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AFRICA'S HEALTH WORKERS FACE COVID-19 THREAT

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-Over 10 000 health workers infected
-Continent has more than 750 000 cases and 15 000 deaths

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Africa's health workers face COVID-19 threat

Health workers across the African continent face a threat posed by COVID-19 as more than 10 000 workers in 40 countries have been so far been infected by the virus.

This comes as COVID-19 cases in Africa appear to be gathering pace: the continent is now sitting at more than 750 000 cases with over 15 000 deaths. Some countries are approaching a critical number of infections that can place stress on health systems.

South Africa is now among the worst-hit countries in the world, the fifth.

The World health governing body, WHO has warned of the threat to health workers in Africa during a virtual press conference addressed by its Africa Regional Director, Dr Matshidiso Moeti last week.

"The growth we are seeing in COVID-19 cases in Africa is placing an ever-greater strain on health services across the continent," Dr Moeti said.

"This has very real consequences for the individuals who work in them, and there is no more sobering example of this than the rising number of health worker infections."

So far, about 10% of all cases globally are among health workers, though there is a wide range between individual countries. In Africa, information on health worker infections is still limited, but preliminary data finds that they make up more than 5% of cases in 14 countries in sub-Saharan Africa alone, and in four of these, health workers

make up more than 10% of all infections.

Inadequate access to personal protective equipment or weak infection prevention and control measures raise the risk of health worker infection. Surging global demand for protective equipment as well as global restrictions on travel have triggered supply shortages. Health workers can also be exposed to patients who do not show signs of the disease and are in the health facilities for a range of other services.

Risks may also arise when health personnel are repurposed for COVID-19 response without adequate briefing, or because of heavy workloads which result in fatigue, burnout and possibly not fully applying the standard operating procedures.

In many African countries infection prevention and control measures aimed at preventing infections in health facilities are still not fully implemented. When WHO assessed clinics and hospitals across the continent for these measures, only 16%

of the nearly 30 000 facilities surveyed had assessment scores above 75%.

Many health centres were found to lack the infrastructure necessary to implement key infection prevention measures, or to prevent overcrowding. Only 7.8% (2213) had isolation capacities and just a third had the capacity to triage patients.

"One infection among health workers is one too many," said Dr Moeti. "Doctors, nurses and other health professionals are our mothers, brothers and sisters. They are helping to save lives endangered by COVID-19. We must make sure that they have the equipment, skills and information they need to keep themselves, their patients and colleagues safe."

WHO has been working closely with health ministries to reduce health worker infections since the outbreak began. The Organization has trained more than 50 000 health workers in Africa in infection prevention and control, with plans to train

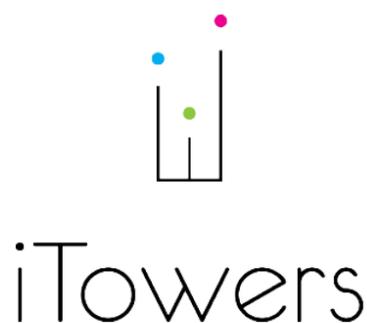
over 200 000 more, as well as providing guidance documents and guidelines on best care practices and the most up-to-date treatment regimes.

WHO is also helping to fill gaps in the supply of personal protective equipment. Currently, 41 million items of personal protective equipment are ready to ship from China to cover the needs of 47 African countries. Shipments for an initial set of 23 African countries are planned to start during this weekend.

As a result of concerted efforts by WHO and partners some African countries have managed to reduce health worker infections considerably. For example, two months ago over 16% of COVID-19 infections in Sierra Leone were among health workers. The figure has now dropped to 9%. Cote d'Ivoire has reduced the proportion of infections among health workers from 6.1% to 1.4%. Scaling up infection prevention and control measures can further reduce infections among health workers.



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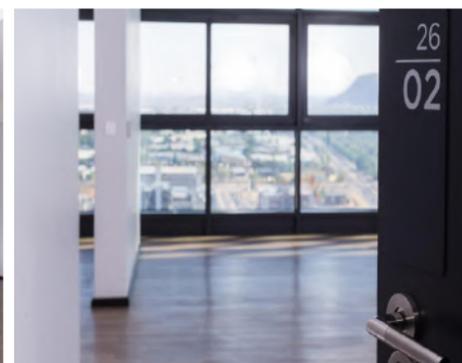
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Malawi receives \$45.07 million for national COVID-19 emergency response

Malawi will receive \$45.07 million to finance the government's response to the health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, following a decision by the Board of Directors of the African Development Fund (ADF) held Wednesday.

The package comprises a loan of \$24.48 million, and a grant of \$20.59 million as direct budget support, and complements an earlier sum of \$8.9 million to six countries in the region, including Malawi, under the Bank's COVID-19 Response grants to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries last month.

The budget support intervention, will help boost the Malawi National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan that has been developed with multi-stakeholders including government, development partners and non-government organizations. The Bank's support aims to protect lives; strengthen public health systems; protect livelihoods through enhanced social protection systems; foster economic resilience and protect jobs.

"The Bank's support to Malawi's COVID-19 Response Plan will help to cushion the economy from the negative impact on fiscal and current account balances, hence consolidating Malawi's recovery efforts during this unprecedented time of COVID-19 pandemic," said Acting Bank Country Manager, Eyerusalem Fasika.

"The support will contribute towards laboratory and diagnostic capacity to test, trace, isolate and treat COVID-19 cases, strengthen the COVID-19 case management systems, train frontline healthcare workforce, and restore services disrupted by COVID-19, particularly for patients with underlying health conditions," she added.

The support to Malawi is part of the multi-country COVID-19 support package by the Bank that includes \$41.1 million to Madagascar, \$41.1 million to Mozambique and \$10.23 million to Sao Tome and Principe. The processing of this multi-country program was combined into one group to ensure efficiency in the preparation of the Bank's assistance to Regional Member Countries.

Malawi declared a State of Disaster on 20 March 2020 and launched its National COVID-19 Preparedness Response Plan on 8

April. As of 21 July 2020, Malawi had recorded 3,149 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 1,256 recoveries and 71 deaths.



