consent. In Malawi, during an AZT trial, in spite of there being alternative treatment available, a placebo was given to pregnant women enrolled on the trial. There is an ethical standard in research where a placebo, a substance which is of no therapeutic benefit, may not be given when investigating the efficacy of a new drug or drug regimen in cases where there is appropriate treatment available.

The legacy of this is that some people are afraid of being infected with diseases by vaccination.

That medical research and medicine were involved in historical abuse cannot be argued, but clinical trials in the

21st century look very different.

Globalisation in the past decade has shifted the trend in research activity from being done in developed countries to include trials in low- and middle-income countries.

Fears that countries may not have the institutional capacity to carry out research to the same ethical standards as their western counterparts have disappeared. Instead global health research partnerships have sprung up across continents. This has led to increased collaboration between European and African research organisations.

Research which takes place in Africa is predominantly funded by northern sponsors, with national academics and clinicians partnering in the research process. This has had a balancing effect – sponsored projects assist African research institutions to acquire funding for their own projects, to facilitate publishing of results, and to upscale research knowledge.

COVID-19 medication trials are taking place around the world. In Asia 1000 participants have already been recruited in to test Remdesivir, a drug developed by an American pharmaceutical company, Gilead. In the US the first trials of a vaccine are being run on 45 healthy participants.

Legitimate medical research activities are important to ensure that pandemics like the COVID-19 tragedy can be managed. Should Africa not be involved in the fight, it will be an indictment against medical research's basic foundation – to allow people to choose to be part of the solution or to refuse on informed and valid grounds. The alternative is to sit idly by, as part of the global furniture waiting to be saved.

(TheConversation.)

Who Urges Countries Not To Let Covid-19 Eclipse Other Health Issues

Public health systems in Africa are coming under severe strain as the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic persists. But as countries battle to bring the outbreak under control, efforts must also be maintained on other health emergencies and progress made against diseases such as malaria or polio preserved, the World Health Organization (WHO) urged today.

Prior to the arrival of the novel coronavirus in Africa, WHO was stressing the need for countries to ensure the continuity of routine essential health services. An overburdened health system not only undermines the effectiveness of the response to COVID-19 but may also undermine the response to a whole host of preventable

threats to human health. Even brief interruptions of vaccination make outbreaks more likely to occur, putting children and other vulnerable groups more at risk of life-threatening diseases.

"I urge all countries to not lose focus on their gains made in health as they adapt to tackle this new threat," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "We saw with the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in West Africa that we lost more people to malaria, for instance than, we lost to the Ebola outbreak. Let us not repeat that with COVID-19."

Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa continue to rise, now exceeding 25 000. WHO is supporting countries in all aspects of the COVID-19 response

and has recently published guidelines for ensuring the continuation of critical health services, including immunization and anti-malaria campaigns. The guidelines stress the need for countries to take a dynamic approach that mitigates any unavoidable pause in vaccination campaigns.

The consequences of disrupting efforts to control malaria in Africa could be particularly grave. Current estimates suggest that sub-Saharan Africa accounted for approximately 93% of all malaria cases and 94% of deaths, mainly among children under five. A new analysis by WHO and partners suggests that in a worst case scenario if malaria prevention and treatment services were

severely disrupted as a result of COVID-19, the number of malaria deaths in 2020 in sub-Saharan Africa could rise to double the number in 2018.

"Africa has made significant progress over the past 20 years in stopping malaria from claiming lives. While COVID-19 is a major health threat, it's critical to maintain malaria prevention and treatment programmes. The new modelling shows deaths could exceed 700 000 this year alone. We haven't seen mortality levels like that in 20 years. We must not turn back the clock," said Dr Moeti.

There are countries like Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Chad, Central African Republic,

Uganda and Tanzania which are continuing with their insecticide treated bed net campaigns and other important malaria prevention activities. Countries are adapting their malaria strategies to the current complex situation.

