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Foreign Missions Call Out Zimbabwe over Rights Abuses

President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government has been condemned for widespread human rights abuses in Zimbabwe. The latest condemnation was made by 7 heads of mission in Zimbabwe which are Canada, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America on Friday.

The Zimbabwean government has of late received condemnation for the current social, economic, political and health crisis that the country and its people are facing. The concerns raised so far by various global organisations, regional organisations and Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops call out the government against the crack down against those with dissenting voices over the situation in Zimbabwe.

In their statement on Friday, the heads of the foreign mission in Zimbabwe said they stand by the people of Zimbabwe on their desire for a prosperous democracy, calling on Mnangagwa to walk talk and deliver on the promise to serve the country and all its people,

made two years ago when he assumed the Presidency.

The Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference had earlier said the country had a multi-layered crisis, including economic collapse, deepening poverty, corruption and human rights abuses – with fear running down the spine of many of Zimbabweans people today.

"The crackdown on dissent is unprecedented," the bishops said the previous week, in a statement that attracted fiery response and blame from Mnangagwa.

Several political activists and a journalist have also been arrested on charges of inciting and calling public protests against alleged government corruption emanating from exposes of COVID-19 looting.

Also, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, and as SADC Chair presented another opportunity a fortnight ago by sending special envoys to Zimbabwe to help in addressing the situation in that country. His efforts were however thwarted by Harare, as the envoys were denied access meet other stakeholders that included the opposition

parties.

The latest statement said, "The Heads of Missions stand by the people of Zimbabwe in their desire for a peaceful and prosperous democracy. It is because we care about the people of Zimbabwe that our governments provide extensive humanitarian assistance to those affected by drought, natural disasters, and disease – including, in this difficult year, the new global pandemic of COVID-19," the statement by the Heads of Missions read.

The seven foreign missions also called government not to use COVID-19 as an excuse to restrict citizens' fundamental freedoms.

"Freedom of the press, of opinion, of expression, and of assembly are all universally recognised human rights and are guaranteed by the Zimbabwean Constitution. The government also has a responsibility to investigate and prosecute those responsible for violating human rights," the statement said.

They also called on the Zimbabwean government to tackle corruption and the illicit

extraction of Zimbabwe's wealth for personal gain, which continue to undermine Zimbabwe's development and the well-being of its people.

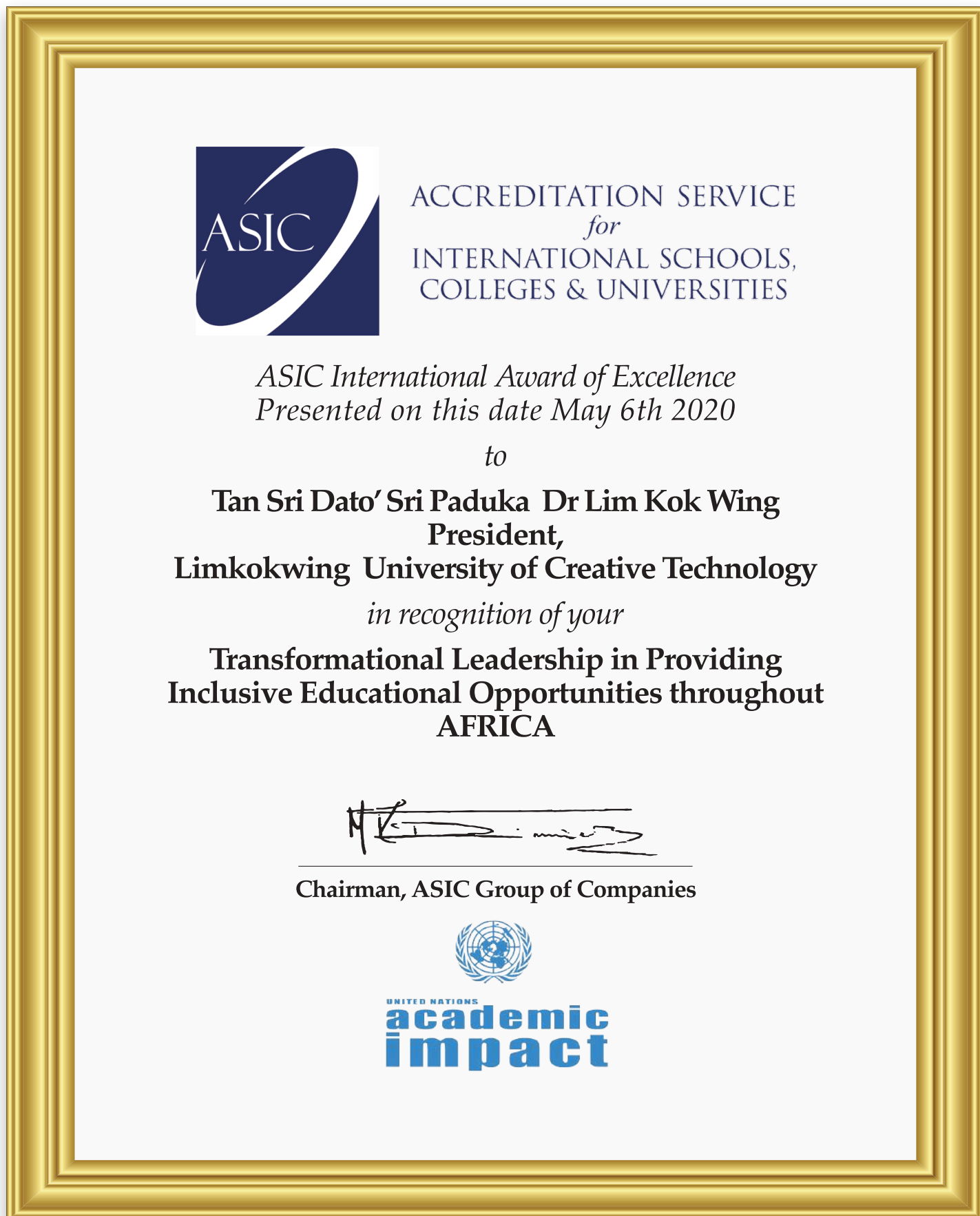
"If Zimbabwe is to reach its potential, its wealth and resources must be used to serve all Zimbabweans."

The heads of mission also noted with concern that the necessary discussions to build a better future for Zimbabwe have so far been hindered by unhelpful rhetoric and blame assigned to several groups, including diplomatic missions and non-state actors.

