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Huge Botswanan diamond sold for \$53m

A rough diamond about the size of a tennis ball, recovered from the Karowe mine in Botswana in



November 2015, has been sold by Canadian-based Lucara Diamond Corp for \$53m (£39m). The 1,109-carat stone, at present the world's largest uncut diamond, was bought by British diamond business Graff Diamonds for \$47,777 per carat, and will now be cut and polished, Lucara said. The Canadian firm had previously tried to sell the diamond at a Sotheby's auction in June 2016, but bidding failed to reach the reserve price. The stone, called Lesedi La Rona, or Our Light in the national language of Botswana, is said to be 2.5bn-3bn years old. Laurence Graff said: "We are thrilled and honoured to become the new custodians of this incredible diamond."

Nigeria: order given to dismantle roadblocks seen as corruptive

Nigeria's top policeman orders roadblocks dismantled
Nigeria's Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, has ordered the immediate removal of all roadblocks on the country's highways, the Vanguard newspaper is reporting. Mr Idris has also instructed all officers involved in vehicle patrols to ensure that they wear uniforms, clear name tags and service numbers. A statement issued on Monday night, widely reported in the Nigerian press, said the directives were necessary to make it easy for business to be conducted freely as well as to safeguard the free passage of travellers and goods. According to the statement, no police department or unit should mount a roadblock without express permission of the Inspector General of Police. Reports say teams of the special X-Squad of the police force have been deployed

around the country with instructions to arrest and investigate any police personnel violating this directive. The squads have also been ordered to be on the lookout for - and remove - and roadblocks set up by illegal revenue collectors, road transport unions, labour or trade associations. The statement added: "For avoidance of doubt, the Taxes and Levies act, Laws of Federation of Nigeria 2004 section 2 (2) disallowed any person, including a Tax Authority from mounting a Road block in any part of the Federation for the purposes of collecting any Tax or Levy."



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Focus: History of secret weapon against apartheid

Anti-apartheid giant Oliver Tambo was yesteryear secret weapon using 'communication' to destroy apartheid. How did he do it?

Communication was one of the most powerful weapons that Oliver Reginald Tambo believed would dismantle the apartheid government and liberate South Africans.

On Wednesday, a panel discussion hosted by Government Communication and Information Systems

(GCIS) -- in partnership with the National Press Club -- celebrated the role of the longest serving ANC President in advocating for media freedom.

Since the beginning of the year, citizens have been given an opportunity to reflect on the life of Tambo and his impact on democracy. The discussion on Wednesday was held to focus on his contribution towards realising media freedom.

Panellists said Tambo believed in communication and the use of media to keep the South African public informed about issues that affected their lives.

Tambo also strongly used communication every time he crossed South African borders to speak out against the oppressive apartheid government and to mobilise the international community to help liberate South Africa.

The panel discussion was one of many events to pave the way towards the national celebrations of the centenary of OR Tambo, which is scheduled for October. Had he lived long enough to enjoy the fruits of his plight of fighting for democracy, Tambo would be 100 years old on 27 October.

A man of value

Reflecting on the life of Tambo, Brand South Africa Chief Executive Officer, Dr Kingsley Makhubela, said he understood some of Tambo's underlying values, and how he upheld checks and balances in government.

"I had the privilege, at a very tender age, to have worked with OR Tambo directly, first as a body guard and later as his chief body Guard. OR [Tambo] was a visionary. He realised very early on that within the structures of the African National Congress (ANC), there is a need to develop some legal framework and to start to interrogate constitutional matters.

"He set up an entity that he called the Depart-



ment of Legal and Constitutional Affairs (DLCA), which was to start to develop the constitutional framework. It covered issues around institutional democracy," said Makhubela.

Tambo was also instrumental in the establishment of Radio Freedom. According to Makhubela, Radio Freedom was not established to tell lies about the activities of the ANC but to reflect correctly the policies of the organisation and developments within the country, and to share information about how the struggling was progressing.

Tambo's contribution to media freedom

Tambo spent most of his lifetime in exile in neighbouring countries. One of the men who had an opportunity to drink from Tambo's well of leadership wisdom, Thami Ntenti, who is also Head of Communications of the Thabo Mbeki Foundation, said Radio Freedom began in South Africa, not in exile.

"The very first broadcast of Radio Freedom was done inside the country by Walter Sisulu. Immediately after the arrest of the ANC leadership in Rivonia, Walter Sisulu broadcasted from underground, where he said 'Our house is on fire. The whole leadership of the ANC has been arrested, and I am broadcasting now from underground from hiding. I have not seen my family for the past two weeks. However, we pledge to continue the struggle for freedom'. That was the very first broadcast," said Ntenti.

He said it was soon at the Sharpeville massacre, when the ANC leadership in South Africa had been arrested in Rivonia, Oliver Tambo was tasked with the responsibility of going outside and setting up the external mission of the ANC.

"The organisation had to adopt completely new tactics of underground operations under conditions of illegality."

Ntenti said Tambo convinced him to un-

dergo journalism training in Russia, Germany and Canada before joining Radio Freedom in Angola and later Tanzania.

"It is purely by accident that I ended up being in Radio Freedom and being in the media [field]. It was never my intention. I had never even thought about it.

"I refused to accept a proposal to go for journalism training in Russia when I was in

Dar es Salaam. I told them I did not come here to go to school... I came here to learn how to handle a weapon and go back to shoot my way into South Africa and liberate our people. That was my thinking, and I was adamant that nobody would change that.

"We were told that the then ANC President Oliver Tambo was coming. We were all very excited. He arrived and as per norm, we discussed political situations and other things. At the end of that discussion, he wanted to see me and a number of other colleagues who were seconded to go train as journalists. He wanted to see us individually."