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Botswana's University of Transformation

Andrew Mlangeni 1925-2020: South Africa loses the last of the Rivonia triallists



Anti-apartheid struggle hero Andrew Mokete Mlangeni, who died this week at the age of 95, was the last surviving of the eight African National Congress (ANC) activists who were sentenced to life imprisonment in the infamous Rivonia trial in the 1960s.

Mlangeni spent 20 of his 26 years in jail on Robben Island alongside fellow triallist Nelson Mandela and other luminaries of the ANC. He symbolised the generations who had joined the ANC during the most dangerous period of resistance to apartheid. No rewards, but only vindictive persecution, including detention and jail, were all that they could expect. They joined the movement to overthrow apartheid and build the South Africa envisioned in the Freedom Charter of 1955, the ANC's blueprint for a free, democratic South Africa.

But he was no party apparatchik. He became a fierce critic of the ANC as it matured into a political party and began to show all the signs of abandoning its early commitment to establish a just South Africa. He was particularly outspoken about rampant corruption under President Jacob Zuma.

Speaking at the Rhodes University conferment of an honorary doctorate, he said: Some of our political leaders have become absolutely corrupt – they are no longer interested in improving the lives of our people. They are busy lining their pockets with the money that is meant to help the poor people. What a disgrace.

He was born on 6 June 1925 on a white-owned farm near Bethlehem in the Free State. His father died when he was one year old. The farm owner then evicted the family, who went to live in the blacks-only township of Bethlehem, known as Bohlokong (Place of sorrow) in Sesotho. Andrew had to drop out of school to earn money as a caddy at the nearest golf club.

In 1939, he and his mother moved to Pimville, in what is today part of Soweto, the sprawling black residential area southwest of Johannesburg. He returned to school: one of his teachers was Oliver Tambo, an ANC activist who went on to lead the movement in exile, after it was banned in April 1960.

In 1946 he began work in a factory. First-hand experience of exploitation made him join the Young Communist League.

In 1951 he joined the African National Congress Youth League, and in 1954 the ANC. He married June Ledwaba in 1950. They had four children; she passed away in 2001.

In 1961 Mandela selected Mlangeni as one of the first six volunteers to be smuggled out of South Africa to receive military training and join the newly founded uMkhonto weSizwe (Spear of the Nation), the armed wing of the ANC. He was trained in China, and successfully returned to South Africa.

In 1963 Mlangeni was among

those the Special Branch of the apartheid police detained at Liliesleaf farm, and joined Mandela and others as accused in the Rivonia trial for sabotage. In 1964 they were sentenced to life imprisonment, and transferred to Robben Island prison.

When the political prisoners won the right to study by correspondence in 1967, he was the first to enrol, and obtained a degree from the University of South Africa. After 26 years in jail, he was one of the Rivonia triallists released in October 1989.

Andrew Mokete Mlangeni receives an honorary Doctor of Literature and Philosophy degree at Unisa.

When South Africa became a democracy in 1994, he was elected as an ANC member of parliament, serving until the 1999 election. He later served a second term, from 2009 to 2014. He was a member of both the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans and the Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests.

Mlangeni was awarded the Order for Meritorious Service, gold class, in 1999 by President Mandela, the first head of state of democratic South Africa. In 2016 he was granted the Freedom of Johannesburg and the Freedom

of the City of London, and received the inaugural George Bizos Human Rights Award, named after the veteran human rights lawyer who represented the Rivonia triallists.

In 2017 he appeared in the documentary film *Life is Wonderful*, along with the then two other living survivors of the Rivonia trial, Ahmed Kathrada and Denis Goldberg.

In 2018 Durban University of Technology conferred an honorary doctorate in Education on him; in the same year, Rhodes University granted him an honorary doctorate in law. The ANC awarded him its highest honour, Isithwalandwe-Seaparankoe, in 1992.

Stanford Go-to-Market

A Collaboration between De Beers Group and Stanford GSB






Go-to-Market Cohort 2 (2019)

As they say, when the world throws you lemons, make yourself lemonade to quench your thirst. With many companies around the globe affected by COVID - 19 the innovative ones are amongst those that stand a better chance to pull through.

An Alumni of the Stanford Go-to-Market (GTM) Program, Leatile Chilindi who owns Lavidagreen infiltrates the fresh food delivery market during the Covid-19 lockdown in Gaborone.

In an interview on the pandemic and measures his business put in place to stay afloat, he says “the impact on our operations has been immense. As a fresh produce distributor, our primary customer is restaurants, which account for 90% of our business. We felt the ripple effect of the impact on restaurants and as a result, like other entities in the same business, we incurred a serious loss of income.”

He reiterated the significance of e-commerce in today's world adding that with social distancing regulations, it is a very useful platform for business, particularly coupled with home deliveries.

COVID-19 Response

Leatile attributes his new business model of pushing sales digitally to learnings he derived from a webinar conducted for GTM entre by the Stanford Seed team, aimed at supporting the businesses with response mechanisms for the current global challenge.

“We used the business model canvas taught in the Stanford GTM bootcamp to assess the market and key strengths we would need to serve our market and the results are positive. We are very excited as this new approach has not only kept us afloat but has also increased our customer base.



Leatile Chilindi - Owner



During this time, the company has resorted to collecting their own products from their farmers to help alleviate delivery costs on their behalf.

“We are thankful to be able to offer convenience, affordability and a good variety of both local and regionally grown produce to our customers. This is a stepping stone towards taking our company to greater heights. We are thankful to De Beers Group and Stanford for their continued support” he concluded.



'South Africans not wearing masks or keeping their distance'

In countries like South Africa that face severe resource shortages, the burden of fighting COVID-19 falls heavily on citizens to change their behaviour and follow preventative measures. These include avoiding mass gatherings, physical distancing and wearing masks.

But a crucial determinant of whether people will change their behaviour includes having access to credible health information that's trusted and that people can adopt. Inadequate sources of information carry a number of risks. One of the biggest is that people who don't have credible information will be more exposed to the virus because they are less likely to abide by these behaviour changes. The second risk is that people do not fully perceive the danger of COVID-19 or its negative outcomes.

This is often the case with preventative health interventions: they require individuals to make an investment in their health prior to being sick. For example, a person has to wear masks even though they are healthy.