"We ask the government to move away from such language and instead to deliver on its long-promised reforms and reach across the divides. Implemented to the benefit of all, they will make a difference to the life of all Zimbabweans. We hope this government is able to deliver on its initial vision and live up to the commitments it made when it came to power. As before, we stand ready to provide support in response to meaningful progress on reforms,"

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Push For Stronger Health Systems As Africa Battles COVID-19



Health Ministers and representatives from African countries gathered last week for the annual World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa voiced concern over the impact of COVID-19 and stressed that the pandemic was a poignant reminder for countries to bolster health systems.

The Seventieth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa – the Organization’s decision-making body – which was held virtually for the first time due to COVID-19 also celebrated

Africa’s historic milestone in eradicating wild poliovirus. More than 500 participants, including Ministers of Health and officials from 47 Member States as well as representatives from United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia and development partners attended the meeting.

Since Africa confirmed its first COVID-19 cases in February the continent has recorded more than 1.1 million cases. African governments have reinforced response measures, building on

the early steps such as enhanced surveillance, detection and movement restrictions taken even before the virus hit the continent.

“This virus has not only affected our health, but also tested our way of living, societal norms and economies at large. In Africa we quickly felt the impact of the pandemic due to our weak health systems coupled with the highest disease burden in the world,” Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali said.

To minimize the impact of the pandemic, Prime Minister Abiy

called for improved COVID-19 response coordination, a common voice to ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics and treatment, and stronger health systems and public health emergency preparedness and response.

“COVID-19 has taught us that strong health systems are a matter of national security and survival,” he said.

Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth pointed out that timely and decisive response were critical to his country’s success in bringing down COVID-19 infections in five weeks after the first case was confirmed.

“It is crucial to have an efficient health system at a time when we are experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Prime Minister Jugnauth. “The government continues to invest significantly in the health sector for both present and future generations.”

A WHO progress assessment on the performance of health systems as part of efforts to attain universal health coverage found that Member States in the region have gaps in different capacities, with the most acute seen in poor physical and financial access to services, and low resilience of health systems.

The COVID-19 outbreak has underscored the high-risk countries face if their populations are unable to access available services, and if the systems are not resilient enough to absorb stress and sustain service provision during a shock event.

“The coronavirus pandemic has proven once again the importance of investing in health systems, enhancing equitable access to care and improving

readiness to prevent and control outbreaks,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. “Recovering from this pandemic will be incomplete without strong measures to bolster health systems. We must seize the opportunity and make the leap for a better tomorrow.”

The WHO assessment recommends that Member States find ways to increase public funding to develop health systems, explore initiative to boost access to services, review and identify the needed health system investments, set up measures to monitor the performance of health systems at the subnational level and enhance the efficiency of available funding, particularly donor, private and out-of-pocket funds.

Dr Moeti also presented a report on the work of WHO in the African Region covering areas such as universal health coverage, accelerating gains in preventing and controlling diseases, protecting people from health emergencies, promoting health and wellbeing.

“It is not only about what we do, but how we do it, that is important. We remain focused on delivering in ways that are more effective, results-driven and accountable,” said Dr Moeti.

The Regional Committee is the highest decision-making body on health in the region, involving ministers of health from the Member States of the WHO African Region. It meets once a year to review critical health issues affecting the continent and to advise on appropriate strategies to improve health outcomes.



Limkokwing University awards over P17 million worth of scholarships



Limkokwing University of Creative Technology has awarded 100 scholarships to various organisations all valued at P17 267 340 for Academic year commencing September 2020.

The scholarships cover 100% tuition only while the rest of the fees are borne by students.

The scholarships were awarded to the media, government, foreign missions, and various organisations.

Ten scholarships were reserved for the creative industry to be administered by the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport & Culture Development, while another ten were reserved for the entertainment industry to be administered by the University itself.

Scholarships were reserved for people with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable to be administered by the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, Governance & Public Administration.

In true diplomatic fashion the embassies and high Commissions of Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe were given two scholarships each.

The University awarded twenty scholarships to the media with sixteen are reserved for private media while four are reserved

for government media. Twenty scholarships were awarded to the Limkokwing Botswana Alumni Association for graduates to up skill and ten scholarships designated for the Limkokwing staff community.

The Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development Tumiso Rakgare said the awarding of the scholarships was “a commendable gesture by the university that clearly demonstrates leadership. T

“There is no better way to empower an individual than give them knowledge and skills. We are pleased as a government and indeed as a ministry responsible for the creatives that Limkokwing University of Creative Technology is contributing towards attainment of a knowledge-based economy,” he said.

National Director for the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA, Tefo Phatshwane in the closing remarks thanked Limkokwing University for the contribution particularly for the creative industry, noting that Limkokwing alumni were often able to support themselves even without being formally employed with the skills they have learned.

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‘Education emergency’ as third of world’s children lack remote learning

One in three schoolchildren across the world have been unable to access remote learning during coronavirus school closures, the U.N. children’s agency said on Thursday, warning of a “global education emergency”.

Nearly 1.5 billion children were affected by school closures as countries locked down to prevent the disease from spreading, UNICEF said in a report. Yet at least one in three students have had no way of continuing their education at home.

“For at least 463 million children whose schools closed due to COVID-19, there was no such a thing as remote learning,” said UNICEF’s Executive Director Henrietta Fore in a statement.

“The sheer number of children whose education was completely disrupted for months on end is a global education emergency. The repercussions could be felt in economies and societies for decades to come.”

The report examined 100 countries, looking at children’s ability to access remote learning through television and radio broadcasts or online classes and the availability of the correct educational materials on these platforms.

It found students in Africa were the most impacted, with almost half unable to access remote education, compared to 38% in South Asia and 34% in eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Latin America and the Caribbean had the lowest number of children affected, with 9% of students unable to access learning at home, said the report.

Most children lived in rural areas, in poor households with no access to the internet, to electricity or to the educational television and radio broadcasts that many nations ran.

UNICEF said that the situation was likely far worse than the report’s findings.

Even when children have the technology and tools at home, they may not be able to learn due to factors such as pressure to do chores, being forced to work, or living in a poor environment for learning such as crowded, noisy accommodation, it said.

Child rights organisations say the school closures have had a devastating impact on children – particularly girls – in Africa who have become increasingly vulnerable to sexual violence and child marriage during lockdowns.