In his conversation with OR Tambo, Ntenti explained why he refused to go for journalism training. However, Tambo said to him: "We are giving you a responsibility that is greater than that of a man who will be going into South Africa carrying a gun. We are giving you a responsibility to prepare the people of South Africa psychologically to receive the man who has a gun. The struggle in South Africa is not a military one. It is primarily a political struggle and we have been forced by circumstances to take up arms. We need you to go and train as a journalist and prepare our people."

Ntenti had no choice but to accept the challenge. "I only agreed on terms that I would firstly go for military training before joining the school of journalism, and we agreed."

OR Tambo Foundation CEO Linda Vilakazi said the foundation continues to unearth more people who worked closely with Tambo so that they can share their memories of the liberation leader.



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Rwanda: Why Conservation of Mountain Gorillas' Habitat is a Win-Win

Last Friday, I was so excited to attend for the very first time, the annual gorillas naming ceremony, Kwita Izina that was held in Kinigi Sector, Musanze District.

It was the 13th edition of the ceremony, held on a sunny day. The mood was stunning and ecstatic.

19 baby gorillas were given different names by stakeholders in tourism, conservationists, and globally renowned celebrities among other guests that graced the colorful event.

Most of the names given to baby gorillas reflected a flurry of useful meanings specifically linked to Rwanda's culture, identity, home-grown initiatives, and other important aspects of our national values.

This event is typically held at Volcanoes National Park, the home to the rare mountain gorillas. The park lies in northwestern part of the country and borders Virunga National Park in the DRC and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda.

The Volcanoes National Park is widely known as a haven for the rare and endangered mountain gorilla. Today, it is estimated that 400 of these Mountain gorillas live within Rwandan territory.

These Gorillas have thicker fur, and more of it, compared to other great apes. The fur helps them to survive in a habitat where temperatures at times drop below zero degrees.

An interesting question is: why are mountain gorillas specially conserved?

First, to quote President Kagame; "Mountain gorillas are a part of our natural resources and our heritage. It is everyone's responsibility to conserve and protect biodiversity.

In protecting gorillas, we have everything to gain". This generally implies that the rates of loss of animal and plant species, arable land, water quality, tropical forests and cultural heritage are especially serious.

The obligation to conserve critically engendered mountain gorillas as well as other endangered animals springs from the principle of the intergenerational equity. In particular, it relates to equity between species which comes from respect resulting from the intrinsic value of nature regardless of its usefulness for the benefit of humans.

In this regard, equity between species is expressed in the preamble of the World Charter for Nature, which says "mankind is a part of nature and life

depends on the uninterrupted functioning of natural systems, which ensure the supply of energy and

is hugely important, as an integral part of environmental protection.



nutrients."

In this perspective, all components of the environment have value, not only because of their usefulness to humans, but also as essential elements of an interdependent system that must be protected.

Peaceful co-existence of humans and gorillas is evident and productive. As a matter of fact, gorillas give birth every year and have significantly increased in numbers. But, if human activity turn out to be a detriment to gorillas habitat the chances of their survival would be extremely minimal.

Second, since the discovery of the mountain gorilla subspecies in 1902, its population has endured years of war, hunting, habitat destruction and disease - threats so severe that it was once thought the species might be extinct by the end of the twentieth century.

As a result, governments, including Rwanda, have put in place regulatory and policy frameworks to conserve the remaining populations of mountain gorillas. As of now, no more poaching and encroachment by humans.

The goal is to ensure the conservation of mountain gorillas and their regional afro-montane forest habitat in Rwanda, Uganda and the DRC. When mountain gorillas come into contact with humans they can be vulnerable to human diseases; which gorillas experience in more severe forms.

Mountain gorillas can even die from the common cold. However, studies have found that mountain gorillas that are regularly habituated with researchers and tourists have survived better than unvisited gorillas; they benefit from the greater protection available in those areas and from regular monitoring.

Increased survival is also largely due to better veterinary care of sick and injured gorillas. Therefore, conservation of mountain gorillas and their habitat

Of course, this calls for strengthening mechanisms for the respective countries to develop a regional approach to the conservation of a shared habitat. To improve the protection of mountain gorillas and their habitat, Rwanda, Uganda and the DRC should empower the relevant authorities to adopt a consistent, collaborative approach to conservation policy and legislation throughout the Albertine Rift and Great Rift Valley.

Third, international gorilla tourism generates revenues. The annual revenue earned directly from gorilla tourism is an important component of funding conservation and management of the parks, as well as local and national economies.

Just last year, as reiterated by CEO-RDB Clare Akamanzi, Rwanda earned more than \$400 million from tourism and 5 per cent is invested in community development oriented projects through revenue sharing schemes.

Thus, gorilla tourism accounts for the majority of tangible benefits being derived from these animals. Tourism remains the biggest foreign exchange earner in Rwanda. It contributes about 30 percent of export goods and services in Rwanda.

It doesn't only benefit the government in terms of revenues, but also benefits local communities surrounding national parks by revenue-sharing. It obviously improves their livelihoods.

And, in turn, they're willing to cooperate with relevant authorities in preventing or combating any threats to the mountain gorillas habitat, as well as to other protected animals in the national parks.

Egypt is Africa's number investment spot, knocking off

Egypt has knocked South Africa from its long-standing top spot regarding investments in Africa, according to Rand Merchant Bank's latest Where to Invest in Africa report for 2018, released on Monday.

This is the first time SA has not been in top spot since the report was initiated seven years ago. Nigeria, on the other hand, has for the first time not featured in the Top 10. This is due to its short-term investment appeal having been eroded by recessionary conditions, according to the report.

The report focuses on the main sources of dollar revenues in Africa, which allows it to measure the most important income generators and identify investment opportunities. The 2018 report also balances economic activity against the relative ease of doing business.

