

The Voice



www.thevoicenewsmagazine.com

First complete African magazine published in The Netherlands since August 1999



No Corona vaccine test on Africans

Didier Drogba



World Anxiety: Corona Virus shut down the world

Samuel Eto'o



**WE SHIP ALL YOUR GOODS TO ALL PARTS OF AFRICA,
FOR EXAMPLE:**

- | | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|
| ■ Cars | ■ Containers | ■ Trucks |
| ■ Buses | ■ Groupage | ■ Containers |
| ■ Trucks | ■ Buses | ■ Groupage |

21W0131W01

Specialists in Ghana, Nigeria and all other parts in West Africa. Air freight can be done if needed. We also assist you to arrange your clearing in Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. Payments can be done here in our head office or at our various destinations in Ghana, Nigeria and Douala-Cameroon.

Sailings are on every 10 days

We are ever ready to arrange for all your shipment world wide All Rounding Shipping, Shipment to all Destinations.

Contact Address:
ALL ROUND SHIPPING B.V.
Verrijn Stuartweg 95 - 1112 AW Diemen
Phone: +31 20 690 7037 - Fax: +31 20 699 0315
E-mail: info@allroundshipping.nl
Website: www.allroundshipping.nl
Banker: Rabobank 110092023

A.F.P.

African Food Products™



**Authentic
African food.**



The Voice magazine

The Voice magazine is editorially independent although we enjoy the support of our readers, subscribers, advertisers, non-governmental organizations and individuals of like minds; however the magazine publishers are in no way affiliated to any of these bodies or to any other publishing institution or political interest or group. The Voice magazine strives to foster awareness among the African audience and bridge the widening gap between Africans and the rest of the world in news gathering and dissemination. The Voice is published digitally online except on demand, we print hard copy. If you want to receive a copy, send us your email address.

On the Editorial board are Pastor Amb. Elvis Iruh, Jonathan Mgbajume, Sandra Iruh-Monsels, and Henry Oduenyi
READ THE VOICE ON LINE AT
www.thevoicenewsmagazine.com

Our Affiliate partner:

www.thenigerianvoice.com

Registration NO: (Kvk. Nr. 34.110.928)

TAX (BTW) NO: NL806215809B01

ISSN: 1571-3466 (For Print edition)

ISSN: 2588-8807 (For Digital edition)

For payments, use these bank details:

Stichting Paddi Europa

SNS Bank Account No:

NL29SNSB0908374372

Swift Code: SNSBNL2A

OR

Stichting Paddi Europa

Knab Bank Account No:

NL77KNAB0725202238

Swift Code: KNABNL2H

THE VOICE MAGAZINE TEAM

Publisher: Stichting Paddi Europa

Editor-in-Chief

Pastor Amb. Elvis Ndubuisi Iruh
elvisiruh@thevoicenewsmagazine.com

Founding/Contributing Editor

Edward Idahosa Ogbee
apexbest2000@yahoo.co.uk

Managing Editor

Henry D. Oduenyi (Nigeria Office)
henry@thevoicenewsmagazine.com

Project Coordinator

Ifeyinwa Ezeagabu
i.ezeagabu@thevoicenewsmagazine.com

BUREAU CHIEFS

Gbenga T. Okunlola (London)
teejayok@gmail.com

Femi Ikutiyyinu (London)

afpaprnt2000@yahoo.com

Middle East Vice- President

Amb. Laila EL Aftani Rahhall

CORRESPONDENTS ABROAD

Barrister Eze Eluchie (Nigeria)

paddingr@yahoo.com

Kehinde Aig-Imoru (Nigeria)

aigimoru@yahoo.com

Project Editor (Nigeria)

Rev. Tammy Abusi (Port-Harcourt)

t.abusi@thevoicenewsmagazine.com

Eubaldus Enahoro
enabadus2000@yahoo.com

Principal Photo Editors:

Handy Tims

Azeez Badris

fatim_26@hotmail.com

PA to Publisher

Lilian Akintokun (Mrs)

raven_lilian@yahoo.com

Magazine Designer

David Banjoko

MEDIA CONSULTANT

Jonathan Mgbajume

Abeka Salmin Abdallah

Mildred Kleinbussink

Pastor Duncan Spier

Engr. Barry Igbeare

You can as well contact our Office

Address:

Stichting Paddi Europa Inz The Voice

Jeroen Boschplantsoen 82

1318 HH Almere, The Netherlands

Land Line: +3136-8801341

Tel.: +31 (0)6-48519292

Mobile: +31 (0)6-84999548

E-mail:

info@thevoicenewsmagazine.com

Websites:

www.thevoicenewsmagazine.com

www.thevoiceachieversaward.com

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Voice magazine is published in the Netherlands by Stichting Paddi Europa and it is published online since 2016 around the world. It is registered at the Chamber of Commerce Amsterdam. The Voice aim to serve as a vital link among African readers in the Diaspora and we provide objective information and organizes opinion exchange among African people both in the continent and abroad. Thus it strives to foster and enhance complete understanding of developing countries problems and bring information to help address those issues. You can support this project now with as much as one euro a month to help keep publishing our digital copy for you.

DETAILS IN THIS EDITION PLEASE. TV MANAGEMENT

Volume 21

NO 193

May 2020

**Get fast results by advertising with us.
Others are doing, join us today. Call us on
+31684999548 or +31648519292
E-mail: info@thevoicenewsmagazine.com**

Page 6- Editorial: Corona Virus testing not welcome in Africa
Page 8 - Living Positive with HIV/Aids (Column)
Pages 9-13 – Letters to the Editor.
Pages 14 & 15 - Lock down in Africa is not a solution to Covid 19
Pages 18 - 21 - Exclusive Interview with Chief Mrs. Patience Odeh-Gerrits
Page 22 - China McDonald's ban black people in Guangzhou
Page 23 - Column with Eva Nakato - Single Parenthood
Page 24 - Drogba avails hospital for use as government screening facility
Page 25 - Ethiopia's athletic legend makes corona virus appeal
Pages 26 & 27 - The blacklisted Nollywood Eight
Page 29 - CMA President urges government to provide protective equipment and incentives for health workers
Pages 30 & 31 - Retooling Age group for social impact
Page 32 - The Netherlands will give 4,000 euros to citizens buying electric vehicle
Page 33 – Dutch news in summary
Pages 34 & 35 - Ban GMOs - CSOs demand in Lagos, Nigeria
Pages 40 & 41- G5 does not cause Corona virus
Pages 42 & 43 - The G5 theories and what is G5?
Pages 44-45 - Africans condemn 'racist' suggestion of vaccine test in Africa
Pages 46 & 47 - Malawi annulled elections - what it means for Africa democracy
Pages 48 & 49- The Gambia gives international justice an unlikely boost
Pages 50- 52 - Blue Nile water dispute mounts to extreme level
Page 53 - Only a revolution will push Museveni out of office not elections - Dr. Besigye
Page 54 - Dutch ministers unveils package to save jobs in Holland
Page 56 - Sierra Leone's mobile phone tariff shock
Page 59-MEC to receive presidential nominations for Malawi fresh elections in May 2020
Pages 60 & 61 - Lesotho's Prime Minister agrees to step down after sides agree to 'dignified retirement from office'
Page 62 - Flavour Celebrates His Blind Adopted Son On Social Media
Page 63 - President Buhari's statement: To my friend, Mallam Abba Kyari
Pages 64 & 65 - 101 years later: A repeat of global pandemic The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 – 1919
Pages 66 & 67 - Positive Runway Inspires Covid 19 African Print masks
Page 68 - Sierra Leone government minister charged to court over Chinagate rice scandal
Pages 69 -71- Sports stories around the world

The Voice Achievers Award 2020 moved to 2021

The 11th edition of the Voice Achievers Award would not hold this year 2020 due to circumstances beyond our control. Therefore 2020 is dedicated to appreciate all those who have sincerely helped to fight and curb the spread of the Corona Virus, which aborted every planned event for this year particularly in the first and second quarters of the year. We are amazingly grateful to all the paramedics, doctors, nurses, care givers, emergency workers, volunteers, aid agencies, transporters, food sellers, law enforcement agents and all those in related professions, every one that ensure that the global economy did not completely collapsed. We are most grateful and indebted to you all for life. We also remembered across the globe all those who have loss loved ones, we pray God to comfort you all.
TV Management

The Voice

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIVING TO
SUPPORT THE VOICE MAGAZINE

On behalf of The Publisher of The Voice magazine and the management of the publication, we wish to thank you all who responded to our pledge for financial support to continue with the digital publication of the Voice magazine. With the strategic change from printing hard copy to digital copy, it was a tough decision in 2016 but it was necessary to flow with the shift in the media scene trend within the global market. Our income from advertisement has reduced drastically therefore our income as well has gone down but our expenses continue to increase therefore we need extra financial support and for that reason we made the appeal. Your response has pleasantly surprised us, our team is delighted and we are saying a big thank you. For those who pledged a monthly support, over a period of one year or more, you have challenged us to continue the production of the magazine and we shall keep to that promise.

Once again, thank you so much and help spread the information to others. The Voice magazine is a legacy we intend to pass on to the now and next generations of African Diaspora. We need to keep our voice on in the affairs of issues concerning us both at home and abroad. God bless you all.
TV Management.

Corona Virus vaccine testing not welcome in Africa

As ridiculous as this may sound but it is the truth. That some people in France will suggest that a vaccine test for Covid-19 pandemic should be tested on Africa! What a nonsense talk, Africa as a continent is not a dump site for testing vaccines, Africa as a continent is less affected by the virus so what is the rationale behind the suggestion if not racism? The outbreak of the virus came to Africa from China, Europe and America. Just like HIV virus which was traced to United States of America, the vaccine testing was done on black Africans while their men was already engaged in sexual immorality which spread the virus to the rest of the world. Not again, the Covi-19 vaccines should not be tested in Africa, first China, America and Europe before it would ever be considered for Africa. For the first time again that this pandemic did not hit hard on those countries that have the most fragile and underfunded health care system which basically is Africa, the rest of the world is not happy. Therefore there is no reason for such consideration to test a vaccine on Africa except there is a hidden motive behind such suggestion.

During a debate on French TV channel LCI, Camille Loch, head of research at Inserm health research group, was talking about a vaccine trial in Europe and Australia. Jean-Paul Mira, head of intensive care at Cochin hospital in Paris, then said: "If I can be provocative, shouldn't we be doing this study in Africa, where there are no masks, no treatments, no resuscitation? I am convinced that he is just speaking out the minds of his leaders and what they have decided behind the scene – that Africa would be their target but they have failed, as there is a strong condemnation of the mere idea of it. The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) has condemned it as "racist" - the comments by the two French doctors who suggested a vaccine for the corona virus could be tested in Africa.

"Africa can't and won't be a testing ground for any vaccine," said Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. When asked about the doctors' suggestion during the WHO's corona virus briefing, Dr. Tedros became visibly angry, calling it a hangover from the "colonial mentality".



Pastor Elvis Iruh
Editor-in-Chief

"It was a disgrace, appalling, to hear during the 21st Century this kind of remark. We condemn this in the strongest terms possible, and we assure you that this will not happen," he said.

However, as we were expecting reactions from our African governments, which were not forthcoming, the citizens of the

continent took it upon themselves and two of our former football stars spoke out against it. Former footballer Didier Drogba, called the comments "deeply racist". He added: "Do not take African people as human guinea pigs! It's absolutely disgusting". Fellow former footballer Samuel Eto'o called the doctors "murderers". The doctors' comments have also fuelled existing fears in Africa that African people will be used as guinea pigs for a new corona virus vaccine.

Corona virus centers have been targeted in African countries - most recently, a facility that was under construction in Abidjan in Ivory Coast was attacked and destroyed by protesters. If the governments will not speak out, the people are doing that and watching from now on for the development of the vaccine and how it would be tested.

We know that over 35 global companies are working hard to find a vaccine for this corona virus but at the end of it, it is going to be 'big money politics'. Who can afford it will hijack it at the expense of the rest and it becomes the highest bidder buying and reselling to others. With this outbreak, it has also shown that the World Health organization (WHO) is not most powerful as we have thought of this body – they are greatly influenced by the powerful medical pharmacy institutions with people like Bill Gate playing significant roles. Finding a vaccine on its own is not a solution to the pandemic based on past experiences; as it creates other underling problems to deal with all the different age groups from infants to aged ones.

The politics of who takes charge when a vaccine is developed is another issue that would have to play out. WHO, governments, charitable foundations, and the Vaccine producer companies have to agree on equitable global distribution strategy and we are far from this reality.

Meanwhile, let African governments stay vigilant and not be tricked into accepting a test on the continent. Let China, America and Europe take the lead – they boast of having the best medical facilities to handle cases of this magnitude after all, they are super powers of the world.

Our production is reduced now because of the global situation and many of our clients have their businesses scale down or shut down therefore we keep a low profile and reduce production for now. We continue to monitor the situation and as things improve and normalcy returns, we would resume full production again.

Thank you for your understanding and standing with us. Have a good month of May 2020. Stay safe and well please.

Editor-in-Chief

Pastor Amb. Elvis N. Iruh

ONE EURO A MONTH SUPPORT TO THE VOICE MAGAZINE

*Since you're here... Support the Voice
magazine so we stay publishing for your
reading pleasure.....*

Happy New month to you our readers and our followers. We have a small favour to ask. More people, like you, are reading and supporting the Voice magazine since we stopped the hard print copy in 2016. We have continued to serve you the magazine in the same format with all production cost covered like editing, page designs, photography and digital distribution via online channels where we have to pay. The Voice magazine has been an independent organisation, we do not receive any form of subsidy except the support of our readers and friends. We made the choice to keep our reporting open for all, regardless of where you live or what you can afford to pay. Our advertising drive continue to grow. You can support us through that medium as well, promote your businesses and services with us as your way of support.

Our editorial independence means we set our own agenda and voice our own opinions. You are free and welcome to contribute both commercial and political independent articles for our reading audience without bias. We want to continue to give a voice to those less heard, explore where others turn away, and rigorously challenge those in power.

We hope you will consider supporting us today. We need your support to keep delivering quality journalism that's open and independent. Every reader contribution, however big or small, is so valuable. Support The Voice magazine as little as one EURO and it only takes a minute through your bank account.

For The Netherlands

Account Name: Stichting Paddi Europa

IBAN: NL29SNSB0908374372

SWIFT CODE: SNSBNL2A

(For payment from abroad)

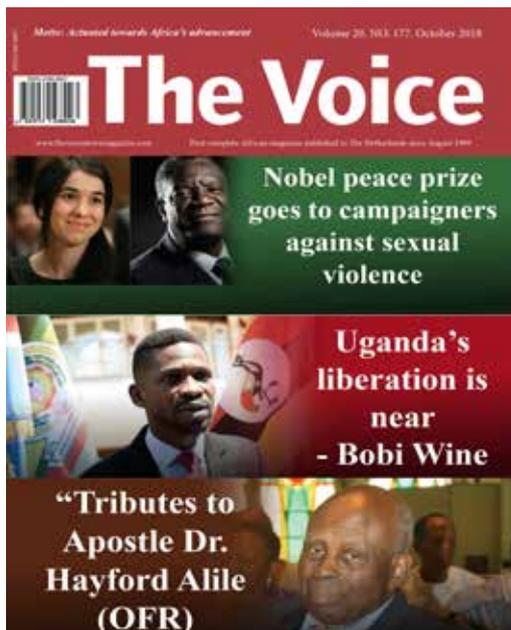
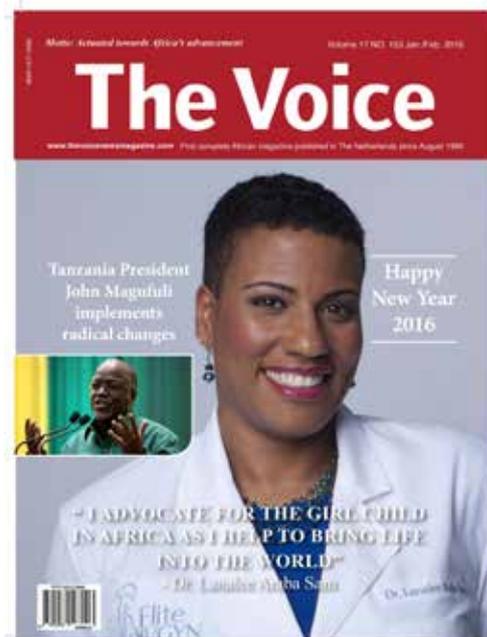
Bank: SNS BANK

Address: Utrecht, The Netherlands

Thank you.

TV Management

The Voice





William

U=U: The problem solver

People who take HIV medication every day as prescribed suppress the virus successfully and can no longer pass on the virus to their partners, can have healthy children and have the same life expectancy as people without HIV.

We have been blindfolded and we have been living in fear for the past 30 years. But now we have hope. Now we have a new message to tell. We are glad that the U=U message has made us see what has kept us back for decades. U=U in full is Undetectable = Untransmittable, and it means that when an HIV positive person starts treatment and becomes undetectable or virally suppressed and maintains the state of being undetectable they will never transmit HIV sexually to their HIV negative partner(s). Virally suppressed means a viral load of less than 200 copies/ml, being undetectable means having a viral load of less than 50 copies/ml. Both means you cannot pass it on.

I got to learn about this life-saving message in 2017 via social media platforms. Having learned about it, it motivated me to do more research on it because I couldn't believe it at first. I had never heard about this message anywhere here in Uganda.

Withholding vital information from the general public is commonly seen in Africa and at Love To Love organization we call this as HIV colonialism. When people think us Africans are not competent enough to take responsibility for our own health. Since the day we endorsed the U=U message at Love To Love organization we have gotten a lot of challenges while preaching the Gospel of U=U here in Uganda.

Most people think that the message that we are delivering belongs exclusively to the LGBTQI+-community, which is not true and very wrong. U=U is for all. Another one is that we are de-campaigning the use of condoms and other false accusations. We still promote condom use, but also include

HIV

HIV is a virus that can only survive in the human body. The virus can not be passed on through hugging or kissing, sharing the same toilet, mosquito bites, small wounds. When untreated, HIV is found in blood, sperm, vaginal fluid and breast milk. Taking HIV-medication daily as prescribed, successfully suppresses the virus. Medication has to be continued to maintain the viral load suppressed. If the viral load is suppressed, there is zero risk of sexual transmission of HIV.

the U=U-message. However this has not stopped us from doing what we believe is right. The main agenda for the U=U message is to promote HIV testing, advocate for treatment access for all, promote equality, dismantle HIV stigma at all levels, treatment literacy, and routine viral load testing. Every year about 50.000 people get infected in Uganda. Is it because we don't have enough prevention measures? If we do have them why are the new HIV infections escalating day by day? For us at Love To Love Organization, we do believe that other prevention measures have played a good role but still, we realized that all these prevention tools which are in place, U=U is the foundation to be able to end the epidemic.

Because once we encourage people to know their status, this will give room to all people. A room where they know how they stand, take responsibility and stay healthy. Those newly tested positive start treatments immediately and stay in care and those who stopped treatment because of stigma and other related challenges should be brought back to care. This will help to reduce the rising number of new infections or even putting them at a halt. U=U helps us stop this epidemic, let's spread the message, not the virus!

Hiv Vereniging

The Dutch Association of People Living with HIV (Hiv Vereniging) represents the interests of all people with HIV in the Netherlands, irrespective of background.

We provide information about living with HIV and organise all kinds of meet-ups.

Servicepunt

Our team of expert volunteers can be contacted for any question about living with HIV, by telephone on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 14:00 - 22:00 hrs, or by email: servicepunt@hivvereniging.nl.

See www.hivvereniging.nl

Maltreatment of Africans in China

Let Africa retaliate in similar fashion

The Chinese official response to targeting of Africans in China as carrier of Corona Virus is unacceptable; a disease that they first spread to the rest of the world and nobody crucified them for that. The treatment meted out to many of our African brothers and sisters we have seen photos and some video clips are also not acceptable under international laws. Africa is always targeted as scapegoats in events of things going wrong! Why? Africa has been good host to the Chinese people and their businesses. They continue to invade African like locusts. China has everything to lose, as they are no longer welcome in Europe and America. I therefore demand tougher sanctions from the African Union and the individual countries of Africa. Diplomacy is not enough in this trend of taking Africans for granted while we treat them like kings and lords in Africa. Recently, Nigeria welcome Chinese Doctors to the country in the fight against the Corona Virus they brought to the world. They should be sent back with immediate effect to their country to mind their own business.

Their businesses in Africa should be closed and banned from reopening until relationship improves. Late Idi Amin of Uganda in the late 70s sent the Asians parking from his country, the country did not collapsed or stop to exist so if the Chinese think that Africa would collapse because of us sending them away, they are joking, let them go. China should

be shown the way out of Africa. There is hardly an African country where you will not find the Chinese and nearly every sector of our economy. They have taken our jobs and space therefore we demand better treatment or let them go back to their country and leave our continent alone.

This is not the first time and it would not be the last time; whenever there is a crisis, they target Africans and use the opportunity to target Africans. Why? How many Africans are in China compared to

of Chinese in Africa? Enough is enough and if the African



governments will not act, the people will act by taking the laws into their own hands to defend their brothers and sisters in China.

Diplomacy seem not to work with the Chinese authorities therefore please help to publish this article to a wider African audience, this is discrimination AND crime against humanity in reform style. We would not accept it any longer.

Thank you.
Shirley Amaoh
Dakar, Senegal

RESPONSE FROM THE AFRICAN UNION SECRETARIAT

My Office invited the Chinese Ambassador to the African Union, Mr Liu Yuxi, to express our extreme concern at allegations of maltreatment of Africans in Guangzhou and called for immediate remedial measures in line with our excellent relations. The African Group in Beijing is also engaging with the government there to resolve the impasse.

By Moussa Faki Mahamat
Chairperson of the African Union



YOUR LETTERS ARE WELCOME

Write to the Editor - Email: info@thevoicenewsmagazine.com
Kindly follow our policy on letter to the Editor for your letter to stand the chance of being published in our magazine. Your letter must include the writer's name, address, email and contact number. Also keep your letter short, concise and precise to the point. We are also allowed to edit where necessary. All details will be kept confidential. The views written in the Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of our magazine therefore we do not take any responsibility for the views stated by those who write to the Editor. The Voice magazine also reserves the right not to publish letters that we find offensive to others please.
Thank you for your usual cooperation.
TV Management.

Let us go as Biafra if you don't want us in Nigeria any more.....

Dear Editor,

"Listen, let me say to the rest of Nigerians, you insult us, (sometimes we do same to Nigerians and that is terrible, we have come to a stage where we have to be insulting each other so badly)"?

"Go ahead, we will not succumb, we will not bow. We are children of God, we are here for a purpose, God has put us for that purpose, you cannot drive us to the sea, you cannot tell us to shut up, take the pains that you're inflicting on us on top of it.

"Listen, if you don't want us, then let us go."

By Onyeka Onwenu

Abuja, Nigeria



What is going on in Nigeria?

Fallout from Covid 19 lock down in Nigeria

Dear Editor,

All I see is a gang of rulers who show up every evening in masks, on live broadcast with no answers to our needs. Uninformed Elites in power and in government who grouped themselves into committees on health, on foreign Affairs on information or blablabla even on COVID-19 task force yet they break these rules every time!

#social distancing is thrown to the wind each time the contractors bring the heavily politicians name branded near useless handouts they call food, because most people; including the contractors, the poor even the political elites have little or no understanding of the nature of this Covid19 war we are in. With the announcement of the first lock down homes of the poor became laboratories of hunger; with the extension they are now at the mercy of extreme



hunger, emerging crimes and even death.

They have been placed between the devil and the deep blue sea... and therefore have decided that "ALL DIE NA DIE! THIS IS WHEN SOMEONE MUST SHOW LEADERSHIP. IT IS NOT TOO LATE!

Let me warn that UNMITIGATED HUNGER will lead to

ANGER then ANGER will drive the wheels of FRUSTRATION. Frustration will ignite AGGRESSION and aggression will



trigger VIOLENCE with DIRE CONSEQUENCES for SOCIETY such as OURS with poor understanding of the NATURE and CHARACTER of the VIRUS we are dealing with.