Unfortunately, high-impact

behaviour change is not happening fast enough in South Africa. Our research found that most people – 91% of those surveyed – reported that they had changed their behaviour since the start of the pandemic. But most of these efforts were on lower-impact strategies, such as washing their hands and cleaning surfaces.

Of those who changed their behaviour, the focus was less on high-impact strategies like wearing masks (53%), avoiding people by either staying at home or not attending large gatherings or avoiding big groups (58%), and physical distancing (25%).

In a survey, 7000 South Africans are telephoned every month and asked a range of questions about their income and employment, their household welfare, receipt of grants, and about their knowledge and behaviour related to COVID-19. Because the same people are contacted every month, researchers can track how their personal and household circumstances change over time.

The first survey showed that there is inadequate knowledge of COVID-19 symptoms among

South Africans. For instance, only 11% of those surveyed were able to list tiredness as a symptom, and only 6% could list all three of the most common COVID-19 symptoms – coughing, fever and tiredness.

And 8% of people surveyed were not able to list any symptoms at all.

This is worrying. The country's current public health approach relies on society to monitor their symptoms in order to know when to isolate or seek additional care.

The infectious nature of COVID-19 means that behaviour changes are required to change the trajectory of the disease. For instance, universal masking of at least 80% is required to flatten the infection curve. The paucity of COVID-19 symptom knowledge implies that South Africans may be unable to self-screen and self-isolate should they become infected. The joint failure on these two fronts may impede the containment of the virus.

The question of where people got their information was also revealing. Almost four in five of those involved in the survey said they relied on news media for their trusted source of COVID-19-related information. Only 14% said they relied on government sources and 11% on health workers.

The study found that those who relied on the government and health workers had more accurate knowledge of symptoms and were more likely to abide by high-impact preventative strategies.

Next steps

There is a clear responsibility placed on South Africans to adopt and adhere to high-impact preventative behaviours, remain vigilant and make daily sacrifices. This commitment requires serious societal buy-in.

So, how should the government go about encouraging this, given that current messaging and law enforcement efforts aren't getting people to change their behaviour sufficiently?

We recommend that positive behaviour change should be encouraged by using clear, concise and consistent communication. And high-impact preventative measures such as mask wearing and physical distancing should be prioritised relative to lower-impact interventions (like

surface cleaning and hand washing) when communicating about preventative measures.

There's also a problem with reach: messages from the government aren't reaching the population. Given that people are predominantly using news media, government sources should use these avenues more effectively to distribute



But a crucial determinant of whether people will change their behaviour includes having access to credible health information that's trusted and that people can adopt. Inadequate sources of information carry a number of risks.

centralised messaging.

Finally, given the long term behaviour changes required from South Africans, it may be more effective to create an enabling rather than a punitive environment to encourage the adoption of high-impact preventative strategies. This could include the free provision of masks, restructuring the delivery of services to encourage physical distancing (for example, home delivery of medication and telehealth) and empowering community champions, organisations and leaders to encourage these behaviours.

Changing social norms in a short amount of time is difficult, and a one-size-fits all policy is unlikely to have the desired effect. These changes require messaging that is context specific and which resonates strongly with its targeted audience. (TheConversation.)



West African leaders seek end to Mali political crisis

Presidents from five West African countries arrive in Mali on Thursday to try to negotiate an end to a political crisis that has rocked the country and raised fears it could undermine a regional fight against Islamist militants.

were killed by police in early July. The M5-RFP rejected mediation measures proposed by a mission from the West African ECOWAS bloc last week, prompting the presidential mission. (Reuters).



The leaders of Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Ghana and Niger will meet with Keita and then Dicko and other opposition leaders at a hotel in the capital Bamako, according to the mission schedule.

Infuriated by corruption, disputed local election results and army losses to jihadists, tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets, sparking clashes with police in which the United Nations says at least 14 protesters have died this month.

The opposition, a group called M5-RFP whose figurehead is Saudi-trained Muslim cleric Mahmoud Dicko, has said it will not quit until President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita steps down, raising concerns in neighbouring countries of a protracted crisis.

"M5-RFP demands the resignation of Keita or the satisfaction of our demands," which include the establishment of a committee of inquiry into civilian deaths and a transitional government, the group's spokesman Nouhoum Togo told Reuters on Thursday.

The leaders of Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Ghana and Niger will meet with Keita and then Dicko and other opposition leaders at a hotel in the capital Bamako, according to the mission schedule.

The leaders are expected to make a statement before departing early in the evening. They are acutely aware of the danger a destabilised Mali poses. The landlocked, semi-desert state has been used as a launch pad for groups linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State to attack neighbouring countries including Niger and Burkina Faso.

Still, reaching a solution in such a short space of time will not be easy. Public opposition to Keita hardened after protesters



IDM Regional Director and Chief Executive, Richard Malikongwa (3rd from left) with IDM and SOS teams during his recent tour of the facility in Francistown

IDM partners with SOS Children's Village



IDM Country Director is Onalenna Seitio - Kgokgwe



SOS National Coordinator, Mr Motshwari Kitso

The Institute of Development Management (IDM) and SOS have partnered to strengthen their programs and services in early childhood development. Based on the strength and capabilities of SOS, IDM will, through SOS pre-schools and village facilities in Tlokwen, Serowe and Francistown, provide training resources for Early Childhood Education.

The collaboration marks yet another milestone by IDM to remain part of the social fabric of Botswana in matters pertaining to basic education.

This relationship, will witness the reopening of SOS early childhood centers /preschools ran in collaboration with IDM starting with Francistown in early August this year. The preschools are targeted at benefitting children in and around the localities in which they exist, says Mildred Bafaletse, a coordinator for SOS/IDM early childhood centers.

In addition to the education of children, the centers will be set up to offer a learning opportunity for other entities or individuals planning to establish, or already running early

childhood education. The centers will benefit from IDM highly skilled consultants in early childhood education and other disciplines to provide quality early childhood education and services.

These centers will also offer opportunity for IDM and other students training to become early childhood teachers and practitioners an opportunity to experience the real world of work Talking about IDM students undertaking early childhood studies, Ms Balefetse said

"We want to ensure that every student undertaking this course acquires the relevant practical experience and skills needed to step into the employment world at the end of their studies. They are also exposed to acquiring skills to run their own establishments should they choose to open pre-schools after completion of their studies," she revealed.