Another essential health service is immunization. The response to COVID-19 has already disrupted vaccination efforts on the continent. Despite considerable progress on immunization, one in four African children remain under-immunized. Measles vaccination campaigns in Chad, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Sudan have already been suspended because of COVID-19, leaving approximately 21 million children who would have otherwise been vaccinated unprotected. In response to the introduction of physical distancing measures, WHO has published guidelines on immunization in the context of COVID-19.

Why Is Used Clothing Popular Across Africa? We Found Out In Malawi

The sale of used clothing is a billion-dollar global industry. According to some estimates, almost 70% of garments that are donated globally end up on the African continent.

This happens through a complex global supply chain, where donated items that cannot be sold in thrift shops in high-income countries are resold in bulk to commercial textile recyclers. The garments are then sent to sorting centres, often located in the Middle East or Eastern Europe. These are then graded and sorted into bales. The bales are in turn resold to wholesalers on the African continent.

East Africa alone imports over \$150 million worth of used clothes and shoes, largely from the US and Europe. In 2017, USAID estimated that the industry employed 355,000 people and generated \$230 million in government revenue. It also supported the livelihoods of an additional 1.4 million in the East Africa Community bloc.

But scholars have also highlighted the complexities of this billion-dollar industry and how these commodity chains perpetuate poverty. This has led to a pushback. In 2016, the leaders of Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi issued a communiqué outlining a major tariff increase on imported used clothing. The plan was to ban all imports of used clothing by 2019. But the international trade disputes that followed led most countries to back out from implementing the ban.

The pushback rested on two broad sets of arguments. First, there is a widespread belief that the popularity of used clothing contributed to the collapse of the domestic textile industry in many parts of Africa in the 1980s and 1990s. Second, the continued use of used clothing is portrayed as undignified and eroding African pride.

Nevertheless, used clothing continues to enjoy unrivalled popularity in many countries. We sought to establish why by studying the phenomenon in Malawi, where used clothes are known as “kaunjika” (meaning “clothes sold in a heap”). It is a popular and resilient business.

We found that there were important economic and social pull factors behind the popularity of used clothing. We also found little support for the viewpoint that wearing used clothing is an attack on the dignity of African citizens.

The pull factors

Between March 2018 and February 2020, we visited local markets and shopping malls and interacted extensively with

street vendors, shop keepers, wholesalers and consumers in Blantyre, Limbe, Zomba and Lilongwe.

Our goal was to better understand the widespread popularity of used clothing in Malawi. We were able to identify a number of common factors.

Quality: Used clothes and shoes sourced from high-income countries were considered to be of far better quality than brand new items available in local markets. Customers were often willing to pay a higher price for used merchandise than comparable new items.

Clothing labels indicating where items were produced were viewed as less important than the source of the donation. For example, kaunjika sourced from China was popular with vendors and customers because

of sizes and styles that were more compatible with local preferences. Many vendors also claimed that when compared to clothing produced in China for African markets, clothing that had been produced for the Chinese themselves or for Western markets was of better quality.

Affordability: Many Malawians cannot afford even the cheapest new garments sold in local stores. Used clothing can be sold at higher prices than new items, mostly to middle income consumers in urban areas. But items that are not considered to be of good quality or style continue to trickle down the supply chain. These items are then sold by vendors operating in more rural areas where consumers with lower purchasing power have even

fewer alternatives.

Fashion trends: Malawian consumers cited fashion trends and the “uniqueness” of imported used clothing as important factors for buying kaunjika. This was particularly the case for the younger generation who had been exposed to international trends and popular culture through social media. People crave “the latest fashion” often not available in the local retail stores.

Low start-up costs: The buy-in costs for local vendors of used clothing were very low. This created economic opportunities in the informal economy for groups with limited resources to access start-up capital. Several vendors told us that despite starting their businesses with limited funds, they had gradually been able to expand

their operations and create employment opportunities.

And although the informal sector is characterised by numerous challenges – poor working conditions, lack of social protection, child labour and loss of tax revenue, to name a few – kaunjika appeared to offer a much needed way for many to earn a living.