A World Health Organization (WHO) survey of 39 countries in sub-Saharan Africa found schools were fully open in only six. Some nations including Kenya have cancelled the entire school year, with plans to resume classes in January.

UNICEF and the WHO are now

urging African governments to promote the safe reopening of schools, while taking measures to limit the spread of the virus.

“We must not be blind-sided by our efforts to contain COVID-19 and end up with a lost generation,” said Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, in a statement.

“Just as countries are opening businesses safely, we can reopen schools. This decision must be guided by a thorough risk analysis to ensure the safety of children, teachers and parents and with key measures like physical distancing put in place.”

When reopening is not possible, governments should plan to incorporate compensatory learning – especially for



marginalised students – when classes resume, said UNICEF, adding that education systems must be adapted to withstand future crises. (Reuters)



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The United Kingdom’s Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges and Universities (ASIC) has awarded Limkokwing University Founder & President Tan Sri Dato Sri Paduka Dr. Limkokwing the ASIC International Award of Excellence in recognition of Tan Sri Limkokwing’s transformational leadership in providing inclusive educational opportunities throughout Africa where he has established campuses in Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini and Sierra Leone and is expanding to Uganda and Namibia.

Tan Sri Limkokwing is credited with spearheading the process of reforming many of the world’s Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, a vital sub sector of many a country’s education system. His pioneering endeavours in building a strong TVET workforce with high-tech, skill-based training has created generations of young entrepreneurs who are contributing to transforming their nations. Tan Sri Limkokwing is best known for bringing about much-needed change to Malaysia’s antiquated, post-colonial education system. In the process, he revolutionised the very concept of tertiary education on a global scale.

Through his Foundation and University campuses across the world, tens of thousands of individuals from diverse backgrounds have had the privilege to be exposed to a unique form of industry-driven education that places emphasis on creativity and innovation.

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The Customer is King: averting business collapse during COVID-19



By Emmanuel Allotey

Without customers no business can survive. The importance of customers to a business going concern has never been more pronounced than during the current operating environment where customers are reducing discretionary spending. The

impact of COVID-19 on customer activity has led to businesses scrambling to find ways to keep their customers engaged. Customer spending has been stifled by movement restrictions and government-imposed lockdowns causing a reduction in profitability and if prolonged the possibility of business collapse. According to reports, around

57 percent of businesses see their revenue drop by 75 percent or more due to Covid-19. More than half of small businesses believe it will take six months to a year before the business climate returns to normal. The inability of businesses to adapt to the changes in the operating environment and provide alternative methods to interact with clients will suffer

eventual collapse. Closer engagement with the Customer through the following tips will avert business collapse: Customer feedback – proactive communication using different media to communicate must be an ongoing process for every business. Customers can be reached by phone, SMS, email and physical mail. Listen to

your customers, make them feel heard, give them platform to share feedback and implement their suggestions. Reward loyalty – acknowledge the customers loyal to your business. Businesses that introduce a personal touch in their interaction to clients will increase brand loyalty. Customers want to be acknowledged for their continued patronage. Increased visibility – go to the customer if the customer can't come to you. This can be done through delivery services. A platform or website where customers can place their orders and be confident of immediate delivery. This eliminates any movement barriers customers may be facing when considering purchasing from your business. Aggressive advertising – businesses that have invested in their online infrastructure can resort to increased online advertising. Businesses should be prepared to offer incentives such as free shipping, free returns and 'buy online, pick up in store' services to attract shoppers. Increased personalized offers to customers significantly increases client satisfaction. The COVID-19 recession is projected to stir up deeper financial troubles for Businesses. it remains to be seen what economic recovery will look like, and which businesses will reopen and be able to remain open, as coronavirus cases continue to increase. The businesses that will avoid collapse will be those that engage their customers and treat them as "King."



Impact of COVID-19 on the Informal Sector in Africa: deterioration in Financial Inclusion

By Emmanuel Allotey

Many African countries have been recording high economic growth rates in recent years till the emergence of COVID-19

that has threatened to plunge African economies into the worst recession in decades. During the years of economic growth Financial Inclusion and the alleviation of poverty had

been steadily making gains, however the progress made stands to be erased post the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) there

are 2 billion people working in the informal sector, that's around 62% of the global workforce. In Africa, a major proportion of the work force are engaged in the informal sector without a fixed and continuous income and limited participation in the formal financial services sector. Africa is home to an active informal sector consisting of artisans, tradesmen, street hawkers, handy-men, job hands and other, all looking to survive through interaction with society. Those in the informal sector are also less likely to qualify for government programmes introduced to support those affected by COVID-19. Restrictions on the movement of people and the sudden stoppage or severe downscaling of economic activities to contain the propagation of COVID-19 are having a strong impact on informal workers. The Informal sector operates in the ecosystem aligned to economic activity and the formal sector. Informal workers revenue generation is heavily dependent on human interaction and foot traffic and they operate in a thin margin environment, making them especially vulnerable to the ripple effects of a widespread shutdown. Access to Financial services

has grown significantly due to the rapid adoption of Mobile Financial Services (MFS). Mobile financial services offer a range of financial transactions ranging from payments and current accounts, to savings, loans, investments, and insurance through a mobile device. The collaboration between Financial Institutions, Mobile Network operators and regulators has created an enabling environment for a burgeoning sustainable financial system. However, even with these partnerships, a significant number of people, especially those in the fold of informal sector employment and entrepreneurship, remain outside the fold of the financial inclusion. The impact of government-imposed lockdowns and movement restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 has led to businesses to close temporarily or permanently, leading to job losses and a surge in poverty. These unprecedented interventions have eliminated primary sources of income and supplementary initiatives to generate income for those in the informal sector, making their prospect of prosperity and Financial Inclusion bleak.