For her part, IDM Botswana Country Director, Dr Onalenna Seitio-Kgokgwe, said the Institute's Early Childhood program is a strategic program geared towards addressing the national needs and aspirations of a skilled workforce as expressed in various policy documents including the National Development Plan 11, Human

Resource Development Strategy and Education Sector Strategic Plan.

According to Dr Kgokgwe, the education sector is one of the key sectors where IDM is making a notable contribution in building a skilled workforce for the country.

She said: "We established an Early Childhood program in 2016 in line with the current needs and national priorities. In order to strength and support this program, particularly in the area of development of practical skills, we found it compelling to explore collaborative partnerships with institutions such as SOS who have the necessary resources and experience in early childhood education".

The National Director of SOS Children's Villages in Botswana, Mr Motshwari Kitso, said the partnership comes at the right time when SOS is rolling out its community re-integration program.

"We welcome this collaboration as timely and relevant. We are particularly pleased by the fact that IDM's interest in SOS is not profit-driven, but aims at advancing the national agenda of creating Botswana a society that is knowledgeable with relevant quality education. We want to be part of that legacy."





Direct vs Indirect taxes: what will African governments use for economic recovery?

By Emmanuel Allotey

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered severe economic contraction in many nations. Governments' interventions to slow the health impact of the virus including lockdowns, social distancing have hindered business growth in different sectors of the economy. The slowdown in some areas of the

economy has unleashed the potential for entrepreneurs to start businesses driven by innovations.

Innovation in business involves launching new ideas, products and services. This can also be the modification of existing business models and adapting to changes to achieve better results. Covid-19 has disrupted customer behaviour and businesses need to adapt or

face being overtaken by new entrants looking to capitalise on the opportunity.

Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) are key drivers of most economies in the world. SMEs account for about half of global gross domestic product (GDP) and employs over 40% of the workforce in a nation. Comprehensive research of the marketplace must be performed before starting a business. The

sector identified should already be lucrative with high growth potential. Large corporations stated small as SMEs and grew, highlighting the potential of start-up businesses to succeed.

There are various advantages to starting a business during these challenging times:

Low Interest rates: economies are operating under low interest rate environments due to government monetary policy

interventions such as reducing lending rates to encourage spending. This means for those starting a business with loan capital and other borrowings, they stand to benefit from low interest rates. Loans and other credit facilities now cost less, improving the business profit margins.

Low input costs: due the slowdown in the economy, suppliers and manufacturers are more accommodating in their agreements with buyers. New businesses have the bargaining power to negotiate longer term payment deals that will remain once the economy begins to recover. Landlords looking to fill vacant properties will be open to accepting reduced rentals. Equipment in good condition are accessible as some businesses sell off inventory.

Low human capital cost: opening a business and hiring employees during an economic slowdown increases access to top talent. Many highly skilled workers will be on the market looking for new jobs. Previously unattainable highly skilled recruits are now available.

Opportunities for businesses continue in the current volatile economic environment created by COVID -19. Entrepreneurs with an innovative business solutions stand to benefit as they bring new and improved products and services to market.



Innovation during COVID-19 - Starting a business

By Emmanuel Allotey

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social distancing have hindered business growth in different sectors of the economy. The slowdown in some areas of the economy has unleashed the potential for entrepreneurs to start businesses driven by innovations.

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South Africa gets R5 billion loan to fight COVID-19

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank has approved a loan of approximately R5 billion (\$288 million) to the government of South Africa, as the country battles one of the largest COVID-19 caseloads in the world.

South Africa confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on 5 March 2020 and is currently the most affected in Africa, and among the top five in the world in terms of confirmed cases (381,798 as at 22 July, with 5,368 deaths).

The loan falls under the Bank's \$10 billion COVID-19 Response Facility and will finance South Africa's COVID-19 Response Support Program and represents the Bank's first ever budget support to the country. The operation is designed as a Crisis Response Budget Support Operation prepared following a request from the government of South Africa.

The purpose of the program is to: (i) protect lives and promote access to essential equipment to prevent infection, such as protective personal equipment, sanitizers and gloves (ii) protect livelihoods by preserving jobs, incomes, food security and access to essential public services (iii) protect firms by supporting enterprises in the formal and informal economy to withstand the impacts of COVID-19 and prepare for economic recovery.

South Africa's ability to respond to the pandemic has implications for neighbouring countries as well as the continent as a whole, given its position as Africa's second-largest economy after Nigeria.

Even before the pandemic, South Africa was experiencing an economic slump. In 2019, the country registered GDP growth of 0.2% - the lowest in a decade - and according to Bank estimates it could drop to the worst in 90 years in 2020. Projections show a GDP contraction of 6.3% and 7.5% under baseline and worst-case scenarios, respectively.

These growth forecasts have placed budgetary constraints on the government's ability to deal with the health crisis.

In order to ensure a complementary intervention, the African Development Bank operation was designed in collaboration with other partners, including the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and the New Development Bank.

South Africa is ranked as the most prepared African country to deal with a pandemic, according to a Global Health Security (GHS) Index. Yet significant challenges remain in the public health sector, including underfunding and human resource shortages.

While the private health sector is better equipped, it remains unaffordable to the majority of South Africans.

The COVID-19 outbreak is also likely to adversely affect the gains made in controlling other infectious diseases such as TB

and HIV/AIDS. South Africa's scaling up of mass testing has also put pressure on capacity at public sector laboratories, and concerns have been raised about the rising numbers of infections among health workers.



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Some sections of the media in Ghana aid corruption

Corruption is a significant obstacle to development, democratic consolidation, and environmental security, particularly in the developing world. It involves a misuse of power in serving private ends at the public expense. Corruption occurs in both the public and private sectors.

There are different forms of corruption. Political corruption is a classic example. It is often committed by politicians and top government officials acting alone or collaborating with other actors to advance private agendas.

In democratic societies, free and independent private media can investigate and expose political corruption. They can also pressurise relevant authorities to address the problem.

But this is not always the case.