Used clothing and sustainability

A recent report predicts that the global second-hand clothing market is set to double to \$51 billion in the next five years, exceeding fast fashion within a decade.

It is still too early to tell how changing consumption patterns in high-income countries will affect used clothing markets around the world. But what appears certain is that the Malawian consumer, like many on the African continent, will continue to demand access to the same quality, styles and brands as the rest of the world, even if it means buying used clothes “sold in a heap”.

(TheConversation.)



LOCAL ENTERPRISE AUTHORITY

List of LEA assisted enterprises who supply essential products critical in the fight against COVID-19

PRODUCTS	BUSINESS NAME	CONTACTS
Hand Sanitiser		
	Elite Club Processing	77110152
	Amoeba Chemicals	72482618
	Tlou Detergent	77513545
	Beautiful Us Africa	75215491
	Lithoflex Inks	71737416 / 76715504 / 3119990
Disinfectants, Antiseptic Liquids, All Purpose Cleaners		
	Elite Club Processing	77110152
	Amoeba Chemicals	72482618
	Tlou Detergent	77513545
	Lithoflex Inks	71737416 / 76715504 / 3119990
Face Shield		
	Ina Lebe (PTY) Ltd	75476927



LOCAL ENTERPRISE AUTHORITY

“Mogwebi, re go tlhoma kwa pele.”
LEA toll-free number: 0800 155 155





Covid-19 could cost Africa \$500bn, damage tourism and aviation sectors

Up to 20 million jobs in the formal and informal sectors in Africa could be lost because of Covid-19, according to a new study by the African Union.

Released in early April, the study found that foreign direct investment (FDI), tourism receipts and remittance flows will also suffer significant declines as the continent tackles the pandemic. Titled - The Impact of Coronavirus on the African Economy, the study modelled two scenarios, each with an equal chance of being realised. Under scenario one (realistic), the pandemic will be contained within five months, inflicting minimal damage; under scenario two, the pandemic will last for eight months and countries will be severely affected.

The more optimistic scenario one projects a 2020 GDP growth of -08% while the pessimistic scenario two will result in -1.1% growth. Given that the

continent's 2020 GDP growth had been projected at 3.4%, even the optimistic scenario is a significant decline of 4.18% while the pessimistic scenario projects a decline of 4.51%.

The negative growth would be due to a "disruption of the world economy through global value chains, the abrupt fall in commodity prices and fiscal revenues and the enforcement of travel and social restrictions."

Furthermore, a 35% dip in exports and imports would be worth \$270bn. Yet, Africa will require \$130bn to "fight against the spread of the virus and medical treatment," stated the African Union.

Drop in oil prices

Africa will lose between 20% and 30% of its fiscal revenue, which was 500 billion in 2019, forcing governments to resort to borrowing to meet the shortfall. Commodity-dependent countries such as

Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria, and the Republic of the Congo will be most affected.

The slump in oil price to below \$30 a barrel, and a nosedive of the tourism and air transport sectors, will upend countries' development agendas.

The tourism and oil sectors represent 25% of the GDPs of Africa's top five economies—Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Algeria and Morocco. The study emphasised that: "The level of the impact of Covid-19 on these five economies will be representative for the whole of the African economy."

Oil constitutes 90% of Nigeria's exports and 70% of its national budget, meaning that any dip in price will have an impact on earnings. Both Nigeria and Angola, Africa's top two oil producers, could lose up to \$65bn in income.

Effects on tourism

In South Africa, the Covid-19 pandemic threatens the countries' main sources of income—mining and tourism. With 10.47 million arrivals in 2018, the country was second only to Egypt in tourism receipts, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council. Overall, tourism contributed \$194.2bn or 8.5% to Africa's GDP in 2018.

Tourism in Morocco will take a hit too, along with its automotive industry, which represented 6% of the country's GDP in 2019.