I ask for the one in charge because even in emergency, the voice of corruption is still noisily loud in the distribution of the so-called palliatives.

#isayitasitis #noholdsbarred #truthonly #speakthetruth #speakforthevoiceless

By Hilda Dokubo

WE STAND WITH THE PEOPLE

We are of the opinion the government of Nigeria need to show leadership and properly address the problem associated with the Corona Virus, the people is only asking for the basic things of life, food, water, electricity and conducive environment to live where safety is guaranteed. In absence of good health facility, if the people can stay safe at their homes, that would reduce the casualties and spread of the virus. Necessary authorities should take action immediately please.

What if it is not Corona Virus?

Dear Editor,

Kindly find space to publish my thoughts on all of what is happening and trying to make sense of it all. I keep reading on social media through posted videos and comments on chains of theories that the Corona Virus pandemic is a hoax or fraud to deceive the world. My question is who is being deceived and for what purpose? We have a virus that has affected nearly the whole world so who is profiting from it? Is the number of deaths also a hoax? People are dying in thousands now without discrimination across the globe since the outbreak of the virus in early February in Wuhan, China and gradually spread to the world.



What is killing the people then if it is not the virus within the shortest period of time? Those making those videos and claims are yet to be affected but I know of families of friends who have loss someone so suddenly within this period and some of them did not had health underline issues or conditions before this outbreak.

How do we explain the high rate of deaths recorded in advance countries like Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, France etc. where they boast of better medical facilities and well trained professionals like doctors and nurses? Even these countries have recorded high causalities of these medical personnel. The British Prime Minister just recovered from

the infection from the virus! Does this sound like a joke or play to you reading my piece? Or the share volume of the number of deaths recorded in United States of America. All due to this virus and yet some claim it is a hoax. I am not a medical person but I am also aware that yearly flu related sicknesses kills thousands of people of all ages but not in this manner and rate; people have died within days or weeks of contacting this virus – to me this is dangerous and deadly.

Definitely something is killing and infecting people globally and people should stop interfering into things they do not know anything about. Because you are not infected yet is no guarantee to expose others to the danger and careless talks – stop making those videos and keep the theory to yourself. The same goes for religious men and women who claims they are immune to the virus or they have a prayer cure to the virus – be careful. In United States of America, pastors have died from the virus; hold on to your faith and trust your God to protect you and in case you are infected by the virus that he allows you to survive it but please to make

people to take unnecessary risk.

The facts and figures differ from this claim that there is no virus but a hoax to scarce people or control people for other purposes. They don't need to keep people at home to do whatever they want to do; this has global impact beyond places mentioned. Until we fully understand what is going on, kindly listen to the precautions and stay safe; only the living can argue or bring up theories. Even the dead would wish they could speak to us that the virus is real and killing people no matter what name we chose to call it. Be informed

By Stanley Adesanya
London, United Kingdom

The pandemic has given a reprieve or a Sabbath of rest to Mother Earth.



Dear Editor,

The skies are clear and quiet. Waterways are cleaner in some countries. Wildlife is free to go wild in many places. We must not allow the message that the lockdown could help show the direction of climate action to be buried by those profiting from dirty energy. The bailout being contemplated for banks and corporate entities could very well be aimed at reshaping the power sector from fossil dependence to a renewable energy system. Let's bail out the peoples for once and not focus on the drivers of the multiple crises in the world.

Nnimmo Bassey

Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF)

Animal Farm experience in Nigeria

Dear Editor,
 All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others (quote from Animal Farm - a book about satire). You make the rules and you break the rules. People are on lockdown with their daily means of livelihood stopped. Those in government in Nigeria who are supposed to serve the people don't bother much about them, and they live lives as if they are gods. I hope World Health Organization will do the needful. These Nigerian leaders in governance are embarrassment to this great and God endowed nation, during the funeral of one man, they broke all the rules put in place and expose millions of people to danger. All of these are done in public view in front of cameras for international world to see that they don't obey the rules they set out themselves.
 By Rosetta Ufeli
 Abuja, Nigeria

FEED BACK

Africans let us speak out against China maltreatment of Africans

Dear Editor,
Our governments in Africa should stand up for what's right because the world are taking Africans for granted and are giving Africans a second class treatment. Let them know we are not beggars or animals and as such should not treat us as animals. China has done enough harm to Africa with their fake and inferior goods they dump on us in Africa. It is time for action now please. If they don't want us in their country, we also don't want or need them in our continent. Period.
 By Martins Akombo
 Nairobi, Kenya.



Abba Kyari burial is against government laid down rules to fight Covid 19!

Dear Editor,
 The Nigerian opposition coalition CUPP is shocked at the facts which have emerged following the death of Mallam Abba Kyari that he died in a private medical facility where he was being treated and his remains immediately taken to Abuja for burial at the Gudu cemetery. By these revealed facts, it has become obvious that the Buhari government recklessness, impunity and irresponsibility has jeopardized and compromised the fight against the dreaded virus and the situation might get out of hand.
 By Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere
 Opposition Coalition (CUPP) Spokesperson

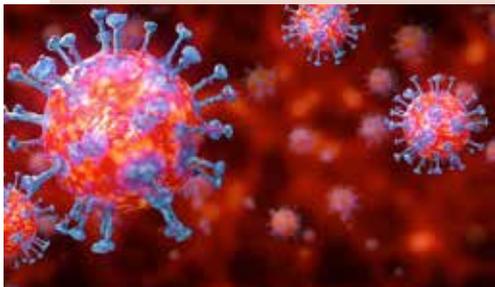


Africa must treat Chinese people the way we are treated

Dear Editor,
Those African brothers and sisters are been mistreated by everyone, including the police, that means that the Chinese government already knows what is happening on the ground, yet they have decided to do nothing. Likewise, Africans must do the same thing, that's been done to our people. It's the natural thing to do, as Mother Nature herself has demonstrated this to be true. Take care of me, and I will take care of you.
 By Roydie Simasiku
 Lusaka, Zambia

FEEDBACK

World leaders are fighting wrong wars!



Dear Editor,
 One thing that this global health issue has clearly shown to me, is that world leaders are not competent enough to manage a serious crisis. They are

unable to carry out joint efforts and make a coordinated approach; hence every country does something, sometimes counterproductive. Its shocking to me that we

aren't in the position to carry out mass testing, quarantine those that have it while protecting those that are the most vulnerable. Instead its turned a worrying situation into mass hysteria and fear mongering, with daily headlines telling us how many have died as if THIS is the most important thing. I have the feeling I stepped out of a taxi and as I paid the driver noticed he is wearing dark shades. I ask why, he states, O sir I'm actually blind. At that moment I wonder how I made it to my destination alive and safe. Its obvious.....their clueless. That's what worries me the most, not the virus.

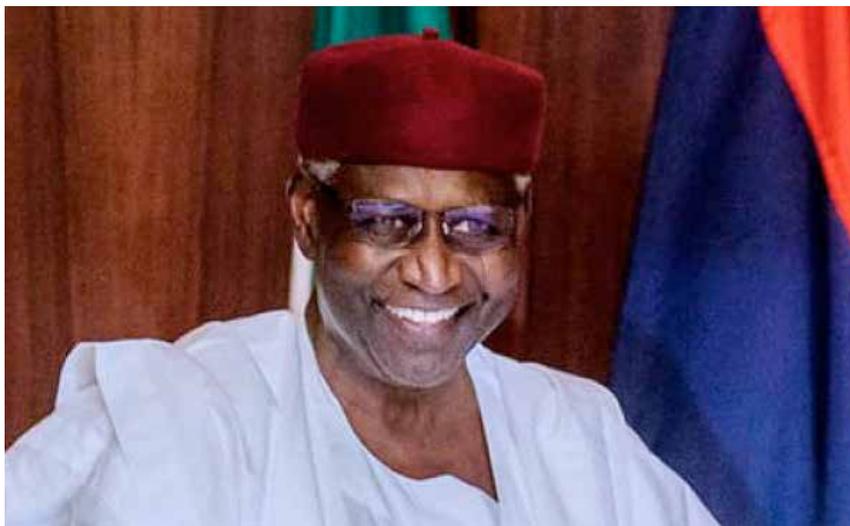
By Pretty Satimburwa
 Harare, Zimbabwe

No reason to celebrate the death of a fellow humankind but

Dear Editor,

Nigeria is in trouble, for the second time in my lifetime that I would see Nigerians celebrate the death of a fellow citizen. First was late Sanni Abacha and now President Buhari Chief of Staff, Abba Kyari. Despite the fact that all human beings will die one day but his death comes at a time when majority of Nigerians blame him for been part of the problems of Nigeria, ill advising the president on matters of national interest His death is final judgment of God for his wickedness over Nigerians. During his sick period and isolation, he was in denial and so the presidency and yet he was in Germany where the virus was already killing people; he came back knowing fully well the implication of his actions. He would not go to a public hospital set up by the government for treatment knowing the state of those hospitals; he rather went to a private hospital. Why does he not trust our hospitals for treatment? As fate would have it, he could not run back to Germany for treatment, if not that the whole world is shut down, he would have been flown abroad for treatment at taxpayers' expense. What about the 200 million Nigerians whose lives are left in the balance without medical care or insurance? Does our lives matter less? Since the outbreak of the virus, government is not taking serious measures

to protect the citizenry. May be now that the virus has taken one of them, they would realize it is real and killing people no matter your status in society. May the soul of the departed find rest if



that is possible as many does not wish him rest?
Yusuf Alhassan
Abuja, Nigeria

Abba Kyari was the very best of us, President Buhari says in tribute



On the sad occasion of the demise of Abba Kyari, the Chief of Staff, the President has directed on three things. First that this tribute (below) be issued in recognition of the enormous sacrifices and contributions made by the deceased to the success of his politics and administration and to the overall development of the nation.

Second, the President wishes to direct strict observance of the social distancing rules as prescribed by the National Center for Disease Control, the Federal Ministry of Health; and other safe hygiene practices as advised by relevant local authorities.

In this regard, the President will not be available for condolence visitors but urges, in place of that prayers be offered for the repose of soul of the departed Chief of Staff.

Third, the President wishes to convey his deep appreciation to foreign leaders and all Nigerians, from whom a stream of messages have been reaching him over this irreparable loss.

LOCK DOWN IN AFRICA IS NOT A SOLUTION TO COVID 19

Africa is facing new challenges with the lock down approach to tackling the spread of the Corona virus. It probably works in the western world but not in Africa. For many reasons complete or partial lock down may not be the answer to the spread and curtailing the spread of the virus. Yes the intention is good, to prevent spread and avoid more casualties but the fear of hunger and starvation is also on the horizon, as Africa is not prepared for such eventualities like outbreak of a global pandemic as this.

Many African countries have introduced lock downs in order to halt the spread of corona virus, but ordinary citizens are complaining that it is not a solution, after all many of them do not have contact with those who initially contacted the virus – in many African countries the origin of the virus was from those who returned from foreign countries through flights. Most of this ordinary people have never been to or enter an airplane in their lives. The chances of the virus reaching them are low but they are the most affected group in the lock down.

From experience, African countries have learned much from tackling epidemics such as HIV and Ebola that should be put to good use as they face the impact of Covid-19. First information spread to them on what this is all about – many still do not know what Covid 19 is all about and how it is contacted or spread from person to person. And if they do, their situation does not give room for the measures we are suggesting to them. For instance washing of hands regularly! How do you obtain that where water is a scarce commodity in the community, clean water is not available; living condition is poor, millions of people living together in the slum, so how do you observe social distancing in such communities? Therefore, the most important lesson is that communities must be at the forefront of responding. And that is not the case in many African countries at the moment.

Of course this happened suddenly so no one was prepared

but it is two months since the global outbreak, more public awareness need to begin instead of lock down of people in their homes without electricity to monitor what is in the media. Public health officials, local governments need to be involved and developed a useful guide to explain to the ordinary what is happening and how to handle the situation. It is important to think of Covid-19 not as a single global pandemic, but as a simultaneous outbreak of local epidemics, each one slightly different from the other but the approach of tackling it must be the same – to avoid spreading it more.

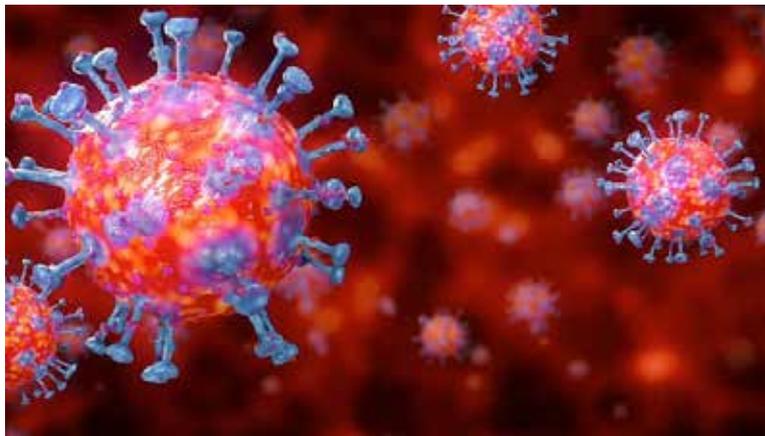
The basic transmission mechanisms of the virus are the same everywhere. But the speed and pattern of spread varies from place to place.

Many African communities are densely populated compared to other places therefore the spread need to be managed differently so the idea of just lock down itself creates other problems along with it. We can imagine in rural areas, they have more space to distance themselves and observe this social distance compared to a crowded cities like Lagos,

Nairobi or Johannesburg etc.

Africa's disease burden is different, we already have cases of people living with HIV/Aids, and people suffering from Malaria, Fever, malnourished communities, some faces with severe hunger, and lack of basic social amenities like good drinking water and poor hygienic conditions; how does this virus affect

people in these conditions already? No one knows and no effort has been made towards this direction and Africa has a much younger population. Would that be a blessing as many European countries like Italy, Spain and United Kingdom has seen their older generation killed by this virus It is obvious that each African country has to design what is the best approach to tackling this virus than a blanket lock down because experts have suggested it. It is clear that each African country will have to design its own response, suitable for its own need.



Communication from the government to the people need to improve; there is too much silence in a time when the government need to show that they are concerned for their citizens and they are with them, once in a week or two weeks approach is not good enough and whatever pronouncement was be backed up with action. I desperate African Lady called our office to express her frustration and fears; she is a hair dresser who makes a living on daily basis in Nairobi, Kenya and she has very little saving after paying her house rent and other bills; she lives on daily up keep from her business; with three weeks of lock down, the toll is getting to her as she has run out of supply at home and no cash to buy; no business and no savings to fall back on. When asked about the promises of the Kenyan government to support. "I have only heard of it on the news, nobody has informed us where to go to receive such support and we are in a limbo" Such desperate reactions are coming out of many African countries now after nearly a month of shut down.

Governments are doing something but it is not quick enough and the fear of new rise in crime or outright disobedience to the stay at home order may arise – people will be forced to go out to look for what to eat. In Nigeria, millions of naira is released to be shared among 3.5 million ordinary Nigerians under the poverty line but nobody can account for the money and what it has been done with it. In few locations, food has been distributed which is nothing to last the people for few days. In fact individual charities and efforts has been felt more than the response of the government in Nigeria.

Right now, only Rwanda and South Africa has shown that they have some capacity to organize a lock down that is workable so the government has made adequate provision of the general population to ease the hardship in this time.

For people living from day to day, reliant on earning cash in the market to buy food, a few days' lock down is the difference between poverty and starvation.

For people already suffering hardship because of unemployment, drought or a swarm of locusts, social welfare is provided by relatives. If a lock down cuts these social ties, adversity becomes destitution. Lock downs also threaten to interrupt supply chains of essential drugs to treat TB, HIV and other diseases. We know of patients on HIV treatment who can no longer go to the hospital for their drugs in Kenya because the hospital is now center to admit Corona Virus patients, new problems emerging with this pandemic.

If any form of lock down is to work, emergency assistance measures are needed and must reach the people that need it most. Time is not on the side of governments to delay or do politics with this situation at hand. It is dead serious.

Some countries, for example Uganda and Rwanda, are distributing free food. Ghana has announced free electricity, water and a tax holiday. But African governments simply do not have the funds to sustain these kinds of measures and for how long? In Uganda, many are stranded in their open market stalls because the government ban them not to return to their homes for fear that they may have contacted the virus and

spread it so they sleep in the open, exposing them to other forms of health hazards.

In the Ebola epidemic, when the Liberian government ordered the army to impose isolation on West Point in the capital, Monrovia, in 2014, it discovered within a few days that the lock down was so unpopular that people broke the law to find what to eat and survive and that did not stop transmission either. Very quickly the government shifted to a policy of asking community leaders to design and enforce their own control policies.

The key lessons for epidemic response are to act fast but act locally. That is what African countries should be doing. Covid-19 demands an emergency response at scale and that begins with governments.

African hospitals need testing kits, basic materials for hygiene, personal protective equipment for the professional health workers, and equipment for assisted breathing.

A second pressing need is provision for the people to make them stay at home for as long as it is possible to avoid spread of the virus rather than making preparation for general outbreak, I think it is easier to manage the first part of giving food and provision to the people rather than managing the spread of the virus. Even advanced countries like United Kingdom has struggled to contain the spread of the virus. It takes about a month to know how far the virus has spread and so far so good, many African countries are doing well and should keep it that way; they should minimize people coming from abroad even if they have tested negative as they incubation period may not be over yet.

An even bigger challenge now will be keeping economies functional and stopping a slide into destitution and hunger among majority of the people.

African countries cannot close its fresh produce markets or people will starve. Food is of paramount importance now; people should feel safe in their homes so security of lives and properties need to be guaranteed.

Lock downs have the potential to create a serious social crisis. This is not just in terms of creating poverty, hunger and resentment, but also endangers the roll out of workable epidemic control measures.

Today, the biggest fear now is misinformation with every one having access to telephones and data to share videos, comments and opinions. What we should avoid is creating more fear into people than we already have; the danger is that people will be more confused as no one knows what the truth is. What we know for sure is that the Corona Virus is real, it is spreading and killing people globally; it is not a black or white persons virus; it is not a political joke or gimmick; African governments should take it serious and Africa should not allowed itself to be used a guinea pig for the testing of any vaccine that they may discover or what to try in the market.

The good news is that communities can quickly learn and act when they are provided with the correction information and support they need. Africa will come out good at the end of this pandemic



VICTORY OUTREACH ALMERE 2020

FAITH

FOR ALL I TRUST HIM

ACTION - GROWTH - PROMISES

"AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR HE WHO COMES TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO SEEK HIM" HEBREWS 11:6

GOD IS IN CONTROL

Victory Outreach Church Almere is a Pentecostal Church, a Bible based believing people in the trinity of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

What would you like to know? Our vision?

Which activities we organize? Or would you like to hear testimonies about how we follow God? One thing is certain, we would like to get to know you and therefore you are more than welcome to visit one of our services in this new year 2020. You can visit us every day of the week as there is a Resident Pastor available to your demand.

You may have been a believer for many years already. Or you might still be searching for the meaning of life and asking yourself whether or not there is God. Within Victory Outreach Almere we would like to help you find the answer. We will gladly teach you through the help of the Holy Spirit the exact meaning of "a living faith". With us you will truly see

and experience the supernatural power of the living God. You can always count on love and comfort when you need it. You will discover that we have a wonderful diversity of people with lots of different backgrounds, characters and personalities. But there is one thing we have in common. We all follow the same God, Jesus Christ.

In that diversity and love for God, we are a family where you are more than welcome.

We personally hope to meet you during one of our services. God bless you as you come in Jesus Christ name. Amen

Signed:

Pastor Roel & Ida van Rooij

Senior Pastors

Victory Outreach Almere.

Barbeelstraat 12, 1317 PZ Almere

The Netherlands.

Telephone: 036-8417007;

Telephone: 036-7505571

E-mail: info@voalmere.nl

Website: www.voalmere.nl



Join our online services during this period via
ZOOM, FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE
Victory Outreach Almere



Get a Professional Website

For: Businesses, Schools, Churches,
Non-Profit, Personal, etc

 **+233543436069**

hello@davosban.com | www.davosban.com

1 *week*
delivery
or less

Our Prices

- One Pager: ₱400
- Standard: ₱900
- Premium: ₱2000

Being a Traditional Chief is to serve my people says Chief Mrs. Patience Odeh-Gerrits

Chief (Mrs.) Patience Odeh-Gerrits is easily recognizable in The Netherlands where she is living but her activities are mostly felt and noted in her homeland and place of birth in Okpe Kingdom in Akoko-Edo Local Government area of Edo State of Nigeria.

Few years back, she was recognized with a palace chieftaincy title, first of its kind in her community by His Royal Majesty, Oba Okhishimede Eshimokhai Idogu III, JP, OON, the Olokpe of Okpe Kingdom. What many do not know about her is that her charitable activities at home attracted her to the attention of the King. She has singularly continue to help her people from primary school level to university level, helping to establish small scale business, providing farm tools for farmers, little stores for petty traders and many more with provisions. Her charity work did not start with the shut down due to the corona virus but she is moved simply by compassion to improve the quality of life of her people. Through her foundation, she has established a base at her Okpe Kingdom where she gradually reaches out to meet the needs of the people. In fact she was preparing to do a fund raising before the European lock down. We would keep you posted on that initiative when all of this is over.

Enjoy our interview with Chief Mrs. Patience Odeh-Gerrits conducted by Editor-in-Chief, Pastor Elvis Iruh via Skype for your reading pleasure.

TV: For those of our readers who don't know you. Please introduce yourself to our readers?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: I am Chief Mrs. Patience Odeh-Gerrits. I am 48 years old. I was born and raised in Okpe, in the present Akoko Edo Local Government Area of Edo state, Nigeria. I have lived in The Netherlands now for 21 years. Being together with my husband, Jan Gerrits for almost those 21 years but we are officially married for 18 years now. And we are blessed with two beautiful daughters, 19 years old and 13 years old. God be praised.

TV: Tell us what you do for a living?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: I am a permanent staff with a Dutch Food Processing company called Plukon Food Group Company.

TV: And where are you originally from in Africa?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: I am from Nigeria. Originally from a place called Okpe in Akoko Edo L.G.A, Edo State, Nigeria. It is a very beautiful place reached in agricultural land and rich culture.

TV: Few years back now, you became a traditional Chief. What does it mean to an ordinary person reading your interview?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: A traditional Chief is a leader or a principal officer of a community who stands up for all the people in the community either men or women. The traditional chief represents the traditional king among the people in whatever responsibility given to the person in the community. A traditional Chief is a person that has been given the opportunity to serve its people, promote peace and cooperate to bring development to the community. In some cases, they help to settle disputes among the people without involving the police or the law courts.



TV: What do you do as a traditional Chief? And is it common for women to be chiefs too?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: My duties as a traditional Chief are numerous, ranging from advocating for peace and unity, maintenance of socio-economic norms to provision of basic social amenities to creating civic awareness, settling of disputes in the village, creating civic awareness amongst my people just to mention but a few. However, it is not uncommon for women to be chiefs now because in reality female traditional Chiefs are playing more significant roles that are been recognized by the Kings in various communities in Nigeria where they have traditional kingship. They play differ-



ent roles from their male counterparts for instance the males' chiefs' exercise a lot of powers which like helping to make laws and administering justice in the local courts. Female chiefs do not get involve so much in the decision making process leading up to laws and orders but they help to mobilize the community to support such decisions in their communities in Nigeria and in other parts of Africa. But in my case, the king of my kingdom has been a crucial crusader and the implementation of equality of gender in his kingdom by recognizing the contributions of women and getting them involved in community development. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my community.

TV: We also learnt you do charity work back in your country! What type of charity are you engaged in?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: Yes, I run a foundation called Stichting kids and Women Foundation. It's a non-prof-

itable organization. I founded it in 2013, long before I was recognized as a Chief in my kingdom. Officially, it was registered in the Netherlands in 2015 through the huge support from my husband, Jan Gerrits. Presently, my vision is to keep striving to reach the greater height of success in the business of helping humanity especially the less privilege ones regardless of races and it must cut across boundaries. In charity work is mainly to assist people to have a better life than what they have now, to improve their quality of life, I want my work to be an epitome of generosity.