The argument is that contrary to the popular view that media freedom, pluralism and competition can help tackle corruption, democratic freedoms are not adequate safeguards for private media to fight political corruption. Despite Ghana's prevailing democratic freedoms, my study indicates that Ghanaian private media actively contribute to political corruption. This happens through biased reporting, propaganda peddling, indulgence in corruption, weak

investigative journalism, and limited follow-up reporting.

These activities all contribute to weakening anti-corruption struggles in Ghana.

Media corruption usually occurs when the press solicits – or accepts – cash or kind from those who want them to do their bidding. The research shows that the Ghanaian private media have become a “rented press” or “cash for coverage”.

Participants talked about the practice of “brown envelope journalism”. This mostly involved money being handed over as a bribe to influence a story.

One common practice is *solli* (solidarity). This refers to money given by individuals or organisations whose events reporters travel to cover.

Media personnel are divided on whether *solli* constitutes corruption. One editor commented:

Studies done elsewhere indicate that brown envelopes and “*solli*” practices compromise critical anti-corruption reporting and embolden those involved in political corruption. For example, in Ethiopia, Lodamo and Skjerdal showed that freebies and brown envelopes undermine anti-corruption efforts.

Partisan reporting

Media houses and journalists that maintain strong ties to

political candidates and parties tend to engage in partisan reporting. One participant said:

Journalists defend the political party they are affiliated with corruptive practices or attack opposition or people who raised issues about corruption.

Reporting that comes from these corrupt relationships is partisan and tends to mask or distort the truth about political corruption cases.

One example is the coverage of financial sector reforms by media outlets. The pro-National Democratic Congress Herald framed the reforms as a witch-hunt and cover-up for political corruption committed by the New Patriotic Party affiliates.

Both sides of the reporting framed the anti-corruption fight

as a partisan issue rather than as a national problem.

My findings show that sections of the Ghanaian media have become propaganda tools in the hands of unscrupulous politicians and political parties to advance their political agendas. As one participant commented:

Politicians understand how to capture the media and use propaganda to destroy [otherwise credible] stories.

Previous studies have shown that propaganda peddling weakens anti-corruption efforts.

Weak journalism

Undercover journalism is the media's major weapon in the fight against corruption. In Ghana's Fourth Republic, only a few people have been

visible in the anti-corruption journalism field.

Most private media houses don't have investigative desks. As a result, media reports tend to rely on allegations and counter-allegations. One participant said media houses should “go underground and find out the information”. This is important “because sometimes, people allegedly involved in the corruption feed you with what they want you to know.”

There are challenges in pursuing investigative journalism in Ghana. The first is that journalists can be harassed, or worse. In 2019 a prominent investigative journalist, Ahmed Hussein-Suale Divela, was murdered just before he was due to give evidence in a major football scam involving influential Ghanaians. His murder has not yet been solved.

Journalists also mentioned political interference and nonavailability of funding as barriers to investigative journalism in the country.

Another weakness is that media outlets don't consistently follow up on cases where political corruption has been exposed. As one participant commented:

There have been many instances in which we bring critical issues to bear and discuss them for a week or two and leave them.

Sustained monitoring helps keep the pressure on politicians and law enforcement agencies to ensure a logical conclusion.

Next steps

Journalists are expected not to allow money and political affiliation to influence their work. They should see their work as a calling. To uphold their journalistic independence, they should decline offers, including payments and cars, from influential people they investigate.

Civil society and state institutions should support media houses and journalists that demonstrably play a critical, active watchdog role in society.

Security agencies also ought to protect media houses and journalists threatened by thugs because of their anti-corruption work. (TheConversation.)



Africa's distributed renewable energy sector still Dominated by foreign players

The distributed renewable energy sector in Africa has grown rapidly since 2013, but it has so far failed to include locally-owned companies and initiatives. Finance has overwhelmingly only been accessible for multinational companies that are based in Europe or North America or led by entrepreneurs from these regions, meaning profits are largely not remaining in Africa.

“As governments and public finance institutions around the world prepare historic stimulus packages in response to Covid-19, we have an important opportunity to grow distributed renewable energy in Africa. But we need this funding to help start locally owned renewable energy initiatives instead of just flowing to a handful of overseas companies,” said Thuli Makama, senior advisor at Oil Change International.

“Mini-grid and off-grid renewable energy is more cost effective and resilient than both grid-based renewable energy and off-grid fossil fuels. Growing a locally owned distributed renewable energy economy is more important than ever. The pandemic has laid bare the need to build energy systems that are resilient to future crises, including the global market shocks and natural disasters we can expect to see intensify as climate impacts escalate,” said Bronwen Tucker, research analyst at Oil Change International.

The organisation’s report Distributed Funds for Distributed Renewable Energy includes data showing international public finance for projects in Africa has overall been dramatically misaligned with energy access and climate change priorities. Only about 1-2% of international public finance for energy has gone to energy access for distributed renewable energy since 2014, and fossil fuels received more than 3.5 times the support than all kinds of renewable energy did from 2016 to 2018.

In addition to echoing long standing calls for international public finance institutions like multilateral development banks and development finance institutions to stop funding fossils and invest in renewables for energy access, the briefing outlines three new areas of recommendations for how these institutions can support the growth of locally owned distributed renewable energy initiatives:

These are the supporting of the entry of local finance institutions into the distributed renewable

energy sector, facilitating coordination, research and planning between international public finance institutions, local banks, and distributed renewable energy providers, and increasing support

for distributed renewable energy, with an emphasis on community-owned and cooperative models.

(Bizcommunity.)



DITEC & DIAGNOFIRM join forces



year January and proceeded to his leadership lab in South Africa in February; told a very impactful story about his transformation.

Dichaba speaks about how his business was crashing in 2019, after losing 1.4 million Pula despite buying equipment, as they had no capital remaining to assemble the equipment. This is when he realized that he needed help and decided to apply for the Seed program, of which he also couldn’t comfortably afford, but given Stanford’s ability to provide scholarships for accepted applicants, he managed to negotiate the admission payment. Following his admission, he went through the first part of the program before the pandemic exploded and couldn’t proceed after borders closed, as the program requires a lot of travel. His investors pulled away and his customers also reduced. Luckily

Dichaba, founder of Dichaba Consumer Electronics and Ditec mobile, which specializes in designing and assembling mobile phones and electronics, along with Mohammed Chand, Medical Director of Diagnofirm, a medical

laboratory in Botswana; are part of the Stanford Seed Southern Africa cohort for 2020.