The study mentioned that: "Tourism employs more than a million people in each of the following countries: Nigeria, Ethiopia, South Africa, Kenya, and Tanzania... and more than 20% of total employment in Seychelles, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Mauritius."

Already, Africa's tourism and aviation sectors are reeling from

the impact of COVID-19 with hotels laying off workers and travel agencies shutting down.

"Under the average [realistic] scenario, the tourism and travel sectors in Africa could lose at least \$50bn... and at least two million direct and indirect jobs."

Top African airlines, including Ethiopian Airlines, EgyptAir, Kenya Airways and South African Airways, will be affected by travel restrictions across the world.

According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Africa's air transport industry contributes up to \$55.8 billion (2.6%) to Africa's GDP and supports 6.2 million jobs. By 11 March, African airlines had lost \$4.4bn in revenue due to fallout from the pandemic.

Drop in FDI

The study estimated a drop of between -5% and -15% in FDI in Africa. Data published in 2019 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) lists Africa's top five FDI countries:

South Africa (\$5.3 billion), Egypt (\$6.8 billion), Republic of the Congo (4.3 billion), Morocco (\$3.6bn) and Ethiopia (\$3.3bn). In total Africa received \$46bn.

Remittance flows are also expected to decrease, crunching cash in many economies. "Remittances range as high as 23% in Lesotho and more than 12% in Comoros, The Gambia, and Liberia," the study stated.

With advanced economies in recession, official development assistance (ODA), which many African countries rely on to finance development, will come in trickles, if at all.

Covid-19 will likely affect the launch of a free trade that was set to begin in July 2020 under the African Continental Free Trade Area. Total Africa trade for 2019 was \$760bn or 29% of the continent's GDP. Of that amount, intra-Africa trade was just 17%.

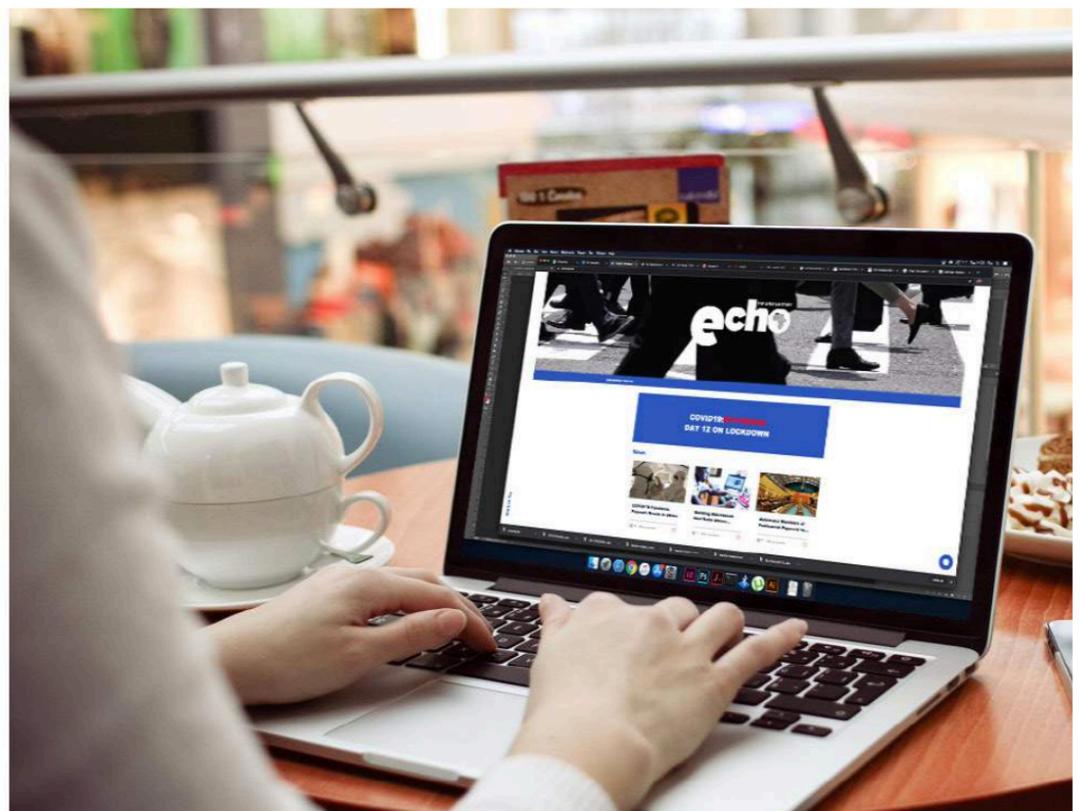
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The performing arts is one of the sectors hit hard by COVID-19, with tens of thousands of gigs cancelled across the world.