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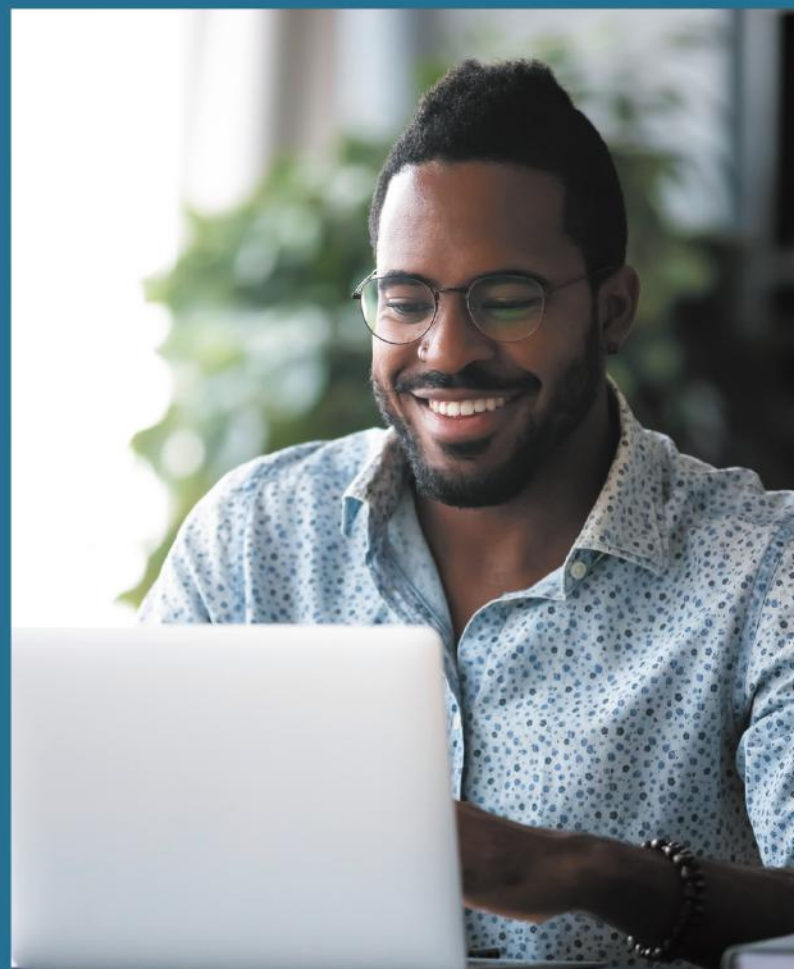
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Africa has a growing food security problem: why it can't be fixed without proper data

The COVID-19 pandemic and consequent lockdown measures have had a huge negative impact on producers and consumers. Food production has been disrupted, and incomes have been lost. But a far more devastating welfare consequence of the pandemic could be reduced access to food.

A potential rise in food insecurity is a key policy point for many countries. The World Economic Forum has stated this pandemic is set to “radically exacerbate food insecurity in Africa”. This, and other supplier shocks, such as locust swarms in East Africa, have made many African economies more dependent on externally sourced food.

As the pandemic continues to spread, the continued functioning of regional and national food supply chains is vital to avoid a food security crisis in countries dependent on agriculture. This is true in terms of both nutrition and livelihoods. Many countries in Southern and East African economies are in this situation.

The integration of regional economies is one vehicle for alleviating pervasive food security issues. But regional integration can't be achieved without the appropriate support for investment in production, infrastructure and capabilities.

And, crucially, there must be more accurate and timely information about food markets. Data on food prices are crucial for political and economic stability.

Yet they are not easily accessible.

A study by the Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development highlights how poor and inconsistent pricing data severely affects the quality of any assessment of agricultural markets in the Southern and East African region.

What's missing

There have been attempts to collate and disseminate agricultural prices internationally. National commodity exchanges have also been created in some countries to facilitate wholesale agricultural trade and the collection of market and price information in Africa. These include the Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network, the Food and Agriculture Organization's Corporate Statistical Database and the World Food Programme's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping database.

But the overall effectiveness of commodity exchanges has been limited in countries in Southern and East Africa. With some exceptions, they have not been widely used, meaning that small producers have not had good access to reliable pricing information.

The patchy data that is available at the producer level indicates very large price differentials across Southern and East Africa. These differentials are far in excess of reasonable transport and related costs. They speak to the lack of integration of markets. They also point to the potential

that local market power is being exploited. An example would be the power of large buyers over small producers who face high transport costs to individually transport goods to faraway markets.

Having up-to-date information on food prices – along with other market information relating to production and market structures – is necessary to understand agricultural food systems in the region. This is crucial to track events ranging from the effects of this pandemic to the weather as well as locust swarms.

Without close to realtime data, it is not possible to rapidly plan

appropriate responses.

In addition, the lack of readily available market data restricts our understanding of the impact of changing supply and demand conditions in local markets, and regional value chains more broadly. The climate crisis – and other supply shocks like the pandemic – imply much greater volatility in production and food prices. The effects will become ever more dire for farmers, vulnerable consumers and downstream industries.

Hit the reset button

Máximo Torero, chief economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization, has observed that this pandemic

is an opportunity to hit the reset button on policies to alleviate food security problems. It has emphasised the fragility of overdependence on a globalised agricultural system. What is needed to achieve a more integrated and regionalised agricultural system is coordinated public policy responses to support agribusiness. These responses must also ensure small and medium-sized farmers are included.

The World Bank is working closely with many governments to track domestic food and agricultural supply chains. The goal is to ensure that food systems continue to function despite the challenges wrought by COVID-19. In addition, the Food and Agriculture Organization has mapped a way to potentially avoid a looming food crisis in Africa. These short-term measures are welcomed.

Action can be taken at a regional level too. For example, an effective market observatory would assist in the promulgation of wider, deeper and more competitive agricultural markets. Market observatories help market participants in reading market signals while also reducing market volatility.

Examples of these can be found throughout the European Union covering a range of agricultural products. Developing this capability would also contribute to identifying key trends in the region in close to realtime. And it would help identify issues relating to market access, border and transport-related problems, and possible anticompetitive behaviour.

In the medium to long term, greater attention is needed on ensuring appropriate market shaping measures for more resilient and integrated regional agricultural systems in the Southern and East African region. Such measures depend on having accurate and timely information on market participants, food production and prices.

(TheConversation)



Using agriculture to help boost job creation and investment in Mozambique

Brazilian investors have expressed interest in Mozambique's agribusiness, given the agro-ecological potential and the promising opportunities that the country offers in this sector. This comes after a recent economic briefing held by Standard Bank Mozambique (SBM) specifically for Brazilian entrepreneurs with ventures or interests in the country, to present the macroeconomic perspectives, and the investment environment and opportunities in various sectors.

The Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) projects in the Rovuma basin will ultimately place Mozambique on the list of the five largest producers and suppliers of this energy resource in the world, and it holds the potential to boost various other sectors in the country, particularly in agribusiness, by expanding its market, as well as potentially supporting the emergence of a domestic nitrogen fertilizer industry from sub-products of LNG manufacturing process.

