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Analysis: Lessons from Ethiopian Boeing 737 plane crash



As memorial services for the 157 victims of the Ethiopian plane crash got underway, new information has come to light regarding the embattled Boeing 737 Max 8.

Air transport officials have now focused attention to the similarities between the Ethiopian Airlines incident and that of the Lion Air plane which went down in Indonesia a few months ago. Both crashes involved the Max 8 aircraft currently banned from flying in many nations' airspace.

Flight data recorders show "clear similarities", Ethiopia's transport minister said Sunday as the U.S. maker announced it was completing a software update for its anti-stall system.

Dagmawit Moges told reporters that the so-called black box from Flight 302 were recovered "in good condition that enabled us to extract almost all the

date inside."

He did not elaborate on what the similarities were.

Moges said that a preliminary report on last week's plane crash, which left 157 people dead, would be released within 30 days.

Meanwhile, pressure has been mounting on the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration about the safety of the aircraft. The agency has insisted it had followed standard procedures in certifying the Boeing 737 MAX model. It has been reported, however, that the Department of Transportation was investigating those procedures.

Even before the black box of the Ethiopian Airlines plane was discovered, many had drawn parallels between the Addis Ababa crash and the Indonesian crash last October, both of which were Boeing 737 MAX 8 planes. The crash of Ethiopian Flight 302 shortly after takeoff from Addis Ababa for Nairobi, prompted the U.S. and more than 30 other countries to ground the Boeing 737 Max 8 fleet.

Meanwhile, thousands marched in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, accompanying 17 empty caskets at funerals held on Sunday for the 17 Ethiopians killed in the crash.

Families of the victims were offered charred earth from the crash site to bury.

Ethiopian Airlines aviation staff gathered Sunday at Bole International Airport to remember the two pilots and six crew members on the flight who died in the crash.

The flight was also carrying 21 U.N. staff members, who were on their way to attend a major U.N. Environment Conference in Nairobi when the plane went down. Victims of the recent crash came from many countries including Canada, India, US, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

Nigerian professor among 18 Canadians in Ethiopian Boeing crash

Pius Adesanmi, a Nigeria-Canadian at Ottawa's Carleton university was among 18 Canadians killed in the recent Ethiopia Airlines crash involving the embattled Boeing 737 Max 8 plane.

A lecturer in literature, Adesanmi was among delegates on their way to Kenya from Addis Ababa for a conference on environmental issues sponsored by the African Union and the United Nations. Many on the ill-fated journey were also on their way to the same conference. All 157 passengers including its crew died in the fallen plane.

The Carleton university community is agog with shock.

"Pius was a towering figure in African and post-colonial scholarship and his sudden loss is a tragedy," said Benoit-Antoine Bacon, president and vice-chancellor. "Our thoughts and prayers

are with his family and all those who knew and loved him, and with everyone who suffered loss in the tragic crash in Ethiopia."

"The contributions of Pius Adesanmi to Carleton are immeasurable," said Pauline Rankin, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. "He worked tirelessly to build the Institute of African Studies, to share his boundless passion for African literature and to connect with and support students. He was a scholar and teacher of the highest calibre who leaves a deep imprint on Carleton."

Adesanmi's award-winning book, "You Are Not A Country Africa", was considered groundbreaking. A Carleton university press release noted "he was one of the most important minds of the African diaspora" who "inspired his Carleton colleagues with his brilliance and cemented his close



Professor Pius Adesanmi. He was among 18 Canadians who died

ties to faculty, staff and students with his kindness, thoughtfulness, enthusiasm and unforgettable laugh".

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Finally Bouteflika backs down in Algeria

After nearly a month of protest, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has promised to end his twenty-year rule and usher in political reforms. He promised an "appropriate response" to the demands of demonstrators.

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika said on Monday that he would not run for a fifth term after weeks of demonstrations across the North African country.