During an interview with Thatayaone Dichaba, who attended the Stanford Seed Immersion week in Ghana this

AGILITY

At the Stanford Seed leadership lab in South Africa, the keyword was Agility, which stuck with Dichaba forever. At leadership labs, Seed business leaders present their business challenge and receive feedback and support on how to tackle it.



Mohammed Chand and Thatayaone Dichaba

for Dichaba, he met his fellow cohort member – Mohammed where he shared his leadership challenge. The Leadership Lab introduced him to the concept of being agile, which is when he thought up an idea to build infrared thermometers in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. Upon convincing Mohammed that he could build the infrared from scratch, the partnership between the two was formed after Mohammed offered to invest capital to get the assembly started.

NOW Infrared Botswana has been formed; an entity where infrared Thermometers are being assembled in Botswana by Batswana. They trained a large team of Batswana to assist with production and are now making over 1000 thermometers a day which has now caught the Government’s attention, as it is now a requirement for all buildings to check temperatures for everyone entering.

De Beers Group in collaboration with the Stanford Graduate school of business, continues to nurture and develop entrepreneurs through the Seed Transformation program, which seems to be paying off during the current Pandemic.





How smart investments in technology can beef up Africa's economy

There is no shortage of technological innovations designed to boost animal agriculture in Africa. These range from GPS tracking systems which identify and trace pastoralists' herds to livestock vaccine SMS services that alert farmers to disease outbreaks.

But to unlock the economic potential of the sector as demand for meat and milk swells threefold towards 2050, countries must invest in the critical areas that will improve quality across the whole

value chain. That is increasing productivity and quality from the breeding of the animal throughout the production process to the end product. This includes safe storage, handling and sale.

My native Uganda offers some useful lessons from its use of smart investments in technology and farmer organisation. These have made it the only East African country that is self-sufficient in milk.

In recent years, some private sector players in Uganda have

invested in testing systems to detect aflatoxin in animal feeds. The goal is to prevent milk and meat contamination. Others have developed refrigeration units that are powered with biogas from manure. Both are among the innovations that improve the quality of the final product.

As highlighted by a new report from the Malabo Montpellier Panel on which I sit, the same can be achieved elsewhere. It can also benefit other livestock commodities, to give Africa

food sovereignty across animal-sourced foods and greater access to international markets.

The report makes 11 recommendations for Africa's livestock sector. These range from technological innovations and supportive policies to addressing trade barriers and challenges specific to each commodity.

Priority areas

African nations must be strategic in prioritising the infrastructure that will make the most difference to quality and productivity. The first priority is to increase consumer awareness around food safety, nutrition and sustainability to kickstart demand for better quality products.

Partly as a response to European consumer expectations around quality and safety, for example, Morocco developed a new system for animal identification and traceability in 2015.

Livestock can be identified using electronic tags that communicate with the national database via mobile phone networks. This increases transparency and traceability. It also promotes Moroccan animal products on international markets such as the European Union.

The second priority is then to direct technology towards opportunities to open up market access.

To unlock trade means investing in improved animal

health, processing operations, storage and distribution. Meeting regional and international standards for food safety and quality is a vital goal. Africa currently contributes 2.8% of the global meat market, which translates to 14 million tons. The continent produces just over 10% of the world's milk.

There are a number of barriers to increasing this production and gaining greater market share. They include limited availability of quality animal feed, access to affordable energy needed in producing and processing livestock, and limited infrastructure, particularly in the last mile.

With meat and milk being perishable goods, innovation in the cold chain and sustainable energy supplies will help strengthen the sector.

For example, an East African initiative which centralised milk quality testing and storage in chillers prior to sale increased yields sixfold within five years.

The volume of milk supplied to the 30km catchment area rose to three million litres a month. This increased income per smallholder household by more than 160% in Uganda, 120% in Kenya, and almost 65% in Rwanda.

The success of such projects in turn drives demand for continued innovation, such as solar-powered cold chains or interventions that protect other resources like water and grasslands.

Finally, countries also need to prioritise policies that support new technologies across the livestock sector.

To transform its milk production sector, Uganda privatised the state-owned processing company Dairy Corporation as well as creating a Dairy Development Authority.

The Dairy Industry Act of 1998 empowered the authority to enforce milk hygiene standards and quality controls. As a result, traders were licensed to meet public health and milk quality standards. This encouraged the modernisation of the sector through the expansion of pasteurisation plants and processing infrastructure as well as processing of high value products.

Certainly, the gains have trickled down to the farmers in better farm gate prices.

Conclusion

As the Malabo Montpellier Panel points out, many of the tools needed to tap into the potential of Africa's livestock sector exist already. But with limited resources, they must be deployed smartly to improve the entire value chain.

Scaling up innovation at critical points will unlock new opportunities and help ensure animal agriculture keeps pace with a rising demand from a growing population.

(TheConversation).





Sharing Wilderness journey with “Lesh” Moiteela – Wilderness Cultural Ambassador & Community Relationship Manager



The best memories are made on the road. And for the little ones, unforgettable experiences in the African Savannah beats getting a new toy. An African safari introduces you and your family to new cultures and traditions. It is also the perfect time to bond and create moments that you cannot get anywhere else.

This article, reviews the five best destinations for a family getaway with the kids.

Serengeti National Park

Located in Tanzania, the Serengeti National park is home to a plethora of animal species. Its plains are home to all the members of the big five clans (elephant, rhinos, buffaloes, leopards, and lions), crocodiles, mammal species and over 500 bird species.

A trip to the Serengeti brings to life the childhood movie, The Lion King, for both the children and adults. Make your trip fun

by pointing out the different animals and comparing them to the characters in the movie.

Around the month of April, the wildebeest migration starts heading north. This is a must-see phenomenon as you get to see thousands of animals as they journey together in search of greener pastures. If the migration does not win you over, wait until they get to the Grumeti River, the home of some large crocodiles.



Masai Mara Game Reserve

The wildebeest, which starts their annual, round-trip journey in Serengeti, continues into Kenya Maasai Mara Game Reserve. To get to the other side, however, they must go

through the crocodile-infested Mara River.