At the briefing, SBM's chief economist Fáusio Mussá highlighted to the delegates bank's experience in agribusiness, and its eagerness to support the Mozambique government's Sustenta project, promoted through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to leverage and boost the agribusiness sector in the country.

Sustenta is an integration project which aims to create and improve the linkages amongst the sector's value chain players, in order to boost the country's production volumes and enhance the competitiveness of its agricultural sector.

The project includes Technology transfer, Market linkages, Production mapping and planning, Infrastructure development, Environmental and social practices and Production subsidies.

The World Bank has recently committed USD500m to support the project, following an e-meeting held with President Nyussi.

“During the pilot phase, Sustenta was implemented in two provinces (Nampula and Zambézia), and from this year on it will be implemented throughout the country. The goal is to induce agricultural transformation towards a more market-oriented agriculture, with a strong impact throughout the sector including on smallholder farmers and medium and large agriculture companies,” said Mr. Mussá.

Mozambique is one of the bank's key focus countries in the agriculture sector, where it sees opportunity to improve and extend linkages within the agribusiness value chain – from

input suppliers and primary agriculture to agro-processing/ value addition, exports, logistics, warehousing and more.

“Our main objectives are to address fragmented value chains, add a funding source to the sector and support Mozambique’s food security, employment creation and foreign exchange revenue through exports,” says Louis van Ravesteyn, head: agribusiness for Pan-Africa at Standard Bank

Group.

The bank is one of the few banks in the country directly involved in several agricultural sub-sectors such as grains (corn for the production of beer and feed for the poultry industry), cassava (for the production of beer), sugar (conventional and organic), poultry, tobacco, and banana, among others. “We have a dedicated agribusiness team, which is comprised of sector

specialists, who understand the key commodities, and subsequent commodity value chains. The team has successfully supported various landmark agriculture projects over the years,” says van Ravesteyn.

By supporting this sector, the bank believes that it will also trigger a positive impact on other related and associated industries including transport, logistics, technology, wholesale and retail, as well as promoting rural and country development.

The bank uses its remote sensing technology to support farmers in Mozambique in improving crop production and increasing

yields. It is also developing digital solutions to improve access to market for emerging farmers and bring efficiencies in the “last mile” – the transaction between buyers and smallholder farmers.

“The importance of mechanisation and good agronomical practices remain critical to improving production and yields. Infrastructure development of road and communication networks, electricity, water and irrigation, and knowledge transfer, are also essential to facilitating transformation of African agribusiness,” concludes van Ravesteyn. (Bizcom.)

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Okavango Craft Brewery – Crafting Refreshment From The Waters Of The Delta

Okavango craft brewery, established in 2019, is Maun’s first licensed microbrewery and offers a variety of millet adjunct beers crafted from quality import malts and locally harvested millet. The beverages contain millet grown by local farmers, bought at surplus price to reward farmers for their pro-coexistence efforts – for using mitigation techniques to protect themselves and their fields from elephants, allowing elephants safe passage along major movement corridors to the Okavango. Echo speaks to cofounder and director Graham McCulloch about the origins and aims of the Okavango Craft Brewery. Would you say Okavango Craft Brewery is a Botswana born company or a subsidiary of an international? It is definitely a Botswana born company, with the concept, design and development all born and developed in Ngamiland.

What is the concept behind the name?
We make a high quality product that will attract the attention of local and international markets and consumers, so we wanted to give the brand some provenance, while making sure we represent the contents of the brands products, i.e. it is made with water from the Okavango Delta and with local produce from rural subsistence farmers living in and around the Okavango. This will appeal to the tourism market and with our unique story behind the brand, allow us to gain support in the market place for the product and therein a local economy based on sound social and environmental principles.

How many employees do you have?
We currently have 9 staff, 8 of which are citizens from Maun. Brewing beer is a scarce skill, so our brewer is from Brazzaville,

in the Congo. In time, when the economy improves and things get back to some kind of normality post-COVID -1’9, we will need additional staff and would like to open our brew-pub to serve our quality beer with food.

What is your citizen skill transfer policy like?
Our brewer is currently training a local trainee brewer: Tshidi, who hails from Maun and loves the opportunity to become a brewer. Being Maun’s, and indeed northern Botswana’s first micro-brewery, skills transfer and building capacity among our staff has and will continue to be an essential part of our companies growth and success.

Are all the products and ingredients procured from Botswana?
We import ingredients like some of the malts, the hops and yeast, but all the processing

happens on site in Maun. We buy and transport our millet grain from farmers around the Okavango Delta panhandle.

How many liters of beer do you produce in a day/week/month?
With our equipment, we can