The presidency also announced via the official APS news agency that the country's national election, originally scheduled for April 18, would be postponed pending a national conference on political



Outgoing Algeria president Abdelaziz Bouteflika

and constitutional reform.

"I have decided to make substantial amendments in the government formation as soon as possible. Such amendments will be an appropriate response to the demands that have come from you," he said in a statement.

He also promised an interim leadership structure to oversee the new vote.

Tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets in recent weeks, to demand that Bouteflika, who has been in power since 1999, finally step down.

Bouteflika has managed to stay in power by pushing through constitutional amendments to keep extending term limits. All but one of his four elections have been marred by widespread allegations of fraud and irregularities at the polls.

Sometimes jokingly called the "living dead" president by his critics, Bouteflika, 82, has not often been seen in public since he had a stroke in 2013. On Sunday, he returned from two weeks in Switzerland for medical treatment.

He had initially promised to not complete a fifth term if he was re-elected, but protesters demanded he give up his candidacy entirely. Earlier on Monday, some 1,000 judges said they would not oversee the election if Bouteflika ran, and religious leaders declared their intention to oppose him.

Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia also announced his resignation, and the president signaled that there would be a cabinet reshuffle.

Second funding for women's initiative in Africa announced

The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) has announced its second funding allocations - expected to benefit 70,000 women-led businesses and mobilize nearly a billion dollars of addi-



tional public and private sector resources.

The second round allocates \$129 million for programs to boost women's entrepreneurship that will be implemented by four multilateral development banks, expecting to mobilize \$990 million of additional funds from other public and private sources. The African Development Bank received \$61.8 million for activities covering 21 African countries; the Asian Development Bank received \$20.2 million for activities in Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji; the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development received \$22.9 million for activities in low-income Central Asian countries; and the Inter-American Development Bank received \$24.28 million for activities in countries across Latin America and the Caribbean.

This complements the first round of We-Fi funds announced in April 2018, which allocated \$120 million for projects implemented by the World Bank Group, Asian Development Bank, and Islamic Development Bank to tackle the barriers facing women entrepreneurs across developing countries. Together, the two allocations aim to reach 115,000 women entrepreneurs and mobilize \$2.6 billion in additional public and private sector resources, ten times the resources allocated by We-Fi's 14 donor governments.

"We-Fi is the first of its kind - a large-scale, multi-stakeholder partnership designed to address obstacles facing women entrepreneurs through comprehensive, sustainable solutions," said Geoffrey Okamoto, Chair of the We-Fi Governing Committee and Acting Assistant Secretary for International Finance and Development at the United States Department of the Treasury. "The idea is not to fund individual women entrepreneurs, but to fund projects that disrupt the systemic causes of financial obstacles to women's entrepreneurship."

"When we unleash women's economic potential, they increase global growth, prosperity and peace," said World Bank Group Chief Executive Officer, Kristalina Georgieva. "We-Fi has exceeded all targets in mobilizing billions of dollars of financing for women entrepreneurs, including in the most challenging environments. I look forward to continuing this momentum, because when women succeed, everyone benefits."

Seventy percent of the current We-Fi funding allocation will benefit women entrepreneurs in IDA countries and countries affected by fragility and conflict.

Under the second round of funding:

The African Development Bank (AfDB) was granted \$61.8 million for its program "Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa" (AFAWA). The program will offer innovative and tailored financial instruments including a women-focused first loss risk-sharing facility, specialized capacity-building training, and targeted initiatives to dramatically transform the business-enabling environment for women entrepreneurs. Of 21 economies targeted, AFAWA will mainly service IDA and fragile or conflict-affect countries where women are underserved in accessing financing, markets,

knowledge, and mentoring programs. These countries include Burundi, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was granted \$20.2 million for a program on "Women Accelerating Vibrant Enterprises in Southeast Asia and the Pacific" (WAVES). WAVES will support more than 5,105 women-owned or led businesses in the Pacific and Viet Nam, and will foster long-term behavior change among key stakeholders in the private and public sectors. Access to finance will be expanded through performance-based lending in Viet Nam, and the first gender bond in Southeast Asia and the Pacific will be issued in Fiji. ADB will work with national partners to conduct the first nation-wide survey of women's businesses across the Pacific; and will support implementation of the gender provisions under Viet Nam's business law. Women's capacity and confidence to run successful businesses will be developed via financial literacy, business acceleration, and mentorship programs to increase