Egypt displaced SA largely because of its superior economic activity score, while SA has shown sluggish growth rates, which have deteriorated markedly over the past seven years.

While the report found that SA also faces mounting concerns over issues of institutional strength and governance, there are some things still counting in the country's favour. These include the rand, equity and capital markets, which the report points out are still "a cut above the rest" compared to many other African nations facing liquidity constraints. The report also points out that, although Botswana, Mauritius and Namibia are widely rated as investment grade economies, they do not feature in the report's Top 10 mostly because of the relatively small sizes of their markets. Market size has been a key consideration in the report's methodology.

From a global perspective, African countries are still at the lower end of the global-performance spectrum, which continues to be dominated by the US, UK, Australia and Germany," the report states.

One of the conclusions of the report is that Africa could find itself hovering on the brink of disaster if it continues to depend on its current economic fundamentals and does not usher in economic diversification. This involves understanding the need to adapt to the prolonged slowdown in commodity prices and sluggish levels of production growth.

Morocco retained its third position for a third consecutive year having benefitted from a greatly enhanced operating environment since the "Arab Spring" which began in 2010.

"Surprisingly, Ethiopia, a country dogged by socio-political instability, displaced Ghana to take fourth spot, mostly because of its rapid economic growth, having brushed past Kenya as the largest economy in East Africa," according to the report.

Ghana's slide to fifth position was mostly due to perceptions of worsening corruption and weaker economic freedom.

Kenya came in at 6th position. According to the report, despite being surpassed by Ethiopia, investors are still attracted by Kenya's diverse economic structure, pro-market policies and brisk consumer spending growth.

At the same time, the report found that "a host of business-friendly reforms aimed at rooting out corruption and steady economic growth" helped Tanzania climb by two places to number seven.

Rwanda - in 8th position- has re-entered the Top 10-list after having just missed it the past two years. According to the report, the country was helped by being one of the fastest reforming economies in the world, with high real growth rates and making a continuing at-

tempt to diversify its economy.

At number nine, Tunisia has made great strides, according to the report, in advancing political transition. An improved business climate has also been achieved by structural reforms, greater security and social stability.

Cote d'Ivoire slipped two places to take up the tenth position, while Algeria slipped from 10th to 15th place.

"Although its business environment scoring is still relatively low, its government has made significant strides in inviting investment into the country leading to a strong increase in foreign direct investment over the years resulting in one of the fastest growing economies in Africa," states the report.

The research shows, furthermore, that Uganda is steadily closing in on the Top 10 though market activity is likely to remain subdued after a tumultuous 2016 marred by election-related uncertainty, a debilitating drought and high commercial lending rates.

"Some countries have been more nimble and effective than others in managing shortfalls," explains Nema Ramkhelawan-Bhana, RMB Africa analyst and an author of the report.

"But major policy dilemmas have ensued, forcing governments to balance economically prudent solutions with what is politically palatable."

RMB Africa analyst and co-author of the report Celeste Fauconnier adds that over the past three years, some African governments have had to implement deep and painful budget cuts, announce multiple currency devaluations and adopt hawkish monetary policy stances - all as a result of a significant drop in traditional revenues.

"The last three years have sounded an alarm, amplifying what is now a dire need for the economies of Africa to shift their focus from traditional sources of income to other viable alternatives," says Neville Mandimika, RMB Africa analyst and contributor to the report.

Another RMB Africa analyst and co-author, Ronak Gopaldas, emphasises that there is no quick fix to infuse into such a complex situation. Gopaldas expects traditional forms of revenue will remain a reality for many years to come.

Libya: Is Europe paying off smugglers to stop flow of migrants?

The leaders of France, Germany, Italy and met in Paris with counterparts from Chad, Niger and Libya Monday in a bid to find ways to curb migration across the Mediterranean.

Though Monday's summit convened by French President Emmanuel Macron - is far from the first meeting held on the issue, it was significant in that the attendees were heads of state.

Participants included German Chancellor Angela Merkel, as well as the prime ministers of Italy and Spain, the EU foreign policy chief, the presidents of Niger and Chad and Faye Serraj - the leader of Libya's internationally-backed government.

Ahead of the meeting, Macron said he was eager to discuss the establishment of Libyan hot spots, places to process asylum seekers directly in Africa. Mattia Toaldo, a policy fel-

low at the European Council on Foreign Relations isn't sure the hot spots will work.

"There are a lot of doubts over whether this can be done in Africa, especially in Libya," he said. "For now, Italy is the only one of those countries with an embassy in Libya there isn't even a UN headquarters in Libya."

Logistics isn't the only issue.

"There are serious human rights violations going on in Libya," he said. "Moreover, Libya doesn't even have the word asylum in its legislation."

Hot spots might be both hard to implement and questionable in terms of human rights, but the pressure to find a solution is on for European leaders.

"There are upcoming elections in Austria and Germany that will take place within the next six weeks," Toaldo says. "In Italy, they'll be an election in the next six months. The priority of policy makers from these countries is to stop the flow of migrants altogether, no matter what the cost. International law and human rights violations come after that."

Some European politicians have applauded the fact that, this summer, there has been a drop in the number of people crossing the Mediterranean.

However, reports surfaced last week that armed groups that are preventing people from leaving Libya by stopping boats and holding people in detention centres. Moreover, these groups might be getting European money or favours.

"There were very credible reports that the reason the flow has decreased is because Italy is cutting deals with militias in places where migrants set off from," says Giulia Laganà, a senior EU migration and asylum analyst at the Open Society European Policy Institute.

"Italy also has an official naval mission in Libyan waters which is assisting the UN-backed official Libyan government to stop the flow of people across the Mediterranean. And in both cases-- Italy could be liable to legal action in the European court of human rights and elsewhere." "Politicians are aware of this, but, in their urgency to stop the flow before the elections, they might be cutting a few corners in terms of human rights," she says.