TV: What is the response of your community towards your contributions?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: The response of my people is an outpouring of love towards me. They are full of appreciations. However, I do not want to take pride in the recognition that I receive from people in my community because the king called upon me to serve. When your people call you to serve, it is like God calls you to service. I believe this is one of the numerous ways God can employ someone to be of service to humanity. In that regard, you cannot have someone to bear the responsibility for you. You have to do it yourself and take the lead and that is what I am doing through my foundation.

TV: What are your plans for 2020 and beyond?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: My plans for 2020 and beyond are multiples, it stretches from strengthening

every aspects of my interest in human capacity building, using my charity work to alleviate poverty in my village, providing skills acquisition for men and women in rural communities to providing basic amenities for my people. But right now, what is more important is to stay safe and stay alive as we all know that the world has been plunged into the deepest setback of all times by a virus that is threatening the lives of people across the globe. So every plan for 2020 and beyond must come at the back of our survival from this great pandemic of our time.

Continued on Page 20

Exclusive Interview with Chief Mrs. Patience Odeh-Gerrits

Continued from Page 19

TV: How do you fund your projects?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: presently I fund all my projects from my monthly salary, I put something aside each month to support the foundation back in Nigeria to sustain and keep it going since inception. My family is also a source of support in everything I do to take the charity work to another level. I do not have any partnership from any organization right



discovered being married with a Dutch doesn't bring conflicts or culture or lifestyle or the way one should express their affections towards each other. My husband feels so happy to be part of my culture and tradition of my people. He considers himself blessed to always experience something new about the culture and life style of my people because each time I get involved with community advocacy he's there to support me, and in doing so he learns something new. Therefore, he's always excited about learning new norms and values of my culture and lifestyle of my people. I have done the same of knowing and living out the Dutch lifestyle and cultures. I eat the Dutch foods as well as African foods.

TV: What else motivates outside of your family and work?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: Outside of my family, to put smile on the faces of my fellow citizens back at home, reaching out to them and adding value to their lives through the little help I give, there is an inner peace and joy that overwhelms me when I share the little I have with them so my people back at home in Nigeria motivates

me. I want to help them have the feeling as human beings instead of being humans.

now but I will welcome anyone interested or organization interested to partner with me to make the foundation bigger and reach more people. Hence I am using this medium to appeal to anyone or organization reading this to please step forward and give me his or her support. You can reach me via my email at info@stichtingkidsandwomen.org or patienceodeh2002@yahoo.com. And would website is [www. Stichtingkidsandwomenfoundation.org](http://www.Stichtingkidsandwomenfoundation.org).

Facebook- Kids and Women foundation; Tell: - +31 628919123

TV: We would send our bill for this promotion (Laughs)

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: No problem sir, you have always supported me.

TV: You are married with a Dutch person, how does he feel about your culture and lifestyle of your people?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: It has been awesome and tremendously fantastic to be married to him. In fact I

TV: You are a wife and mother, so how do you combine your work/career with your home responsibility to your family?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: I am able to juggle work/ career with my home responsibilities like every other responsible wife and mother does. With a sheer dedication and commitment, I strive to overcome challenges of combining work with my roles as a wife and a mother, though it doesn't seem to be easy planning how to do both completely. I simply design my work plan and time management. Thus, I have sufficient means to be part of all aspects of my responsibilities without letting one engagement conflict with the other. We have passed through different changes, when the children were younger was different compared to now that they can do certain things for themselves. Also a very supportive and caring husband who helps out where he can with his own job as well.

TV: We crossed path at The Voice magazine anniversary years ago. How will you describe the magazine and its activities?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: Every moment with The Voice magazine at its events has been awesome. I bless God for making me to attend the voice awards that season and since then I have become part of the Voice magazine family. The Voice magazine itself is amazing publication. I like it personally because it brings the news closer to us. Most importantly it's very entertaining and keeps one up to date. Especially now that's digital it gives readers like us easy access.

TV: The virus has brought lock down on the country, how has this affected your activities and how have you coped?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: The Corona virus has brought a lock down, not only on the country but also on the entire globe. It has affected everybody. People are getting infected, many have lost loved ones, some are dying every day and globally the economy is nose-diving. There is fear and the future seems very uncertain for everybody as more death looms every day. We do not know how things would be fixed but we stay prayerful that it would soon pass over. It is the greatest pandemic I have ever seen in the world. Right now, every project is at stand still. I was planning a fund raising for my project but it was forcefully suspended until life returns to normal again.

TV: What would be your advice to those reading your interview right now?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: My words to those reading this interview right now is to encourage everyone to educate yourself to be happy in whatever you do. Love yourself. Treasure love for your family. Treasure love for your friends and appreciate others. Discover your purpose in life, let no

one put you down, stay focus, be strong, remain humble at all times. Always find one reason to hold on to. No matter how dark it seems now, try to see that there's always light at the end of the tunnel. Above all and most importantly put God first. I tell you; with God involved you are bound to break limits. Thanks for reading and God bless.

TV: Do you have any regrets at all?

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: No regrets at all. It's been nothing but fun, and blessings.

TV: Thank you for the interview

Chief Mrs. Odeh-Gerrits: You are welcome and God bless you and your team for the good work you are doing for us all.



China McDonald's ban black people in Guangzhou

McDonald's in China has apologized after a branch in the industrial city of Guangzhou barred black people from entering. A video shared on social media showed a notice that read: "We've been informed that from now on black people are not allowed to enter the restaurant."

McDonald's said that when it found out about the notice it temporarily closed the restaurant to the public to investigate the matter.

Tensions have been running high between Africans and local people in the city. In another video, a black man was seen been beaten by several Chinese men while others just watch the shameful act.

Last month, hundreds of Africans in Guangzhou were evicted from hotels and apartments after online rumours that corona virus was spreading among

African people, community leaders among the Africans disclosed to the press. Even the attention of the African missions was called to the maltreatment meted out to Africans. In a case, a Nigerian diplomat confronted the police for unlawful harassment of his citizens in China. Nigeria Foreign Minister has condemned the attacks and demand explanations from the Chinese government.

Guangzhou is a hub for African traders buying and selling goods and is home to one of China's largest African communities.

The Guangdong provincial government has responded to concerns about discrimination by calling China and Africa good friends, partners and brothers.

It said it attached "great importance to some African countries' concerns and is working promptly to improve" its way of operating.

McDonald's also responded, saying the ban on black people was "not representative of our inclusive values".

"Immediately upon learning of an unauthorized communication to our guests at a restaurant in Guangzhou, we immediately removed the communication and temporarily closed the restaurant."

The restaurant added that it had conducted "diversity and inclusion" training in the branch.

Health workers have reportedly gone door-to-door testing Africans for corona virus, many say regardless of whether they show any symptoms, have travelled, or have been in contact with Covid-19 patients.

Community leaders say that hundreds were forced out of



their homes and hotel rooms and into quarantine. Video has emerged online of African people sleeping on the streets, in hotel lobbies, under bridges and outside police stations.

The video filmed inside McDonald's sparked anger both inside and outside China.

The African community in Guangzhou has been dwindling in recent years. There were once thought to be hundreds of thousands from the continent conducting business in the city, but today the number has fallen to just thousands.

Many feel that their communities have been the targets of discriminatory measures. Restrictions to visas have made many I have spoken to feel less welcome. Some feel that the corona virus is being used as an excuse to target businessmen who overstay their visas.



Single Parenthood in Uganda

Introducing to you one new columnist, Eva Nakato. She is a young lady from Kampala, Uganda. She is an actress, Singer, HIV Advocate, Voice over and Commercial Model, Artist, Mentor and a Writer. We have known her for close to two years now and follow her good works. Recently she joined the Dutch magazine, ViceVersa edited by my good friend and brother, Marc Broere. On mutual understanding we agreed to share are column in English since the magazine is mostly published in Dutch language. She would be contributing articles to us and we would publish them in English language for our global audience. She is also an award receipt from The Voice Achievers Award 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. Kindly help us to welcome Eva to The Voice magazine global family and enjoy her first column.

Having lived in the Diaspora for a number of years, Isaac Rucci, a businessman and the president of the association that unites all gospel artists in Uganda decided to relocate back to Uganda. He came along with his two daughters, one of them being barely two years old and the other roughly four. He hoped that his wife would soon join them. Months later, he was cancelling meetings and appointments that went beyond 4pm so he could spend more time with his infant daughters. It finally dawned on him; he had started a life changing journey of single fatherhood. He was now faced with the responsibility of filling in the empty gaps of an absent mother in the lives of his daughters; from playing with them, recalling their saloon appointments, making dinner, waking up in the night to feed his youngest daughter, to talking to them about body changes as they grew older.

In my country Uganda, single fatherhood is a relatively new phenomenon. It was always a woman's role to nurse young children. Even in cases where children were left behind by their mothers, they were immediately transferred to their paternal or maternal aunts. But with the advent of modernity fathers have been confronted with the challenge of single-handedly raising their children, Isaac Rucci being a prominent example.

There is no doubt that majority of the mothers were able to successfully raise their children in the absence of fathers. This now begs for the million-dollar question, can the fathers do the same? Can they really beat mothers in the parenting world? Well, let's find out.

In a traditional African setting gender roles were clearly cut. A woman would be expected to carry out house chores such as fetching water and firewood, cooking for the family, bathing and dressing the children; to mention but a few. Men, on the other hand, were expected to provide food and security; among others. To sum it up, children spent more time with their mothers than their fathers. Doesn't that answer the question of why single fathers make more news headlines than single mothers?

For some reason, the African society expects a lot from the woman. 'Guma makazi' is a Luganda phrase that embodies the same. It is used to imply that a woman has to stay strong at all times. That as an African woman you are not supposed to breakdown even when you are faced with a life threatening situation.

Okay, now we know why there have been multitudes of success stories of single mothers raising their children!

Alright! Alright! Let's now imagine how the typical day of a single father in rural Uganda would be like.

He wakes up as early as 5 a.m. His first stop is the kitchen. He moves to prepare breakfast so that the kids find it ready before they head to school. To his shock, there is no single drop of water left in the drum; the kids used it all to shower before they went to bed. He wonders what to do next as the closest source of water is a ground well located five kilometers away. He looks around and notices the corner where the wood reserve sits and it's completely empty. Suddenly, it starts drizzling from the outside. His heart starts racing as small beads of sweat start forming on his face.

So, now that he is a man and the 'guma makazi' gods are clearly not meant for him, what should he do next? I leave that for you to decide!

One more last thing, issues of child support. There have been disturbing reports that some single mothers actually use their kids as a strategy of extorting money from their former partners so as to finance their lavish life styles. Can a man also comfortably demand for child support from the mother of his children?

Now here's the dilemma for the African man, he's raised to be the provider for the family. Asking for child support from his ex-partner would mean that his relevance as a man would be completely lost. He obviously expects to be booed by not only his fellow men but also from the female folks if he did the unthinkable. He's thus left with no option but to 'man up' and carry his cross. Well, he brought it upon himself!

All the hullabaloo aside, I salute the single fathers who are doing their best to fill in the void created by absentee mothers. After all, it's better to have a single parent than having none at all! "When the cock becomes the hen"



By Eva Nakato

Drogba avails hospital for use as government screening facility



according to reports.

The hospital in question, located in the city of Abidjan, is named after Ivory Coast footballer Laurent Pokou, who died in 2016. The head of Abidjan's regional council, Vincent Toh Bi Irie, thanked Drogba for the gesture, which he described as "patriotic" stressing that the facility will be very useful in the fight against the virus once it is functional.

The government recently announced that 13 hospitals in Abidjan and 45 in the country would be used as COVID-19 centers. Since March 11, when the index case was reported in the West African country, the current case

The corona virus epidemic continues to disrupt life across the world. The disruption is much lesser in African countries that have recorded lesser cases as compared to for example Italy, Spain, France or United Kingdom where the entire country is almost in a lock down. Most countries have banned all sporting competitions and traveling in and out.



file stands at 574 cases, 85 recoveries and five deaths. Drogba had been in the news week's back when he called out two French scientists for suggesting that COVID-19 vaccine trials must start in Africa. He was joined by Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o setting off a social media backlash on the scientists. (Read story inside the magazine) The World Health Organization, WHO, Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in responding to the scientists described their views as appalling and stressed that Africa, will not be used as a vaccine testing ground.



In effort to curb the spread of the virus, former Ivorian international footballer, Didier Drogba has availed his private hospital for use as a government corona virus facility,

Ethiopia's athletic legend makes corona virus appeal

Ethiopia's athletics great Haile Gebrselassie says it is important for people to obey social distancing rules as authorities do all it takes to combat the corona virus pandemic.

He shared a message on Twitter entreating people to stay at home and to remain positive that the pandemic will be history sooner than later.

A transcript of his message: "Hello everyone, my name is Haile Gebrselassie. Save your family and yourself by doing your part. Nowadays, the world has a big problem. Don't worry about the darkness of today; think about the light of tomorrow.

"Do you know I have a different business, that is why I am working at home? No matter what, let us work together, we will win together, stay at home, we will beat corona, thank you."

Gebrselassie has brought the country a lot of glory in long-distance events had a stellar career, which spanned over two decades, since 1992 when he won the 5000m and 10,000m

titles at the World Junior Championships.

Over the duration of his active days, he set 27 world records and 61 Ethiopian records, as well as wins two Olympic gold

medals and eight world titles both indoors and out.

In addition to his athletics career, Haile is also a businessman and employs more than 2000 people in several businesses back home. Local media reports that he is involved in real estate projects, owns four hotels, a coffee plantation and is the distributor for



Hyundai in Ethiopia.

He is also a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations and is involved in tree planting and road projects. He has built several schools in his residential area.

Kenya's Kipchoge talks about surviving COVID-19

Kenyan marathon great Eliud Kipchoge has been speaking about keeping fit while still observing isolation in the wake of the corona virus pandemic.

The world long marathon record holder encouraged those staying indoors during self-isolation to work on getting their fitness levels up, as they cope with the effects of COVID-19. His story is shared by the CGTN Africa team as below:

"I think the whole world will hopefully beat this virus in the next month and maybe May we are able to come back to our training and resume in a big way. We will win this fight against COVID-19.

"Just have some steps to run on, just let us keep fit. Let us keep fit both physically and mentally by reading some newspapers, be with the family, watch good movies together which helps make the days move and you get more knowledge.



The Blacklisted Nollywood Eight

As the 92nd Academy Awards are handed out in Los Angeles tomorrow night, lovers of Nigerian films worldwide will be mourning what could have been. Three months ago, Nigeria's first-ever official entry to the foreign film category - *Lionheart*, which is also the nation's first Netflix original, was ruled ineligible because it's predominantly in English.

Even though *Lionheart's* road didn't end in Oscar gold, its journey to the screen was an epic one. And it begins, curiously, 15 years before the film was even released — with a blacklist that rocked Nigeria's film industry, aka Nollywood. That upheaval may have helped it become the second most prolific film-producing community after India's Bollywood, and its indie filmmakers are increasingly getting a moment in the spotlight.

Back in 2004, a powerful cabal of film studios and distributors controlled Nigeria's film industry, which was laser-focused on DVDs and videos rather than the cinematic culture common elsewhere. But even on DVD, superstars emerged, and their power threatened to overtake the era's producers. So the studios made a bold move: They banned eight A-list actors from working for a year. Known as the G8, the actors were put on blast for charging what studios considered to be exorbitant fees for their work and for demanding upfront payments. At the time, Nigerian

to say visual artists cannot sell their work beyond a certain amount. That was how ridiculous it was.”

“It was a petty move to bring down some people to size,” agrees Nigerian film critic Wilfred Okiche. “The DVD



film was running on a shoestring, and with piracy eating into their profits, studios were willing to take desperate measures to keep budgets low.

“It was a silly and needless exercise of power by them ... an exercise in futility,” reminisces Richard Mofe-Damijo, one of the eight. “It's like some people coming together tomorrow

distribution system was broken. [The] ban was just the last stand of marketers trying to make it work by keeping costs low.”

But from the ashes of a scorched earth strategy bloomed what is now one of the world's most important film industries. The G8, after all, had power of their own. And, unable to keep acting, they turned to other things. Some initially turned to music; others like Omotola Jalade-Ekeinde, named to Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People list in 2013 to activism. But most ended up on the other side of the camera, directing and producing as they changed their broken industry from within.

Genevieve Nnaji, who rose to stardom as a child actor, continued acting after her ban was ended but also branched out into music and advertising. But it's behind the camera of her first feature, *Lionheart*, that Nnaji became an international sensation. When Netflix acquired the film, the deal was reportedly worth \$3.8 million. The cabal, meanwhile, has largely gone underground, making way for a Nollywood industry transformation from video to cinema.

During the ban, more Nollywood actors were hired to replace the talent lost, allowing a new crop of A-listers to arise. But the consensus for those looking back is that the ban was ineffective when it came to controlling the superstars who were demanding a place at the table — and in fact led to them taking the reins.

Some disagree: “The ban didn’t do anything for the industry ... maybe individually it made [actors] say we may not be doing work for hire and we need to think about producing our own films, but even in 2004, 2005 and 2006, none of them produced any film,” says Shaibu Husseini, a member of the committee that selected Nigeria’s Oscar submission and head of the Africa Movie Academy Awards jury. “Still, it made other people think that the control these producers had is that they are prolific producers, so why don’t we up our game?”



my horizon. It was the greatest blessing of my life.”

Perhaps being shut out of the Oscars, as she was once shut out of the film industry, will encourage Nnaji to fly to even greater heights.

By Eromo Egbejule, OZY



Another thing that happened in 2004: The first Silverbird Cinema opened in Lagos. Today a chain that crisscrosses Nigeria and Ghana, Silverbird reintroduced a cinema culture that had been displaced by Nollywood’s flood of home videos and DVDs, by showing foreign films and, eventually, Nigerian movies as well. That outlet encouraged indie filmmakers to try new distribution channels and effectively opened the floodgates for movies like *Lionheart*.

“Silverbird didn’t come up with the intention of showing Nollywood films,” says Husseini. “Producers didn’t want to rely on just DVDs for sources of revenue, and, at the time, there weren’t any direct-to-home services, so the only way of making money ... was to go to the cinema.” As Nollywood has matured, the film and DVD business has fallen out of favor, giving way to an internationally recognized cinema culture.

As one of the banned actors, Jim Iyke, said in a 2018 interview: “It made me begin to look for other opportunities, do things that I didn’t think were conceivable, meet people that I didn’t know knew me and wanted to do business with me, travel the world, broaden



SOUP GERECHTEN

K) Egal Soep met Geit/Rund/Vle

1. Met gestampte yam €3,99
2. Met griesmeel €3,99
3. Met garn €3,99
4. Met banks €3,99
5. Met oetmeel €3,99



L) Oera soep met Geit/Rund/Vle

1. Met gestampte yam €3,99
2. Met griesmeel €3,99
3. Met garn €3,99
4. Met banks €3,99
5. Met oetmeel €3,99



M) Banga soep met Geit/Rund/Vle

1. Met gestampte yam €3,99
2. Met griesmeel €3,99
3. Met garn €3,99
4. Met banks €3,99
5. Met oetmeel €3,99



Ebra's:

1. Gegrilde kip €4,00
2. Gestoofde rund €5,00
3. Gestoofde geit €5,00
4. Gegrilde Tilapia €5,00



N) Suya/Spare ribs

1. Rund Suya €6,99
2. Gebakken suya €6,99
3. Kip Suya €6,99
4. Spare ribs €6,99
5. Koppemaggen €6,99
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 + Met jusat €9,99



O) Pepper Soup

1. Pepper Soup (Met Geit/Rund/Vle en verschillende versieringen) €5,99



- Extra's voor pepper soup:**
- Geroosterde yam + €3,00
 - Geroosterde bakbanaan + €3,00
 - Geroosterde bakbanaan + €3,00
 - Witte rijst + €3,00



P) DRINKS

- Red Bull, AA Drink, Cassi, Cola, Fanta, Saa, Fernandes, Martins

EXTRA'S voor alle gerechten:

1. Gemengde Salade €2,99
2. Bakbanaan €3,00
3. Yam €3,00
4. Gegrilde Kip €4,00
5. Gestoofde Rund €5,00
6. Gestoofde Geit €5,00
7. Gegrilde Tilapia €5,00



Q) KIDZ MENU

1. Jollof rice met gegrilde kip €4,99
2. Gebakken rijst met gegrilde kip & bakbanaan €6,99
3. Witte rijst met Tomatensoep met gegrilde kip en bakbanaan €6,99
4. Patat met kip drumsticks €4,99



Speciale aanbieding:

- Jumbo pack (bors, stier, rijt, bonen) – U kunt grote porties eten bestellen van ongeveer 2,5kg aan eten (5 maaltijden voor de prijs van 3), genom voor het hele gezin of voor een hele week. U kunt het thuis laten bezorgen of afhalen. Voor porties, prijzen en verdere details kunt u ons bellen.
- Lunch Deals zijn ook beschikbaar in het restaurant en via bezorging in Almere en Amsterdam.
- Deals – regelmatig kondigen wij nieuwe deals aan op onze website: www.jollyplace.nl
- Ons restaurant is ook beschikbaar voor arrangementen voor verjaardagen, vergaderingen, familiebijeenkomsten en andere speciale bijeenkomsten. Bel ons voor meer details.
- Live stand op comedy, muziek, dans en lateriviale weekenden.