While pop and electronic music has evolved with online platforms like YouTube as their natural habitat, jazz has remained more strongly tied to live performance, using social media and online videos mainly as publicity rather than as a primary point of dissemination.



South African born vocalist, trumpeteer and musical director Mandisi Dyantyis was perhaps the first to turn to the virtual concert as a substitute for the band's cancelled performance at Cape Town International Jazz Festival. On 26 March, the band livestreamed the set they would have performed at the festival, charging R100 per household to access the gig.

South African born vocalist, trumpeteer and musical director Mandisi Dyantyis was perhaps the first to turn to the virtual concert as a substitute for the band's cancelled performance at Cape Town International Jazz Festival. On 26 March, the band livestreamed the set they would have performed at the festival, charging R100 per household to access the gig.

But this was before lockdown, when musicians could still get together to perform in a room with good recording equipment and a stable internet connection. These are technologies musicians don't necessarily have in their homes.

Since the lockdown in South Africa several jazz musicians



How South Africa's Jazz Musicians Are Making The Digital

have begun to harness online platforms in novel ways.

Lockdown performances
Shane Cooper, the bassist

and electronic music producer performing under the alias Card on Spokes, initiated the Quarantine Collabs on YouTube.

Thanks to his electronic work, Cooper has an equipped home studio to record, the technical know-how to produce and edit his music and already has a presence on virtual platforms to release his music.

For the Quarantine Collabs, which features musicians like Bokani Dyer and dancers he recruited through a call on social media, Cooper asks his collaborators to send him a prompt (such as words, colours, tempo) to which he composes and records a musical response. He sends the music to the collaborator to record their own response in turn, and finally

mixes and edits the results into a one-minute video posted on YouTube and Instagram. The Collabs are made possible, in part, by everyday technologies like mobile phones.

Another jazz musician to turn to digital platforms is Nduduzo Makhathini, who has done a virtual album launch of Modes of Communication: Letters from the Underworld, his first record released on the Blue Note label.

For Makhathini, lockdown coincided with an entire roster of events scheduled in Europe and the US to promote the new album. Social media, which was formerly considered "alternative" spaces of dissemination, have now become central. Makhathini's launch harnessed these newly

central platforms, and took form as an Instagram real-time video conversation with the British saxophonist Shabaka Hutchings and a Facebook Live broadcast of a performance by Makhathini and his wife, the vocalist Omagugu Makhathini from their home.

At one point, more than 100 people joined on Instagram, and Makhathini's Facebook video has clocked more than 7 000 views. Clearly the benefits of going online is the possibility to reach bigger audiences than physical events.

The problem for performing musicians, however, is also pressingly an economic one.

No simple solutions

The solution is not a simple matter of moving activities online. In these days of free online content and minimal royalties paid by music subscription services like Spotify and Apple Music (at least for those who don't hit above 1 million plays), artists mostly use online platforms for publicity rather than as a means of generating an income.

Yet there's a delicate balance between getting the music out there (which risks adding to the expectation that music is free) and placing a value on artistic work.

