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THE AFRICAN STORY



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## AFRICA COVID-19 INFECTIONS ON THE DECLINE

- Transmission rate has for the past two months been on a downward trend
- WHO attributes this a mix of socio-ecological factors

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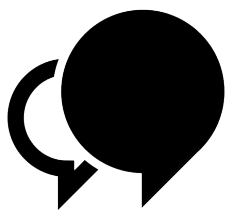
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# Africa Covid-19 Infections On The Decline

The downward trend of Covid-19 transmission continues across the Africa region and is attributed to robust public health measures taken by individual governments in the continent as well as socio-ecological factors.

As of Saturday October 3, the World Health Organisation (WHO) Covid-19 figures in Africa were at 1187 689 cases, and 24 464 deaths in 47 African countries. The World Health governing body has indicated that transmission has since July been on the decline contrary to initially fears that it will spiral out of control and overwhelming the already weak health systems in most African countries.

According to the WHO Covid-19 situation report published on September 30, thirty-one countries recorded a decrease in new cases compared to 29 countries in the previous period ended September 23. Eighteen of them registering a decrease of more than 20%.

This trend has seen some of the most affected countries

have seen steady declines every week for the past two months and these include South Africa, Algeria, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Madagascar and Ethiopia.

This pattern in decline is largely attributed to a mix of socio-ecological factors such as low population density and mobility, hot and humid climate and the lower age group. The health body in Africa has warned that the decline should not in any way mean the war against the pandemic has been won.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti has said the trend is a positive development for the continent that speaks to the robust and decisive public health measures taken by governments across the region, she has warned against complacency.

"We must not become complacent. Other regions of the world have experienced similar trends only to find that as social

and public health measures are relaxed, cases start ramping up again," she said.

Dr Moeti further indicated that while testing patterns per country remain low, the region's statistics on testing have been useful for policy as they reflect the patterns of infection within a country, and the missed COVID-19 cases are largely because they are asymptomatic. She added that there is no evidence of miscalculation of death figures, which are more difficult to miss statistically.

"Africa has not witnessed an exponential spread of COVID-19 as many initially feared," said Dr Moeti. "But the slower spread of infection in the region means we expect the pandemic to continue to smoulder for some time, with occasional flare-ups."

The statistics for the decreasing trends in Covid-19 transmission in Africa as of September 30 shows the decline as follows Cameroon (62%), Gambia (61%), Equatorial Guinea (44%), Chad (44%), South Sudan (43%),

Zambia (43%), Comoros (39%), Senegal (30%), Benin (29%), Madagascar (28%), Burkina Faso (26%), Guinea-Bissau (25%), Namibia (25%), Liberia (22%), Niger (22%), Algeria (22%), Mali (21%) and South Africa (21%).

However, there are some countries that experienced during this reporting period from September 23 reported an increase in case-counts; Burundi (700%), Mauritius (600%), Botswana (482%), Sao Tome and Principe (200%), Lesotho (178%), Seychelles (100%), Côte d'Ivoire (51%), Cabo Verde (30%), Kenya (27%), Congo (18%), Ghana (3%), Eritrea (3%), Mozambique (3%), and Mauritania (1%). Angola and Sierra Leone did not record any significant change in their case incidence.

Another worrying trend is that Health worker infections continue to increase gradually with 43 514 (3.7%) infections reported in 43 countries since the beginning of the outbreak.

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## AFRICAN SPORTS BRIEFS

### ZAMBIA'S FORMER FINANCE MINISTER SAYS 2021 NATIONAL BUDGET LIKELY TO INCREASE THE COUNTRY'S DEBT

Zambia's Former Finance Minister Situmbeko Musokotwane says the country's 2021 National Budget is likely to further increase the country's debt levels.

Speaking when he featured on Phoenix FM's Let the People Programme, Dr Musokotwane says the revenue that government is collecting is inadequate to pay salaries for public workers, finance public projects and repay debt, a situation he says will lead to more borrowing.

Dr. Musokotwane has further stated that some debts will also be paid by borrowed money because more than 40 percent of the 2021 budget will be financed by borrowed money which he says will ultimately increase the country's debt levels.

Meanwhile, Dr. Musokotwane says the current economic crisis is a direct consequence of the over borrowing by government and not the impact of covid-19.

Dr Musokotwane has indicated that contrary to assertions by some sections of society that Covid-19 has led to the current economic crisis, the major cause of the current situation is debt servicing.

Finance Minister Dr. Bwalya Ng'andu last Friday unveiled a K119.6 Billion 2021 national with more than K27 Billion of the amount due to be spent on servicing Zambia's external debt.

(Phoenix News)

### LATEST GLOBAL REPORT ON TOBACCO REVEALS INCREASE IN TOBACCO CONSUMPTION AMONG ZAMBIAN YOUTHS

The latest 2020 Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index report has revealed an increase in tobacco consumption among the youth thereby contributing to over Seven Thousand number of tobacco related deaths in Zambia.

Speaking during the launch of the report in Lusaka on Monday this week, Tobacco Free Association of Zambia Executive Director Brenda Chitindi says this trend shows the reluctance by the Zambian government to domesticate the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Implementation.

Chitindi has since stressed on the need for government to expedite the enactment of the 2018 Tobacco Products and Nicotine Products Control Bill.

She has also highlighted the importance of adopting a code of conduct for all public officials to guide them when dealing with tobacco industry and limit their interactions.

(Phoenix News)



## African island states launch joint medicines procurement initiative

Ministers of Health from seven small African island states today signed an agreement to jointly procure drugs and vaccines in a bid to improve quality and access to medicines and other health products.

The ministers from Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome & Principe and Seychelles that form the Small Island Developing States signed the Pooled Procurement agreement

to take advantage of economies of scale and collective bargaining. High cost of drugs and medical supplies is one of the major challenges the small island states face due to their modest populations.

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Gebreyesus, and WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, joined the ministers in the virtual signing ceremony. Dr Tedros

congratulated the ministers for this important step forward and pledged continued support from WHO to help the countries in implementing the agreement.

Dr Moeti noted that the efforts made so far in establishing the joint procurement programme had already increased the attractiveness of the pharmaceutical market of the Small Island Developing States.

"By creating a larger stream of demand, we can look forward to better access to quality and competitively-priced medicines. The high cost of medicines is one of the major barriers many countries in our region face in providing affordable health care of good standard. Pooling our resources is one way of overcoming this challenge," said Dr Moeti.

The agreement inked today formalizes the objective of the Pooled Procurement Programme - to coordinate the procurement of selected medicines and health products affordably and improve product quality. It also sets the guiding principles and governance structure, including the creation of a secretariat, technical committees and a council of ministers.

As the African region faces the double burden of communicable

and noncommunicable diseases, it is essential that countries have systems in place for the timely procurement of supplies at a reasonable cost and in sufficient quantities to address treatment needs and efficiently complement important investments in health promotion.

For the small island states, the pooled procurement of drugs is also expected to harmonize medicines management systems, improve supplier performance and reduce procurement work load. Joint procurement is the ultimate model of intercountry collaboration aimed at improving procurement efficiency.