their contributions to building inclusive and dynamic economies.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was granted \$22.9 million for its "Women of the Steppe" Women in Business Program in Central Asia. 100% of We-Fi funding will

be dedicated to activities in IDA countries including the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The program takes a holistic approach to tackling demand-side, supply-side, and environmental constraints, thereby sparking systemic change at both the market and firm-levels.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) received \$24.28 million for its "Women Entrepreneurs for Latin America and the Caribbean" (WeForLac) program. WeForLac will boost access to finance, markets, skills and networks, while strengthening entrepreneurship ecosystems in support of women-owned and led businesses. The program is expected to reach more than 19,252 women, with a focus on underserved communities in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, and Peru.

Established in 2017 at the G-20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany, We-Fi supports women entrepreneurs with access to finance, markets, technology, mentoring, and other services, while working with governments and the private sector to improve the laws and policies inhibiting women's businesses in developing countries

We-Fi is supported by the governments of Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Republic of South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

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Female Empowerment in Africa:

Lessons from Fela Kuti's mother Funmilayo Anikulapo Kuti

Funmilayo Anikulapo-Kuti was a teacher, political campaigner, women's rights activist and traditional aristocrat in Nigeria. She was seen as the doyenne of female rights in Nigeria, gaining her the moniker "Lioness of Lisabi" for her political activism. However, like many other female leaders, her contributions and legacy has been muted.

Protest against Ademola II, the king of the town

One of the AWU's most memorable protest was that against Ademola II, who became the "alake", or king, of the town in the 1920s. He took advantage of his position and British support to steal land and embezzle taxes, especial-

Although a mass demonstration took place on 29 and 30 November 1947, which drew more than 10 000 women and saw men finally joining their struggle, the alake held out until 3 January 1949, when the pressure became too much and he abdicated. "It had taken the women nearly three years of continuous struggle to win, during which they had remained

cohesive, organised and determined, and had not resorted to violence," African Feminist Forum states.

The AWU continued to act as a pressure group whenever the interests of Egba women were threatened. It went on to expand into a trans-



The first Nigerian woman to drive a car and better known to many as the mother of Afrobeat pioneer Fela Kuti, Chief Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, born 25 October 1900, served with distinction as one of the most prominent leaders of her generation.

The daughter of Chief Daniel Olumeyuwa Thomas (a returned slave) and Lucretia Phyllis Omoyeni Adeosolu of the Jibolu-Taiwo family, she received a Western education up to secondary school level, before pursuing further education in England from 1919 to 1923, when she discovered socialism and anti-colonialism.

Upon her return to Nigeria, Ransome-Kuti organised literacy classes for women in the early 1920s and founded a nursery school in the 1930s. She went on to found the Abeokuta Ladies' Club (ALC) along with Eniola Soyinka (her sister-in-law and the mother of the Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka) for educated women involved in charitable work in 1942. In 1944, the club expanded to include the market women and, in 1945, defended them when the government began taking their rice without compensation.

This marked the turn of the club, which steadily became more politicised, subsequently changing its name to the Abeokuta Women's Union (AWU) in 1946. According to African Feminist Forum, the union was used to organise women in Abeokuta in protest of colonial taxation and other unfavourable, foreign and excessive policies under the slogan, "No taxation without representation". As with the Igbo women in 1929, the Egba women of Abeokuta focused their opposition on a local representative of British power rather than on British power itself.

ly from the women who, in paying both their own taxes and some of their husbands', were essentially providing at least half of the district's revenue.