Bel ons gerust voor meer details over deze speciale aanbiedingen

POST COVID-19 OFFERINGS:

Pizza

- Pizza Margherita (Tomatensoep en kaas)
- Pizza salami (Tomatensoep, kaas en salami en kalbasaas)
- Pizza pepperoni (Tomatensoep, kaas, pepperoni en kalbasaas)
- Pizza Vegetarisch (Tomatensoep, geïmporteerd, kaas en Parmezaanse kaas)
- Pizza sticky chicken (Tomatensoep, kaas, kip en noot)
- Pizza hot chicken (Tomatensoep, kaas, kip en Spaanse saus)
- Pizza Sausje (Tomatensoep, kaas, kip en soep)
- Vegetarische Pizza (Tomatensoep, kaas, Champignons, paprika, ui, melk en soep)



Pastries en Kapsalon

- Calzone (Shawarma) (Tomatensoep, kaas en soep)
- Calzone kip (Tomatensoep, kaas en geïmporteerd)
- Calzone kip Shawarma (Tomatensoep, kaas en kalbasaas)
- Fish Pie
- Egg Roll
- Chicken Pie
- Kapsalon Kip (Gegrilde kip, patat, kaas, griesmeel)



* Voor leveringen naar Amsterdam moeten bestellingen voor 17.00 uur worden gedaan en de leveringen vinden plaats van 18.00 tot 20.00 uur

The Jolly Place
TASTES FROM AFRICA

DI - ZA: 12:00 - 22:00
DOMING: 16:00 - 21:00

0684806045
ZADELMARKERSTRAAT 18, 1315AP, ALMERE

Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, www.thejollyplace.nl

WE ZIJN WEER OPEN

VOOR AFHALEN OF ONLINE BESTELLEN
BEZORGING v.a.: €10.00 Almere | €30 Amsterdam*
BEZORGING COST: €2.00 (Almere) | €7.50 (Amsterdam)



RIJST GERECHTEN:

A) Jollof Rice (Rijst gestoomd in tomatensaus)

1. Jollof rice met gegrilde kip (Jolly Box) €6,50
2. Jollof rice met gegrilde kip, salade & bakbanaan €9,99
3. Jollof rice met gestoofde rund & bakbanaan €11,99
4. Jollof rice met gestoofde geitenvlees & bakbanaan €10,99
5. Jollof rice met gegrilde Tilapia & bakbanaan €11,99
6. Jollof rice met spare ribs & bakbanaan €12,99



B) Fried Rijst (Gebakken rijst met gemengde groenten)

1. Gebakken rijst met gegrilde kip (Jolly Box) €6,50
2. Gebakken rijst met gegrilde kip & bakbanaan €9,99
3. Gebakken rijst met gestoofde rund & bakbanaan €11,99
4. Gebakken rijst met gestoofde geitenvlees & bakbanaan €10,99
5. Gebakken rijst gegrilde Tilapia & bakbanaan €11,99
6. Gebakken rijst met spare ribs & bakbanaan €12,99



C) Witte rijst met Tomatensoep

1. Met gegrilde kip (Jolly Box) €6,50
2. Met gegrilde kip en bakbanaan €9,99
3. Met rund (gekoekt in tomatensaus) & bakbanaan €11,99
4. Met geitenvlees (gekoekt in tomatensaus) & bakbanaan €10,99
5. Met gegrilde Tilapia & bakbanaan €11,99
6. Met spare ribs & bakbanaan €12,99



D) Cocoa Rijst (Cocoa rijst met gemengde groenten)

1. Cocoa rijst met gegrilde kip (Jolly Box) €6,50
2. Cocoa rijst met gegrilde kip & bakbanaan €9,99
3. Cocoa rijst met gestoofde rund & bakbanaan €11,99
4. Cocoa rijst met gestoofde geitenvlees & bakbanaan €10,99
5. Cocoa rijst gegrilde Tilapia & bakbanaan €11,99
6. Cocoa rijst met spare ribs & bakbanaan €12,99



E) BONEN GERECHTEN:

1. Ghanaese waakye met gegrilde kip (Jolly Box) €6,50
2. Ghanaese waakye met gegrilde kip & bakbanaan €9,99
3. Ghanaese waakye met spare ribs & bakbanaan €12,99
4. Bonen met gegrilde kip €6,50
5. Bonen met gegrilde kip & bakbanaan €9,99
6. Bonen & Rijst met gegrilde kip & bakbanaan €9,99
7. Bonen & Rijst met spare ribs & bakbanaan €12,99



YAM GERECHTEN:

F) Geroosterde Yam en tomaten/vlees saus/egg saus

1. Met gegrilde kip €9,99
2. Met rund (gekoekt in tomatensaus) & bakbanaan €11,99
3. Met geitenvlees (gekoekt in tomatensaus) & bakbanaan €10,99
4. Met gegrilde Tilapia €11,99
5. Met spare ribs €12,99

G) Gebakken Yam met tomaat/vlees saus/egg saus

1. Met gegrilde kip €9,99
2. Met rund (gekoekt in tomatensaus) €11,99
3. Met geitenvlees (gekoekt in tomatensaus) €10,99
4. Met gegrilde Tilapia €11,99
5. Met spare ribs €12,99



H) BAKBANAAN (Geroosterde/Gebakken/Deroosterd) MET TOMAAT / VLEES SAUS/EGG SAUS

1. Met gegrilde kip €9,99
2. Met rund (gekoekt in tomatensaus) €12,99
3. Met geitenvlees (gekoekt in tomatensaus) €10,99
4. Met gegrilde Tilapia €11,99
5. Met gegrilde kipmaggen €9,99
6. Met spare ribs €12,99



PASTA GERECHTEN:

I) Jollof Pasta (Pasta gestoomd in tomatensaus)

1. Jollof pasta met gegrilde kip (Jolly Box) €6,50
2. Jollof pasta met gegrilde kip & bakbanaan €9,99
3. Jollof pasta met gestoofde rund & bakbanaan €11,99
4. Jollof pasta met gestoofde geitenvlees & bakbanaan €10,99
5. Jollof pasta met gegrilde Tilapia & bakbanaan €11,99
6. Jollof pasta met spare ribs & bakbanaan €12,99



SPAGHETTI GERECHTEN:

J) Jollof Spaghetti (Spaghetti gestoomd in tomatensaus)

1. Jollof spaghetti met gegrilde kip (Jolly Box) €6,50
2. Jollof spaghetti met gegrilde kip & bakbanaan €9,99
3. Jollof spaghetti met gestoofde rund & bakbanaan €11,99
4. Jollof spaghetti met gestoofde geitenvlees & bakbanaan €10,99
5. Jollof spaghetti met gegrilde Tilapia & bakbanaan €11,99
6. Jollof spaghetti met spare ribs & bakbanaan €12,99



COVID-19 PANDEMIC: CMA President urges government to provide protective equipment and incentives for health workers

The President of the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA), Dr. Osahon Enabulele, has again urged Governments of various countries in the Commonwealth of Nations to urgently deploy more resources and provide adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and other incentives for Physicians and other health workers, to aid the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The CMA President stated this on Wednesday, 1st of April, 2020, in a world-wide broadcast to all physicians, health workers and citizens of the Commonwealth. The broadcast, titled 'A Message of Hope and A Call To Action', highlighted the astronomical increase in the number of Commonwealth countries affected by Covid-19 (which at the end of March, 2020, stood at over 40 countries), with unfortunate loss of physicians, health workers and citizens of the Commonwealth, and great disruptions of global interconnectedness, human industry, global health, security, socio-economic well-being and global prosperity.

In his words, 'Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) has challenged our way of life, our health, our well-being and our prosperity. It has also attenuated the strict divide that existed between ideological blocks and advocates of 'Big' or 'Small' Government, that have polarized the world for centuries, as governments are increasingly compelled to assemble palliatives to save their population from permanent health, social and economic ruin'. Wondering how physicians and other health workers were coping in the face of resource challenges and inadequacies, including inadequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and incentives for health workers, Dr. Enabulele expressed the CMA's profound gratitude to physicians and other health workers, whom the CMA found to be working admirably in teams and partnerships during the CMA's site visitations to some hot spots, village clinics, district and tertiary hospitals. He commended health workers for their sustained commitment to duty and provision of quality care, despite these resource challenges and lack of adequate incentives. He however called on Governments in the

Commonwealth to urgently improve on their political will and commitments, and to deploy adequate and appropriate resources, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and incentives for Physicians and other health workers in the fight against Covid-19.

While also appreciating the efforts of National Medical Associations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Commonwealth Secretariat and the

Commonwealth Secretary General (Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC), and the governments of the various countries, in strongly confronting this crippling global health challenge, the CMA President called on National Medical Associations in the Commonwealth to continue to adopt proactive, progressive, dynamic and pragmatic strategic approaches, and to sustain their efforts and partnerships with governments, the private sector, and all other stakeholders, to bring an end to this pandemic.

Dr. Enabulele also called on everyone to actively participate in the global efforts to overcome Covid-19. 'Everybody is called upon to see this as a patriotic duty; with heightening of positive orientation, level of awareness and participation in the efforts to defeat the virus. The CMA is convinced that this global commitment must remain a 'one for all, and all for one' fight against Covid-19'.

With respect to future prospects, Dr. Enabulele expressed great optimism that the world will overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. He hinged his optimism on previous global triumphs against some diseases that had ravaged several countries in the world, such as SARS, Swine Flu, Bird flu, and Ebola, as well as the progress so far made, particularly in Asia and some other countries, including those in the African region. He therefore called on physicians, health workers and citizens of the Commonwealth to have great hope, optimism and courage, in confronting the Covid-19 pandemic.

In his words, 'the daunting challenges notwithstanding, the progress so far made, particularly in China, demonstrates that Covid-19 can be defeated if there is sustained strong political will and commitment, backed with strong health institutional frameworks, adequate protection and incentivisation of health workers, citizen participation, and strict adherence to defined promotive, preventive and clinical care protocols'.

Dr. Enabulele observed a minute silence in honour of all departed physicians, health workers, and citizens. He also expressed the CMA's wish for a speedy and excellent recovery for all those who currently lie stricken by Covid-19.

While asserting that Covid-19 is not a death sentence, Dr. Enabulele gave some health tips on how to avoid being infected by Corona virus (SARS-CoV-2) and advised those who may have been exposed or who may be ill with symptoms similar to those of Covid-19 (fever, cough, difficulty in breathing, e.t.c.) to urgently call their licensed physician or healthcare provider or the numbers provided by the relevant health authorities.

The CMA President reaffirmed the CMA's commitment to fight along with WHO, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Governments, the private sector and the global community, to check the escalation of the virus and bring back those on the brink, through effective treatment, care, and support, as well as the deployment of its resources, including the CMA online University (CMA e-Varsity).



Retooling Age Group for Social Impact: Ogbo Midwest Igbuzo unites behind orphans



An estimated twenty five thousand indigenes and residents of Igbuzo (Ibusa) in Oshimili

North Local Government Area of Delta State is adversely affected by the hardship occasioned by the Coronavirus lockdown. Ogbo Midwest Igbuzo, an Ibusa age group estimates that out of this vulnerable population, the hardest hit are the orphans and the very elderly without dependants. Following recommendations from the leadership of the Age Group, the general membership decided to throw its weight behind this most vulnerable population group through a relief intervention programme.

Justifying this decision in a note by the Leadership of Ogbo Midwest Igbuzo to its members for approval, the President, ad interim, Collins Nweke on behalf of the Executive Committee (ExCo) explained: “though relief interventions from Government and private individuals exists, none of these initiatives paid any direct and structured attention to orphans and the very elderly amongst us. Yet this is a target group that can rightly be regarded as the most vulnerable of the vulnerables. They are therefore most deserving of our attention and benevolence”

Less than 48 hours after establishing its targeted budget and launching a fund mobilization campaign, the Age Group of Ibusa sons born between January 1963 and December 1965, not only reached its target of 0,5 Million Naira but exceeded it by 20 per cent. “I have not seen anything like it before” explained the General Secretary of the Group, Moses Emeagwai “the enthusiasm of members during the opening hours of donation was so infectious that it was almost challenging to keep up with the inflow of donation alerts” he

laughed. He went further to explain that any doubts that he may have harboured about the giving spirit of Ibusans and friends of Ibusa when it comes to ameliorating the suffering of the less privileged was diminished by the great outcome of this project. “The saying that little drops of water makes a mighty ocean, certainly rings true here. 5K here, 7K Naira there, all added up quickly to place us in good stead to be of value to fellow Ibusans” he concluded.

Recounting his experience, the Treasurer of the Group, Onowu Henry Onianwa reminisced on the large heart of the larger society within and outside Igbuzo. “Sometimes the help we seek in our efforts to be a force for good in our society is just a phone call away. If I am convinced that this is a project worthy of my backing, I do not see why a select number of friends, Associates and likeminded people won’t be convinced too. And I was right because I observed that I simply needed to introduce the topic and before I could say much further, I am asked to send in the account details for transfer” Concluding, he described the experience as amazing.

Age Group Initiative in a Changing World

Age Grades or Groups over the years are avenues for social interaction among members. From Ogbo Nkulu of 1852 – 1854, Ogbo Nkpulu Olulu of 1906 – 1908 through Ogbo Felianza 1917 – 1919 to Ogbo Chi ji eshishe ji 1946 – 1948 and Ogbo Mbido Aya Biafra of 1966 – 1968, each Age Group has always received a special name that helps define its position in Igbuzo relative to other Age Groups. It is said that in the pre-colonial period, newly formed Age Groups had to prove themselves for maturity by defending the community against hostile neighbours or enemies and are marked by an initiation rite. “While the fundamentals remain same, it is obvious that the concept of Age Grade would have to reinvent itself if it is to stand the test of the vagaries of the 21st Century” opined the



President, ad interim, Collins Nweke. “The organisational realities we face today are different from those our fathers and grandfathers faced in organising the Ogbo’s. Many of our members are scattered across Nigeria and the Diaspora. Ordinarily this could be seen as a reality that presents organisational bottlenecks. Far from it! With modern IT and

communication infrastructures, Ogbo Midwest is able to hold meetings across the globe, uniting members in Igbuzo with those in Lagos, Brussels, London, Enugu, California, Port Harcourt, Toronto and more” he asserts.

While Ogbo Midwest is currently concluding the fine points of its Constitution under the Chairmanship of Barrister Charles K. Nmarkwe, one incontestable fact is the resolve of the Group to position itself as agent for cohesion, peace and development of their Igbuzo hometown! “Age Groups have always been traditional tools. We must be determined to retool for deeper social and cultural impacts in Igbuzo” Nweke concludes.

At midday on Thursday 23 April 2020, led by Hon. Pat Mozea and Onowu Henry Onianwa representing the ExCo, Ogbo Midwest Igbuzo will be presenting relief packages to Pro Labore Dei Orphanage & Elderly Nursing Homes in Ogboli and Umuodafe Villages respectively as well as Shalom Orphanage in Umuehea Village commencing from Midday.

Specifically, the Interim President, Councilor Collins Nweke want to thank the Implementation Team that included the following persons - Henry Onianwa, Pat Mozea, Ogom Osuji, Vincent Iwunor, Tony Nwaefuna and the Procurement Team that includes the following persons - Moses Emeagwai, Steve Obiekwu and City Nwaokocha. Although they have not decided what to do next after the three months but Mr. Collins Nweke acting as Interim President told The Voice magazine, they would be meeting and coming up with the future of the initiative.

Other members of the group given task include the following persons:

Pat Mozea - Admin Team

Moses Emeagwai - Interim General Secretary

Okpara J Okwusi - Interim Home Secretary

Tony Ikpo – Admin Team

Henry Onianwa - Interim Financial Secretary

Ibusa, Oshimili North LGA, Delta State (Nigeria)

For further press inquiries, please make contact with:
Contact:

Hon. Pat Mozea

Tel. / WhatsApp: +234 803 366 9135

The Netherlands will give 4,000 Euros to citizens buying Electric vehicle

To all citizens of the Netherlands: Buy a new electric vehicle (EV) after July!

We all know that a global catastrophe is emerging. With the level of pollution in the environment and the amount of climate change, our Earth will die soon enough if we don't act now.

Some of the prominent countries that are trying their best to save the planet are from the European continent. These include Belgium, Denmark, Portugal and the United Kingdom. Now as most of the pollution comes from carbon emissions due to burning petrol and diesel, most of these countries are trying to eradicate the cars that run on gas. Following this idea, the Netherlands, another European country announced that they will be providing a subsidy to drivers who will be buying electric vehicles (EVs) in the country.

According to the RTL, a Dutch newsgroup, any citizen of the Netherlands who will buy an electric car after July 1 of this year, are eligible to receive €4,000 (\$4,425) that can be used to cover the cost of the car. If anyone buys a second-hand EV, they will be getting €2,000 (\$2,211). The country took this step to encourage drivers to move from gas vehicles to electric-powered automobiles.

How the Scheme Will Work



The €4,000 subsidy is valid on cars that cost up to €45,000 (\$49,744). So the scheme mainly targets lower-end buyers of the market. According to the government, this will get drivers out of the gasoline vehicles and move them into



greener alternatives.

Now to prevent fraudulent claims of the grant, the car that is being bought must meet government standards and should be bought from a specialist/authorized dealer. The driver will not get the money from the scheme if he/she buys the car from the classified ads in car magazines.

According to the source, the Dutch government is also planning to provide non-financial incentives for the buyers.

They are trying to give guarantees on software updates and EV battery health for the drivers. We will know more details about the scheme once the government announce it in the coming weeks.

The plan of the Netherlands government is to phase out all the gasoline vehicles and adopt EVs all around the country by 2025. By then, the subsidy scheme will also phase out.

So if any Dutch reader, living in the Netherlands, is reading this, it will be a pretty good time for you to replace your gasoline car with a modern electric car, after this July. On one hand, you will be getting a new car at a drastically lower price, and on the other hand, you will be contributing to saving our beloved planet and making it a better place to live in.

Van Gogh painting stolen from Dutch museum closed by virus

The director named the stolen work as the ‘Parsonage Garden at Neunen in spring’, an 1884 painting that is one of a series made when the artist was staying at his father’s house. The thieves stole a painting by Vincent van Gogh after breaking into a Dutch museum closed to the



public because of the corona virus pandemic, the museum’s director said last month in The Hague, the capital of the

country.

“There has been a break-in last month and a painting by Van Gogh was stolen,” said Evert van Os of the Singer Laren Museum, in Laren, about 30 kilometres southeast of Amsterdam told the press.

The director named the stolen work as the ‘Parsonage Garden at Neunen in spring’, an 1884 painting that is one of a series made when the artist was staying at his father’s house.

The painting has an estimated value of between one to six million euros, local media said.

The criminals entered the museum at around 3.15 am (0115 GMT) by breaking open a front glass door, police and Dutch news reports said.

The museum’s 3,000 works also include works by Dutch abstract master Piet Mondrian and Dutch-Indonesian painter Jan Toorop, as well as a casting of “The Thinker” by Auguste Rodin.

New rules on Driving on Dutch roads

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to all diplomatic missions and international organizations located in The Netherlands and have the honour, with reference to its note no. DPG-Min-Bu-Za.2019.4348-20, to draw their attention to the following.

On 19 December 2019 the Dutch government decided to reduce the general speed limit on motorways between 6 am and 7 pm to 100 km/h.

The new speed limit will gradually enter into force between Thursday, 12 March 2020 (9 pm) and Monday, 16

March 2020 (5 am). Please be informed that the new speed limit is enforceable as soon as the traffic sign is visible (i.e. the cover of the new traffic sign is removed).

The new speed limit will not apply between 7 pm and 6 am. During these hours the speed limit remains 100 km/h, 120 km/h or 130 km/h, as indicated on the traffic signs.



The Ministry kindly asks all diplomatic missions and international organizations to inform their staff about the new regulation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all diplomatic missions and international organizations the assurances of its highest consideration.

Ban GMOs – CSOs demand in Lagos, Nigeria

In March 2020, hundreds of Nigerians including farmers, CSOs, community persons, lawyers, medical practitioners, students, scientists, youth and women groups led by Health of Mother Earth Foundation and the GMO-Free Nigeria Alliance marched against food products of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The march reached the Lagos State government secretariat with a petition demanding for a ban on GMOs, a nullification of the permits already issued for the importation and release of genetically modified maize, beans and cotton into the country and to halt illegal entry of GMOs.

The coalition also demanded a ban of all toxic agrochemicals – especially those containing glyphosate, which has been identified as a carcinogen and for a halt on the assault on our agriculture through genetic modification of our staple crops including cassava, maize and beans. Through the petition, the group urged that the Nigerian government should be circumspect about technologies that aim to contaminate our environment, destroy our agriculture, culture, rupture our socio-economic fabric and assert unbridled control over our agriculture and food.

Speaking during the rally, Nnimmo Bassey, the Director of Health of Mother Earth Foundation stressed that Nigeria does not need GMOs,

adding that they are promoted on false premises that includes that they give higher yields and are more nutritious than normal crops. Bassey explained, also that they do not use less herbicides and pesticides as many of the genetically modified crops are designed to withstand herbicides which are produced by same companies producing the seeds. He pointed out also that another main reason some crops are genetically modified (e.g. the beans that was approved by the government for commercial release in 2019) is for them to act as pesticides. These processes destroy not only target pests and weeds but also beneficial microorganisms -both in the soil and in the human guts, he explained. “What we eat must not eat us,” he and the people chanted.

Also speaking at the rally, Akinbode Oluwafemi, Deputy Director of Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria stated that Nigeria has the capacity to feed herself and that we cannot allow our food system to be overtaken by corporate control/interest. He called instead, for better support for the small holder farmers who produce natural and healthy foods.

The Secretary of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) buttressed this point when he said that just as the Nigeria government is currently encouraging local contents in other sectors, local farmers should be encouraged because they provide bulk of the food we consume, stressing that we don't want foreign foods in the form of GMOs.

One of the women leaders, Funmi Ajayi charged the Government to take up the responsibility of protecting her citizens from danger and demanded that the government should put a stop to the introduction of GMOs in Nigeria as this will cause more harm to Nigerians as well as lead to loss of livelihood for our farmers.

Joyce Ebebeinwe, a programme officer at HOMEF stressed that the introduction of GMOs violates the rights of the people

to safe and healthy food as majority of people are not aware of these foods or their implications and they, including the few who are aware have no way of identifying GMOs or making a choice as to whether or not to consume them.

The Head of Public Affairs and that of Political Affairs on behalf of the Lagos State Governor at



the Lagos State House of Assembly received the coalition. Nnimmo Bassey while addressing the government officials noted that GMOs, in spite of the many issues surrounding them are continuously been introduced into the country by the very permissive National Biosafety Management Agency and through illegal imports as seen by a market shelf survey (see report: <https://homef.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Report-on-Market-Shelves-Survey-for-GM-Food-Products-2018-web.pdf>) conducted by Health of Mother Earth Foundation in 2018 and 2019.

Bassey explained that the National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Act established in 2015 and amended in 2019 needs to be repealed due to loopholes in it such as the lack of provisions for strict liability and redress which mandates that the biotechnology corporations take responsibility for immediate and forthcoming negative impacts of use of their products; no mandatory provision on access to information, public consultation and participation and lack of veritable provisions for the enforcement of the precautionary principle.

He added that the NBMA Act confers enormous discretionary powers on the agency and gives little room for oversight.

Bassey added the coalition brought these demands before the Lagos State government because as the Centre of Excellence and economic hub in Nigeria, a decision of the state in the right direction will definitely influence other states to do the same. The state government was urged to declare Lagos a GMO-free state.

The coalition called as an alternative to GMOs, for the Nigerian government to address the root causes of the challenges of food production. The group called for an investment in and support for an agricultural system such as Agroecology that promotes soil health and biodiversity and ensures collaborative research/innovations with farmers and increased/sustained production of healthy/nutritious food. It was demanded that farmers should be provided with needed

infrastructure, extension service, access to land and credit schemes and good road-market networks.

At the end of the presentation, the government officials promised to pass every detail of the demands of the people to state governor and look critically at the petition submitted to ensure that the demands stated are considered.

The petition (<https://homef.org/2020/03/18/petition-to-the-lagos-state-governor-on-gmo-crops-in-nigeria/>) was signed by HOMEF and some members of the GMO-Free Nigeria including: Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria; Peace and Development Project; Center for Human and Socio-Economic Rights; Child Health Organization; Spaces for Change; Justice Development and Peace Commission; Joint Action Front; and Center for Children's Health Education, Orientation and Protection



Isabel dos Santos back on the attacks

As the rest of the world is focused on the effect of the new coronavirus pandemic, former first daughter of Angola Isabel dos Santos is much more concerned by the mass-grab by judicial authorities of her former business empire.

Releasing a new attack on authorities yesterday (Sunday), she has called the latest seizure – of 26.075% of the share capital of telecoms operator NOS – “abusive”.

Sonaecom is also presenting an appeal to the Lisbon court of appeal on the basis that it too is a major shareholder in NOS and doesn't agree with the measure as it compromises both Sonae and NOS beyond Isabel dos Santos' companies Kento and UIH.

Ms dos Santos' sense of outrage appears to be centred on the fact that as far as she is concerned authorities in her home country – where prosecution for fraud and embezzlement awaits her – have already ‘seized’ the money they claim she owes them (a little over a billion euros).

In the mindset of the African businesswoman – whom the BBC has described as having “made her fortune through exploiting her own country and corruption” – the authorities

already have what they say she owes them and therefore “have no right to ask for any kind of share seizures in Portugal”.

Ms dos Santos goes on to stress that the new seizure means salaries of employees of the companies involved will not

get paid, and thus licences and taxes will also fall by the wayside.

Stopping short of presenting an appeal to the Court of Appeal herself, Ms dos Santos calls on authorities to try and see things from her point

of view and avoid the need for even more unemployment at a time of looming economic crisis.

By Natasha Donn
natasha.donn@algarveresident.com



Jeffangs Beauty



This is a one-stop shopping center for all your hair and body products. We have sections for all beauty and body care products for men and women at **Jeffangs Beauty Supply & Salon** in Rotterdam. We offer you the latest hair and skin products with fantastic prices.....



You are Welcome always & bless 2020 to you all..



Supply & Salon

**We specialize in Afro
& European hair
styles**

Weaving, Braiding, Lace
wig fixing, Trimming of hair,
Washing of hair, Relaxing
of hair, Colouring of hair,
Barbering of all men styles etc.