Plans to set up the joint procurement initiative began in 2017 in Seychelles during a meeting of health ministers from five Small Island Developing States who expressed commitment to implement the programme, particularly for medicines for noncommunicable diseases. Guinea-Bissau and Madagascar joined later.

"We must admit that it has been a long and tedious effort, and I commend the contributions of past and present Ministers and their teams for the dedication in creating an enabling environment for this mechanism to be launched," Dr Moeti said.



# WHO 'outraged' by sex abuse reports in Congo Ebola operation



The World Health Organization (WHO) promised an investigation on last week into "horrific" allegations of sexual abuse by aid workers combating an Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo.

"To be very clear, we are outraged to read these reports," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual news briefing in Geneva, promising punishment for perpetrators.

"We will not tolerate behaviour like this from our staff, contractors or partners."

The Thomson Reuters Foundation reported on Tuesday that more than 50 women had accused aid workers from the WHO and leading charities of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Anyone found involved would face serious consequences including immediate dismissal, Tedros added.

"I have initiated an investigation of the specific allegations, as well as broader protection issues in health emergency response settings. WHO has a zero-tolerance policy with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse."

An investigation by the Thomson Reuters Foundation and the New Humanitarian cited interviews with 51 women - many of whose accounts were backed up by aid agency drivers and local charity workers - in which they recounted multiple incidents of abuse. Most were carried out by men who said they were international workers, during the 2018-2020 Ebola crisis, the women said.

"These allegations are horrific... Both the director general and myself have spent significant time in the field. I feel terrible to hear these stories," added Mike Ryan, the WHO's top emergencies expert.

In June, Congo's government announced the end of the two-year outbreak that killed more than 2,200 people - the second-largest Ebola outbreak since the virus was identified in 1976 - just as a genetically distinct version flared up elsewhere in the country. That outbreak has infected 124 people and killed 50. Reuters.

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Letsibogo	0.30% - 0.85%	0.30% - 0.85%	0
Tlamele mortgage savings	1.50%	1.50%	250
Lerako savings	1.00% - 2.75%	1.00% - 2.75%	25000
Paid up deposit	1.10%	1.10%	200
Subscription deposit	1.75%	1.75%	200
Fixed term deposit	0.75%-3.85%	0.75% -3.85%	1000
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# LEA Continues To Support Smmes

in and around Masunga. The business also benefits from other LEA services that include among others business advisory, coaching & on-site monitoring as well as mentoring services. Currently the business has

five full time employees, and engages temporary workers during peak periods. "LEA enhanced my entrepreneurship skills and assisted me to formalise my bakery business. In addition,

LEA assisted me to get funding to develop my business and to compile a tender document to supply bread to Government institutions. I encourage other businesses to work with LEA as that will help them to grow and ultimately improve their entrepreneurship skills." said Mrs Nalebomo.



**Contact number:**  
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*ARTICLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY LEA*

Tha-Di Holdings Bakery (Pty) LTD is a LEA assisted enterprise based in Masunga. Directed by Mrs. Dianah Nalebomo, the business specializes in all types of bread and confectionery products including scones, cakes, loaves, buns and muffins. Mrs Nalebomo registered with LEA in 2018, and was assisted to develop a business plan and access CEDA funding to start the project. LEA went ahead to handhold Tha-Di Holdings Bakery to source

relevant machinery and start operations. LEA also trained the bakery employees on Records Keeping and Entrepreneurship Development. In addition, the organization facilitated a three-months training programme on Bakery and Confectionery, which further equipped the business owner's baking skills. Furthermore, LEA facilitated Tha-Di Holdings products exposure and market linkages to supply Government institutions, schools and the communities

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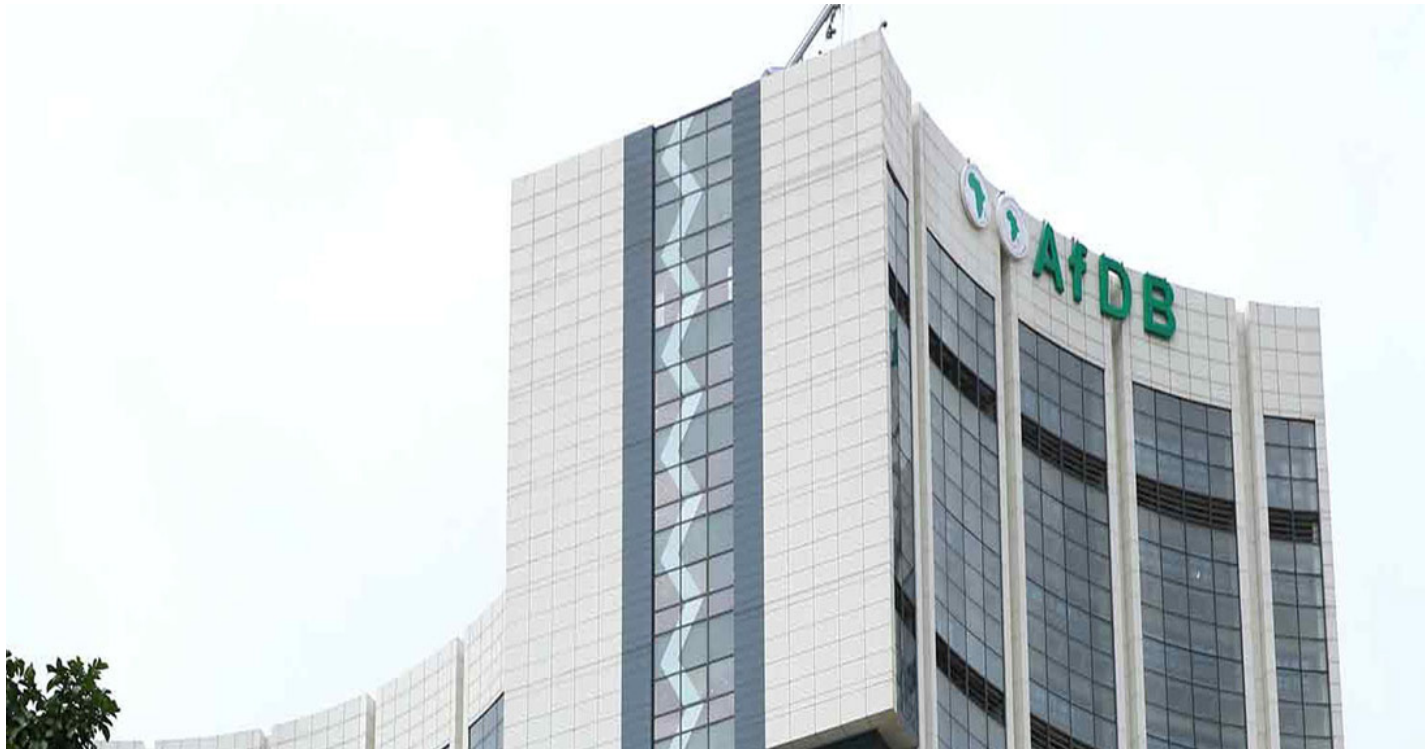
- CEDA assesses recommendation from LEA.
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# African Development Bank wins global award for COVID-19 bond issue

The African Development Bank was selected in a poll of bond market players as the best issuer in 2020 of a COVID-19 bond for its \$3 billion dollar-denominated Fight COVID-19 social bond issued on March 27, 2020.