Lockdown has the potential to dramatically change the jazz landscape, with artists who do not have an online presence disappearing from the map. Now the pressure is on to adapt quickly. Some might turn to online teaching or performing, but need to generate content, learn to film and edit, find dissemination platforms and manage to reach paying patrons first. Some promising opportunities are on the cards, like creating virtual jazz clubs similar to the virtual house parties deejays have been hosting. But these will take time.

More immediately, the best way to support artists is to buy albums digitally. Streaming only pays a few cents per play, but it does help. Create playlists of your favourite independent artists and play them as often as you can - even if you are not actively listening. Listeners pay a fixed subscription regardless of their usage, but artists will receive more royalties. It would simultaneously boost their algorithms, which heightens the artist's visibility in turn.

Makhathini takes heart in Wynton Marsalis's dictum that: "The death of the artist is when he stops creating." Judging by the initiatives of many musicians the past few days, artists are alive and more innovative than before. The concern, however, is how long they will be supported to do creative work.

(TheConversation.)





History-Making Bah Dreaming Big With Gambia

While the latest FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's Ranking highlighted Zambia's marked progress to occupy 100th place, another team also made a strong impression: Gambia. And with good reason. After a series of friendlies and their participation in the West African Football Union Cup of Nations, the Scorpions debuted in the ranking in 113th place, to the delight of their star Penda Bah.

"It's good for morale and rewards all the efforts made by the players and by our federation to develop women's football in our country," she told FIFA.com. "It proves that, even though we're a small country, we can do

great things when we're given the means. And while there's still a lot to be done before we can realise our other dreams, I'm convinced that it's only a matter of time."

A historic goal
Patience is one of Bah's many virtues. Almost eight years have passed since the midfielder made history for Gambian women's football by scoring the team's first goal at a FIFA women's tournament. The setting was the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Azerbaijan 2012 and their opponents that day were France, who would go on to take the title.

"Despite our three defeats there, that World Cup still holds

great memories for me. And that goal will obviously be etched in my memory forever," she says. "Besides, I never tire of watching replays of it and hearing the commentator shout, 'Penda Bah makes history for the African side!' I'll never forget it - that goal is right at the top of my playing CV!"

It is a CV that is already impressive for someone so young. Captain of the senior team when just 21, the Brikama native has long carried the hopes of her country. Expectations began in earnest after scoring that goal at Azerbaijan 2012 at the age of 16, with plenty more goals following for her then club

Makasuku United.

"It was during this period that I realised I could succeed in football," she explained, "My team, where I was the top scorer, were promoted to Gambia's second division, after which I devoted all my time to football."

A dream move to Dream Stars Interior FC, a top-flight club in her country, came calling and Bah decided to move to further her career. Four years later, the Gambian championship had become too small for her immense talent, so the player signed for Dream Stars Ladies, one of the leading sides in Nigeria's highly regarded Premier League.

"It's a dream come true. I promised myself that one day I'd become a professional footballer... and now it's happened. I'm very proud of that," she says.

Inevitably, with a trajectory like that, much is expected from the player with the national team. However, this does not unduly worry Bah, despite her young age: "I'm the captain, so it's only natural that things are expected of me. But I like the pressure, as it helps me stay positive and focused," she admits. "And I'm convinced that the key to success for our team lies first and foremost in working collectively and sharing responsibilities." With Bah leading by example, it seems the only way is up for Gambia. FIFA.

(Cafonline)

AFRICAN SPORTS BRIEFS

Ethiopia's unforgotten 1962 glory

As one of the Africa Cup of Nations founding members, Ethiopia took part in the maiden two editions (1957 and 1959) in Sudan and Egypt respectively, before hosting the third edition in 1962.

The Walias emerged victorious at home to win their title in the history of the showpiece African football tournament.

Ethiopia 1962

With four teams taking part, the tournament was played in a knockout format. Ethiopia came from two goals down to score four and defeat Tunisia 4-2 in the semifinals, and set a date against holders Egypt in the final. Girma Tekle and Luciano Vassalo scored as the Walias came back from behind twice, for the game to go to extra-time with the scores tied at 2-2. Italo Vassalo (Luciano's brother) and Mengistu Worku scored as Ethiopia grabbed an infamous 4-2 victory to lift the trophy in front of their jubilant fans in Addis Ababa.