Contact:

1st Middellandstraat 132B

3021BJ, Rotterdam Centrum

E-mail: jeffang2002@yahoo.com

jeffangs@jeffangs.com

Tel: +31(0)10-4776062

Mob: +31614471508

J
E
F
F
A
N
G
S

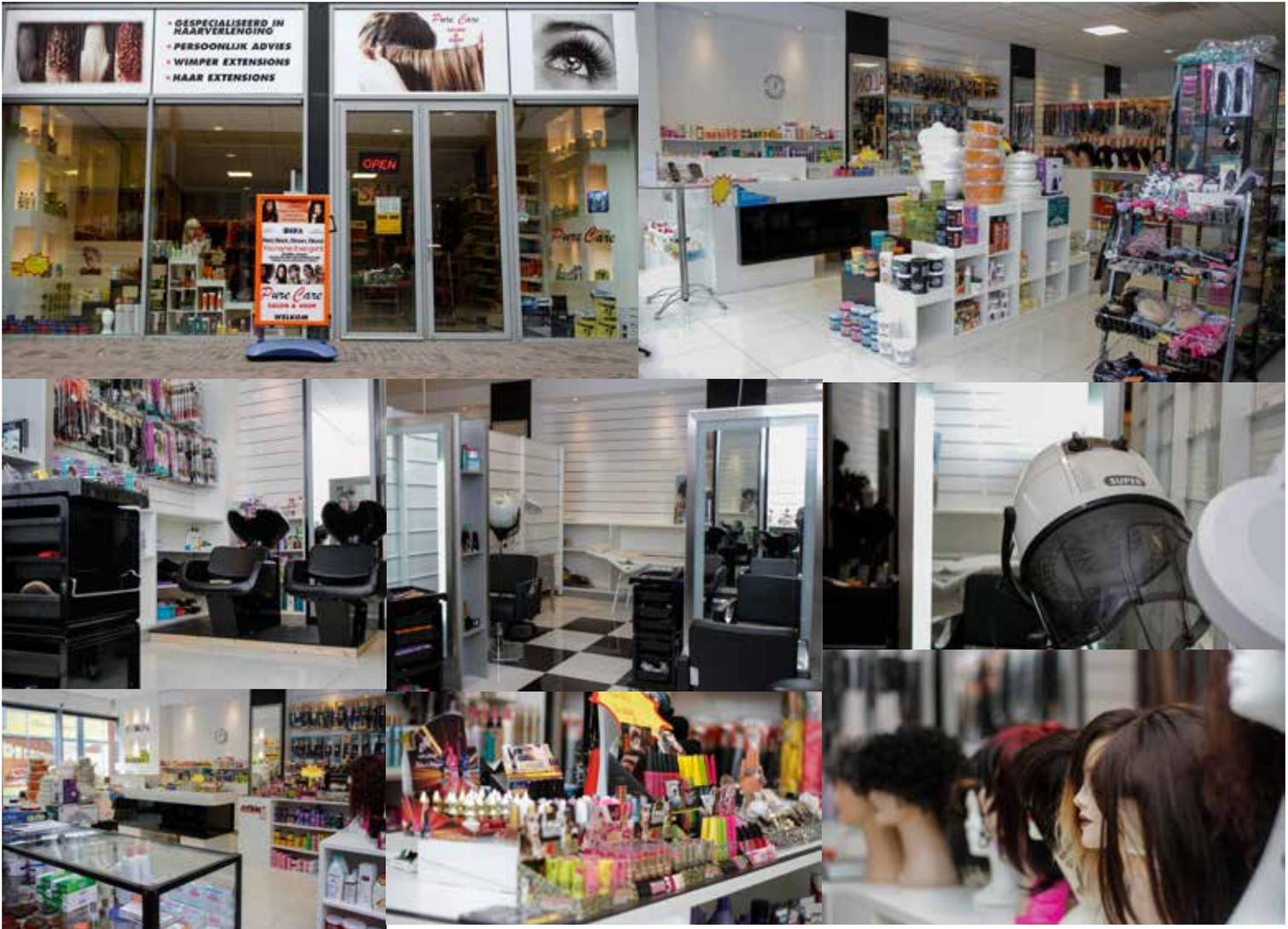


We have many more products for you to
select from....

You can purchase Retail or Wholesale



PureCare Salon



**Looking for a classic place for your Hair do (For a Woman or a Man)?
Look no further than **PURECARE Salon** in Almere Buiten
We offer the latest hair and skin products and our services are world class.
YOU ARE WELCOME & BLESS 2020 TO YOU ALL !!!!**



Salon & Shop



- Wimper extensions stylist
- Mary Kay Consultant
- Skin and hair analysis with digital microscope
- For appointments Only:
06-86495901

We have eye for beauty

**P
U
R
E
C
A
R
E**

Contact:
Reykjavikstraat 13
1334KG, Almere Buiten Centrum
Near Trekpleister
E-mail: info@purecare.nl
Tel: +31(0)36-5212618
www.purecare.nl

Opening times:
Monday: 1.00pm – 6.00pm
Tuesday: 9.30am – 6.00pm
Wednesday: 9.30am- 6.00pm
Thursday: 9.30am – 6.00pm
Friday: 9.30am – 6.00pm
Saturday: 9.30am – 6.00pm



Global confusion in the midst of crisis

5G does not cause Corona virus.....

5G does not cause cancer or corona virus. 5G do not cause corona virus. Anyone claiming that they do is wrong. They may be wrong out of ignorance, fear, and a desire to make themselves as safe as possible in an uncertain and frightening time. Or they may be some combination of liar, troll, and all-around jerk that enjoy stirring the pot at the one time in recent history when the pot needed stirring the least. We've covered how and why 5G don't cause cancer in the past, so I'm not going to spend too much time debating it again. Today like every day in this beautiful new reality we are all collectively enjoying - we're going to talk about how 5G doesn't and can't cause corona virus.

Covid-19 Is Caused by a Virus

SARS-CoV-2 is what is known as a single-strand RNA virus. It is similar to the corona viruses that live in bats and may have been transmitted to humans through a secondary pangolin host. Because this virus is zoonotic — a disease that can be transmitted to humans from animals — we already have a good idea where it came from. SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes the disease known as Covid-19. Transmission is primarily droplet-born, though the virus has some ability to live on surfaces when outside the body. The incubation period for Covid-19 is a median of five days, with a range of 0-14 days. Humans were first exposed to SARS-CoV-2, as far as we know right now, at what is known as a wet market in Wuhan, China. (Wet markets are places where meat, fish, and produce are sold, as compared with “dry” markets, where electronic goods or household supplies are sold.)

Unlike the Spanish flu pandemic, which killed mostly young and healthy people, Covid-19 appears to hit the elderly hard. Young people who die as a result of SARS-CoV-2 are sometimes dying in systemic reactions called cytokine storms, but the Spanish flu from 1918-1919 was far more

likely to cause cytokine storms than Covid-19 appears to be thus far. This is a very good thing.

Once inside the body, Covid-19 attaches itself to a host cell using its spike protein, possibly binding to the angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) receptors on human cells. SARS-COV-2 has a higher affinity for ACE2 receptors in human cells than the original SARS did.

Once SARS-CoV-2 has penetrated a host cell, it begins replicating the way all viruses do. Your own cells are forced to manufacture more copies of the virus, which spill out of the original host cell into the body. Scientists have taken actual photos of SARS-CoV-2 emerging from human cells cultured in the lab, as shown below:

We have established where SARS-CoV-2 came from and the species in which it originated. We know how it acts once inside the body. At no point does SARS-CoV-2 rely on or react to the presence of ambient EM energy of the sort that exists in the atmosphere around us on an ongoing basis.

Corona virus or 5G? The human misery continues!

Theory of blaming 5G for the Corona virus

What is the truth?

In early April, at least 20 cell towers in the United Kingdom had been purposely damaged or destroyed over a four-day period. The suspected reason for the vandalism? A bizarre conspiracy that's freaking out the conspiracy-minded in the U.K. and around the world.

The theory alleges a direct link between 5G equipment and the COVID-19 outbreak. Some telecoms employees have been harassed on the street for laying down 5G-fiber optic cable. In one video, viewed more than two million times, a woman confronts the workers about what they're doing, saying they're going to “kill everyone” when they're finished with their task. Many of the cell towers that have been destroyed, by the way, were actually for 3G and 4G-services.

Fears about mobile phones and cell towers have existed for years, especially concerns about whether they can cause cancer. (There is currently no conclusive evidence to support this theory.) Now, as 5G networks have begun rolling out in dozens of countries, fears have renewed, and the ongoing pandemic has introduced a new set of interrelated conspiracies amplified by prominent celebrities and influencers. So how did we get here?



What is 5G?

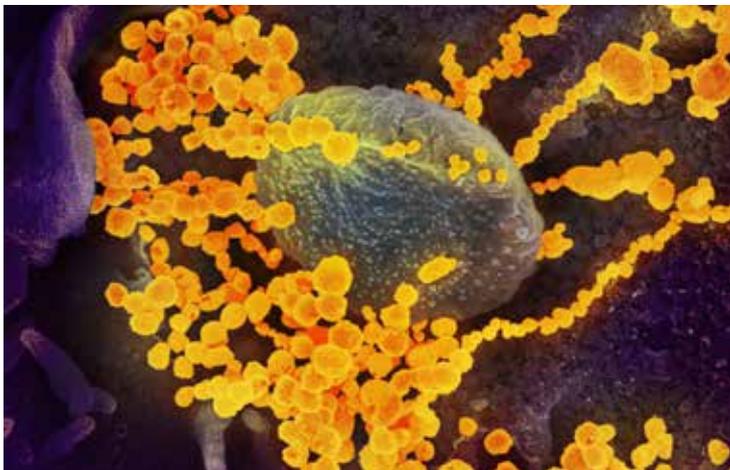
5G stands for the “fifth generation” of mobile communication services, which promise to someday offer widespread, exponentially faster download and upload speeds than what’s currently available on 4G. The 5G services have been operational since 2019 in countries including China, South Korea, the United States, Germany, and the U.K., though these services are only slowly being implemented and are not even close to fully available across any one country. According to VIAVI, a network testing company, 378 cities in 34 countries implemented 5G capabilities as of January 2020.

What are the 5G-COVID-19 conspiracies?

There are three main conspiracies centered on 5G, two of which implicate COVID-19 as well, but none of which have any evidence to substantiate them. The first conspiracy is that 5G cause COVID-19, or at least the symptoms of COVID-19 (many believers of this particular conspiracy do not believe the virus exists at all). In this sense, 5G and COVID-19 is more or less the same thing. 5G/COVID-19 is a biological weapon, and the leaders of the New World Order are releasing it in part via 5G cell towers as a global depopulation campaign.

Bill Gates is frequently mentioned as the originator of this depopulation campaign. In one popular YouTube video, a QAnon-associated conspiracy theorist, who is also an anti-vaxxer with tens of thousands of subscribers, draws a parallel between Gates’s Microsoft efforts decades prior and his vaccination efforts nowadays. The theory goes that Gates’s Windows program was purposely susceptible to viruses so he could make a profit on anti-virus software, and today, he’s orchestrating a depopulation campaign while also speaking out about pandemic vaccination efforts so he can someday make a huge profit on a mandatory vaccine. The gist is Gates is concerned with making a profit on the vaccine—which will double as a way to track the entire human population—rather than actually designing something intended to put a stop to the deaths caused by 5G/COVID-19.

The more widespread theory is that 5G weaken the immune system through radiation, thus making you more susceptible to COVID-19. Evidence has been offered in the form of



United States maps, which allegedly show that the cities with 5G coverage have been most affected by COVID-19 outbreaks. Of course, this ignores two realities: One, most of the areas in the U.S. with limited 5G coverage are major cities with denser populations more susceptible to an outbreak; and two, plenty of countries—namely Iran—don’t have any 5G capabilities, yet have been hit the hardest by the virus.

And finally, there are the conspiracy theorists that don’t believe 5G are connected at all to COVID-19. In actuality, they say, the media is covering this obviously false link solely as a distraction tactic. The media and government accomplices are trying to diminish and lump together the anti-5G folks who have otherwise-legitimate gripes about 5G causing non-COVID-19 health issues.

When did this start spreading?

As BuzzFeed documented, unverified videos about 5G from YouTubers and conspiracy theorists started emerging over the last year or so, dating back to the origins of 5G installations in major cities. These videos, which include titles like “Man Who Works on 5G Towers Exposes Dangers to Come,” and “5G Tower insane radiation levels - Up to 21 times higher than safe limits!” have been shared hundreds of thousands of times, and have especially permeated Facebook. Their publishing dates, BuzzFeed writes, coincided with “the British telecom company EE [announcing] 5G service in six cities across the United Kingdom.”

Since late January 2020, when COVID-19 morphed into an official pandemic, QAnon followers across social media platforms, as well as users on the r/conspiracy page, have spread their theories about potential links to 5G networks. The real-world results, beyond the cell tower destruction, are increasingly apparent. One Reddit user, whose husband works for a cable company, says he’s been fielding calls from people who want to cancel their Internet over 5G concerns. “One guy apparently told him that he only coughs when he’s on the Internet on his computer, but not when he’s on his phone,” the Reddit user added.

But ultimately, random posters on the Internet are only capable of stirring up so much false information. Wired notes that their echo chamber eventually “started to break out, propelled by engagement algorithms that were smart enough to spot a viral trend but dumb enough not to notice the idiocy of its content.” A similar scenario unfolded about a month ago, when an obviously false, unrelated story about Oprah started trending due to engagement algorithms that amplified the voices of QAnon followers. And over the last week or so, it’s been non-fringe figures who’ve noticed the relatively mainstreamed 5G conspiracies, who’ve in turn been weighing in with inaccurate commentary that draws far more attention to the made-up situation.

5 G..... What is 5G?

The fact that 5G has not been implemented here...yet people are daily being infected by corona virus... makes nonsense of that 5G connection.

There are small cities all around the world where there are no 5G masts, yet people are dying of corona virus there. Do they have 5G in Akure that just recorded its first case? Do they have it in Ibadan? Is the 5G network now up and running in Lagos and Abuja?

Yet, there are rising cases of infection in all these cities. In November 2019, China launched its 5G network in 50 cities - 50 cities! And those cities include three of their biggest cities: Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen. Know the number of people infected with corona virus (or supposedly 5G radiation, laughable, really) in those 3 major cities?

Extremely, extremely negligible. So negligible we never heard much about them. Yet, conspiracy theorists only talk of Wuhan, wrongly claiming that's the headquarters of the 5G network (the HQ is in Beijing, by the way). In 3 months of the virus, China, a country of nearly 1.4 billion people, had only recorded a grand total of 3,322 deaths; that's 1 death per 421,000 citizens.

Italy, on the other hand, with a population of a miserly 59 million inhabitants, has recorded deaths of 18,681! That is 1 death per about 4,000 citizens!!

Need more numbers? While China rolled out its 5G in 50 cities, Italy only have 5G in 5 cities!

So what's killing the Italians - the 5G that is only in 5 cities? Norway, a country of very brilliant people, have been using internet connection of about 7G or 8G - that's

a whole lot more radiation than a 5G. And guess what the total number of deaths from corona virus is in Norway? 54.

Yes, you read that right. Only 54 people have died of Corona virus in a country with a far bigger network than 5G; in a country that uses 7G and 8G. Australia, Britain and a couple of other countries (including the US) have all banned HUAWEI (the owners of the 5G stuff) from operating it in their country, yet Australia, Britain and the US are hard hit.

The facts and statistics that are more potent us this: as at March 17, 2020, while the rest of the world is still reeling, China has not recorded one single new case of infection. So what happened? Why did the "5G network radiation" stop infecting and killing the Chinese?

Have they uprooted all their 5Gs and dumped them in Italy and New York? No doubt, radiation of any frequency is dangerous and will alter the cells of any living being (know anyone who has had chemo, or seen the sign at the Radiation Department of hospitals that advise pregnant women not to come near), but to say that 5G is responsible for these deaths by corona virus, even in countries where there is no 5G yet, is simply stretching the truth about science into a sphere of ludicrousity. Another question I would like to ask these conspiracy theorists is this: If 5G radiation is the cause of these deaths, what then is the cause of those who beat the disease and survive? Was the radiation taken out of them? And why has a larger percentage of the population avoided being sick, even though they live in the same locality as those supposedly poisoned by 5G radiation?

Why are people sick with corona virus taking boiled/hot tea made of ginger, garlic, onion, and lemon, and getting well?

Why is hydroxyl chloroquine, taken in combination with high doses of vitamin, healing infected people? Do those things work to reverse radiation poisoning? Is radiation poisoning even reversible in the first place?

People would just read or listen to one garbage on the internet and just run with it, because they are too intellectually lazy to subject such to the test of logic and commonsense.

You guys should just stop this nonsense, abeg.

It sounds really dumb.

By Ade King Ebimomi,

I live and write in from Abuja, Nigeria.



Let's Talk About 5G

The 5th Generation (5G) radio standard is comprised of several different components. 5G can be deployed in existing sub-6GHz spectrum, which is how T-Mobile and most of the rest of the world do it, or in mmWave signals at 20GHz+ frequency ranges. The sub-6GHz spectrum that T-Mobile is using offers range that's closer to LTE, but only modestly improves on performance. This type of 5G is more like "LTE+" in terms of the performance benefits you'll gain than anything like the leap from 3G – LTE.

What about the other type of 5G, mmWave? Millimeter-wave radiation has some distinct characteristics, all of which can be boiled down into a two-sentence summary: It sucks.

Why?



Because millimeter waves don't travel for shit. This chart from SureCall basically summarizes the problem:

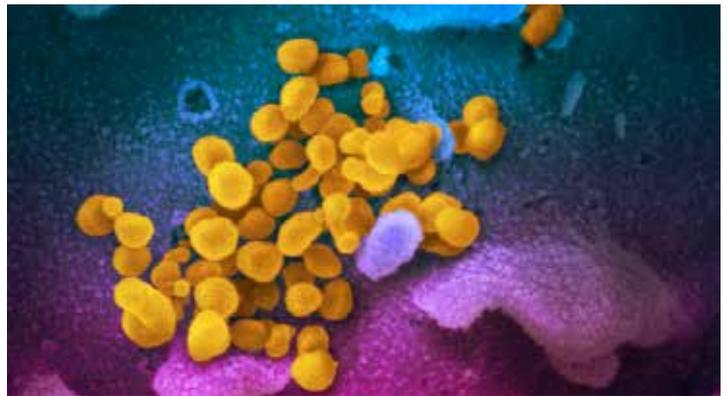
5G can't penetrate obstacles. What counts as an obstacle? Well, first you've got the usual things: Wood, stone, metal, etc. Then you've got the less-usual things, including rain, water molecules in the atmosphere more generally, humans, sheets of paper, and transparent glass. If 5G's obstacle penetration rate is 15-30x worse than LTE's, you can bet one of the things it literally isn't penetrating is you.

This is literally the reason why 5G is such a bad idea to invest in right now. Outside of downtown metro areas and stadiums, there's virtually nowhere you can meaningfully benefit from having 5G access. 5G hasn't even been deployed across most of the United States, which is another reason why it can't possibly be responsible for a disease outbreak. Most of you don't have it. AT&T customers who see "5G E" on their cell

phones, don't worry — that's just a lie AT&T made up and wasn't punished for. Your "5G E" is exactly the same as everyone else's "LTE."

The idea that 5G can cause (or exacerbate) a corona virus infection is just a twist on the idea that cell phones cause cancer. There's no truth to either. The problem with the 5G argument is that the types of 5G deployed in China versus in the United States, not to mention Europe, are different. European 5G doesn't use the same frequencies that American 5G does. American 5G is different from Chinese 5G. Phones that support all of the bands in question don't even exist yet, and 5G deployments in America are tiny. The reason why companies like Qualcomm have been caught distributing bad 5G reports in the first place is that existing 5G service just isn't very good.

We already know where corona virus comes from. We've



found the animal reservoirs. We've identified the source of the outbreak and, in many cases, traced local infections back to specific individuals or group events. The idea that 5G could cause corona virus outbreaks is being generated by trolls and liars, aided by frightened people who don't understand how all of this works. Don't be fooled. The problem with 5G is that 5G is a lousy idea and a bad economic deal for most people right now. It doesn't cause cancer. It doesn't cause corona virus, either.

But — hilariously — this might not continue to be true. If Americans remain stuck at home and reliant on broadband service, it's potentially possible that we'd see companies respond to this by building out more capacity in local homes and areas. In some places, especially cities, 5G might be an effective short-range back haul. If companies knew that people were mostly working from home, they might be more willing to build these deployments at the scale required to make them affordable.

5G doesn't cause corona virus — but there's a chance that corona virus could cause 5G (deployments).

Africans condemn ‘racist’ suggestion of vaccine test in Africa

Samuel Eto’o and Didier Drogba, two former African footballers are leading a campaign/crusade against ‘racist’ professors’ plan to test corona virus vaccine in Africa. Both players reacted angrily at the suggestion that the test could be done on Africans because they are vulnerable to the infectious disease. They have also made it clear to these French Doctors that Africans would not be treated like their ‘e guinea pigs’ any longer.

Didier Drogba and Samuel Eto’o have criticized the two medical professors who claimed that testing for a vaccine against corona virus should be carried out in Africa.

The comments were made on French television about the potential BCG vaccine, which is usually used against tuberculosis. Professor Jean-Paul Mira, head of the intensive care unit at the Cochin Hospital in Paris, said: ‘If I can be provocative, shouldn’t we do this study in Africa where there are no masks, no treatment, no resuscitation?’

‘The same as for some AIDS studies where prostitutes try things because we know they’re unprotected’.

Professor Camille Loch, research director at Inserm, replied: ‘You are right. We are currently thinking in parallel about a study in Africa to make this same type of approach with the BCG.’

‘There is a tender process that has gone out or is going to go out. We will seriously think about that. ‘That doesn’t prevent us from thinking in parallel about a study in Europe and Australia.’ Former Barcelona and Cameroon striker Eto’o hit out at the



Samuel Eto’o of Cameroon

comments when he took to his Instagram page to write this statement: ‘You are just SH*T. Africa isn’t yours to play with.’ Ex-Chelsea and Ivory Coast forward Drogba added his voice accusing the doctors of treating people from Africa like guinea pigs and labelled the remarks as ‘racist’.

He wrote on Twitter: ‘It is inconceivable that we continue to accept this. I strongly denounce these serious, racist and contemptuous remarks!’

‘Help us save lives in Africa and stop the spread of this virus which is destabilizing the whole world, instead of considering us as guinea pigs. It is absurd! ‘African leaders have a responsibility to protect people from these heinous plots.’

Another former Chelsea striker, Demba Ba, who played for Senegal, also criticized the comments. He wrote on Twitter: ‘Welcome to the West, where white people believe themselves to be so superior that racism and stupidity become commonplace. TIME TO RISE.’ Eto’o commented on Ba’s post, saying: ‘Sons of bitches’.

BCG is one of various vaccines being considered for potential use against corona virus.



Didier Drogba of Cote d’Ivoire

Africa is not your playing ground’ – Barcelona legend Eto’o slams professors over disparaging remarks. The football great has hit back at the scholars following their uncomplimentary remarks about Africa as the world seeks a solution against the virus

Samuel Eto’o has lashed out at two professors in the wake of their disapproving comments about Africa as the world continues to battle Covid-19.

As it stands, there are no drugs that can prevent the pandemic, but scientists have identified the BCG vaccine - used against tuberculosis as a panacea to curtail the illness that has killed so many people across the globe.

Former France and Inter Milan midfielder Olivier Dacourt also tweeted his disapproval on Twitter.

“Are they really serious there?” he queried.

At the highest level, the World Health

organization under the leadership of Ethiopia born Dr. Tedros says the organization condemned the remarks in the strongest term possible. He said it is the handover from a colonial mentality and it has to stop as WHO will not allow it to happen



Lisbon court seizes NOS shares held by Angola’s dos Santos

Sonaecom, sub-holding of Portugal’s Sonae, said last month in a Lisbon that a court has seized shares in telecommunications firm NOS of a holding company it co-owned with former first-daughter and Angolan businesswoman Isabel dos Santos.

Sonaecom and dos Santos, who was named a suspect in a fraud investigation in Angola this year, each own 50% of holding firm ZOPT, which owns 52.15% of NOS.

The seizure affects half of ZOPT’s shares, equivalent to dos Santos’ holdings - but ZOPT as a whole will be deprived of voting rights, a decision Sonaecom argued “seriously harms

the interests of ZOPT and Sonaecom, both being third parties completely unrelated to the judicial process underway.”

Sonaecom said it would contest the decision as ZOPT “is not liable for the debts of its shareholders”. Dos Santos has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Angolan courts seized dos Santos’ assets in December, but did not freeze voting rights, Sonaecom said.