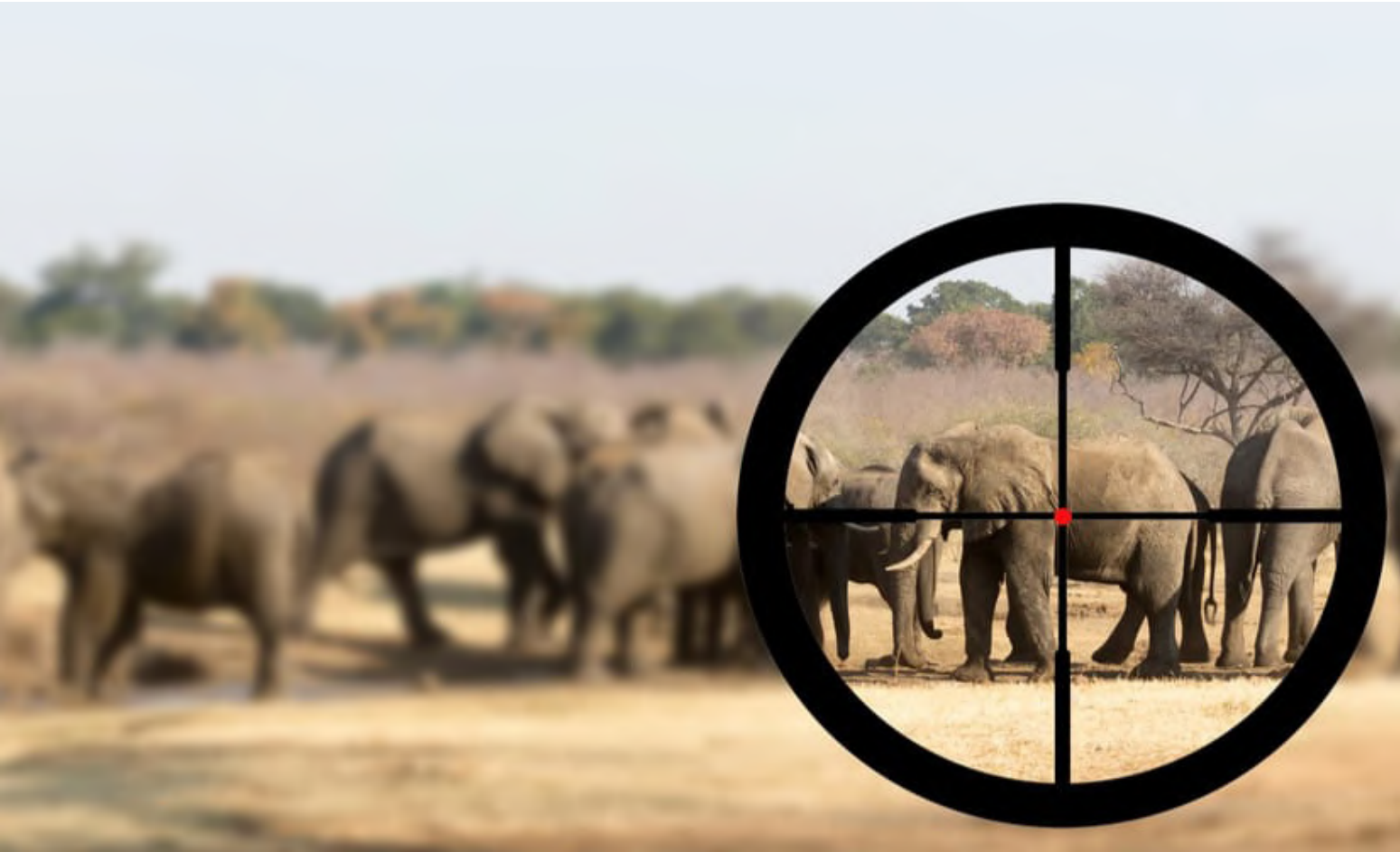
produce 500l in one brew, which takes between 6–8 hours, so we can brew a large quantity in a week if we brewed every day. However, our production capacity really lies in the fermenting capacity, which currently stands at 4000l – these are large vats where the beer is kept to ferment and then mature before being kegged and ready for consumption. This period varies between 4 to 6 weeks, or longer, depending on what type of beer you make.

When did you start taking the product into the market?
We were literally ready to launch the product when COVID-19 hit – so we are only now able to do so and last week was our first launch of the product, in take away bottles and 1l jugs or growlers, as they are called in the craft beer world, for home consumption.

Do you intend to expand the brewery plant?
Yes, hopefully. In time when we can open our brew pub for large numbers and when the tourism industry gets back on its feet again, we envisage higher sales both over the counter at the brew pub and hopefully through distribution to the local tourism industry.

What efforts do you make to be environmentally friendly?
The process of making beer on site has many interventions to reduce our environmental impact: from solar water heating to reduce energy loading while brewing; reducing importing of goods by using local produce; using reusable bottles and jugs for our product distribution to reduce waste; and treating all of our waste water with a state of the art water treatment plant.





Banning trophy hunting can put wildlife at risk: a case study from Botswana

Wildlife tourism is an important segment of Botswana’s tourism industry, representing 80% of the total annual revenue of trips to Botswana. Key to this are protected areas which have led to the growth of the country’s wildlife tourism.

Wildlife tourism can take place either in the animals’ natural environments such as national parks, game reserves or other protected areas or in captivity, such as zoos or rehabilitation centres. Activities during these tours can be classified into two main groups; non-consumptive (viewing and photographing of wild animals) and consumptive which refers to activities such as trophy hunting and fishing.

Since the start of trophy hunting operations in 1996 in

Botswana, trophy hunting has grown steadily. The industry employed an estimated 1,000 people, received 350 hunters annually and sold more than 5,500 hunting days per year. In 2011, the industry netted Botswana US\$20 million in revenue annually from 2,500 animals sold to trophy hunters. Botswana specialised in big game such as elephants, buffalo and leopard which generated higher hunting fees from few animals.

The main reason given by the Botswana government for the trophy hunting ban was the decline in the number of wildlife due to trophy hunting – a reason that was widely questioned by trophy hunting operators.

The ban on trophy hunting had an adverse impact as highlighted by various data sources. We

therefore set out in 2018 to study the impact of the ban of trophy hunting on local communities. We chose two communities, Sankuyo (400 inhabitants in Northern Botswana) and Mmadinare (12,000 inhabitants in Eastern Botswana). The two communities that were selected for the study, had prior involvement in hunting.

We collected data through interviews with community members and leaders of the community-based organisations trusts. These are legal entities established to represent interests of communities and are often made up of multiple villages of close geographical proximity.

We also interviewed former employees from the hunting sector and small business

owners. Some of the questions asked were: how did hunting tourism benefit the community? Was hunting seen as a positive impact on the community? What are the current challenges that the community face since the ban of trophy hunting? Have attitudes toward wildlife changed from the times of trophy hunting?

Human-wildlife conflict

Participants said they’d lost income as a result of the trophy hunting ban. The study did not focus on determining how much or what percentage was lost. Participants said the ban also led to more instances of human-wildlife conflict.

In addition, community members said wild animals were a risk to their livelihoods as they were a danger to livestock and crop production. The 2016 Review of Community Based Natural Resources Management in Botswana, indicated that the top three most important livelihood sources for communities were livestock, social welfare and crops. This can undermine conservation efforts, especially if the benefits of co-existing with wildlife are minimal.

Another finding was that both communities were outraged that they weren’t consulted on the trophy hunting ban in 2014. One of the participants, a business owner, said:

Aah, I don’t know I just heard them saying it will be the last hunting season and they didn’t explain why.

Another participant, former hunting employee, reiterated the business owner’s sentiments:

What I remember is them informing us that hunting is being stopped. As for asking for our opinions, I don’t remember them coming to do that.

The results of the study also showed that the two communities experienced the benefits of trophy hunting differently. Community tourism benefits from trophy hunting are more pronounced in smaller communities.

In Sankuyo community members, former hunting employees and small business operators all said that they benefited through employment contribution, the sale of meat, as well as financial contribution to community development. But in Mmadinare, the larger community, the members felt they didn’t benefit that much from trophy hunting. Although some former hunting employees did mention benefits such as sale of meat, employment and skills development.