The crux of the matter is that people are fleeing Libya because of the conditions there. A recent report by British charity Oxfam found that 84% of migrants and refugees who passed through Libya suffered inhuman or degrading treatment, violence or torture.

"As oil revenues have fallen, a large part of the Libyan economy has basically converted to exploiting the migrants to the biggest degree possible wringing as much money out of them as possible," Laganà say. "And that's done through extreme violence, which amounts to torture in many cases."

"The fact that the flow of people has stopped doesn't mean that these people aren't being tortured anymore," she says. "It means they are being held there indefinitely in those detention centres. They have no means of escaping." She says the people trying to leave Libya are desperate.

"What a lot of people, including policy makers, forget is that most of the migrants currently fleeing Libya weren't originally planning to go to Europe," she says. "Only about 30% were. The rest found themselves in Libya in such horrendous conditions that they felt forced to get on boats to Europe just to seek safety."

Yet, despite these pressing concerns from all sides- people in Libya desperate for safety, European leaders hoping to stop them from coming and armed groups eager to profit from the situation the problem is too complex for a solution to come out of a one-day summit.

Ghana enters telescope era with South Africa

The launch of the Ghana Radio Astronomy Observatory is crucial not only to Ghana but to the international science community.

On Thursday, South African Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor will join Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo to officially launch the radio telescope, which was repurposed from a communications antenna over the past few years.

In an interview with SAnews in Accra shortly after a technical briefing ahead of Thursday's launch, Anita Loots, the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) South Africa Head: Office of Africa Planning, said this was a very important week for the international science community as far as astronomy research was concerned.

Once the radio telescope in Kutunse gets commissioned, it is expected that there will be an influx of astronomers who will converge to the facility to do research.

"This week in Ghana is extremely significant for Africa and Africa's participation in the Square Kilometre Array project because we are launching the Ghana Radio Astronomy Observatory and that means the Observatory in Ghana was the first one outside of South Africa, as one of the partner countries, that has demonstrated that they could realise a telescope and demonstrate to the international science community that the telescope can basically work in all three scientific modes that it was designed to operate," Loots said.

This comes not long after the radio telescope, the first of its kind on the continent outside of South Africa, reached a significant milestone where "first light" was observed.

"First light" is a process whereby the functionality of a radio telescope is tested for the first time, and the very first images are received.

This is done by observing a well-known source and calibrators, and comparing the data received by the new instrument with that already existing from others.

"It is significant because it is an observation that we have done at the same time as Europeans... [We] have done the observation, looked at the same source and recorded the same data and we have proven that we have got the same data and information as the rest of the European telescopes. That is called the VLBI [Very Long Baseline Interferometry] observation. It is done with all telescopes looking at the same source and the baseline between the telescopes is what is important," Loots said.

Dr Bernard Duah Asabere, the Manager of the Ghana Radio Astronomy Observatory and a Senior Operations Astronomer, said this was, on a personal level, a very exciting moment for him.

"From a national point of view, initially I was the first employee under the Ghana Space Science and Technology Institute... At first, people thought this was not going to be possible, looking at where we were and the human capacity that we had. People thought it wasn't going to be possible.

"So I am so excited that the effort we put in, especially South Africa and other collaborators, has yielded dividends and the results that we have been looking for. For me, that is exciting," he said. Throughout the repurposing of the radio telescope, the project opened up opportunities for development in the area.

Asabere said Kutunse residents and surrounding communities have benefitted from the project, from children in nearby schools receiving science, astronomy, mathematics and computing lessons, to locals getting employed as welders, painters and

mechanical engineers.

He said this has also contributed to tourism in the area.

Ghana is the first partner country of the African Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) Network (AVN) to complete the conversion of a communications antenna into a functioning radio telescope.

The 32-metre converted telecommunications antenna in Kutunse will be integrated into the AVN in preparation for the second phase of the construction of the SKA across the African continent.

Nasir Ahmad Yartey, the Head of Public Relations of Ghana's Ministry of Environment, Science Technology and Innovation, said South Africa is leading the charge in Africa being part of building the world's biggest telescope.

He said Ghana was chosen as one of the member countries because of its unique position.

"The uniqueness of this radio astronomy that we have in Kutunse is the fact that it is the first on the African continent outside South Africa. What we have in Kutunse will be able to contribute a great deal and knowledge of science.

"Very soon, a lot of scientists from all over the world will be travelling to study the universe from Ghana. So it is a unique opportunity for Ghana as far as our contribution to space science is concerned," Yartey said.

Nigeria lawmakers ask banks to unfreeze former first lady's bank accounts

Story from Premium Times

The House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions has directed six commercial banks to free accounts operated by former first lady, Patience Jonathan.

The committee chaired by Uzoma Nkem-Abonta (Abia-PDP), gave the directive on Tuesday in Abuja at a hearing on a petition by Mrs. Jonathan.

The affected banks are Union Bank, First Bank, EcoBank, Diamond Bank, Fidelity Bank and Skye Bank.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had directed the banks to freeze the accounts over allegations of corruption in the sources of the funds.

Officials of Union Bank, led by a lawyer, Kenneth Otowo, had told the panel that the bank placed Mrs. Jonathan's account under a 'precautionary restriction' following a directive by the EFCC.

"We received a communication from EFCC to put a precautionary restriction on the account. The letter was dated March 21, 2016, so we had to act based on that," he said.

But, the committee deplored the action, saying the bank could only take such decision if EFCC proved that it had obtained a court order to that effect.

"Until EFCC proves otherwise, I'll ask you to remove the precautionary restriction on the account.

Let me tell you, whatever you'll do, you must follow the law. A bank can't hold a legal entity to ransom.