In February, Portugal’s public prosecutor ordered the seizure of bank accounts belonging the ex-first daughter, who also owns shares in several other Portuguese companies including oil group Galp.

Sonaecom said it would cooperate with judicial authorities while taking “all appropriate legal action to revert and terminate the seizure procedure”.

Earlier this year, hundreds of thousands of files about dos Santos dubbed the “Luanda Leaks” were released by several news organisations focussing on how she amassed a fortune estimated at more than \$2 billion.

Reporting by Catarina Demyon and Victoria Waldersee, Additional reporting by Sergio Goncalves, Editing by David Gregorio

Our Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.



Malawi election: What the annulment means for democracy across Africa

Before the outbreak of the Corona virus globally, Malawi Opposition supporters were celebrating after a panel of five top judges annulled the results of last year's May presidential election.

Many of them said this was a victory for democracy after the two main losing candidates argued in court that there had been irregularities in the vote that saw President Peter Mutharika narrowly elected for a second term. He has

Secondly, the court directed Malawi's parliament to consider recalling the current electoral commission to "ensure smooth conduct of fresh elections".

In so doing, they sent a signal that the supposedly neutral bureaucrats in charge of organizing such flawed elections should be thrown out. They also implied that a slap on the wrist was not enough, and that Malawi's precious democratic institutions needed to be properly defended.

This was an important blow against a widespread culture of impunity.

Thirdly, the judges said the current first-past-the-post system of picking a new president was unconstitutional.

In future, they said, the winner needed to gain more than 50% of the vote, which could mean a second-round run-off.

That could have dramatic political implications for Malawi and is, above all, sure to encourage opposition candidates and parties to enter into strategic coalitions, giving them an unanticipated boost. Fundamentally, the court ruling weakens the power of incumbency - a power that is often stronger, and more open to abuse, in relatively young democracies.

Why is it such a big deal?

The judges could easily have played this one safe. They could have succumbed to

intimidation or self-censorship. They could have concluded that there was serious electoral fraud, but no proof that it actually changed the results, therefore no need for drastic measures. They could have given the electoral commission the benefit of the doubt.

They could have merely urged the implementation of unspecified reforms before the next election. They could have been wary of judicial overreach.

vowed to appeal against the ruling. He was declared the winner of the poll with 38.6% of the vote. That was just under 159,000 more votes than his nearest rival, Lazarus Chakwera. The court ordered a re-run within the next five months. It said the vote should take place under different rules. However with the current situation, the incumbent President continue to remain in power until after the crisis when the electoral body is expected to announce new guidelines to new Presidential elections in Malawi.

What did the judges say?

Firstly, it is worth noting that the judges did not rule that the election was stolen. They simply said the evidence of rigging was so widespread and blatant that "the integrity of the result was severely compromised". It is an important distinction.

In essence, the judges argued that Malawians deserve, and should expect, an A- grade election - not perfect, perhaps (who can boast that?) but free of systemic abuse. They should not have to make do with the more familiar C+ election that some nations and institutions still seem to tolerate or encourage.



Instead, Malawi's highest court seized this opportunity not only to shake up their country's political and electoral infrastructure, but to send a message of judicial strength and independence to other African countries still wrestling with the shift from one-party rule to true multi-party democracy.

Just think how different Zimbabwe's or the Democratic Republic of Congo's recent elections might have been if their courts had simply refused to tolerate a second-rate process. It is easy to exaggerate the importance of this ruling. An election re-run in Malawi will hardly strike terror into the hearts of Africa's more authoritarian administrations. It could even provoke further instability in Malawi itself.

But the ruling does set a useful precedent, and should prompt some soul searching in regional groups like the Southern African Development Community (Sadc), whose election observer missions have often been accused of being indecently quick to give flawed polls the benefit of the doubt. Sadc has tried to put a positive spin on its role in Malawi, but the whiff of hypocrisy is hard to ignore.

What happens now?

President Mutharika has indicated that he plans to lodge an appeal against the court's ruling. That decision is likely to prolong and amplify political tensions in the country, at least in the short term. The president's opponents will be fired up by the annulment and its devastating implication - that as winners of a flawed election, Mr. Mutharika's backers are now prime suspects in terms of orchestrating any rigging.

Much now hangs on whether any appeal goes ahead, how quickly it is dealt with, and - of course - whether the judges' ruling is overturned.

Legal challenges aside, Malawi now has under five months to organize and fund new elections, change its electoral law, overhaul its electoral commission, and

maintain public order at a time of heightened political tensions. That is a tall order for any country. There is no guarantee that one sharp judicial intervention will necessarily nudge Malawi on to the right path.



What does this mean for other African countries?

After years in which democracy appeared to be spreading and taking root across the continent, many observers now see signs of backsliding. This comes as former liberation movements see their support base eroding, and some governments look to "managed democracies" like Russia, or even to China, for inspiration.

In that context, Malawi's annulled election may inspire democracy campaigners and activists in other countries, but it may also prompt more authoritarian governments to seek to clip the wings of independent judges and to limit judicial "meddling" in politics.

And what lessons will opposition parties across the continent draw from Malawi?

Many, with good reason, are now celebrating the success of their counterparts there. Some may conclude that the route to power lies through legal challenges and sustained, and sometimes-violent street protests. But that would be premature, and perhaps even counterproductive.

The bigger lesson for opposition parties - yet to be fully tested in Malawi, but already apparent from DR Congo and many other countries - is that sustained success requires difficult compromises, patient coalition building, solid policy platforms, and a willingness to reach beyond narrow ethnic or regional strongholds.



The Gambia gives international justice an unlikely boost

The Gambia gives international justice an unlikely boost

The small West African country's case against Myanmar shows the reach of international justice.

In a watershed moment for international justice, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered the government of Myanmar to, among others, immediately protect the Rohingya from further persecution.

The ICJ not to be confused with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and criminal courts in general deals with legal disputes between states. As politicians argue about whether or not genocide is happening in Myanmar,

The Gambia left it to independent judges to decide. So, in this case, the ICJ became the first step towards state accountability that could result in individual prosecutions on charges linked to genocide at courts like the ICC.

The two states in this case are, in many ways, worlds apart. The Gambia seemingly has little connection to Myanmar with 11 500 km between them. In bringing the matter, the West African country asked the ICJ for an urgent ruling and provisional order to prevent any further acts of violence or destruction, and to preserve any evidence of genocide against the Rohingya.

The order is provisional until the ICJ deals with whether Myanmar is in fact carrying out genocide against the Rohingya people. Already, the court's decision said that some of the actions outlined by The Gambia could amount to genocide.

How could the smallest country in continental Africa (only five island nations are smaller) bring such a mammoth case to the ICJ? In international law, the size of a country doesn't matter – all have an equal footing. To strengthen its case, The Gambia's application was backed by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, a group of 57 mainly Muslim countries of which it is part.

The case, which tackles whether the Muslim Rohingya minority in Myanmar is being specifically targeted based on their religion, is significant in three other ways. First, it is instrumental in (re) shaping how the world views the global nature of international crimes such as genocide.



Second, it shows the role the ICJ plays in interpreting international conventions such as the 1948 Genocide Convention. Third, once the ICJ deals with the substantive arguments, it will clarify whether or not genocide is occurring in Myanmar, which in turn will enable decisions to be taken on situations in other countries. The ICJ decision will also outline the responsibilities of states to prevent or stop genocide.

The Gambia relied on witness testimonies and reporting from numerous official sources including a United Nations (UN) fact-finding mission in Myanmar to allege that Myanmar had committed atrocities against its people. Myanmar's government disputes the claims and argues that it is responding to a terrorist threat. It says its actions are aimed at ending an 'internal' armed conflict' with the Arakan Army in Rakhine State (where many Rohingya come from).

It's worth emphasizing that just days before the ICJ's interim order, Myanmar's own independent commission of inquiry found that crimes against humanity, including sexual violence, were committed in Rakhine.

However the commission didn't find evidence of genocidal intent by the state. It also recommended domestic prosecutions – something Myanmar's government says it is committed to. Since the crisis started, Myanmar has refused entry to UN investigators; meaning evidence is being collected from outside the country – mostly in neighbouring Bangladesh.

In the provisional order, the ICJ couldn't – yet – rule on whether the Rohingya were potential victims of ongoing criminal acts directly targeting them based on their ethnicity and religion with the intention to exterminate them in whole or in part. This

But with Myanmar pushing for the problems to be dealt with internally, international prosecutions would only occur if the state itself was found to be instrumental in a genocide.

It's fairly new territory for international justice, but should the ICJ find in favour of The Gambia's arguments, this could put pressure on the UN Security Council to refer the whole situation to the ICC. This won't happen just yet.

Exercising caution, UN Security Council members will probably use more than the final ICJ decision to determine their next steps. The ICC is already investigating the matter from across the border in Bangladesh. The Gambia's role is significant because in seeking to hold leaders accountable, it would broaden the scope of the investigations.

In bringing the case against Myanmar, The Gambia is seeking to position itself as an active participant in the international legal system. The Gambia has its own much-contested human rights record and was recently in the spotlight for crackdowns on protests. This makes it an unlikely champion for international justice and some have questioned whether its move in the Myanmar case was altruistic or an effort to whitewash its own chequered past (and present).

Whatever the motives, The Gambia's actions at the ICJ offer important lessons for other countries on pushing for accountability – whether at home or further afield.

Ottilia Anna Maunganidze, Head of Special Projects, ISS Pretoria and Karen Allen, Senior Research Advisor, Emerging Threats, ISS Pretoria



will come later when the ICJ rules on whether the Genocide Convention applies in this case and, if so, whether genocide can be said to be happening in Myanmar.

Regardless, already the ICJ's provisional order could serve as a (political) catalyst for action. Indeed, by ordering Myanmar not only to protect the Rohingya against persecution but also preserve any evidence, the ball is already in the country's court.

ABN AMRO suffers 183 million euro loss to single client

By Byron Mühlberg

ABN Amro took a 183-million euro hit to its profits after a single US client failed to meet margin calls required to keep trading. The bank pointed to the market turmoil during the corona virus pandemic when it reported the loss in a statement at the beginning of the business day.

“As a result of the unprecedented volumes and volatility in financial markets following the outbreak of COVID 19,” the bank's clearinghouse will incur the 250 million dollar pretax “incidental loss,” the bank said in a statement. The net loss equates to about 200 million dollars, or roughly 183 million euro.

The client responsible for the loss was not disclosed. The client had a specific strategy, trading US options and futures, and failed to meet the minimum risk and margin requirements following extreme stress and dislocations in US markets. To prevent further losses, ABN AMRO Clearing decided to closeout the

positions of this client. The impact will be included in the first quarter 2020 results of ABN AMRO

The bank, which is partly owned by the Dutch government, had been beginning to see signs of a stock price recovery after a fall of nearly six consecutive weeks. News of the loss, which amounts to approximately 10 percent of ABN Amro's annual profits, sent the bank's stock price tumbling by about five percent on last month, and was priced at nearly 8.41.



Blue Nile Water Dispute Mounts to Extreme Level: What options are left for Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan?

The dispute between Ethiopia and Egypt on the filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) mounts to an extreme level that may lead to a potential risk of confrontation unless the differences are managed. On 26 February, Ethiopia rejected to sign the proposed agreement by the US and World Bank to fill and operate the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Ethiopia argue that the deal is in favor of Egypt's interest while it binds Ethiopia to release the reservoir to a lower level in case of a prolonged drought. Ethiopia says they will begin filling GERD in July and test two turbines with or without an agreement. However, Egypt has vowed to use 'all available means' unless the reservoir filled after an agreement. Egypt fears that GERD may reduce Blue Nile water that supply about 60% of the annual flow of Nile.

Blue Nile originates from Lake Tana in Ethiopia and joins the White Nile at Khartoum and flows through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea. More than 85% of the Nile reaching in Egypt comes from Ethiopian waters through the Blue Nile, Atbara, and Baro-Akobo (Sabot) Rivers. Egyptians used the water extensively, and they were the unchallenged masters of the Nile, for millenniums. Nearly 90% of Egypt's freshwater comes from the Nile. Egypt used the colonial-era treaties to maintain its monopoly on the water. The 1959 bilateral agreement allocated 55.5 billion cubic meters (bcm) for Egypt and 18.5 bcm for Sudan, while also allowing the additional 10 bcm for continued flow into Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea. Ethiopia, the main contributor to the Nile, was entitled to none of its resources. Now, Ethiopia and Egypt are in an intense conflict on the filling of GERD. Despite years of negotiations, the countries have not yet reached an agreement. In 2011, Ethiopia began developing a USD\$4.7 billion GERD on the Blue Nile, and the dam will generate more than

6,000MW of electricity once fully operational. The dam will significantly increase electric power in the country, where 70% of the population lives without electricity. Millions of Ethiopians contributed to the construction of GERD with a strong hope that the dam will be vital to the country's development efforts, and the construction is about 71% completed. The dam was a source of conflict between Ethiopia and Egypt for the entire period of its construction. Ethiopia renounced the outdated treaties to which they are not a party, and argue that Egypt's claims to "historical rights" to the Nile waters are unjust and unfair. The upstream nations instead established the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) to be governed by a new trans boundary cooperation framework.

With a 2020 population of approximately 115 million, Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the world. Ethiopia's population growth rate (2.8%) is higher than Egypt (2%), establishing a compelling need for water for increased food production. The country relies on its natural resources, and almost all of the people depend on agriculture. As the rainy season becomes shorter due to global warming, most of the lands are becoming more sandy and dry, making it tougher for Ethiopians to survive. Studies showed that 42% of the population has access to a clean water supply and only 11% of that number has access to adequate sanitation services. In rural areas of the country, these figures drop even lower, resulting in health problems in the villagers as well as their animals. Ethiopia has no other means to feed its people unless using its own resources like Nile River for electric power generation and other water projects, including irrigation.

According to the 2019 estimates of International Monetary Fund (IMF), Egypt's GDP per capita (USD\$14,023) is one of the top among African countries even higher than South Africa (\$13,754) and about six times higher than Ethiopia (\$2,511) - one of the lowest in the world. Egypt's economy is by far the strongest among the Nile basin upstream countries and well positioned to use its abundant groundwater resources. Nile is Egypt's primary water source (90%) for thousands of years. The upstream countries could not initiate water developments on Nile due to the 1929 and 1959 treaties that grant Egypt to control the water. On top of the old treaties that impede the upstream countries, extreme poverty and political instability had tangled them from questioning Egypt's dominance on Nile water for years. Ethiopian dam challenged Egypt's dominance over the river. Egypt expressed its concern since the inception of the dam.



What are Egypt's underlying concerns?

The Blue Nile water flow is dependent on rainfall in the Ethiopian Highlands. Studies are showing that global warming alters precipitation and temperature, and disrupt biological communities and sever ecological linkages. According to a study by Coffel et al. (2019), draught with an increasing population will reduce the amount of water available for human, agricultural and ecological uses along the Nile River in the coming decades. Egypt's concern on GERD is the possible reduction of water flow during unexpected draught. Egypt was in a comfort zone by dominating the water without any interference from the upstream countries. Now, the new dam in Ethiopia emanates against its comfort zone. Uganda also initiated a \$1.4bn Karuma hydroelectric dam, which may currently Uganda's largest power project. All these developments are potential threats to Egypt's current dominance over Nile water.

Based on the various technical assessment reports and trilateral negotiations for the last nine years, Ethiopia ensured that the GERD would not harm the downstream countries. The dam regulates the water flow that alleviates flood, reduces water loss through evaporation and stabilizes the water for sustainable irrigation, especially for Sudan. Sudan barely uses its allocated water and Egypt has been enjoying Sudan's share on top of its 80% water share. Now, the dam is about to change all the stories and 1959 agreements. GERD will regulate the water flow that gives a huge opportunity for Sudan to use its allocated water efficiently and expand its irrigation and other projects. Egypt is using the lion share of the water and developing its projects without informing upstream countries, including Sudan, but yet intend to control upstream developments on Nile water. Considering the potential expansion of projects, Sudan may claim water re-division that would be another pain to Egypt.

Ethiopia is one of the fastest-growing countries in Africa and started claiming its water share not only for GERD but also for other projects in the future to support its economic development. Ethiopia demanded to use its natural resources based on the international law of equitable water share. The downstream countries recognized that Ethiopia's right to use the water and develop the dam. But, Egypt is trying to get a guarantee from Ethiopia to release a minimum of 40 bcm



water, which upholds the existing water demand in Egypt, out of the annual average Blue Nile water flow of 49 bcm. According to a leaked draft proposal, Ethiopia pushed to release 31bcm per year considering the trends of drought and shortage of rain in the last couple of decades. The draft agreement proposed for Ethiopia to releasing 37 bcm of water to flow downstream, which would enable Ethiopia to fill the GERD's reservoir. This indicates that the agreement enforces Ethiopia to releasing more than 76% of its water during the filling period if and only if there is no drought. In other words, this implied that Ethiopia deserves less than 24% of its own water only to fill the dam, let alone addressing the expected water share after the dam is full.

Furthermore, Egypt determined to link the operations and water levels of the two dams in case of draught. High Aswan Dam (HAD) holds 2.3 times (169bcm) higher than GERD (74bcm) expected water reserve. To safeguard its reservoir at Aswan, Egypt wants to bind Ethiopia to releasing a fixed amount of water and be part of the dam management for monitoring Ethiopia's compliance. The reserve capacity of the two dams is entirely different, and such proposal denotes that Ethiopia needs to release 2.3 times higher volume of water to equalize the proportion of reserve capacity. Ethiopia says this will tie GERD in custody and the intention to monitoring

GERD is an act of violating Ethiopians sovereignty. Ethiopia is accusing Egypt's effort in using the Renaissance Dam for an agreement to legitimize the historic right of water, and trying to deter Ethiopia from claiming its water share. Ethiopia considers the agreement, which is proposed by the US and Egypt, restricts to operate the dam and use its water resources for other projects in the future and wants to avoid that. Still, Egypt is pushing for such a restriction.

Overall, the proposed agreement may cause many years of delay before the GERD generates the projected electricity and may also deter Ethiopia from initiating projects on its waters. Such agreement terms may have ruinous consequences for generations and advisable to continue the consultation before any commitment. Countries may also need to reexamine the possible impact of the current negotiation for future equitable water share, particularly after GERD reservoir filled.

Continued on Page 52

Continued from Page 51

Apparently, Ethiopia may have the right to claim half of the Nile water if 'equitable water share' is really practical. If less, the three countries may divide equally (33.3% each). Based on the options to reclaim equitable water share and the advantage of GERD for its national interest, Sudan has rejected the Arab League resolution that supports only Egypt with no regard for upstream countries, especially Ethiopia. Egypt has launched an international diplomatic offensive to shore up its position on its Nile 'water rights.' Thus, it is not surprising if Egypt is aggressively campaigning and lobbying various country leaders to corner Ethiopia and Sudan sign the consequential agreement proposed last February.

What are the options to resolve the dispute?

According to the UN Watercourses Convention of equitable water utilization, there is no justification for Egypt to maintain its lion share and its dominance on Nile water. Egypt also threatened to go to war and bomb the dam if Ethiopia starts filling the dam



without signing the agreement. Ethiopians are also resonating with the bible sayings 'Being killed with a sword/war is better than slowly starving to death.' For anyone in any country, death by starvation is slow and awful. Ethiopians have been waiting for years to using their waters, and it seems that they are ready to pay the price before they could find themselves hungry again. These indicate how the Nile water equally essential for these countries and need water dreadfully for food production to feed their people. Given this fact, the countries may need to continue the peaceful negotiation rather than heightening war. Thus, country leaders must be diligent in making substantial concessions for equitable water share and avoid triggering a war. It is evident that the colonial-era treaties have no role at this time, and an aggressive campaign using unsubstantiated info to mislead countries may not change the fact. The three countries (Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan) need to negotiate among themselves considering the international law of equitable water utilization. They need to have an unwavering commitment and peaceful negotiations, support operation of the dam that helps the region,

and fair and appropriate use of shared water resources. The NBI facilitates collaboration for equitable water share and fosters water development cooperation among the countries. Thus, negotiations on the re-division of the water should continue with NBI countries. Involving the African Union and global organizations like the European Union may realize reasonable, equitable water share among the nations.

On the other hand, any agreement at this time may not guarantee long-term harmony among the countries. Countries need to establish a joint committee for regular monitoring of potential disputes and establish conflict resolution mechanisms. Country leaders need to commit to peaceful negotiations and reassure their people with the current fact for equitable water share.

Water scarcity is a proven reality to worsen even more precipitation around the river's source in the Upper Nile Basin due to drought and population growth. The water demands, in the absolute sense, is bound to rise in the foreseeable future. Considering water flow change over time, countries need to

negotiate using 'proportion of water flow' rather than 'absolute water volume' to avoid startling future conflicts. Thus, countries have to settle on an equitable proportion of water share, bearing in mind the global warming that will undeniably affect the water volume in the coming decades.

Without a peaceful resolution, serious conflict or war among the countries will result in unforeseen consequences with economic and environmental shocks in the region. The three-country leaders need to understand the current situation of water demands and demonstrate commitment to equitable and mutually beneficial resource sharing. Other country leaders, governments, charities, donors, and foundations around the world need to intervene and support for fair water utilization. In addition, high-income country

leaders, regional unions, and associations need to refrain from siding one country or the other without proper review of the concerns from all sides. High-income countries and funding companies may support a country with a water deficit in case of an equitable water share affect their clean water demand. For instance, if Ethiopia demands to release 31bcm from GERD every year, but if Egypt desires 35 bcm, high-income countries and/or funding banks may support Egypt for the 4bcm water deficit through different mechanisms like paying upstream countries for the volume of water they release.

Strong collaborations among the Nile basin countries are required to protect and preserve the Nile through the management of local watershed scales, river responses, wise land use planning and others. Such initiatives and collaborations would create trust and mutual interest among the countries for strong cooperation that curtail possible conflicts.

By Getachew Kassa,
NYC, USA.

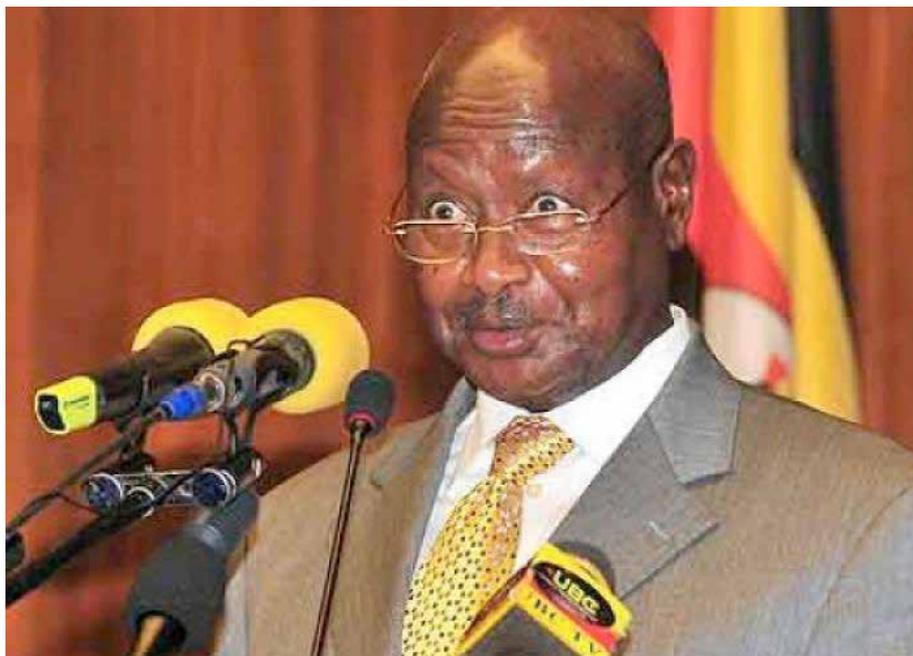
Only a revolution will push Museveni out of office, not elections- Dr. Besigye

Four times presidential candidate Rtd. Col. Dr. Kizza Besigye has said that only popular resistance will drive President Yoweri Museveni out of office, after unsuccessfully trying to unseat him since the year 2001.