The winners of the Global Capital Bond Awards 2020 were announced on 30 September at a ceremony held virtually for the first time in 12 years. GlobalCapital is a leading source of information on global capital markets with coverage of all market segments.

“We are grateful for the market’s recognition of the Bank’s effort in responding quickly to the needs of the

continent with its Fight COVID-19 Social Bond which is an important instrument in alleviating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on African economies and lives. Thanks to the very strong support received by investors, we were able to provide an efficient response at a very challenging time while also catering to the needs of socially responsible investors looking for impactful investments,” said Ms. Bajabulile Swazi Tshabalala, the Bank’s Senior Vice President and Chief Finance Officer.

The Fight COVID-19 bond, floated on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and significantly oversubscribed, was the world’s

largest social bond at time of issuance. The Bank has since listed the bond on both the London Stock Exchange and Nasdaq. Bond proceeds, with a three-year maturity, will go to alleviate the impact of the pandemic on livelihoods and Africa’s economies.

“The primary debt capital markets’ response to the coronavirus crisis has been resilient and robust. Institutions all over the world from governments and multilateral development banks, to domestic lenders, to companies have raised vital financing to see them through this extraordinary period,” GlobalCapital noted

in its winners’ announcement release.

The bond issue is part of a suite of interventions the Bank has rolled out to strengthen African countries’ responses to the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes a COVID-19 Response Facility of up to \$10 billion to provide flexible and emergency assistance to the Bank’s members to shore up their national budget, economies and livelihoods of their citizens.

“The African Development Bank is proud of the success of its landmark “Fight COVID-19 Social Bond”, launched to help alleviate the impact of the

pandemic on people’s lives and livelihood. This transaction, the largest social bond at the time of issuance, reflects investors’ confidence in the Bank’s Social Bond framework, and its capacity to deliver. We were among the pioneers in the Social Bond market, and would like to thank all our partners, including the arrangers and investors, for their continued trust and support and share this award and success with them,” said Hassatou N’Sele, Treasurer of the Bank.

The Bank is a recognized pioneer in the social bond sphere. In March 2020, it received the Environmental Finance’s 2020 bond of the year award—SSA category—for a successful one billion Norwegian krone (NOK) social bond issued in 2019. It was the first social bond ever launched in the Norwegian market, and the Bank’s first transaction in Norwegian Krone.

In 2018, the Bank was recognized as “Second most impressive social or sustainability bond issuer” at the Global Capital Socially Responsible Investments Awards. Since 2017, the Bank has launched nearly \$5 billion worth of such instruments denominated in US dollars, euros and Norwegian krone.

The Bank is rated AAA by all the major rating agencies. In late 2019, the Board of Governors of the Bank Group approved a 125% increase in the General Capital of the Bank, raising its capital from \$93 billion to \$208 billion, the largest increase in the institution’s history.

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# Doing Business in Africa - Monetizing Technology and the Internet

By Emmanuel Allotey

According to Forbes world's richest report, three individuals in the top five gained their wealth through technology and the internet. In contrast, none of Africa's top 10 richest individuals gained their fortune through technology.

There are many reasons behind

Africa's sluggish participation in technology industry such as poor infrastructure, electricity disruption, political instability and poverty amongst others, however with strengthened effort from all stakeholders, this can be reversed. Technology and the Internet offers the biggest opportunity to become wealthy if monetized effectively.

Africa has the highest mobile penetration in the world as well as the highest data costs of connecting to the internet. The potential to convert mobile users to internet users remains untapped by mobile network operators and other stakeholders. Social media usage accounts for the primary activity on the internet. Revenue from Social

media monetization in other parts of the world is a lucrative source of income and Africans have the potential to replicate that business model and create a source of income for the youth.

There are different ways to monetize a social media account, however this is only possible with participation from other stakeholders such as companies

looking to advertise their goods and services. Majority of Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) do not have an advertising budget and are unwilling to invest in paid digital media advertising.

Larger companies with the budget to advertise prefer traditional forms of advertising such as print media and billboards and often underpay small businesses and individuals hoping to make an income from digital advertising.

Financial Technology (Fintech), is on the rise in Africa and are disrupting the conventional banking models, using technology to make financial services faster, easier, and more accessible. Africa is home to more than 400 fintech firms enabling payments, funds transfer, lending, and even wealth management. Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa are the top fintech hubs on the continent, accounting for the larger proportion of fintech firms and attracting the lion share of investments. Governments and private sector companies are investing in fintech start-up's creating the opportunity for innovative individuals to generate an income.

All signs show that the future is bright despite some significant hurdles and challenges. Individuals and companies can monetize their websites or social media pages through; Pay Per Click Advertising with Google AdSense, Selling Ad Space, Affiliate Marketing, Sponsored Content, Membership Websites. Consult a digital advertising expert to explore your options.



## Impact of COVID-19 on the Insurance industry – rise in Policy Lapses

By Emmanuel Allotey

The effects of COVID-19 has been felt across the various sectors of

the economy. Economists have predicted substantial job losses and business closures because of the Covid-19 lockdown on the

economy. Studies have shown that when individuals are facing financial difficulties there is a tendency to neglect the payment

of perceived minor obligations such as Insurance premiums.

Despite this tendency individuals need to be aware of the severe consequences to letting an insurance policy lapse. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated financial difficulties leading to an increase in insurance policy lapses. This trend may continue until the economy starts to recover.

An Insurance Policy lapse is deemed to have occurred when all benefits to the policy holder cease and is terminated due to non-payment of premium amount on the due date or even after the grace period. A grace period is a defined amount of time after the premium is due in which a policyholder can make a premium payment without coverage lapsing. The insurance grace period can vary depending on the insurer and policy type. It is important to note that if anything happens to the insured during the grace period the nominee would be eligible for the benefits.

A Lapsed Policy is where individuals no longer enjoy coverage from their respective Insurance policies due to lack of payment of premiums. When a policy lapses, it usually occurs because individuals fail to act