Patience Jonathan

"I want to order all other banks that all the accounts that have no specific pending order from the courts, please release them," the committee chairman said.

The counsel to EcoBank, Afam Osigwe, said Mrs. Jonathan's account could not have been on restriction because there was no court order to that effect.

He later said that the bank would cross-check its records and get back to the committee.

As for Diamond Bank, Mr. Jonathan's lawyers said three of her accounts were frozen there.

However, Unoma Ndulue, who represented the bank, said two out of the three accounts were fully operative, while one was closed.

On Fidelity Bank, Mrs. Jonathan's lawyers said they did not have a direct issue with the bank, but that it was through the EFCC.

Officials of First Bank and Skye Bank were not present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, the committee has given Ibrahim Magu, the EFCC acting Chairman, up to October 4 to appear before it or have arrest warrant issued against him.

Similarly, the panel asked Mrs. Jonathan's lawyers and the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to reconcile their positions on an alleged tax default of over N10 million.

FIRS had said that Aridolf Resort Wellness and SPA, owned by Mrs Jonathan, failed to pay taxes in spite of serial reminders.

However, her lawyers insisted that they had paid all their taxes to the agency.

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Africa has the fastest growing female entrepreneurship in the world

By Lexi Novitske and Dale Mathias

Ironically, because the Africa tech sector is still nascent and not yet labeled as a male-dominated field, women find fewer barriers to success than in many of the high-status corporate jobs on the continent that are still, discouragingly, controlled by men.

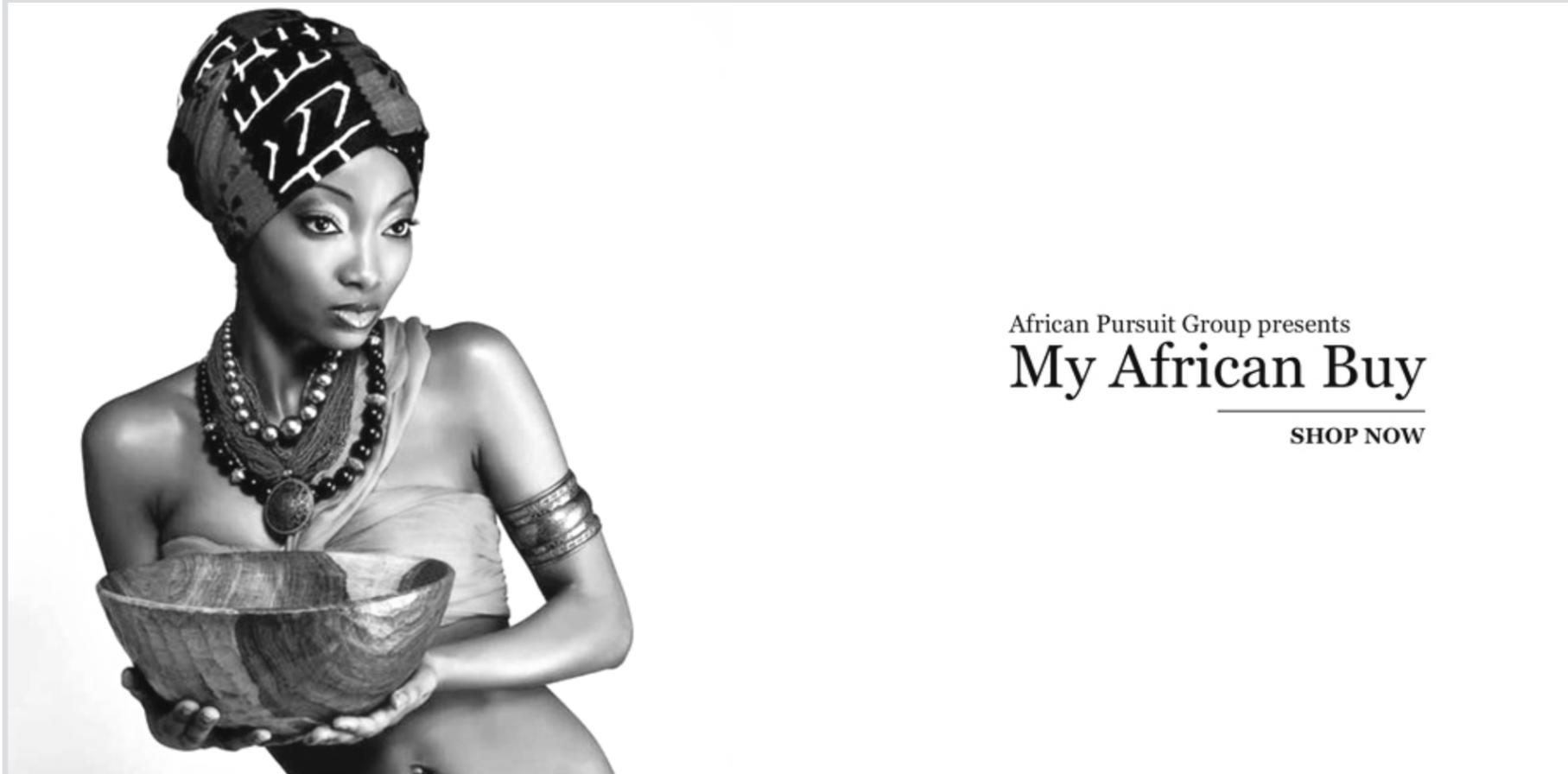
Partially driven by necessity, women across the region have long dominated entrepreneurial activity through informal markets and cross-border trade of goods and services. Risk-taking and selling is already in their blood, and women are now taking this experi-

the continent as well as the investors. According to a study by First Round Capital, founding teams including women outperform their all-male peers by 63 percent. Funds such as Alitheia Identity Managers and WBD Investment Holdings are focused on investing in women-led businesses or the social or economic empowerment of women on the continent.