(Cafonline.)

Chipolopolo, "commemorating heroes" title

After a checkered history that saw them finishing as runner-ups twice, and in third place three times, Zambia finally bagged their only Africa Cup of Nations title in 2012.

Chipolopolo emerged victorious when Gabon and Equatorial Guinea co-hosted the African football showpiece, as the Zambians celebrated at the same place that saw their heroes' plane crashing on the shores of Libreville in 1993.

Gabon / Equatorial Guinea 2012

Zambia started their Group A campaign with an unexpected 2-1 win over Senegal, followed by a 2-2 draw with Libya. Christopher Katongo's lone strike gave them win over hosts Equatorial Guinea to reach the quarterfinals where they cruised 3-0 over Sudan. In the semifinal Emmanuel Mayuka scored twelve minutes from time as Zambia defeated Ghana 1-0. A barren stalemate with Cote d'Ivoire in the final meant the game went to penalties. Stoppila Sunzu scored the decisive kick as Chipolopolo won 8-7 to lift their first ever AFCON title.

Cafonline



Van Niekerk Admits Being 'Tough' On Wife Kapp Over Favouritism Fears



South Africa Cricket captain Dane van Niekerk admits she is harder on wife Marizanne Kapp than other players in the team as she is wary of accusations of favouritism towards the key allrounder.

the Oval Invincibles in The Hundred in England later in the year, though the inaugural competition is under threat due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is rare to find married couples in team sports and for Van Niekerk and Kapp, balancing their relationship on and off the field has needed some work over the years.

They have been teammates for the last 11 years, including for the Sydney Sixers in Australia's Women's Big Bash League, and were instrumental in helping South Africa to the semi-finals at the recent Twenty20 World Cup.

They married in July 2018 having made their international debuts within two days of each other in 2009, but Van Niekerk admits it has not all been plain sailing.

"She says I am tougher on her than anyone else in the team," she told reporters in a video call on Thursday.

"We just try to set that precedent that when we are around the team, and training and playing, it is a strictly professional relationship.

"We try to manage things as much as possible. We have our fights on the field, as with anyone else, and I probably am a bit tougher on her because I want to show the team there is no favouritism.

"At the end of the day we are there to play cricket and represent our country, and we need to be professional about it. Hopefully I have managed it well enough.

"But she does get upset with me a lot on the field!"

Kapp says her obsession with the game is well balanced by Van Niekerk at home, and having her partner with her permanently on tour is an advantage other players do not have.

"I love watching cricket and speaking about the game. Dane will tell me, 'listen, no more cricket'.

"She is the one that has tried to teach me over the last 11 years that cricket isn't everything. Because for me it is, so I struggle a bit with that.

"But it is nice as well when you see how your team mates miss their partners and we are always lucky enough to have a person there, especially when it is not going well."

Van Niekerk, 26, and all-rounder Kapp, 30, are two of the most sought-after players on the women's international circuit.

They are due to line up for



List of LEA assisted enterprises who supply essential products critical in the fight against COVID-19

PRODUCTS	BUSINESS NAME	CONTACTS
Hand Sanitiser		
	LF Printing	72845115
	Floritec Investments (PTY) Ltd	3957649 / 74536492
	The Angle View Group (PTY) Ltd	72214347
	Flash'T Chemical solutions	77481249
	Masedi Medical Clinic	71518381 / 75577340
	Zila Investments	72629454 / 2420267
Facial masks		
	LF Printing	72845115
	Floritec Investments (PTY) Ltd	3957649 / 74536492
	Masedi Medical Clinic	71518381 / 75577340
Disinfectants & Cleaners		
	Floritec Investments (PTY) Ltd	3957649 / 74536492
	Masedi Medical Clinic	71518381 / 75577340
	Jess manufacturing	72296828
	Zila Investments	72629454 / 2420267
Surgical Gloves		
	LF Printing	72845115
	Floritec Investments (PTY) Ltd	3957649 / 74536492
	Masedi Medical Clinic	71518381 / 75577340
Disinfectant Wipes		
	Floritec Investments (PTY) Ltd	3957649 / 74536492
	Masedi Medical Clinic	71518381 / 75577340
Surgical Gloves		
	Floritec Investments (PTY) Ltd	3957649 / 74536492
	Jess manufacturing	72296828
	Masedi Medical Clinic	71518381 / 75577340