Addressing journalists in Kabale town few months ago, Besigye said President Museveni has captured parliament and the judiciary, hence warned that emerging candidates were wasting their time because the elections wouldn't matter in 2021.

"All institutions of government are under capture. Mr. Museveni will choose whomever he wants into government. We go into this election aware that we are all under capture." Besigye said.

Popular resistance has recently caused regime changes in the world notably in Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Bahrain, where either the



regime was toppled or major uprisings or social violence occurred, including riots, civil wars or insurgencies. Besigye added that Ugandans that vote have no authority over their votes and thus, nothing would change unless their vote counted.

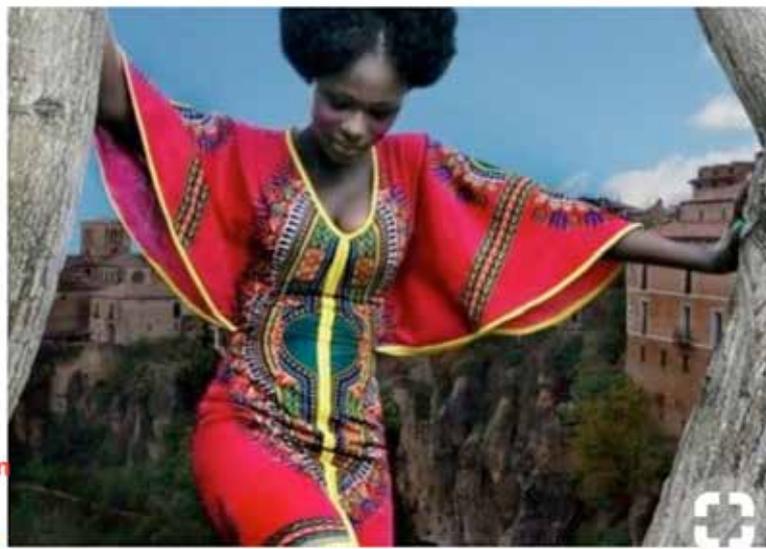
register do they have authority over their vote? Since elections were introduced in Uganda, an election has never caused change. The gun has an election in Uganda, not a Ugandan," Besigye added. When asked about Lt. Gen. Tumukunde's bid to contest for presidency, Besigye noted that like other colleagues that have left Museveni to vie for presidency, Tumukunde would also not cause anything new.

"I have not personally talked to Tumukunde since he made his decision, and thus I haven't asked him the questions I feel I should ask him. I have heard him speak in the media. I don't think and I am not sure if he can change the situation we are in."

On the same occasion, Dr. Besigye along with other Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) leaders' reopened the party offices in Kabale town ahead of 2021 polls. The offices are located at skyline roundabout, off to Katuna border point in Humura House.



www.epifanyonline.com
 +31631356048
 joy@epifanyonline.com



KINDLY SUPPORT THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Since you're here... Support the Voice magazine so we stay publishing for your reading pleasure. Give a DONATION from one time, one-month, each month, quarterly, half a year or a year.

It is your choice...

Make such payment to:

Name: Stichting Paddi Europa

Iban NO: NL29SNSB0908374372

(Swift code: SNSBNL2A) - For payment from Abroad.

Bank: SNS Bank. Address: Utrecht, The Netherlands.

TV Management



MEC to receive presidential nominations in May for Malawi fresh elections

Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) has said it will receive nomination papers for the fresh presidential elections set for July 2 2020 on May 6 and 7 2020 at Sunbird Mount Soche Hotel in Blantyre. MEC had initially set April 23 and 24 to start receiving the nomination papers but in a notice published in the Malawi government Gazette on Tuesday, the electoral body announced it has shifted the process.

Chief Elections Officer Sam Alfandika says in the public notice that in view of the coronavirus pandemic, only 10 delegates including the presidential candidate and running mate will be allowed entry into the hall for the presentation of the papers.

The Commission is encouraging candidates and political parties to present their completed nomination papers to MEC secretariat for pre-inspection before the presentation day.



“This will ensure a smooth and time-saving nomination process,” said Alfandika.

MEC will proceed with the electoral calendar after the Malawi Supreme Court of Appeal last Thursday dismissed its application to vary the period of holding the election from the 150 days prescribed by the five-judges panel at the Constitutional Court.

In its application to the Constitutional Court to vary or suspend the February 3 nullification of the presidential election, the electoral commission highlighted challenges in the procurement of electoral materials as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Furthermore, the restrictions on the number of people that can congregate at any given time will impact on the recruitment and training of electoral officers. Training is often conducted in groups of 40 to 50 participants.

Additionally, the distribution of voting materials to polling stations would be affected as the commission struggles to comply with Covid-19 regulations and guidelines.



Sierra Leone's mobile phone tariff shock

Sierra Leone's mobile telephone regulator, seriously call on Africell mobile phone service provider to do more to tackle the current growing problem of "bill shock" that followed immediately NATCOM slammed a 90% tax on all mobile companies' promotions?

Many consumers using Africell are currently experiencing unexpected high mobile phone bills, which in many cases are exploiting victims.

Mobile companies operating in Sierra Leone, with the exemption of the newly established Q-cell, are well known for their bill shocks mostly in all their services to the public. By the look of things, current NATCOM administration is well comfortable with their exploitative actions against nationals because they are doing nothing positive to put an end to mobile companies fraud against their consumers.

Sierra Leone Government's action to effect a NONE PROGRESSIVE TAX on all mobile companies' promotions is hanging Africell's customers out to dry with shocking phone bills.

Government is saying that mobile phone companies are subverting taxes and there is need for floor price fixing to prevent market-dumping activities.

However, many are saying Sierra Leone has the highest mobile tariffs in the sub-region and is among the highest in the world. And that, with the present tough economic situation, there's no need to even effect a very unfriendly Financial Act originated tax against mobile companies to discourage competition in the market and tolerate Africell to respond by shifting the burden of the very oppressive tax to their consumers.

The hard but uncomfortable truth is that a 90% tax on all mobile companies' promotions by the regulating body NATCOM, indirectly means government is asking mobile companies to drop down 90% of their promotions to consumers and maintain only 10%.

Most Sierra Leoneans believe NATCOM's action to effect 90% tax on all mobile companies promotions is meant to protect Africell and Orange who are currently losing consumers to newly established Q-cell, due to years of cheating activities against their consumers.

Before the highly controversial 90% tax on all promotions was effected, Africell and Orange complained to NATCOM that Q-cell is dumping low calls and data prices on the market. An accusation Q-cell effectively dismissed by saying they have an obligation to treat their consumers well with fair prices and quality service. And that's exactly what they are doing.

A tax expert said to me – "If NATCOM is saying mobile companies are evading taxes with their promotional calls, then there is an opportunity for NATCOM to be innovative by creating tools for NATCOM to keep day-to-day track of mobile companies' operations on promotional and none promotional calls and data. NATCOM can also take steps to effectively stop these mobile companies (Africell and

Orange) from stealing money from consumers".

NATCOM is well aware of the issue of Africell and Orange stealing from their consumers. Currently the mobile industry regulator has no incentive to introduce measures to tackle the problem. But it cares about floor price fixing to discourage competition in the market and encourage these mobile companies to keep on stealing from their consumers



and freely get away with it.

With NATCOM now seen by the public to be protecting Africell and Orange to monopolize the market with their controversial floor price fixing tactics, many are asking whether we are really operating in a free market economy where prices are determined by the forces of demand and supply.

So far the Ministry of Information and Communication is leading the way, and there is now a floor price limit on how much you can be charged for on and offnet calls – but no solution to the problem of Africell and Orange stealing from their consumers.

Citizens would like mobile companies to reduce their charges in line with other companies operating within the sub-region. Minister of Information and Communication – Mohamed Rahman Swaray, said in a press conference that within 90 days they would put their house in order. But will this lead to the reduction of high mobile tariffs by these companies against their consumers?

However, two years on, when the government asked mobile companies to reduce their tariffs, they refused and the problem persists. Victims of bill shock have described NATCOM as "toothless".

Nobody actually wants to be stung by sky high and unfair charges on their mobile phone tariffs. This is why NATCOM needs to come forward with strong measures against Africell and Orange.

Africell and Orange as providers should have effective and transparent complaint systems; and if consumers are not satisfied, there should be redress mechanisms set up by NATCOM to ensure fair outcomes for consumers.

By Mahmud Tim Kargbo, Freetown, Sierra Leone



Chairperson of the African Union HE Cyril Ramaphosa has appointed **Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Dr Donald Kaberuka, Mr Tidjane Thiam and Mr Trevor Manuel** as **Special Envoys** of the African Union to mobilise international support for Africa's efforts to address the economic challenges African countries will face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PREPARE • PROTECT • PROSPER

#COVID19 • #TheAfricaWeWant • #BetterAfricaBetterWorld



D's Fashion

Making a Statement

Handwoven Bags & Purses with a touch of leather for all occasions, You can customise and order yours today'. A perfect collections of bags & purses that fits all occasions from dinner dates to parties, wedding ceremonies, co-operate events.



To view our range:

Visit our facebook page: "D's Fashion"

Visit our blog: "dsfashionltd.blogspot.com"

Email to book your orders:

deesfashion@yahoo.com or

Call: 07825266027

Ministers unveil package to save jobs, incomes and companies in The Netherlands

The cabinet is expanding the scheme to help companies pay the wages of workers who have been laid off because of the corona virus crisis and will help bail out freelancers whose income has dried up. Finance minister Wopke Hoekstra announced the new measures; economic affairs minister Erik Wiebes and employment minister Wouter Koolmees at a press conference in The Hague on Tuesday evening. 'Our aim is to limit the economic effects so that people keep their jobs and an income and that the companies stay intact,' finance minister Wopke Hoekstra said. 'But we have to be honest and we cannot rule out some companies not making it.' The full list in English The ruling for paying benefits to staff who have been laid off is being replaced by a new one under which the government will fund 90% of salaries. The measure is also being expanded to cover people on zero hour or call-out contracts, which have been left with no income at all in some sectors. Some 78,000 companies have already applied for funding under the old scheme since corona virus erupted, causing the website to crash on at least two occasions. 'The new scheme is now being worked on day and night, so please be patient,' Koolmees said. The cabinet is also expanding the credit options for small and medium-sized firms and will make it easier for freelancers to claim benefits to top up their income if their contracts dry up. 'There will be no partner or asset check in this and the money will not have to be repaid,' Koolmees said. However, the new system still has to be put in place and freelancers should not apply to local authorities for help immediately, but wait for further details, Koolmees said. Companies and freelancers will also be able to delay tax payments without having to pay fines and there

will be an emergency payout of up to €4,000 for companies which have been hardest hit, such as the hospitality industry, travel and cultural sectors. In total, the package will add up to €10bn to €20bn over the next three months, but the total depends on how many firms apply for help, Hoekstra said.



'We remain realistic and it will not be easy, but during this period we have to work together to get through this.' Shops The economic fall-out of corona virus continues to be felt. Although non-food shops have not been closed, many are adjusting their opening hours and Ikea has said it is closing all its Dutch branches because 'the health of staff and customers is a top priority'. In addition, the Bijenkorf department store is closing its stores. Taxi drivers are also suffering, with Uber

drivers reporting plummeting incomes. One driver from The Hague told the press he had earned €1,382 a week from 92 journeys at the start of the month but that had fallen to €485 from 42 trips a month ago. Right now he is earning nothing. Many Uber drivers use leased cars and some are paying up to €900 a week for their vehicles and now face financial ruin, the press gathered. Others are concerned that they are being exposed to customers who carry the virus. Uber told the press that the company is supporting drivers who are diagnosed with corona virus or are placed in quarantine and is in talks with lease companies and insurers about showing leniency to drivers who have been hard hit financially.



Lesotho's Prime Minister to step down after sides agree to 'dignified retirement from office'

Lesotho's scandal-hit prime minister will stand down immediately following an agreement between the coalition government and political parties in the southern African mountain kingdom, a joint statement released towards the end of April 2020 after months of wrangling on the fate of the Prime Minister after he was implicated in the murder of his ex-wife on an ongoing trial of his present wife.

Thomas Thabane, who has been accused of involvement in the murder of his ex-wife, will be allowed a "dignified retirement", according to the deal negotiated by mediators from neighbouring South Africa.

The 80-year-old leader appeared in court in February, where his lawyer argued that his office granted him immunity from prosecution for allegedly murdering his estranged first wife shortly before he took power.

Lipolelo Thabane, 58, was shot several times at close range as she sat in a car near her home, two days before her husband's inauguration in 2017. She had reportedly refused a divorce and won a court battle to retain her privileges as first lady until any formal separation.

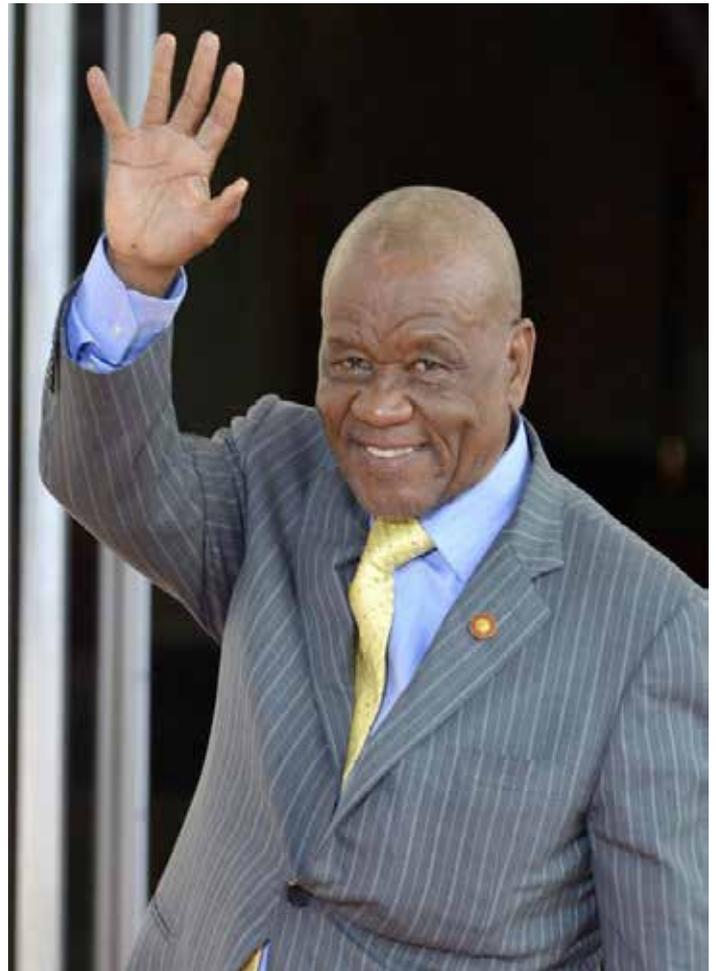
Thabane remarried two months after her death. His current wife, Maesaiah, 42, has been charged with murder after briefly fleeing the country. Both deny any wrongdoing.

The case was brought back into the spotlight in January after a letter from Lesotho's police chief emerged claiming communication records showed that someone at the murder scene had called Thabane's mobile phone on the day of the crime.

The killing was initially blamed on unknown criminals; Lesotho has one of the highest murder rates in the world despite a small country of 2.2 million people. Investigators have since said they believe professional hit men, possibly hired from South Africa, carried out the attack. Some three to five persons had been arrested in connection to the murder. The end of the story is yet to be played out yet until when the



trials begin.



Thabane had already pledged to step down at the end of July, but the South African mediator Jeff Radebe told journalists in Lesotho's capital, Maseru, that "the timeline is immediate" for his leaving office and his retirement entitlements would be settled in full.

The veteran politician made a final attempt to hold on to power at the last month, sending soldiers and armoured vehicles on to the streets of Maseru to restore order against "rogue national elements". The move prompted authorities in South Africa, which surrounds Lesotho, to send envoys to the poor mountain kingdom of 2.2 million people.

Thabane said he had deployed the army to deal with forces he said wanted to destabilize Lesotho.

The country has experienced several coups since gaining independence from Britain in 1966. In 1998 at least 58 people and eight South African soldiers died and parts of Maseru were damaged during a political standoff and subsequent fighting.

The latest upheaval follows Thabane's decision last month to suspend parliament without consultation over the coronavirus pandemic. Lesotho has no confirmed cases of Covid-19, and coalition partners as well as some 20 rivals within his own party challenged the move in the constitutional court and the court over turned the decision to shut the parliament.

The court ruled against the suspension calling it "irrational", paving the way for a threatened vote of no confidence against Thabane once parliament reconvenes. "He has nowhere to hide and has lost it. The electorate is against him, the judiciary and all other strategic institutions ... meaning that the Prime Minister is finished," Sofonea Shale, an independent political analyst, said on the prevailing problem faced by the Prime Minister.

Recent reports saying Lesotho's prime minister, Tom Thabane, has agreed to an immediate retirement are proving premature. He has now made it plain that he's going nowhere and is continuing to play for time to ensure



his personal safety. This has been phrased as the need to guarantee him a "dignified and secure retirement".

We may presume that Thabane will be insisting that this will provide him with a guarantee of immunity from prosecution for his alleged role in the murder of his estranged first wife Lipolelo Thabane. But those wanting him out of office are seemingly not prepared to commit themselves to that – yet.

He may be hoping that his deputy prime minister, Monyane Moleleki, leader of his main coalition partner, the Alliance of Democrats, will manage to cobble together a successor coalition along with other political parties, notably the Basotho National Party and the Reformed Congress of Lesotho. Such a coalition might then offer Thabane the protection he's seeking. But the chances of Moleleki succeeding him remain thin.

The waiting game continues as we keep you posted

Flavour Celebrates His Blind Adopted Son On Social Media

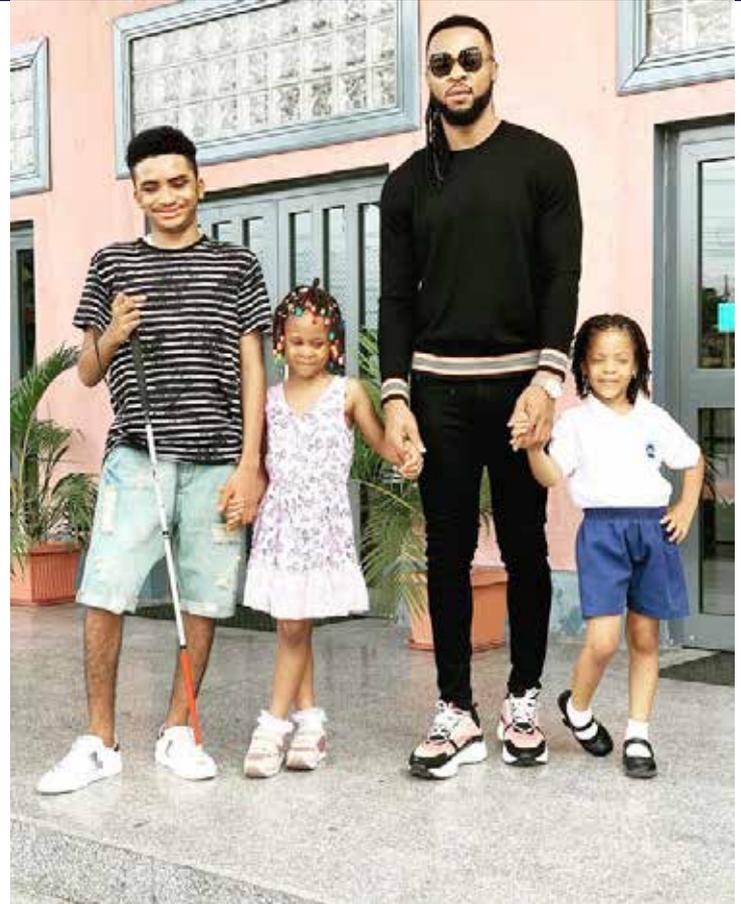
Nigerian singer, Flavour N'abania has taken to his Instagram page to wish his Liberian blind adopted child Semah G. Weifur in a most emotional way and many of his fans are touched by the kind of love he has for his son.

Semah is a year older and Flavour couldn't watch without wishing him and pouring out his love for him. He has two biological daughters and he has blended Semah into his family properly as you can see photos of them doing things together as family.

Many of his fans that were moved by Flavour's exceptional love for the boy also joined to wish him well on this special day of his birthday.

Flavour met Semah in 2017 at a peace concert organized by Liberian singer Juli Endee in Monrovia and the childhood dream of Semah was to meet his idol musician friend now turned his dad. After meeting him and realizing the exceptional talent of Semah, he adopted him and featured him on his gospel song 'Most High'. He is helping to develop his musical talents and promise to take him to the highest level of his chosen career.

Flavour who brought Semah to the limelight once said he adopted Semah because he wanted to prove to the world that condition couldn't limit a person. Happy birthday to Semah and God's blessing on Flavour and his family.



President Buhari's statement: To my friend, Mallam Abba Kyari

Mallam Abba Kyari, who died on 17th April, 2020, at the age of 67 from complications caused by the Coronavirus, was a true Nigerian patriot. My loyal friend and compatriot for the last 42 years - and latterly my Chief-of-Staff - he never wavered in his commitment to the betterment of every one of us.

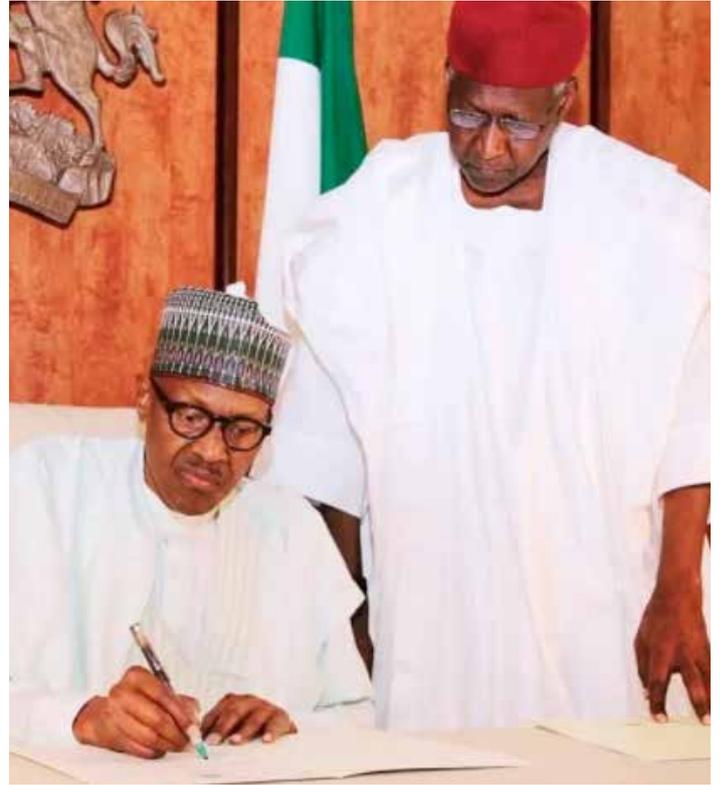
He was only in his twenties when we first met. A diligent student, soon after he was blessed with the opportunity to study abroad - first at Warwick and then law at the University of Cambridge. But there was never any question Abba would bring his first-rate skills and newly acquired world-class knowledge back to Nigeria - which he did - immediately upon graduation.

Whilst possessing the sharpest legal and organizational mind, Abba's true focus was always the development of infrastructure and the assurance of security for the people of this nation he served so faithfully. For he knew that without both in tandem there can never be the development of the respectful society and vibrant economy that all Nigerian citizens deserve.

In political life, Abba never sought elective office for himself. Rather, he set himself against the view and conduct of two generations of Nigeria's political establishment - who saw corruption as an entitlement and its practice a byproduct of possessing political office.

Becoming my Chief of Staff in 2015, he strove quietly and without any interest in publicity or personal gain to implement my agenda.

There are those who said of him that he must be secretive - because he did not have a high public profile. But Abba was the opposite: he simply had no need, nor did he seek,



the cheap gratification of the crowd; for him, there was nothing to be found in popular adulation. He secured instead satisfaction and his reward solely and only from the improvement of the governance of this great country.

Working, without fail, seven days each and every week, he acted forcefully as a crucial gatekeeper to the presidency, ensuring no one - whether minister or governor had access beyond another - and that all those representing and serving our country were treated equally.