Further research shows that greater support and financing for these ventures has a significant multiplier effect, driving social change, too. As former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has noted, women rein-

incubators like She Leads Africa and Senegal's Jjiguene Tech Senegal, means that Africa's leadership in female entrepreneurship only stands to grow.

At the legislative level, some African governments are taking steps to speed transformation through regulations that support more gender-diverse board composition and equity ownership. While these policies are still young, recent legislation in South Africa points to the potential for future progress. In 2016, the Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) Act was revised to require public companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Ex-



ence and applying it to the digital world.

According to VC4Africa, venture capital funding throughout Africa more than doubled from \$27 million in 2015 to \$73 million in 2016, echoing the growth opportunity tech founders and investors are seeing in the region. The rapidly expanding tech market is hungry for talent and as a result is relatively gender-blind when compared to the U.S., where the majority of venture capital funding goes to men.

Ethiopian entrepreneur Sara Menker, for example, saw an opening to improve the agriculture industry by aggregating data and providing analytic tools for businesses, governments and investors.

Her company, Gro Intelligence in Kenya, addresses the problem afflicting the agriculture industry globally (full disclosure: Dale is an investor in Gro Intelligence). Similarly, female founders like Christina Sass of Andela, which recently raised \$24 million from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to train software developers in Africa and outsource them to top-tier companies around the world, have also found the region amenable to the scalable growth of their businesses. Besides Lagos and Nairobi, she has offices in New York City.

Investing in these ventures means commercial and social returns. Female-backed digital businesses are proving to be good for

vest 90 percent of their income in their communities, families and companies, compared with men who reinvest only 30 to 40 percent.

In Nigeria, Funke Opeke launched MainOne, a company responsible for bringing broadband connectivity to Nigeria, and seven other West African countries via a 7,000-kilometer undersea fiber optic cable. Her company is also credited with coordinating efforts to provide uncapped high-speed internet access to support young tech companies in Yaba, Lagos, and spurring the growth of Nigeria's tech scene as we know it today.

Likewise, WeCyclers, founded by Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola, has combined profit with social impact to collect and recycle waste efficiently in Lagos. The company utilizes mobile-connected networks of collectors who deliver rubbish for recycling in exchange for virtual points redeemable for essential household items. The company has more than 3,400 partner households and has collected over 525 tons of waste.

Female entrepreneurship is widespread across Africa's economies, and the potential is expanding. Zambia and Nigeria have the highest rates of female entrepreneurship in the world, but their female founders have yet to garner significant attention.

Although the region may rank low on other measures of gender equality, newly formed

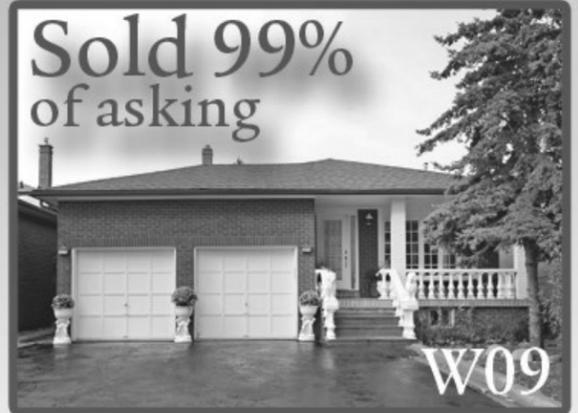
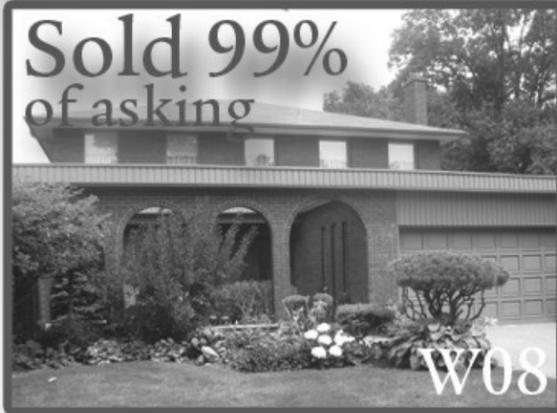
change to submit annual compliance reports to the BEE Commission on the promotion of gender diversity at the board level.

Meanwhile, the trend of women working outside the home and their role in consumer spending is only increasing. Digital business models such as Tress, an application that provides hairstyle discovery, salon referral and product sales for an estimated \$7-billion African hair-care market, are addressing a long-ignored market.

VCs in Silicon Valley can learn much from what is happening on the African continent. Women entrepreneurs are getting ahead because of their brains and industry. Smart investors are taking notice and will benefit from the economic and social returns that will undoubtedly come.

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Angola gets new president



Luanda — The UN Secretary-General António Guterres was formally invited to attend the swearing in ceremony of Angolan President-elect João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço to be held on 26 June in Luanda.

The invitation was made by the acting president, José Eduardo dos Santos, and delivered Friday by the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins.

The Portuguese national, who has been at the helm of the United Nations since last January 1, is one of the international personalities known to be on the list of guests at the ceremony, which marks a turning point in Angola's history, with the withdrawal of President José Eduardo dos Santos.

Bornito de Sousa Baltazar Diogo, number two on the MPLA list, will be invested as vice president of the Republic, on the same occasion.

The National Electoral Commission (CNE) proclaimed winners, based on the final election results of the general elections of August 23 last, the MPLA and its candidate, João Lourenço, for 61.08% of votes.

The Constitutional Court confirmed Wednesday, in a deliberation, in plenary, these results.

Mozambique introduces Chinese acupuncture into medical system

Maputo — Mozambique's Ministry of Health said Friday it will introduce acupuncture, a traditional Chinese medical treatment, to main provincial hospitals in the country's central and northern regions next year.