The study found that both communities experienced challenges as a result of the ban on trophy hunting. The participants decry an increase in the number of wildlife in the areas and expressed that this has led to an escalation of human-wildlife conflict. This conflict involve mostly elephants, kudus, antelopes and buffaloes which invaded people’s farms.

A former hunting employee in Sankuyo said:

In the past because of trophy hunting it was not easy to see animals around. Nowadays, they are everywhere, sometimes we see them in our yards.

The result was that almost half of the participants (47.8%) of in both communities expressed that their attitudes were negative towards wildlife as a result of escalation in such conflicts. This puts the sustainability of wildlife resources in jeopardy.

Last year Botswana’s parliament passed a motion to lift a ban on elephant hunting, which had been in place since 2014. This will only allow the hunting of elephants and hunting licenses were auctioned in February 2020 as elephants were seen as the main contributors to animal and conflicts with in certain areas.

Our research supports this, and further recommends the lifting of the ban on the remaining animals listed under the ban. This can help to alleviate challenges experienced by households in communities like Sankuyo, where trophy hunting was a key source of income. The lifting of the ban will also reverse the negative attitudes within communities that threaten conservation efforts.

(TheConversation)





Neveu: Aubameyang treats all the Gabon players as friends

Patrice Neveu is one of the most experienced coaches in world football. Thirty-one years ago, the Frenchman embarked on a coaching career that has had some incredible twists and turns. He was in charge at Chinese club Zhuhai Anping when SARS hit the country in 2003; he was at the helm of the Haitian national team during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, when he had to quarantine at a hotel for several days; and he is currently living through the COVID-19 pandemic in the Gabonese capital Libreville.

While most French expats living in Gabon opted to be flown home, Neveu decided to stay in Libreville, refusing to return to France. In an interview with fifa.com, he said: "It makes sense to stay in the country where I work as a coach, so that I can be close to the football federation and officials there. I also need to remain close to the Gabonese people and local players so that we can maintain our group spirit."

"In order to improve results and raise the level of any football team, you must have a strong group ethos. For that reason, I thought it wasn't a good idea to return to France during the difficult period that Gabon and the whole world are going through because of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Asked about the natural disasters and viruses that he has survived during his coaching career, Neveu said: "When Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti, I tried to show perseverance and courage in front of the players to maintain good morale among the squad, especially since I was coach of the national team."

"Although I realised the gravity of each of these situations, I have never been confused about my obligations. In China, the situation was very serious, but perhaps the nature of my work allows me to face these difficult situations as would a ship's captain."

After the pandemic brought the game to a halt worldwide, football has been gradually returning in recent months. The African qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ and the CAF Africa Cup of Nations Cameroon 2022 are set to resume in a few months' time. As always, the qualifying games will showcase some fierce rivalries between national teams, as well as the much-anticipated duel between Egyptian megastar Mohamed Salah and Gabon's own Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Asked about his team's specific goals, Neveu said: "Our first target is to make the 2022 AFCON in Cameroon. Everyone in Gabon was disappointed to miss out on the most recent edition of the tournament, so a return is a must for us."

Les Pantheres have been drawn in a group that features Egypt, Libya and Angola. "Egypt are favourites in this section because they're more experienced and have high-quality players such as Mohamed Salah," said Neveu. "However, I think our team can spring a surprise. We have to believe in our ability to finish top of the group and make the play-off round. We are going to have a tough game in Egypt, but we can get a positive result there."

"We have some top-level

players too, and when we focus on teamwork, we can get good results, despite our squad lacking some strength in depth, both in terms of the quantity and quality of our back-up players."

Aubameyang a true leader

When football fans think of Gabon, Arsenal's star Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang immediately comes to mind. So how important is his role in the national team?

"When I arrived, he was a little hesitant about committing to the national team for many reasons," explained Neveu. "I talked to him and he agreed to stay. He is the captain and a great goalscorer, and he proves this year after year. He does a lot of great things for Arsenal, and so

the people of Gabon expect a lot more from him in the national team. My role is to create the optimal conditions for him to best serve the group."



When football fans think of Gabon, Arsenal's star Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang immediately comes to mind. So how important is his role in the national team?

"He's a superstar, but when he joins up with the national team, he treats everyone as his

friends. I won't deny that he has stipulated some requirements for the national team, especially at an organisational level. I hope he can do for us what he does for Arsenal and help us in the upcoming Africa Cup and World Cup qualifiers. As a coach, I'm very happy to work with a great player like him."

Patrice Neveu is one very few coaches to have worked in 11 different countries. He loves to travel and undertake new adventures and has coached in France, Niger, Morocco, Tunisia, China PR, Guinea, Egypt, Congo DR, Mauritania, Haiti and Gabon since starting out during the 1989/90 season.

(Cafonline.)





Mauritius hoping for rosy future

Exactly 20 years ago, in August 2000, Mauritius occupied 116th place in the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking. Aside from the 112th spot they were assigned when the ranking was introduced in 1992, it remains the high-water mark in the islanders’ footballing history. To hit those heights, they notably drew with teams of the calibre of Gabon and South Africa and defeated Angola during qualifying for the 2000 CAF Africa Cup of Nations. At that time, their talisman was Jimmy Cundasamy, an amateur player whose club career never took him beyond Mauritius and Reunion. Despite that, Cundasamy and his team-mates in that Dodos side still command respect today. “On our island, the only teams

we all know about are that golden generation, as well as the one that qualified for the 1974 Africa Cup. They brought glory to our country, and every Mauritian interested in football knows a bit about their epic feats,” the international defender Lindsay Rose tells FIFA.com. “They’ve written pages in our history, but there’s still a little room for us to write some of our own.” While Cundasamy is a veritable Mauritian legend, in part due to his being the most capped player in the team’s history, Rose is not that far behind. Despite what he himself calls ‘a small number’ of international appearances (five), the former Lyon defender unquestionably has the most impressive CV

of any Mauritian player. He is still the only professional from his country to participate in a European club competition – the UEFA Europa League – and to be playing in a top-flight league in the Old Continent – that of Greece. For all that, the Aris Thessaloniki central defender is modest about his achievements: “I consider myself at best one of the leaders in the national team” he says. “There’s no place for stars in this team, we’re on an equal footing. We’re all footballers who share a love for the game and their nation, and whose qualities complement each other.” Indeed, qualities are something Rose has in abundance. As well as his extensive European experience, whether in the