The Mara’s raging waters and hungry crocodiles stand between the wildebeest and the fresh grazing grounds they seek.

Some of the animals that went across the river in previous years tend to remember the lethal attacks from the crocodile, and the animals can take weeks afraid of getting into the Mara River. However, eventually, the massive crossing starts and the drama that unfolds is untold.

The Mara River crossing draws crowds from all over the world, both young and old because the experience is like no other. Ideally, plan a three-day safari in Masai Mara will allow you enough time to see all the drama as it unfolds.

While at the Mara with kids for a migration safari, we would recommend staying in four- and five-star hotels such as the Fairmont Mara Safari club which borders the Mara River.

Another option is the Keekorok Lodge where tradition meets modern in all aspects of a hotel including amenities, decor,

and food.

Besides game drives, other activities that you can engage in while at the Mara include a Maasai culture tour, walking safaris, night game drives, bush dinners, and more.

Londolozi Game Reserve

If you are looking for a more calm and inclusive adventure, then the Londolozi Game Reserve is the place for you.

It is privately owned and it gives you the all-rounded safari experience. Here, you get to spot the big five during the day and later, dine al fresco under the starry night.

At the Londolozi, nature conservation is at the top of the management list making this place a gold mine for picturesque sceneries. It once received a thumbs-up from the late President Nelson Mandela for that very reason.

Camp Jabulani

Camp Jabulani is located in the Greater Kruger Area in South Africa. Here, you get to enjoy your alone adult time in the



camp’s executive amenities as your kids get their own special programme.

The programmes have been fashioned with your children in mind including kid-friendly menus, and a wildlife wonderland experience. Not only do they provide safaris created for children above six years old, but they also offer them other great learning opportunities.

Engaging in the kid’s programme gives the children a chance to become JabuJuniors conservationists or JabuJunior rangers. After their junior sessions, they are then credited with personalised certificates after learning a bit about conservation.

Sossusvlei, Namibia

This attraction is located in the Namib-Naukluft National Park in Namibia. Its magnificence gets us away from the jungle and onto other sceneries that Africa has to offer.

Despite the extreme desert temperatures that characterise this area, a few animals and plants can still be found here. These animals include geckos, springboks, gemsboks, the black-backed jackal, and the aardwolf, just to name a few.

These animals have adapted to the harsh conditions much like some flora which include the camelthorn trees. These trees can be seen around the desert and are a great way to teach kids how such trees survive in the desert.

These sightings provide great learning and fun opportunities for your kids where they get to learn how to find food and water in the desert. That isn’t all though because the red dunes that span over the area are magical in their own right.

Hiring a hot air balloon and gliding over the impressive dunes is a great way to view them.

Summary

A safari with your kids doesn’t have to be daunting. However, it requires you to plan ahead.

All the above-mentioned places have great safari and beach holiday experiences to offer. Now, pick one and look around at all the adventures and tours that are offered in the area. While some places may not be prone to malaria, it is wise to get vaccinated beforehand. Do not forget to carry plenty of insect repellent because you all will be spending lots of time in the jungle. Happy planning and travels!

(Bizcommunity).



Tokyo marks one year to go until Olympics... again

As Tokyo marked one year to go until the Olympics for the second time on Thursday, it was perhaps fitting that the newly-built National Stadium, intended to be the iconic symbol of the Games, was hit by a torrential downpour for most of the day.

The Olympics were due to begin on Friday with an extravagant opening ceremony in the National Stadium but the Games have instead been delayed until July

23, 2021 because of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach presided over a glitzy ceremony to mark the occasion in the Japanese capital and declared Tokyo the best prepared host city he had ever seen.

This time around the atmosphere is much more subdued, with Tokyo 2020 set to host a minor

15-minute event in the National Stadium without fans later on Thursday, where they will launch a commemorative video.

It will take place at 8 pm local time (1100 GMT), the start time of next year's opening ceremony. People gathering around the countdown clock at Tokyo station were optimistic about the Games next year.

"I think it would be nice to be able to spread the word to

the world at the Olympics, that you can be excited even with the (coronavirus) present," said Tokyo resident Makoto Yamamori.

Others were less sure.

"Originally, I thought it would be wonderful if people gathered from the world to purely play sports and achieve results," said 27-year-old Yuma Okazaki. "But the negative image of the Olympics is going to get stronger amid the coronavirus

spread."

Thursday's small ceremony is a sign of things to come in the lead-up to the Games next year. The head of the IOC's Coordination Commission John Coates has said rearranging the Games meant focusing on the "must haves" in a simplified event.

In response, Tokyo 2020 Chief Executive Toshiro Muto said over 200 simplification measures were under consideration.

Thursday's landmark comes as the Japanese capital reported 366 new coronavirus cases, a new daily record, fuelling fears of a second round of infections.

(Reuters).



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World Athletics unveils revised schedule for Tokyo Games

World Athletics on Friday released a revised 10-day track and field programme for the Tokyo Olympics, which was postponed to 2021.

The opening round of men's 3,000 metres steeplechase will kickstart the athletics programme on July 30, 2021, with competitions set to be

spread over 16 sessions at Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. The schedule prominently features two 'Super Saturdays' - July 31 and Aug. 7 - which will see athletes competing for 10 titles.

'Golden Sunday' on Aug. 1, will have 25 medal events across all sports, highlighted by the men's 100m final.

The programme will conclude with the men's marathon on Aug. 8 in Sapporo, 800 kilometres north of Tokyo. The marathon and race walk events were moved to Sapporo by the International Olympic Committee in October to mitigate the worst of Tokyo's summer heat.

World Athletics confirmed the women's and men's marathon medal presentations will be part of the Games' closing ceremony for the first time in Olympic history. The Games are set to be the biggest ever in terms of events, with a record 339 medals available, before finishing on Aug. 8. Reuters.



Match officials brace up for resumption of competitions

Following discussions on the resumption of continental competitions in the not distant future, match officials have been gearing up for the D-Day, after

sporting activities were put on hold due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Continental competitions were suspended in March 2020,

however the match officials - Referees and Assistant Referees have been training to maintain their fitness and stay in shape, involved in virtual courses under

the supervision and guidance of the newly constituted Technical Board of Experts in collaboration with the CAF Refereeing Department.