"Mogwebi, re go tlhoma kwa pele."
LEA toll-free number: 0800 155 155





Sports Still Matter In a Time When You can't Actually Watch Any

Most of the sports world has ground to a halt over the coronavirus pandemic. The Tokyo Olympic Games, the NBA season, and soccer's Champions League, along with many other major tournaments, have been postponed. Wimbledon has been canceled for the first time since World War II. These cancellations and postponements go all the way down to recreational competitions.

Given the impact that any large gathering could have on the further spread of the pandemic, several sports commentators, noted that at this point in time, sports did not matter. The New York Times sports commentator wrote, "Postpone it, cancel it, whatever. There are more important things to think about. It is a sport, after all," referring to the cancellation of soccer's Champions League.

The present sentiment is a

reminder of a popular phrase typically attributed to former coach and player Arrigo Sacchi that soccer was "the most important of the unimportant things in life."

At a time when the utmost urgency on everyone's mind is the fragility of life itself, this couldn't appear to be more true.

At the same time, as philosophers of sport, we believe that it is important to recognize the role sports play in our lives - even in difficult times.

The nature of sports

The point of sports, as philosopher Bernard Suits argues, lies in voluntarily attempting to overcome artificial problems erected by the rules.

Such rules stipulate the use of specialized physical skills to achieve the goal of the game.

For instance, the rules of soccer prohibit players to hit the ball

with their hands but allow kicking and heading to put the ball into the net.

Sports are activities governed, as Suits explains, by a "gratuitous logic." Under this logic, participants attempt to solve an unnecessary problem, such as kicking a ball around a field and into a net, just for the sake of solving the problem.

The value of sports

At the same time, there are those who argue that sports fulfill human functions that are far from gratuitous. For instance, sports provide an arena for honing different kinds of capacities and fostering character development.

Philosopher José Ortega y Gasset argues that the gratuitous character of sports is a model for living well - for a life with plenty of vitality.

He recommends individuals approach their lives with the "same spirit that leads them

to engage in sport." That is, individuals should fill their lives with challenging activities that are not necessary but voluntary.

Similarly, philosopher Thomas Hurka includes sports among some of the challenging activities that require dedication, planning and precision.

Hurka highlights that these activities are valuable because of the effort required by the experience of trying to achieve. In his words, "We don't call crossing your fingers an achievement because it's too easy. Achievements have to be challenging, and the more challenging the better."

Sports and perfection

The attempt to achieve difficult goals requires a certain dedication. In this sense, engagement in sport represents a perfectionist way of life.

As philosopher John Rawls proposes in his discussion

on justice and the good life, perfectionism requires the utmost dedication to achieve human excellence; in this case, we argue, of the athletic variety.

In this regard, moral philosopher Derek Parfit, a colleague of Rawls, maintains that perfectionism involves the achievement or realization of "the best things in life."

To win, individuals have to commit wholeheartedly to the sport. Romania's Simona Halep, winner of the 2019 Wimbledon Tennis Championships.

From a perfectionist standpoint then, living well requires individuals to commit themselves wholeheartedly to an enterprise.

Sports are equipped to provide such zeal. That is, through their commitment to a particular sport, individuals build passion for their practice and develop the zeal to pursue perfection.

(TheConverstaion.)

You work hard, so you can play hard