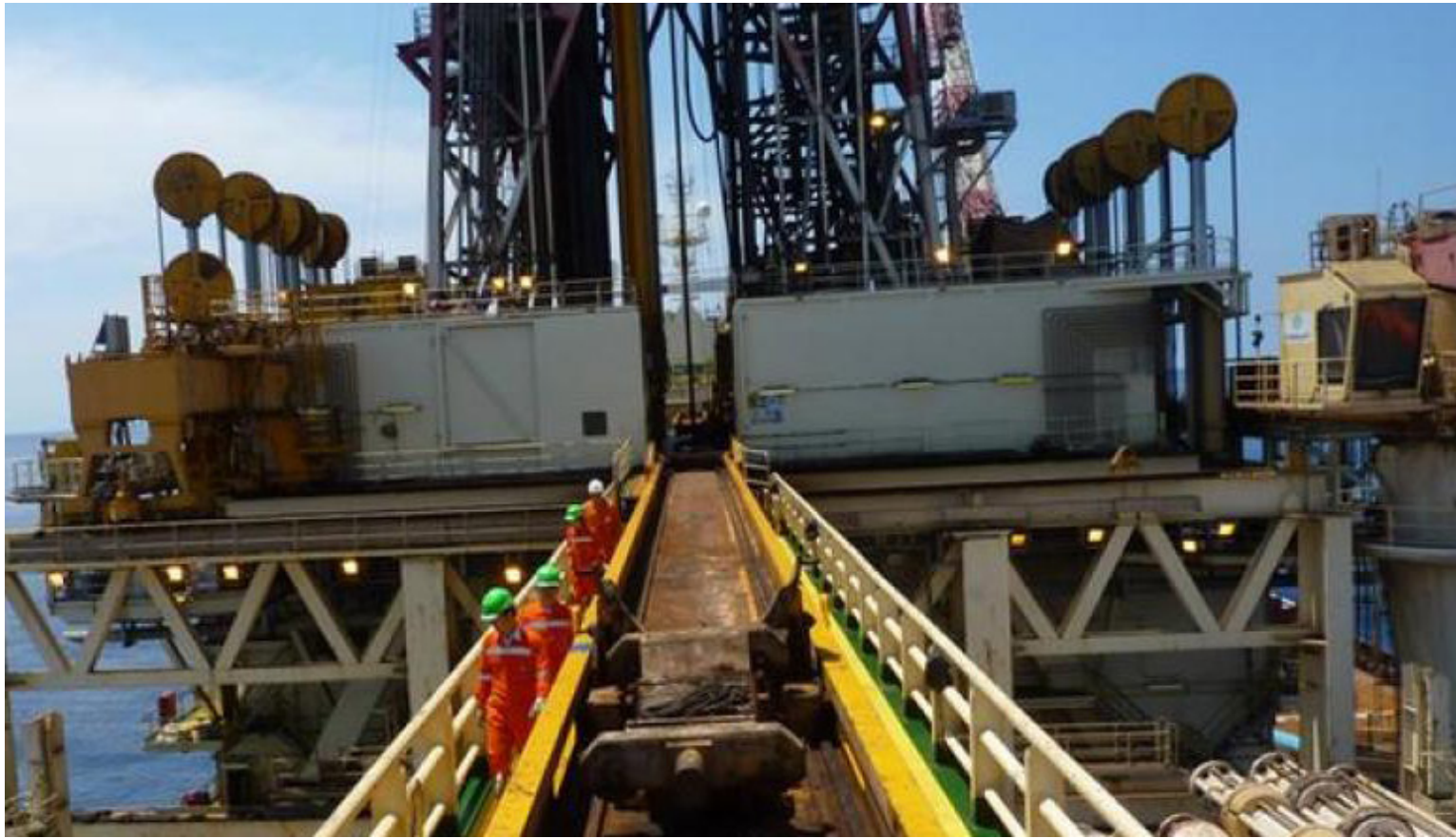
on its obligations, or one of the terms on the policy is breached; an insurance policy will lapse if the holder does not pay the premiums.

Most insurance policies offer a revival or reinstatement feature in their terms and conditions. Reinstatement in the insurance industry means a person's previously terminated policy can resume if the already insured individual meets the specific requirements for reinstatement. There is a process that needs to be followed for reinstatement of an insurance plan.

Firstly, the insured individual will have to submit proof of continued insurability, these documents vary from insurer to insurer and also depending on the time elapsed. Secondly, the insured individual will have to pay all the due premiums along with the reinstatement charges prescribed at the time of payment.

There are advantages and disadvantages to reinstating an insurance policy when it lapses. Contact your nearest Insurance provider to explore policies that are affordable and come with the reinstatement feature.





# South Africa pledges support for Mozambique gas projects

South Africa has reiterated its commitment to support the Mozambique government in developing its emerging gas market.

“As we all know, Mozambique’s new growth opportunity is anchored on the large natural

gas reserves and the associate liquefied natural gas project in the Cabo Delgado province,” Trade, Industry and Competition Deputy Minister, Nomalungelo Gina, said during a South Africa and Mozambique virtual trade and investment seminar entitled,

Developing Afrocentric Solutions and Forging Partnership in Response to Covid-19’ theme..

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) is also ramping up investment in an infrastructure project in Mozambique particularly in

the energy sector. The South African public and private sectors are actively involved in supporting the country in this “very important venture” through the \$120m investment by the bank, Gina told delegates.

Meanwhile, Standard Bank

is one of the leading financial services providers involved in the financing of up to \$485m and \$900m ECIC guarantee.

“Similarly, Rand Merchant Bank provided the largest funding commitment by an African bank.”

Also, DBSA is assisting ENH, a Mozambican government-owned holding company responsible for the research, exploration, production, refining, transportation, storage, and marketing of hydrocarbons and its derivatives, to develop at length to monetise its natural gas and to become a hub for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

“We reiterate our commitment to assist the government and people of Mozambique to leverage the opportunity to capitalise in this mega project and advance a ‘made in Mozambique, made in Africa’ agenda to increase the supply of locally made goods and services into these projects,” Gina said.

Gina said these investments are crucial as countries battle with the aftermath of Covid-19.

“This is one area that we’ve all seen the need to make sure that we produce locally, we have our mega projects locally, so that we don’t depend on other countries to make sure that we survive as countries.

“I believe as African countries this is one opportunity we can grab with both hands,” she added. (Bizcommunity.)



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# Digital democracy is still a long way off in Africa

From the mid-2000s onwards, the digital revolution raised hopes of democratic transformation and strengthening in Africa. But it hasn't quite turned out like that. Now, almost a decade after the "Arab Spring", techno-optimism has given way to techno-pessimism.

African leaders have proved able to blunt the transformative potential of smart phones through censorship and internet shutdowns. When the internet is on, social media attracts more attention for spreading fake news than preventing election rigging.

What was once thought of as "liberation technology" has turned out to be remarkably compatible with the maintenance of the status quo. Or has it? Does this more pessimistic reading overlook genuine progress?

A new publication I co-edited with Lisa Garbe - *Decoding #DigitalDemocracy in Africa* - draws together the latest research on the extent to which digital technology has changed Africa ... and the ways in which Africa is changing digital technology.

A lot of recent analysis has focused on the digital divide in Africa, and the many people excluded from online access by poverty and lack of coverage.

Yet researchers have also found that closing this divide cannot be achieved by cheaper technology alone. Using digital technology to access information and resources is only possible when a set of political, legal, and economic conditions are in place.

Facebook and other tech

giants are more concerned with growing user numbers than addressing social ills caused by their technology.

For example, the content that citizens can access increasingly depends on giant tech companies, especially for poorer citizens. In his contribution on Facebook's Free Basics - a service that provides basic online services without data charges - Toussaint Nothias explains that tech corporations' dominant position enables them to shape how individuals use the internet under the pretence of making it more affordable.

This raises tough questions about whether multinational companies engage ethically in Africa. As Julie Owono's contribution points out, Facebook has been accused of "dumping" products such as Free Basics, stymieing the production of local alternatives. This has raised concerns of a fresh "scramble for Africa", with multinational companies expending more energy and resources in securing new users than tackling hate speech and misinformation.

It is important not to lose sight of this more positive impact amid the growing focus on fake news and hate speech.