The announcement was made by Martinho Dgedge, the ministry's general inspector, at the end of the first training session on traditional Chinese medicine in the capital Maputo.

"Acupuncture has been assimilated by modern and conventional medicine. With scien-

tific researches conducted in several countries, its therapeutic effects have been recognized and explained in papers published in scientific journals. It has gained more and more credibility and influence," said Dgedge.

Acupuncture consists of stimulation of specific acupoints with needles and is widely used in China. Many Western countries have already adopted this therapeutic approach.

During the 75-day training course, local doctors learned Chinese medicine techniques, including the use of needles to stimulate nerves, massage, the cupping therapy, among other practices.

Protests close Swaziland University

The University of Swaziland (UNISWA) has been closed once again after students and police clashed on Thursday (7 September 2017).

Students had boycotted classes in protest against unpaid book allowances, high prices and low quality of food in the university refectories, lack of decent accommodation and unpaid scholarships.

UNISWA, which is the main university in the kingdom has King Mswati III as its Chancellor. He is also sub-Saharan Africa's last absolute monarch. Students in Swaziland have engaged in protests for many years in an attempt to improve the standard of their education.

The Times of Swaziland, the only independent daily newspaper in the kingdom, reported that students had informed the university's administration of the intended boycott and asked that police not be called to the university, 'because their presence usually resulted in a chaotic encounter between the two'.

The Times reported, 'about 20 uniformed but unarmed police officers were deployed to the institution, something which did not go down well with students who then gathered stones around the campus in preparation for a fight.

'It was gathered that because the first troop of police officers was harmless, the class boycott went ahead as planned but later on, the students saw heavily armed officers from the Operational Support Service Unit (OSSU) parking their armoured trucks and Casspirs inside the campus premises.'

This resulted in a confrontation between police and students, the newspaper reported. Police used batons and students stones, it added.

This is not the first time police have entered UNISWA. In May 2017 police patrolled the Luyengo campus at examination time because students protested against alleged victimisation by a lecturer.

In February 2017 police fired warning gunshots as students protested about late payment of their allowances. It happened after UNISWA students tried to march with a petition to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, following a meeting on the Kwaluseni campus.

In February 2016, Swazi security forces attacked students at the UNISWA Kwaluseni campus by driving an armoured troop carrier at speed into a crowd, injuring one so badly her back was broken. Students had been protesting and boycotting classes to protest about delays in registration.

The assault was one of many violent attacks on

university students by police and security forces dating back a number of years.

In November 2013, police raided dormitories and dragged students from their rooms. Later they beat up the students at local police stations. Students had wanted the start of examinations postponed. Armed police stood guard outside examination halls as the UNISWA Administration attempted to hold the exams.

In August 2012, two students were shot in the head at close range with rubber bullets, during a dispute about the number of scholarships awarded by the government. Reports from the Centre for Human Rights and Development, Swaziland said several other students were injured by police batons and kicks.

In February 2012, police fired teargas at students from Swaziland College of Technology (SCOT) who boycotted classes after the Swazi Government did not pay them their allowances.

In November 2011, armed police attacked students at the recently-opened private Limkokwing University. The Swazi Observer said Limkokwing students reported that police 'attacked them unprovoked as they were not armed'.

The newspaper added, 'During a visit to the institution about 10 armed officers were found standing guard by the gate'. The Observer said police fired as they tried to disperse the students.

In January 2010, Swaziland Police reportedly fired bullets at protesting university students, injuring two of them. They denied it and said they 'only' fired teargas. Students from UNISWA had attempted to march through the kingdom's capital, Mbabane, to call for an increase in their allowances.

Mugabe quits conference due to health

PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe on Tuesday abandoned the ongoing SADC summit in Swaziland after his health reportedly deteriorated.

Government sources said Mugabe arrived back in Harare late Tuesday evening and then left the capital just before 11pm. He had travelled to Swaziland on Monday.

The SADC summit was due to end on Wednesday. "He came back today because of health issues. It has to do with prostate cancer and is due to fly out early on Wednesday to Dubai," one source said.

Another source added: "He will be treated for urinary tract infection". Online flight trackers showed his Zim One Air Zimbabwe plane leaving Harare at 22:45 hours. The plane was last seen above the Indian Ocean, headed towards the Far East.

Mugabe has reportedly been battling prostate cancer and regularly travels to the Far East for treatment although his handlers claim the trips are just for eye surgery.

Pressure has been mounting on the 92-year-old Zimbabwean leader within and outside his ruling Zanu PF party.

Opposition parties and rights activists engaging in protests almost every week demanding that he steps down due to old age.

Veterans of the liberation struggle, a key Zanu PF affiliate, have also rejected Mugabe and declared they would not support him at the next elections which are due in 2018.

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Nigeria not changing squad ahead of duel with Zambia

Nigeria have named an unchanged 23-man squad for the crucial 2018 World Cup quali-



Alex Iwobi will again be part of the squad after being sidelined due to injury

fier against Zambia next month.

The Super Eagles face 2012 Africa Cup of Nations winners Zambia at home in the south-eastern city of Uyo on 7 October.

If Nigeria can win the tie they will seal a sixth World Cup appearance.

Arsenal forward Alex Iwobi is named again after he was forced to withdraw from September's two games against Cameroon due to injury.

Leicester trio of Ahmed Musa, Wilfred Ndidi and Kelechi Iheanacho are also included, while former England youth international Ola Aina could make his long awaited debut.

Experienced China-based duo of captain John Mikel Obi and Odion Ighalo, as well as Chelsea wing-back Victor Moses complete a strong squad.

"I'm happy to be called up again because it's always a great honour to play for my country," Ighalo told BBC Sport.