He made clear in his person and his practice, always, that every Nigerian - regardless of faith, family, fortune or frailty - was heard and treated respectfully and the same.

Mallam Abba Kyari was the very best of us. He was made of the stuff that makes Nigeria great. Rest in Peace, my dearest friend.

To his loving wife and doting family who survive him, I extend my heartfelt sorrow at your loss.

Muhammadu Buhari
President,
Federal Republic of Nigeria



101 years later: A repeat of global pandemic

The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 – 1919

Once upon a time, as we often read from history books, we have been here before but not many of us were here to witness it or even remember to read about it in our history books. Shocking to read that this is not the first time we would have a global lockdown or shut down. In 1918, a flu although different from Corona virus broke out without warning and killed 20 to 50 million people. That 1918 flu was called Spanish flu.

For decades, we've been worried that another pandemic would hit but when was the question and suddenly it is here now and nobody knows how bad it would get before it gets better. The only difference today is that the world has advanced so much that there is global communication of the virus and efforts taken to curb its spread.

The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed more people than World War I, at somewhere between 20 million and 50 million people. It has been cited as the most devastating epidemic in history. More people died of influenza in a single year than in four years of the Black Death from 1347 to 1351. Known as "Spanish flu or "la grippe," the influenza of 1918-1919 was a global disaster.

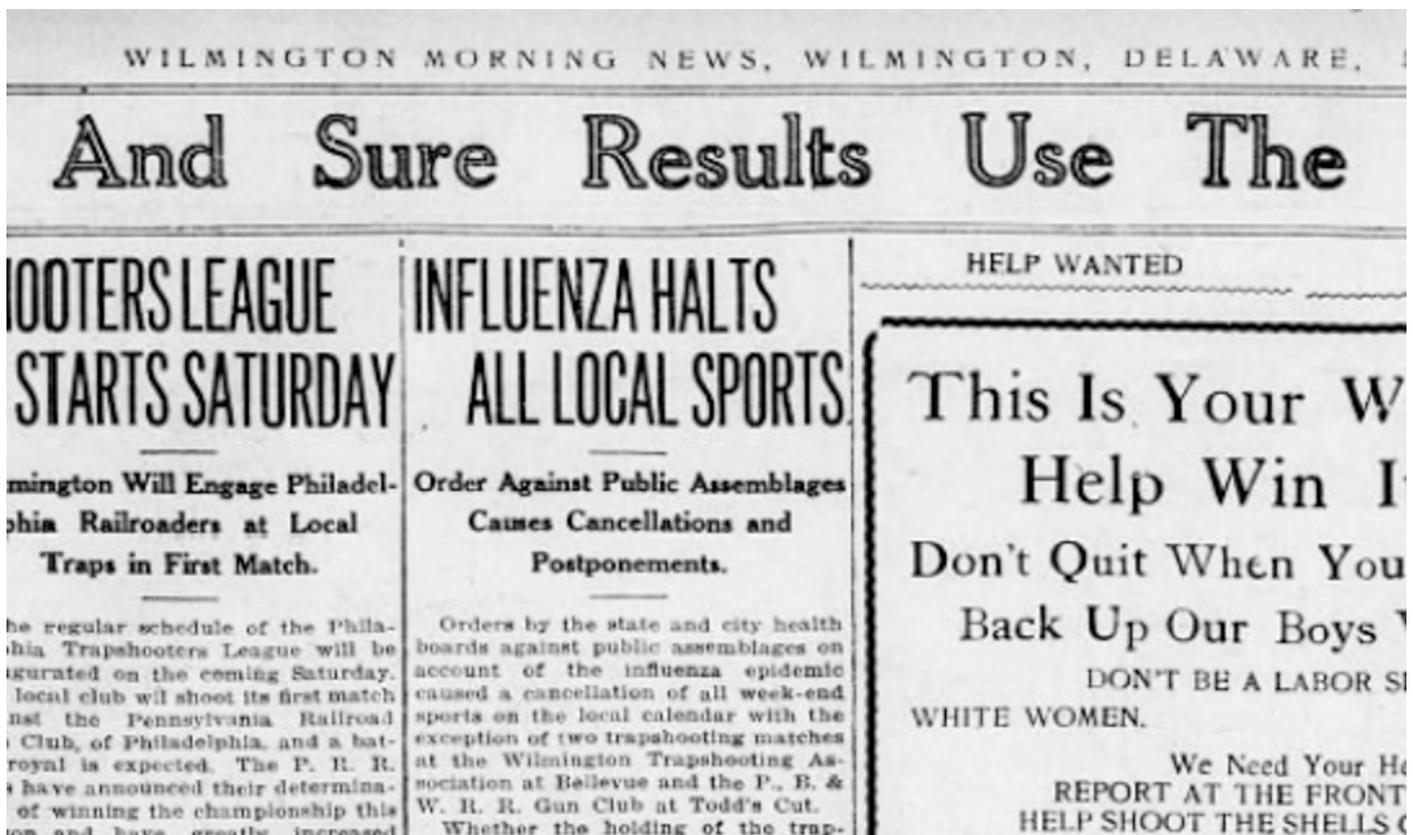
One of the effort put in place then was closure of public activities and social distancing, probably this is where we have copied the idea from but it did helped then to curb the

spread of the flu much further.

Social distancing isn't a new idea—it saved thousands of lives then so why is Americans protesting against lock down when it helped them from the last great pandemic?

In historical media report, I read that Philadelphia detected its first case of the deadly flu on September 17, 1918. The next day, in an attempt to halt the virus' spread, city officials launched a campaign against coughing, spitting, and sneezing in public. Yet 10 days later despite the prospect of an epidemic at its doorstep the city hosted a parade that 200,000 people attended. And the flu spread like a wild fire. By October 3rd, 1918, schools, churches, theaters, and public gathering spaces were shut down. Just two weeks after the first reported case, there were at least 20,000 more cases recorded.

The Spanish Flu lasted until 1920 and is considered the deadliest pandemic in modern history. Today, as the world grinds to a halt in response to the coronavirus, scientists and historians are studying the 1918 outbreak for clues to the most effective way to stop a global pandemic. The efforts implemented then to stem the flu's spread in cities across America and the outcomes may offer lessons for battling today's crisis.



From its first known U.S. case, at a Kansas military base in March 1918, the flu spread across the country. Shortly after health measures were put in place in Philadelphia, a case popped up in St. Louis. Two days later, the city shut down most public gatherings and quarantined victims in their homes. The cases slowed. By the end of the pandemic, between 50 and 100 million people were dead worldwide, including more than 500,000 Americans but the death rate in St. Louis was less than half of the rate in Philadelphia. The deaths due to the virus were estimated to be about 358 people per 100,000 in St. Louis, compared to 748 per 100,000 in Philadelphia during the first six months the deadliest period of the pandemic.

Dramatic demographic shifts in the past century have made containing a pandemic increasingly hard. The rise of globalization, urbanization, and larger, more densely populated cities can facilitate a virus' spread across a continent in a few hours as we have seen with the Corona virus, what started in Wuhan spread within days to other parts of the world and we are still faced with the challenge to curb the spread.

Now as then, public health interventions are the first line of defense against an epidemic in the absence of a vaccine. These measures include closing schools, shops, and restaurants; placing restrictions on transportation; mandating social distancing, and banning public gatherings.

Of course, getting citizens to comply with such orders is another story: In 1918, a San Francisco health officer shot three people dead when one refused to wear a mandatory face mask. In Arizona, police handed out \$10 fines for those caught without the protective gear. But eventually, the most drastic and sweeping measures paid off. After implementing a multitude of strict closures and controls on public gatherings, St. Louis, San Francisco, Milwaukee, and Kansas City responded fastest and most effectively: Interventions there

were credited with cutting transmission rates by 30 to 50 percent. New York City, which reacted earliest to the crisis with mandatory quarantines and staggered business hours, experienced the lowest death rate on the Eastern seaboard. As compared to what is happening now, New York is badly hit as the focus is on saving businesses than life first.

In 2007, a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association analyzed health data from the U.S. census that experienced the 1918 pandemic, and charted the death rates of 43 U.S. cities. That same year, two studies published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences sought to understand how responses influenced the disease's spread in different cities. By comparing fatality rates, timing, and public health interventions, they found death rates were around 50 percent lower in cities that implemented preventative measures early on, versus those that did so late or not at all. The most effective efforts had simultaneously closed schools, churches, and theaters, and banned public gatherings. This would allow time for vaccine development (though a flu vaccine was not used until the 1940s) and lessened the strain on health care systems.

The studies reached another important conclusion: That relaxing intervention measures too early could cause an otherwise stabilized city to relapse. St. Louis, for example, was so emboldened by its low death rate that the city lifted restrictions on public gatherings less than two months after the outbreak began. A rash of new cases soon followed. Of the cities that kept interventions in place, none experienced a second wave of high death rates.

In 1918, the studies found, the key to flattening the curve was social distancing. And that likely remains true a century later, in the current battle against coronavirus. "There is an invaluable treasure trove of useful historical data that has only just begun to be used to inform our actions," Columbia University epidemiologist Stephen S. Morse wrote in an

analysis of the data. "The lessons of 1918, if well heeded, might help us to avoid repeating the same history today.

There are so many lessons to learn even after 100 years of the Spanish flu compared to how we are handling the Corona Virus. What if there is no vaccine? We have recorded cases of recovery and slowdown in the spread of the virus by just observing this basic rules of social distancing, closure of large gatherings and taking preventive measures put in place. These are more helpful than all the controversy theories going around that this is a global pandemic to reduce global population and the rest of it. For once, let us learn some lessons from history for history has a way of repeating itself.



Positive Runway inspires Covid-19 African print masks

POSITIVE RUNWAY: The Global Catwalk to Stop the Spread (of HIV/AIDS) has inspired a NEW campaign for the production and distribution of COVID-19 African Print Face Masks using locally sourced materials to be distributed to the public in Africa to help cushion the existing shortage of medical masks, gowns and gloves for front-line workers all across the globe.

POSITIVE RUNWAY has initiated this campaign following the announcement by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who have recommended that people should wear some kind of face coverings in public, which are not surgical or medical masks to help limit the spread of the corona virus.

“Our POSITIVE RUNWAY COVID-19 Face Masks do not by any means meet the specified medical grade, but under the circumstances our masks will do the job and serve the purpose in the interim”. Says Justina Mutale, Founder of POSITIVE RUNWAY.

POSITIVE RUNWAY, a worldwide HIV/AIDS response campaign headquartered in Atlanta Georgia in the USA works with models, beauty queens, fashion designers and celebrities as effective advocates in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS, utilizing mediums that captivate the attention of the young people to make the message crystal clear in a discourse appropriate to the 21st Century young generation and society at large. Amid the calamity being unleashed by the corona virus, POSITIVE RUNWAY has now turned their efforts and methods

to stopping the spread of COVID-19.

In 2013, POSITIVE RUNWAY was called upon to contribute to mobilize the youth and the Diaspora to join the Enough Food for Everyone IF Campaign to tackle world hunger.

In 2014, the organization presented workshops at the United Nations Global Forum on Migration and Development to advocate for Migrant Labour rights.

“My team and I, at POSITIVE RUNWAY are delighted to be able to contribute to the fight against the spread of the corona virus in whatever way that we can to help sustain the survival of the human race”, Says Mambwe Janet Kamanga, CEO of POSITIVE RUNWAY.

POSITIVE RUNWAY has partnered with several organizations and mobilized seamstresses, models and fashion designers in various African countries to produce the POSITIVE RUNWAY COVID-19 African Face Masks, using locally sourced materials to be distributed to the public in Africa to help cushion the existing shortage of medical masks, gowns and gloves for front-line workers all across the globe.

Ms Eleni Grigoraki of Luanshya in Zambia is one of the groups that has joined the campaign and have already started production of the POSITIVE RUNWAY COVID-19 African Face Masks, which they plan to distribute to the women in the markets and other under-privileged groups in the City of Luanshya, Zambia to contribute to the national efforts to stop the spread of corona virus in Luanshya.

“I am honoured to be seize this opportunity to help the people of Luanshya and to get Luanshya covered”. Says Eleni Grigoraki For more information email: globalcatwalk@gmail.com





- Courtesy of the following persons. Thank you for your contribution*
- 1. Justina Mutale, Founder & President of POSITIVE RUNWAY*
 - 2. Mambwe Kamanga, CEO of POSITIVE RUNWAY*
 - 3. Eleni Grigokari, Zambian Entrepreneur of Luanshya*

Sierra Leone government minister charged to court over Chinagate rice scandal

Sierra Leone scored two firsts last month, with the President announcing the country's confirmation of its first COVID-19 victim, and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) announcing that it has charged a senior minister in the Bio-led government to court for the missing 49,000 bags of rice donated by China.

After several months of investigations by the ACC into what the Sierra Leone Telegraph has dubbed the "Chinagate Rice Saga", the ACC yesterday said that it has charged five people with corruption, including Alpha Osman Timbo – the Minister of Labour and Social Security, who also served as Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education when this huge consignment of rice went missing.

The stolen rice was meant to assist the government in feeding hundreds of thousands of malnourished school children across the country.

Also charged, are: Emily Kadiatu Gogra – the Deputy Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education; Charles Tom Kamanda – the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education; Mamusu Massaquoi – Director of Nutrition in the School Feeding Programme; and Zainab Binta Kamara – a business woman who was caught by police packaging some of the alleged stolen rice for sale. (Photo: Standing right – with president Bio on left, is Minister Alpha Timbo, accused of stealing 49,000 bags of government rice).

All of the accused including Minister Alpha Timbo have been charged with Fifteen counts of corruption offenses, including misappropriation of public property, contrary to Section 36(1); failure to comply with applicable procedures and guidelines, contrary to Section 48(2)(b); conspiracy to commit a corruption offence, contrary to Section 128; converting property knowing same to be proceeds of corruption for the purpose of disguising the illicit origin, contrary to Section 52(1)(a); and abuse of office, contrary to Section 42(1), of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 12, of 2008 respectively.

According to the ACC, between October 2019 and December 2019, Alpha Osman Timbo, Emily Kadiatu Gogra, and Charles Tom Kamanda, misappropriated Forty-Nine thousand bags of 50 Kg rice, meant for the government's school feeding programme.

All three have been jointly charged with one count of misappropriation of public property, contrary to Section 36(1); one count of failure to comply with applicable procedures and guidelines, contrary to Section 48(2) (b); one count of conspiracy to commit a corruption offence, contrary to Section 128; and one count of abuse of office, contrary to Section 42(1) of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 12, of 2008.

Between October 2019 and December 2019, Mamusu Massaquoi – the lady in charge of the government's School Feeding



Programme misappropriated forty-nine thousand bags of 50Kg rice, and has been charged with one count of misappropriation of public property, contrary to Section 36(1); one count of conspiracy to commit a corruption offence, contrary to Section 128; and three counts of abuse of office, contrary to Section 42(1) of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 12, of 2008.

And, between October 2019 and November 2019, Zainab Binta Kamara – a local business woman, is accused of converting four thousand – one hundred bags of 50Kg rice, meant for the school feeding programme.

Zainab has been charged with one count of misappropriation of public property, contrary to Section 36(1); one count of conspiracy to commit a corruption offence, contrary to Section 128; one count of converting property knowing such property to be proceeds of corruption for the purpose of disguising the illicit origin, contrary to Section 52(1)(a); one count of concealing the true nature of property which is the proceeds of corruption, contrary to Section 52(1)(b); and one count of possessing property knowing same to be the proceeds of corruption, contrary to Section 52(1)(c) of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 12, of 2008.

All accused are expected to appear at the High Court in Freetown on a date to be set by the Master and Registrar of Courts.

Meanwhile, the ACC says that it "wishes to reassure the general public of its determination to curb graft at all levels in Sierra Leone, especially in the implementation of the Free Quality Education programme".

2020 OLYMPIC GAMES MOVE FORWARD TO 2021

The 2020 Olympic Games has been postponed until 2021 becoming one of the last major sporting events this summer to fall victim to the corona virus.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a crucial conference call with Olympics chief Thomas Bach over a month ago to formally decide a plan and they have chosen to postpone for 12 months.

The decision also means the Tokyo Paralympic Games will be subject to a one-year delay.

Despite the delay, the name of the delayed Games will still be Tokyo 2020, the city's governor Yuriko Koike revealed.

A joint statement from the IOC and Tokyo 2020 organizing committee read: 'In the present circumstances and based on the information provided by the WHO today, the IOC President and the Prime Minister of Japan have concluded that the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo must be rescheduled to a date beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021, to safeguard the health of the athletes, everybody involved in the Olympic Games and the international community.

'The leaders agreed that the Olympic Games in Tokyo could stand as a beacon of hope to the world during these troubled times and that the Olympic flame could become the light at the end of the tunnel in which the world finds itself at present.

'Therefore, it was agreed that the Olympic flame will stay in Japan. It was also agreed that the Games will keep the name Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.'

There was plenty of scepticism whether the Olympics would pull through and continue as scheduled while events linked to the games were called off. The Olympic torch relay in Greece was cancelled on March 13 - just a day after the flame was lit in Olympia.



Football will be totally different after pandemic-Infantino

Football will be totally different when it eventually resumes after the corona virus outbreak, the head of global soccer body FIFA Gianni Infantino has disclosed.

“Football will come back, and when it does, we’ll celebrate coming out of a nightmare together,” he told the Italian news agency ANSA in an interview. “There is one lesson, however, that both you and me must have understood: the football that will come after the virus will be totally different... (more) inclusive, more social and more supportive, connected to the individual countries and at the same time more global, less arrogant and more welcoming.”

He added: “We will be better, more human and more attentive to true values.”

Last week, Infantino told *Gazzetta dello Sport* that it was the right time to take a step back and reform a sport where fixture lists have become overloaded and financial resources increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few elite clubs.

He suggested there could be “fewer, but more interesting tournaments. Maybe fewer squads, but more balance. Fewer, but more competitive, matches to safeguard the health of the players.”

Later on Thursday, Infantino told the annual congress of the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) that



“it is our responsibility as football administrators, first of all to ensure football can survive and secondly move forward once again.”

“On the international match calendar we have to look for global solutions to tackle these global problems in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity,” Infantino said in a video link from Zurich.

“Everyone has different interests, but we must talk and put on the table topics that we perhaps didn’t discuss in the past.”

Cameroon suspends CHAN

The Championship of African Nations, CHAN, a CAF organized competition has been suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic. The tournament was meant to take place in Cameroon in April 2020.

The local organizing committee after a meeting on March 17 announced the decision to suspend the competition, which was slated for April 4th to 25th.

Cameroon currently has 10 confirmed cases of the coronavirus even though government has yet to impose restrictions on sporting events as of last month.

CHAN is a version of the African Cup of Nations but is reserved for players that ply their trade on the



continent. The current champions are Morocco who beat Nigeria in the final of the last tournament in 2018.

Namibia’s football body had confirmed that they were withdrawing their participation from the competition. CAF last month suspended all 2021 Cup of Nations qualifiers over the pandemic. FIFA had also advised last month that all international matches be halted.



Football world mourns death of Pape Diouf

As FIFA and the football world mobilize all their efforts to fight COVID-19, the pandemic continues to claim countless lives around the world. This Monday

31 March 2020 the name of Pape Diouf was added to this growing list. An emblematic figure on the French and African football landscapes, the former president of Olympique de Marseille died at the age of 68 in a Dakar hospital, where he was being treated for the corona virus.

Diouf, who was born in Chad but held French and Senegalese citizenship, had an immense knowledge of the game after a diverse career that included spells as a sports journalist, football agent and president of Marseille – the latter from 2005 to 2009. Renowned for his immense culture and perfect command of the French language, he earned the affection and respect of the footballing world through his strength of character, personality, and exceptional leadership qualities – all while retaining a deeply human touch.

Unsurprisingly, tributes poured in on news of his passing. Jacques-Henri Eyraud, the current Marseille president, Jean-Michel Aulas, his Lyon counterpart, Noel Le Graet, president of the French Football Federation, all the clubs of France, as

well as many current and former players, coaches, managers and consultants all expressed their sadness and paid tribute to Diouf.



In April 2009, he visited FIFA Headquarters, where he discussed many of the issues closest to his heart, including the fight against racism. Eleven years later, FIFA President Gianni Infantino expressed his deep sadness at the news of his death: “He was a man of great heart, approachable and open to dialogue, likeable and caring, a recipient of the Legion of Honour medal, a fine connoisseur of football, and someone held in high esteem by players and fans.

“Pape Diouf has left his mark on the history of Olympique de Marseille,” he wrote in a letter to the club president. “He will forever remain one of the most important people in the club’s history. He will not be forgotten and will be greatly missed by all of us.

“On behalf of the international football community, I would like to express our deepest sympathy to Olympique de Marseille, as well as to the family and friends of Pape Diouf and those closest to him. Our thoughts are with you all,” he concluded.

CAF president’s COVID-19 statement

President of the continent’s football body, Ahmad Ahmad last month shared his coronavirus message, which ranged from administrative measures by the body, decision on competitions and Africa’s role in combating the pandemic.

• All competitions suspended i.e. AFCON 2021 qualifiers, CHAN 2020,

club competitions

• CAF 42nd General Assembly scheduled for Cameroon in April postponed

• CAF staff to work from home till end of March, starting March 20

• All decisions in interest of global safety

• World must united to combat the scourge

• Condolences to all those that have lost loved one

• Africa must play its part in the fight against the virus.





D'AFRIQUE
FOOD & DRINKS

NIEUWE BINNENWEG 307A | 3021 GH ROTTERDAM

JEFFREY EKHATOR, OWNER & CEO, D'AFRIQUE FOOD & DRINKS LOUNGE/RESTAURANT IN ROTTERDAM.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO TREAT YOURSELF TO EATING SOME GOOD FOOD IN ROTTERDAM? DO YOU NEED A PERFECT LOUNGE FOR DRINKS WITH FRIENDS IN ROTTERDAM? WHERE IS BEST FOR YOUR SPECIAL DINNER DATE OR FAMILY LUNCH IN ROTTERDAM? DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR VISITORS IN THE MOST RELAXING AND COMFORTABLE ATMOSPHERE WHERE YOU CAN MAKE YOUR CHOICE FROM SEVERAL DELICIOUS MEALS AND EXOTIC DRINKS? ARE YOU PLANNING YOUR HEN NIGHT, STAG DO OR BACHELOR'S EVE?

THE PERFECT PLACE IS D'AFRIQUE FOOD & DRINKS LOUNGE/RESTAURANT.

AT 307A NIEUWE BINNENWEG, 3021 GH ROTTERDAM, WE BRING TO YOU A BLEND OF THE MOST DELICIOUS AFRO-CARIBBEAN YUMMY DISHES, SNACKS AND EXOTIC DRINKS. AN EXPERIENCE AT D'AFRIQUE FOOD & DRINKS LOUNGE/RESTAURANT IN ROTTERDAM MEANS YOU ARE TREATING YOURSELF TO A HOME AWAY FROM HOME EXPERIENCE.

OUR STAFF OFFER TOP QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICES IN AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH IS CLEAN AND WELL LIT, WELL-SPACED TO CREATE COMFORT, INTIMACY AND EVEN ROMANCE. THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND TO MAKE YOU ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF YOUR TIME AT OUR RESTAURANT. YOU CAN ALSO MAKE RESERVATIONS AT D'AFRIQUE FOOD & DRINKS LOUNGE/RESTAURANT FOR YOUR BUSINESS MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, SOCIAL GATHERINGS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, SURPRISE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL, STUDENT MEETINGS, ETC.

WE ALSO OFFER THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- CATERING FOR ALL KIND OF PARTIES.
- EVENTS PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT.
- HALL DECORATIONS FOR YOUR WEDDINGS AND BIRTHDAYS EVENTS.

FOR US, OUR CUSTOMERS MUST BE DELIGHTED.

FOOD & DRINKS | LOUNGE BAR | CATERING | DELIVERY | SPACE RENTAL | EVENT PLANNING



FOR INFO OR RESERVATION CALL:

+31(0)6 144 715 08



**NIEUWE BINNENWEG 307A
3021GH ROTTERDAM**