Sadly, though, further problems are on the horizon. Azeb Madebo reveals how the Ethiopian diaspora has fuelled the polarisation between the Oromo community on the one hand, and the Ethiopian government and Ethiopian nationalists on the other.

Not all fake news is believed of course, but when stories play into

widely held fears, prejudices and assumptions, they can exacerbate distrust and encourage a cycle of violence.

It is, therefore, significant that there is relatively little regulation of content moderation. Julie Owono shows that in part this can be attributed to the limited local capacity of content providers such as Facebook or Twitter. Neither has invested heavily in African experts capable of identifying fake news and hate speech circulated on their platforms.

In part, it is also rooted in the limited funding available for civil society groups, considerable linguistic diversity, and the volume of information being shared. As a result, organisations such as Africa Check highlight instances of fake news but cannot hope to cover all harmful content.

There are no easy answers to these problems though, because when governments do try and combat free speech, Ashwantee Budoo finds that misinformation is often abused as an excuse to clamp down on freedom of expression.

While growing internet coverage has enabled citizens to challenge authoritarian rule, non-democratic leaders have also manipulated or disrupted online access. According to Lisa Garbe, internet shutdowns have become the "new normal" in some authoritarian states. This is especially so during politically contested periods such as elections or major protests.

Moreover, while internet shutdowns are important, they are the thin end of the wedge.

A number of steps have been taken to prevent citizens from being able to express themselves online. There is a growing use of spyware across the continent to snoop on government critics.

In Tanzania, restrictive laws about what can be said online go hand in hand with government pressure. A prominent lawyer was recently fired because of her "activism".

Uganda, Benin and several other states have imposed a social media tax that has excluded many users.

Meanwhile, those who can afford internet access still face restrictions on governments information. Thus, Lisa-Marie Selvik argues that digital technology has done little to give many African citizens the right to basic government information.

Some sixteen years on since the creation of Twitter, it is becoming clear what we do and don't know about digital democracy in Africa. We know that digital technology is acting as a disruptive force that

simultaneously has "liberating" and destructive potential.

The continent has yet to develop an effective way to stop the flow of fake news. And the full benefits of digital democracy are being thwarted by digital exclusion that is driven by the high cost of data, the strategies of authoritarian governments, and in some cases the approach of major tech companies themselves.

But, what we don't know is just as important. We urgently need more research in a number of areas.

To what extent has social media exacerbated ethno-regional tensions? How much online content is actually produced by governments and the trolls that work for them? Who should be responsible for content moderation and how can ethno-linguistic diversity be accounted for? What are the political and socio-economy consequences of restricting internet access, and how can this be resisted? Does the finding that how an individual behaves online does not dramatically change their offline political activity in Uganda hold more broadly? And is social media reinforcing existing gender norms rather than challenging them? These questions should inspire the research agendas of the future.

(TheConversation.)



# Young entrepreneur fills medical supply gap in rural Africa

After identifying a need for medical consumables and disposables to difficult-to-deliver regions and rural communities across Africa, 20-year old Tony McPherson launched McPherson Trading, a tender based procurement consultancy to help fill this gap.

Since opening doors in January 2019, the company has serviced countries such as Mali, Malawi, Tanzania, the DRC, Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen, and consigned roughly R30 million worth of stock to date.

Infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis (TB) and HIV have long been some of the world's biggest killers, and according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), African countries still lag far behind the global average in all three.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 93% of malaria-related deaths in the world, while 20.7 million people in East and Southern Africa are living with HIV, with TB accounting for around one in three AIDS-related deaths. Many clinics in rural towns are starved for any sort of medical equipment and supplies needed to treat these diseases.

According to the World Health Body, low-income countries experience poor availability of essential medicines and equipment in health facilities, substandard-quality treatments, frequent stock issues and suboptimal prescription and use of medicines.

"Africa's weak supply system has a lot to do with poor procurement practices, lack of storage facilities for pharmaceutical supplies and products, poor transportation systems and inefficient manufacturing capacity."

"These issues are particularly extreme in hard to reach rural areas, where large corporations do not regularly operate, so they do not possess expertise on the logistical struggles encountered in these regions. We have managed to make a big difference over the last two years in getting supplies to rural clinics and relief programmes in a timely manner, with demand increasing. Covid-19 has definitely played a role in this demand as well" says McPherson.

McPherson Trading specialises in consumables and disposables such as PPE, needles, syringes, intravenous and arterial lines, sutures, saline and distilled water, wound dressings, and single-use medical equipment.

McPherson believes the gap in getting medical supplies to hard-to-reach regions in Africa is nowhere near closed and that it will take a lot of time and financial investment to reach a

consistent level of procurement throughout the continent. He cites obstacles like bad roads with severe potholes and vegetation that make it impossible for delivery trucks to reach their destination. In some landlocked areas, crates of supplies must be delivered with helicopters, which is a costly endeavour.

The young entrepreneur is also the group CEO of McPherson Holdings which includes the running of his late grandfather's international pharmaceutical company, EmOx Oxygen, the manufacturer of the world's

only emergency powder-based oxygen. This officially makes McPherson the youngest CEO of an international pharmaceutical company in the world – a title he was awarded at the ARAB Health Conference held in Dubai last year. He attributes successfully maximising supply-chain and logistics across Africa to receiving invaluable guidance from his father, who has been involved in cross-border logistics since the age of 24.

"I've been fortunate to be surrounded by a long line of businessmen and women from

whom I could learn from, which has really equipped me with the knowledge needed to overcome the immense challenges of making this business work."

McPherson Trading was selected as one of the top 20 SMMEs in South Africa.

His passion and effort in helping to improve and provide quality healthcare to communities across Africa has not gone unnoticed. Within only 11 months of founding McPherson Trading, McPherson won the 2019 NSBC Youth Entrepreneur Champion Award, and the company was placed among the top 20 SMMEs in South Africa. Success has been attained by re-investment of funds into the company, streamlining import/export permit processing with an in-house permit controller

which has helped to drastically decrease delivery times and building an extensive network of service providers.

"What's promising is that many of the programmes running in the areas we service have realised the ease with which they can expand their efforts with a more efficient supply chain in place. The long-term goal for us is expansion, and to eventually open local branches in the communities we serve, so that we can eliminate having to buy internationally. I would also like to become accredited to supply a larger variety of products, supplies and medications," says McPherson.

(Bizcommunity.)

[www.lea.co.bw](http://www.lea.co.bw)



The Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) invites suitable horticultural enterprises or individuals within the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises category for incubation at Glen Valley Horticulture Incubator.

The incubation center provides practical and technical training on different aspects of horticulture enterprise management under protected environment. The center also offers business management interventions for SMMEs to grow and establish themselves as sustainable and commercially viable horticulture enterprises.

The duration of the programme is nine (9) months, and selected individuals will be provided with the following during training:

1. Production units equipped with the latest horticulture technology equipment.
2. Necessary inputs such as seedlings, fertilizers pesticides and spraying equipment as training material.
3. Business coaching services.
4. Technology coaching services

## REQUIREMENTS

1. A letter of intent or motivation on how the candidate intends to utilise the skills acquired.
2. Proof of ownership or access to land with water for irrigation.
3. Successful candidates will be required to under go medical assessment and submit a medical report prior to starting the programme.