"We know Zambia is a strong team and they will come with full determination in Uyo, we cannot not engage in irrelevant pre-match talking but deliver on the pitch.

"I've never played at the World Cup and like my other colleagues we all want to be in Russia, this is like a final for us."

The Super Eagles are top of Group B with ten points, while

Chipolopolo lie second with seven points following a 1-1 draw with Cameroon and home and away triumphs over Algeria.

Three-time African champions Nigeria first appeared at the World Cup in 1994, where they reached the second round. They also played at the 1998, 2002, 2010 and 2014 tournaments.

Nigeria squad:

Goalkeepers: Daniel Akpeyi (Chippa United, South Africa); Ikechukwu Ezenwa (FC IfeanyiUbah); Ayodele Ajiboye (Plateau United FC)

Defenders: William Troost-Ekong (Bursaspor FC, Turkey); Abdullahi Shehu (Anorthosis Famagusta, Cyprus); Leon Balogun (FSV Mainz 05, Germany); Elderson Echiejile (Sivasspor FC, Turkey); Uche Agbo (Standard Liege, Belgium); Chidozie Awaziem (Nantes FC, France); Ola Aina (Hull City, England)

Midfielders: John Mikel Obi (Tianjin Teda, China); Ogenyi Onazi (Trabzonspor FC, Turkey); Wilfred Ndidi (Leicester City, England); Oghenekaro Etebo (CD Feirense, Portugal); John Ogu (Hapoel Be'er Sheva, Israel); Mikel Agu (Bursaspor FC, Turkey)

Forwards: Ahmed Musa and Kelechi Iheanacho (Leicester City, England); Moses Simon (KAA Gent, Belgium); Alex Iwobi (Arsenal FC, England); Odion Ighalo (Chang Chun-Yatai, China); Victor Moses (Chelsea FC, England); Anthony Nwakaeme (Hapoel Be'er Sheva, Israel)

Standby: Dele Alampasu (Cesareense FC, Portugal); Tyrone Ebuehi (ADO Den Haag, The Netherlands); Aaron Samuel (CSKA Moscow, Russia); Afeez Aremu (Akwa United); Ifeanyi Ifeanyi (Akwa United)



African Champions League: Etoile du Sahel progress to semis

Tunisia's Etoile du Sahel claimed the last place in the African Champions League semi-finals with a 2-0 win over Al Ahly Tripoli on Sunday.

Egyptian Amr Marei was the hero as he scored both goals in Sousse.

The two sides had draw 0-0 in the first leg last weekend, which was played in Egypt due to the insecurity in Libya.

Etoile will now face eight-time winners Al Ahly of Egypt in the semi-finals, that is a repeat of the 2007 final that Etoile won 3-1 on aggregate.

The hosts took the lead after 14 minutes when Egyptian forward Marei was there to finish a slick move with a header from close range.

He was able to score after Hamdi Naguez skilfully crossed the ball first time as it was lobbed to him.

Marei grabbed his second just a minute after half-time with another header.

Aymen Trabelsi had a chance to settle the tie in the 57th minute but his shot across the goal rebounded off the inside of the far post and away from danger.

The Libyan side did try and push for a goal that could have made the final minutes very interesting but could not break down a resolute Etoile defence.

Morocco's Wydad Casablanca take on Algeria's USM Alger in the other semi-final with the first legs next weekend.

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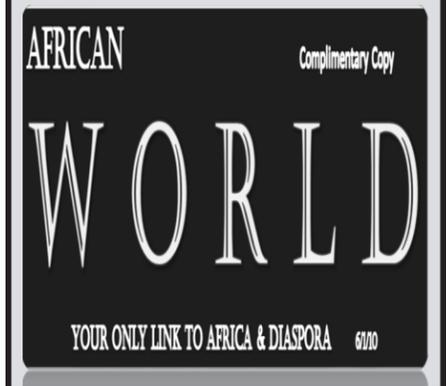
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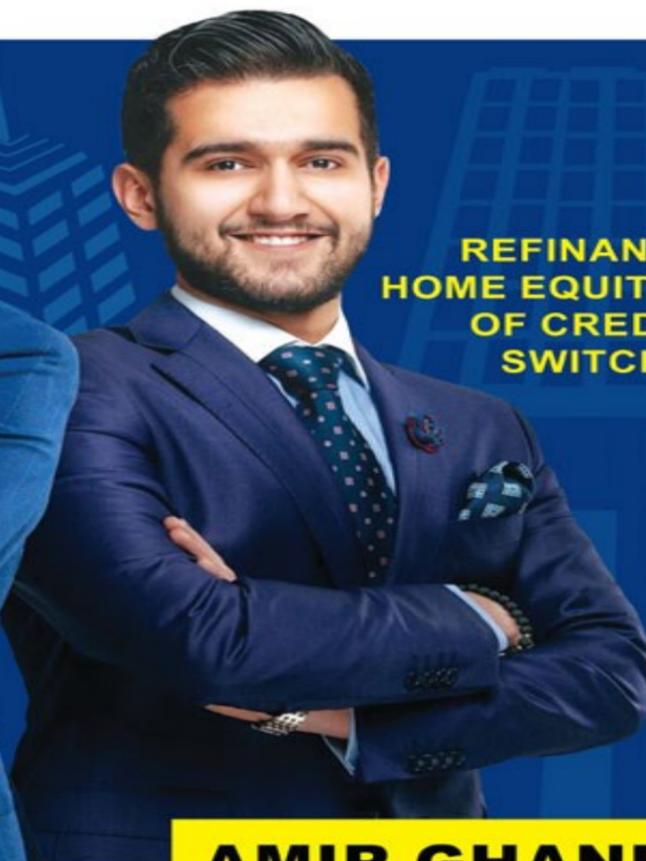
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