French Ligue 1 or Greece, this rugged 1.84m centre-back is both versatile – he scored three goals last season – and dependable, having recently broken the Greek record for the most consecutive games (44). “I’m very happy in Greece and I particularly appreciate the passion of the fans here. When you sweat blood for the jersey, they show their appreciation in return. Here you’re not only judged on your playing stats but also on your effort, your commitment and your human qualities,” explains Rose. “What is more, the results are there to see in a high-level championship. We qualified for the Europa League for the second year in a row. So, it’s very satisfying.” Despite some encouraging

signs, Mauritius have not been able to take full advantage of the current good form of their star player. Les Dodos were eliminated from the qualifying races for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations and the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ by Sao Tome and Principe (5-2 on aggregate) and Mozambique (3-0 on aggregate) respectively. “It’s not all negative, far from it. There’s quality in this team and coming to Mauritius is proving to be a tough task for our opponents. There’s a real foundation of work here,” insists Rose. “I’ve only been with the national team for two and a half years, but I sense genuine progress. There’s a desire to do well, and significant efforts have been made by the federation to promote the development of football on the island and the progress of the national team. I’m confident about the future.” Moreover, a national technical director in the form of South African Zunaid Mall and a new coach – the Franco-Algerian Boualem Mankour – were appointed in February 2020. “We have to look to the future and the future is young people. We’re going to prepare for the next two years,” the coach said on taking up the role. Rose shares the coach’s sentiments: “Emulating our predecessors’ achievements is something I see as possible in the future, but we are going to have to be patient. We’re in the process of rebuilding,” he says before concluding. “We need to give ourselves a little time.” (Fifa.com)



Three-star Zamalek claim Cairo Derby victory

Zamalek produced what might be their best league performance this season to defeat arch rivals Al Ahly 3-1 in Match Day 21 of the 2019-20 Egyptian Premier League at Cairo International Stadium on Saturday (22 August 2020). The famous “Cairo Derby” ended in white prevalence, as The White Knights emerged victorious over their bitterest rivals. Zamalek raised their tally to 42 points, fourteen shy of league leaders Al Ahly who had their first defeat of the season. Ahmed “Zizo” Sayed broke the deadlock for Zamalek after 13 minutes, connecting well to Moroccan Achraf Bencharki’s cross from the left side. Al Ahly missed a handful of chances in the opening half, the nearest of which being Senegalese Aliou

Badji’s header that kissed the post. Both sides went to the break with Zamalek leading 1-0. The Red Devils found the equalizer two minutes after the hour mark through defender Yasser Ibrahim, who made use of a scramble inside Zamalek’s area following a corner. But it was soon 2-1 in the favor of the hosts when Mostafa Mohamed brilliantly controlled Hazem Emam’s cross and scored to give Zamalek the lead again. Despite Ahly’s numerous efforts to find the equalizer, youngster substitute Ossama Faisal put the game beyond their reach when he scored three minutes into injury time, finishing a swift counter attack by tapping the ball into Mohamed El Shennawy’s net. (Cafonline).

Sogore - Malian Eagle in the skies of Burgundy



Couloumba Sogore has made history by becoming the first player from AS Real, a club in the Malian First Division to play in France. After almost a whole year of trials with the Burgundy-based AJ Auxerre, the month of July in 2020 marked a decisive turning point for the career of the versatile defender as she signed her first professional contract, a two-year deal.

The 23-year old was an integral figure for Les Aiglones during the last Total Women's Africa Cup of Nations (AWCON) in 2018 and she took full advantage of the stage to place herself on top of the game and eventually earn a deal abroad.

"I am very happy to sign this first professional contract, especially with AJ Auxerre, where I joined a year and a half ago. This

contract is a massive challenge for me and I will have to double my efforts every day to be up to the task," Sogore told CAFOnline. com from her France base.

Sogore speaks fondly about her humble beginnings from the Malian capital of Bamako. But, it is in Kangaba, in the heart of Mande, a city located 50-km from the Guinean border that everything began for the Malian international.

"I started playing when I was very young, barefoot with my brothers. I had a lot of difficulty playing football because my parents were against it, arguing that it was not an activity for women. Despite their refusal, I hid to go and play and eventually, I had the chance to train at the famous AS Réal club in Bamako," she explains. Having done well

to develop back at home in Mali, Sogore landed on the opportunity to move to France.

"With a bit of experience under my belt, I was motivated to try another challenge. I was motivated to leave my country, my roots and my family to come and seek a development that would allow me to become better," says the defender.

She adds: "Football is my whole life and I will do everything in my power to get better."

Her national team career began way back in 2013 and has been progressing day by day, highlighted by her performance at the AWCON in Ghana two years ago. Sogore proved herself with her club AS Real, finishing second twice in the Malian League and twice being a finalist of the National Cup. Her national team doors opened up in 2016 when she was called up to the AWCON squad for the final tournament in Cameroon and she maintained her status in 2018 when she played all five matches in Ghana.

She has also gone on to participate in WAFU tournaments as well as Olympic qualifiers. She has found her place in the national team and for her, she is just getting started and does not intend to stop there.

With her French club, Sogore hopes to play a vital role to aid them progress one step closer to their ambition of playing in the top flight. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic having reshaped how they prepare for the new season, the Malian's eyes remain fixed on her targets and ambitions, saying she is now stronger than ever to perform well.

"The lockdown was very tough for me especially at the start when I could not train regularly. However, I was able to keep fit thanks to the exercises that our physical trainer gave us."

"The preparation for the new season is going very well and we are working very hard to have a good season and get promoted at the end of the season."

The Malian says she is enjoying her French adventure and feels

her career is on the right path.

"This is a great opportunity at this point of my career. The lifestyle here is incredible and the football is amazing. The fans always turn up to support the team and I feel at ease here," she states.

She believes that performing well with her French club will in turn help her improve at national team level as well where she hopes she can help the team do well at the next Women's Africa Cup of Nations having finished fourth at the last edition in Ghana.

"This is a new and higher step for me, but the hard work begins now. It is up to me to give my all and with determination and ambition, I know I will do well," she concluded.

(Cafonline).



"I am very happy to sign this first professional contract, especially with AJ Auxerre, where I joined a year and a half ago. This contract is a massive challenge for me and I will have to double my efforts every day to be up to the task," Sogore told CAFOnline