Eligible candidates should submit relevant documents to:

Selection Committee  
Gley Valley Horticulture Incubator  
Private Bag X035  
Gaborone Village

Inquiries can be directed to Glen Valley Horticulture Incubator at 318 6309

**Closing Date: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**



Empowering the entrepreneur to start and grow their business



Business Advisory • Training • On-site Coaching • Mentoring • Market Access • Business Incubation • Technology and Innovation Support



YMH Executive Director Dumilopang

# eBotswana

reasons was we wanted to ensure that when we change the name it must be at a time when we have content that we believe the market currently does not benefit from, especially in terms of free to air television.



the development as eBotswana rebrands itself to YTV, YMH

Executive Director Dumilopang announced a competition aimed at developing a new slogan for YTV.

## eBotswana rebrands to YTV

Botswana's first commercial free to air television eBotswana, originally known as GBC was has

rebranded to Ytv. The television station was established in the 60's and was known then as Gaborone

Broadcasting Corporation (GBC), and started broadcasting BBC content. In 2002 eTV bought shares in GBC rebranding the media company to eBotswana.

Yarona Media Holdings (YMH) was later to acquire eBotswana, which is now 100 percent owned by the media group which has interests in radio, print and advertising agencies.

After acquiring the Station, we did not immediately change the name because we continued for a period rebroadcasting content primarily from eTV. One of the



*The competition began on the 29th of September and closes on the 6th of October. The winner stands a chance to win a Blue Melrose decoder valued at P800 on which YTV can be viewed on channel 2.*

The channel presents a variety of entertainment options and has very recently partnered with Mascom to bring the English Premier League to the screens, free to air. As part of

The competition began on the 29th of September and closes on the 6th of October. The winner stands a chance to win a Blue Melrose decoder valued at P800 on which YTV can be viewed on channel 2.

"We are launching an exciting competition to celebrate the change of name of eBotswana to YTV. We do not have a payoff line or a positioning statement as of yet for the channel and our intention is that we want to involve Batswana in this process through a competition where people can email a suggested payoff line that will then go with the channel." Lopang said announcing the competition. The invitation extends to everyone and suggestions should be sent to [marketing@ebotswana.co.bw](mailto:marketing@ebotswana.co.bw).



### WIN WIN WIN!!!!

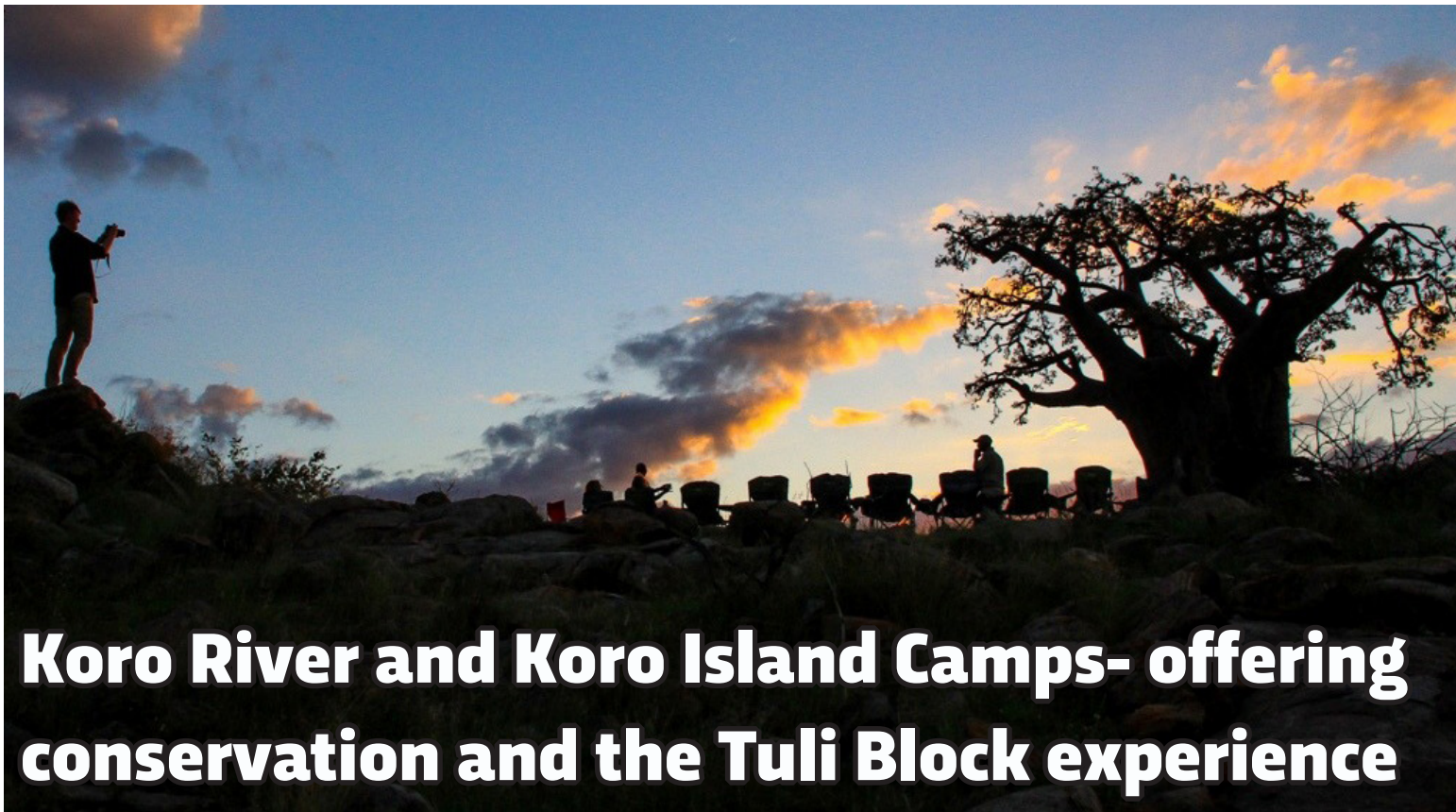
## YTV is looking for a slogan.

Email your slogan entries(max 5 words) with your name and contact details and you could win a Blu Melrose decoder, with the YTV signal tuned in on Channel 2. Now the English Premier league is on YTV(previously eBotswana) for free!!

Contact Tel: (+267) 395 7654 for more details.

Entries: [marketing@ebotswana.co.za](mailto:marketing@ebotswana.co.za)





## Koro River and Koro Island Camps- offering conservation and the Tuli Block experience

In this week's Echo travel we turn our lens to the Botswana's majestic Tuli Block and discuss with Alan McSmith of The Africa

less visited than the bustling tourism hubs of Chobe and the Okavango in the north.

McSmith spoke of the Tuli

Tuli is a mere six-hour drive from Gaborone so we are easily accessible and a 'chauffeured safari' to our tent stop is also available," McSmith said.

Having two camps, Koro River Camp and Koro Island Camp is unique. Koro Island Camp is ideal for adventure with a maximum occupancy of only eight guests. The camp style is reminiscent of the grand days of the classic safaris, a time of Hemingway, a time of grand exploration.