During a video-conference meeting on Tuesday (21 July 2020), CAF President Ahmad Ahmad explained the decision to constitute an independent body of experts is in line with CAF's strategic reforms policy 'Transform CAF 2021' launched few months ago.

He commended the board for the tremendous work during the period of the lockdown and their commitment to raise the standard of officiating on the continent, whilst urging them to respect protocols of their respective state authorities during these unusual times to control the pandemic.

"It is important that our Referees and Assistant Referee remain in the best of shapes for the resumption of competitions. Officiating is an essential part of the game and we have work hard especially during this period to get the best personnel for our matches to project the image of the continent as well," Ahmad said.

(Reuters.)

Soccer, floorball players among infected as 68 test positive in Prague club COVID-19 outbreak

A party at a Prague music club has led to coronavirus infections in 68 people so far, including active athletes, the Czech capital's hygiene service said on Wednesday.

The Czech Republic has recorded 14,324 cases of the new coronavirus and 360 deaths - a small fraction of the worst-hit European nations - but it has seen a resurgence of new cases in the past weeks. The public health service did not name the sports clubs affected. Major Prague soccer clubs Sparta Prague, Bohemians 1905 and Dukla Prague said they had infections in their reserve or junior teams, and floorball club Black Angels were also hit.

Black Angels A-team manager Tomas Janecek told Reuters some players attended the party cited by the health service and were informed by a friend a week later that they might be infected. So far six people from the club have tested positive and others including Janecek awaited testing in quarantine.

Health officials initially tested 17 people who attended the July 11 birthday party at the music venue and found 15 positive cases, Prague Hygiene Service chief Zdenka Jagrova said in a statement.

"Further epidemiological investigation has so far found 37 people who were not directly guests at the party but were at the club... the same night," she said, and more cases were found among family and friends. Family members and 121 other people have been put in quarantine.

The music club, Techtle Mechtle, told Reuters in a statement that it was the venue for the party and that the infection did not come from its staff. Director Darek Jakubowicz of Bohemians told Reuters the B-team had two infections - both traced to the July 11 event - and were in pre-emptive quarantine. "Other players had met (the infected) in training but no one else was infected."

Sparta, Bohemians and Dukla all said their affected teams were in quarantine. A spokesman for Sparta said the team had "single digits" of infections but could not confirm the club event as the source.

Dukla director Pavel Vandas said on Twitter that Dukla's under-19 and under-18 teams were in quarantine after one under-19 player tested positive. Dukla did not give details on the source of the infection.

(Reuters.)



Women Football Strategy Launch - Dawn For A New Era

The dawn of a new era for women's football on the continent has come. After several months, the first ever CAF Women's Football Strategy, the strategic plan to shape the future of the women's game has come to fruition.

The plan, for an initial four-year period, 2020-2023, is tailor-made taking into consideration peculiarities of the continent with a commitment to develop women's football at levels to new heights.

With the slogan #ItsTimeItsNow, the strategy represents the new identity for the women's game and will serve as a reference for the promotion and development of the sport across the continent, and as a guide to success for Member Associations and other stakeholders.

"Today is historic day for women's football in Africa. The launch of the CAF Women's Football Strategy is in line with our commitment to give hope to the youth across the continent and to develop women's football at all levels. It sets out a clear roadmap for specific actions

which will revolutionize women's football. My gratitude goes out to the key stakeholders and experts who took part in putting together this strategic document, which is the beginning of many things to come. #ItsTimeItsNow," CAF President said.

March 2018, Marrakech (Morocco)

CAF organized the first ever Women's Football Symposium in Marrakech, under the theme 'raising our game'. The two-day event brought together key stakeholders - FIFA, Confederations, Member Associations, Current and Former Players, Sponsors, Partners, Media, to brainstorm and chart a new path for the development of the women's game. Amongst the resolutions was the creation of a Women's Football Division. The division, a key arm of the CAF Football and Development Department serves as the focal point for women's football, handling all related projects and activities.

November 2018, Accra (Ghana)

The Women's Task Force met in Accra on the side-lines of the Total Women's Africa Cup of Nations Ghana 2018 for the next phase of preparations for the Women's Football Strategy.

November 2019, Cairo (Egypt)

The CAF's first-ever Women's Football Taskforce Workshop was held in Cairo. The aim was to identify key areas to develop and measures to put in place to ensure a strong and dynamic future for the growth of women's football in Africa. The workshop was facilitated by a team from FIFA's Women's Football Division who have exhibited tremendous support to empowering women in football. The brainstorming sessions gave birth to areas and focal points for the for the CAF Women's Football strategy taking into consideration the peculiarities of the continent.

"The strategy is a follow up on the CAF Women's Football Symposium in 2018. We have now established strategies and drawn up a road map

which we believe will enhance the development of women's football on the continent in all areas and levels from Leadership, Governance, Technical, Education, Strategic Partnerships and Grassroots. #ItsTimeItsNow," Chairperson of Organising Committee for Women's Football Isha Johansen said.

The strategy is built on five main priorities namely Development, Competitions, Marketing & Promotion, Professionalization & Leadership and Social impact.

Accelerate the growth of the women's game at all levels all across Africa by facilitating more playing opportunities for women and girls and providing increased and improved training opportunities for technical staff involved in the women's game, and linking capacity building courses to development programs and competitions.

Competitions are the greatest drivers of football development. To increase the number of women's competitions for clubs notably the CAF Women's Champions League.

Create a strong and unifying women's football brand for Africa that leverages African values and has regional and global appeal, fueled by the spirit of family, passion and culture.

To ensure our efforts towards the growth of the women's game are sustainable by working with stakeholders to professionalize the structures surrounding women's football on and off the field and increase in female administrators.

To leverage the power of football to socially impact on African women and girls positively. Also, the use of football as a tool to educate the girl child, empower and encourage participation.

"I am very excited with the CAF Women's Football Strategy which will definitely improve women's football on the continent and creating more playing opportunities for players. The game is evolving and as a continent we need to keep up. #ItsTimeItsNow," Desiree Ellis, Head Coach, South Africa Women's National Team said.

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