Koro Island Camp is located on a tiny Limpopo Island, accessible only over a suspension bridge. Koro River Camp is built on decks overlooking the Limpopo floodplain with the suites spaced far apart to maintain privacy and isolation.

The outstanding part about the Tuli Block is the natural splendor of the region and as such, McSmith is a devoted conservationist.

"We believe that safari operators are custodians of land, and it our responsibility to ensure more understanding and conservation principles are passed down. The reality in Africa is that the future of game reserves and wildlife depends on the partnerships with the local communities that surround them. In other words, local stakeholders need to understand that wildlife is worth more alive than dead. For this reason we engage heavily with local farmers and neighboring communities to work together to alleviate human wildlife conflict flash-points. We have invested in leopard proof goat paddocks for example." McSmith said regarding his conservation philosophy.

The organisation is investing in an upgrade of some 30 kilometers to keep the elephants and predators out of farmlands and subsequently, create more security awareness of the movement of poachers.

McSmith says that in this way our team intends to foster long term, mutually beneficial partnerships with local stakeholders.

The Africa Experience and the two Koro camps source all their staff from the local communities and offer on-site training and mentoring McSmith said they take pride in this 'home grown' approach.

McSmith is an authority on elephants and their behavior and his game drives often

include walking and stalking game. He also has longer term plans regarding conservation, "One of our long term objectives is to relocate endemic big game species that have disappeared from the Tuli due to historical and indiscriminate hunting and poaching of animals like the rhino and sable.

"Conservation is everything to us. Tourism is one of the most valuable and sustainable streams of foreign revenue that can benefit local communities. Our vision is to develop this understanding through experiential initiatives, whereby local communities have tangible benefit. We employ 20 staff members and doing so well over 100 people indirectly are supported. In the scheme of things we are a small company but we are determined to walk the walk," he said.

Much like the rest of the tourism industry, tourism in Tuli was affected by the halt in international tourism the McSmith remains optimistic "Koro takes pride in being a local, hands on safari operator and it has been a pleasure working with the local markets. I believe the lockdowns have provided the industry with valuable food for thought and to see both the value and importance of viable local travel," said McSmith.



Experience.

The Timbo Afrika Foundation, founded by Albert Hartog in memory of his nephew and supports conservation and research initiatives in Africa, spearheads The Africa Experience and supports visionary conservation initiatives in Tuli. The foundation makes funding available for grassroots projects Alan McSmith is a wilderness guide, tracker, Tedx speaker and conservationist.

The Tuli block is located in Botswana's far eastern corner sandwiched between the borders of Zimbabwe and South Africa, and it's an area of untamed wilderness and

Block with pride and outlined the intended experience of staying at the Koro camps.

"Koro River Camp is an 18-bed luxury tented suite camp on the banks of Limpopo River where time stands still. We go out of our way to cater for your every need. Dinners are on the lounge deck or privately set up at your tent or even in the bush. Game drives are on offer, and for adventurous guests we can walk and track animals too. If you prefer some down time, the camp is perfect for this. Large, decked tents are all private spaces each with an open-air shower and private plunge pool. A six bedded family 'villa' offers ideal getaways for families.

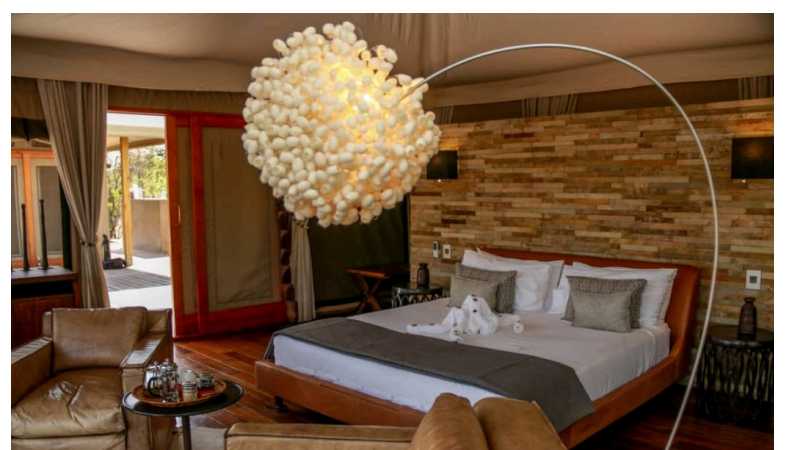


Photo credits : Kim Mcleod Photography (www.cthrume.net)



## Kenya coach Kimanzi recalls 34 players for Zambia friendly

Kenya coach Francis Kimanzi has called up 34 players to camp to start preparations for next month's friendly against Zambia, set to be played at the Moi Sports Centre Kasarani, as part of preparation towards November's Total Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Comoros.

Kenya is to play Zambia on 10 October, and the team is expected to start camping in Nairobi six days before the game.

Kimanzi recalled the

experienced goalkeeper Arnold Origi. The Finland based shot stopper makes a return to the team after a five-year absence, his last involvement with the national team coming against Zambia in 2015.

The tactician has also handed a maiden call to England based left back Clarke Oduor who has been impressive with his club Barnsley FC in the English second tier and scored the goal that assured them of survival last season.

Under-20 midfielder Katana

Mohamed currently based in Belarus has also been handed his first ever senior team call up.

Regular starter in goal Patrick Matasi has however been left out in one of the major exclusions, as well as Spain based midfielder Ismail Gonzalez.

However, for the Zambia friendly, Kimanzi is uncertain whether the star trio of skipper Victor Wanyama (Impact Montreal, Canada), Michael Olunga (Kashiwa Reysol, Japan) and Johannah Omollo

(Cercle Brugge, Belgium) will be released by their clubs due to the current COVID-19 containment measures imposed by the countries they play in.

For the trio, they will need to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine upon return from Kenya and thus their clubs are unsure of releasing them as they are vital members of their squads.

### Full Squad

Goalkeepers: Arnold Origi (HIFK, Finland), Ian Otieno

(Zesco United, Zambia), Timothy Odhiambo (Ulinzi Stars)

Defenders: Brian Mandela (Unattached), Joash Onyango (Simba, Tanzania), Joseph Okumu (Elfsborg, Sweden), Harun Shakava (Nkana, Zambia), Clarke Oduor (Barnsley, England), Hillary Wandera (Tusker), Samuel Olwande (Kariobangi Sharks), David Owino (Mathare United), Johnstone Omurwa (Wazito), Collins Shichenje (AFC Leopards), Andrew Juma (Gor Mahia), Philemon Otieno (Gor Mahia), Badi Baraka (KCB)

Midfielders: Kenneth Muguna (Gor Mahia), Victor Wanyama (Impact Montreal, Canada), Francis Kahata (Simba, Tanzania), Eric Johanna (Jonkoping's Sodra IF, Sweden), Cliff Nyakeya (Masr FC, Egypt), Antony Akumu (Kaiser Chief, South Africa), Johanna Omolo (Cercle Brugge K.S.V, Belgium), Ayub Timbe (Beijing Renhe, China), Brian Musa (Wazito), Lawrence Juma (Gor Mahia), Katana Mohamed (Isloch, Belarus), Austin Otieno (AFC Leopards)

Forwards: Michael Olunga (Kashiwa Reysol, Japan), Elvis Rupia (AFC Leopards), Masud Juma (JS Kabylie, Algeria), Timothy Otieno (NAPSA Stars, Zambia), John Avire (Tanta FC, Egypt), Oscar Wamalwa (Ulinzi Stars)

Reserves: Robert Mboya (Tusker), Stephen Otieno (Sofapaka), Michael Mutinda (KCB), Ibrahim Shambi (Ulinzi Stars) Chrispinus Onyango (Tusker), Benson Omala (Gor Mahia).



## Malawi to have friendlies against Zimbabwe and Zambia

Malawi has lined up friendlies against Zimbabwe and neighboring Zambia next month ahead of Total AFCON Cameroon 2021 qualifiers.

The Flames face Zambia's

Chipolopolo in Lusaka on 7 October 2020, then host The Warriors of Zimbabwe at Kamuzu Stadium four days later, according to the Football Association of Malawi (FAM).

Malawi will use the friendlies to fine-tune for AFCON qualifying matches against Burkina Faso in November. Malawi currently lies third in qualifications Group B that

also comprises Uganda and South Sudan. The Flames beat South Sudan 1-0 and lost 2-0 to Uganda's Cranes.

Malawi FA Chief Executive Officer Alfred Gunda said they

would follow all Covid-19 precautionary measures for the games to be played.

Zambia hosted Malawi in Lusaka last March, with the hosts winning 1-0 at Nkoloma Stadium, courtesy of Collins Sikombe's strike. Malawi's last trip to Harare was in 2016 when the hosts run riot, winning 3-0 with Knowledge Musona, Cuthbert Malajila and Khama Billiat on target.

Malawi started camp training last week amid some setback after two players—defender Hadji Wali and goalkeeper Rabson Chiyenda—tested positive for coronavirus, the FA has confirmed. Wali has since resumed training after completing his quarantine while Chiyenda remains sidelined after testing positive again.

News of tested positive players is a blow to FAM hopes of restarting the 2020 domestic football season which was stopped last March before the first COVID-19 case was registered in the country.



## Pandemic pushes forward new generation of African cyclists

Wearing a bright green helmet, cyclist Andy Costa weaves a dangerous path through trucks barrelling down the streets of Abidjan in the Ivory Coast.

Africa's traffic-clogged cities make it the world's deadliest continent for pedestrians and cyclists, according to the World Health Organisation. Many lack pavements, let alone bike lanes.

That may soon change thanks to a generation of African cycling activists who have been given a boost by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to avoid crowded public transport.

Last month, after 10 years of campaigning, authorities finally told Costa he could help plan bike lanes in part of Abidjan, Ivory Coast's commercial capital.

"They are part of the solution, to make roads more fluid, even for health problems," Jacques Gabriel Ehouo, mayor of the central business district of Plateau, told Reuters after meeting with Costa.

"Cycling can contribute to the fight against COVID-19 because social distancing is naturally respected," he said.

Costa, who wore his helmet throughout the meeting, has big ambitions.

"Our focus was Ivory Coast, but the goal is to make Africa and the continent cyclable," he said.

Lack of infrastructure is not the only problem. Kenya's capital Nairobi began expanding cycle lanes five years ago and is now constructing several through the heart of the business district.

But cars often encroach on the lanes, or authorities do not maintain them, so cycling is still

dangerous, said Cyprine Odada, an organiser for the Nairobi chapter of Critical Mass, a global alliance of cycling organisations that campaigns for better road safety.

Despite being six months pregnant, she and hundreds of others cycled slowly through Nairobi's streets this month to commemorate a friend killed while cycling. Odada is petitioning to Parliament to improve legal protections for cyclists.

COVID-19 might help. The pandemic triggered a surge of

interest in cycling, Odada said, partly because the government ordered public minibuses to leave some seats empty for social distancing. The buses,



"Cycling can contribute to the fight against COVID-19 because social distancing is naturally respected," he said. Costa, who wore his helmet throughout the meeting, has big ambitions. "Our focus was Ivory Coast, but the goal is to make Africa and the continent cyclable," he said.

normally hugely overcrowded, are the only affordable transport for many.

"With COVID we've had a lot of beginners reaching out, people who want to know about how safe it is to cycle in Nairobi," she said.

In Cape Town, cycling activist Lebogang Mokwena used to get a couple of enquiries a week about teaching people to ride. Since the pandemic hit she receives them almost every day.

She has taught around 200 women to ride in the past three years, she said. Some do not have access to bikes, or might belong to cultures where women do not traditionally ride. Many perceive biking as a sport rather than a method of transport, Mokwena said.

"Black women tend not to be cyclists, not because they don't want to, but because they've never had the opportunity to learn," she said. She only learned to cycle at the age of 30 after moving to New York.

Mokwena is Cape Town's "Bicycle Mayor", a designation from the global cycling advocacy group Bycs, who also have "mayors" in Nairobi and Gaborone, Botswana and Kampala, Uganda to build cycling communities and engage with local government.

Ivorian activist Costa says his main aim is to change perceptions that cycling is for the rural poor. His organisation 'MyDream for Africa' makes videos with celebrities such as soccer star Didier Drogba to promote cycling. "The bicycle is the transport of the future," he said.

(Reuters.)



# Al Ahly names Mosimane as new coach



Egyptian giants Al Ahly hired South African Pitso Mosimane as their new coach, the Cairo based club announced on Thursday (1 October 2020).

The eight-time African champions parted ways with

Swiss coach Rene Weiler who took over the club for a little over one year due to organizational reasons, the club mentioned in a statement.

“Mosimane will lead Al Ahly for two seasons. He will bring

with him an assistant coach (Rhulani Mokwena), a fitness trainer (Kabelo Rangoaga), and a tactical analyst (Musi Matlaba). Assistant coach Samy Komsan and Goalkeepers’ coach Michel Iannacone will

keep their positions”, Al Ahly confirmed.

Hiring Mosimane is marked as a historical landmark for Al Ahly, as the South African becomes the first non-Egyptian African coach to lead the club

in its 113 years’ history.

Mosimane (56) started his coaching career in 2001. He had spells with Supersport United and South Africa national team, before taking on Mamelodi Sundowns job in 2012. He led The Brazilians to five titles in South African Premier League, two Nedbank Cup titles and two more in Telkom Cup. He also guided Sundowns to their maiden CAF Champions League glory in 2016, adding the CAF Super Cup title a year later. He was named CAF Coach of the Year in 2016.

His first mission will be guiding The Red Devils in this season’s Total CAF Champions League semifinal against Morocco’s Wydad Casablanca. Ironically, he is making a return to the continent’s premier club competition after losing the quarterfinals with Sundowns to none but Al Ahly themselves.



**//**  
*Mosimane (56) started his coaching career in 2001. He had spells with Supersport United and South Africa national team, before taking on Mamelodi Sundowns job in 2012. He led The Brazilians to five titles in South African Premier League, two Nedbank Cup titles and two more in Telkom Cup.*