As the AWU was unable to gain permits to protest against the alake's mistreatment, Ran-

regional, trans-ethnic structure and became the Nigerian Women's Union (NWU), then later the Federation of Nigerian Women's Society (FNWS) with the mandate of articulating women's position in Nigerian society.

Other achievements

Ransome-Kuti took part in the pre-independence conferences that laid the groundwork for Nigeria's First Republic. She was also one of the women appointed to the native House of Chiefs, serving as an Oloye of the Yoruba people. She was also the only woman to hold an executive position in the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC).

Ransome-Kuti was honoured with a doctorate degree, the Order of the Niger and the Lenin Peace Prize. "Ransome-Kuti has been described as an 'eloquent and compelling speaker' who efficiently used 'expressive, idiomatic language and very sharp wit.' She also extended support to Margaret Ekpo, who had commenced an independent resistance to colonial policies in eastern Nigeria," according to African Feminist Forum.

In February 1978, Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti was thrown out of a window by Nigerian soldiers ransacking the home of her son, renowned Afrobeat musician and activist Fela Anikulapo Kuti. She died of her injuries in April that year.



FELA KUTI

some-Kuti is said to have led training sessions for their demonstrations, which they referred to as "picnics" or "festivals". During this long and protracted campaign against unjust treatment and taxation, many women were put on trial as individuals. Ransome-Kuti herself was imprisoned in 1947 for her refusal to pay taxes. African Feminist Forum states that the movement was "not deterred and entered a radical phase, with increasing sit-ins, demonstrations and market closures, including using songs and the ridicule of male power."

News of theAFRICAN World

Mauritius sends aid to victims of Idai

The Government of Mauritius donates \$300,000 to victims of the cyclone that hit the south-east coast of the continent recently. Zimbabwe gets 200,00 dollars while Mozambique gets 100,000 dollars.

Mauritius said it has taken "note of the situation prevailing in the Republic of Mozambique and Republic of Zimbabwe following the passage of cyclone Idai. As an expression of its solidarity with the people of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, Government will donate USD 200 000 and USD 100 000 to the Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of Zimbabwe respectively".

According to the authorities, the cyclone has affected more than 1.5 million people, with a death toll of more than 1 000 people. Idai caused flooding over vast stretches of land and has also swept away houses, buildings and dams.

'Exciting' News in Fight Against Drug-Resistant TB

Cape Town – In an important step in the fight against strains of tuberculosis which resist conventional treatments, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has agreed to review urgently a new drug for approval.



The introduction of the drug, called pretomanid, has shown promise in clinical trials for cutting the length of treatment for various kinds of drug-resistant TB down to six months. It can also be taken orally instead of by injection.

Drug-resistant TB is difficult and costly to treat. Until recently, treatment for multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB has often taken nine to 18 months or more, and that for extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB up to two years or longer.

When the trials were launched, Dr Francesca Conradie of Sizwe Hospital in Johannesburg noted that XDR-TB in particular is "an absolute devastation to patients, their families, and communities".

The announcement of the FDA's decision was made this month by the TB Alliance, a non-profit group based in New York and Pretoria which is dedicated to finding and making available better drugs to

fight TB. FDA approval is an important step towards manufacturing and marketing drugs.

The alliance said the FDA has accepted for review an application to use the novel drug as part of a three-drug regimen which also includes bedaquiline and linezolid. The FDA granted the drug "priority review" status, meaning that it aims to make a decision within six months instead of taking 10 months.

The alliance expects a decision in the third quarter of this year and says if pretomanid is approved it will work with manufacturers to ensure that it will be accessible to everyone who needs it.

The alliance said the three-drug regimen has been studied in 20 clinical trials, either alone or in combination with other anti-TB drugs. It was announced last October that nine of every 10 participants in trials at three South African sites had been cured of drug-resistant TB after six months of treatment and six months of post-treatment follow-up through a simplified and shortened treatment regimen.

The FDA's acceptance of the drug for review is "exciting", says the Treatment Action Group, a New York-based activist think tank. "Pretomanid represents only the fourth new TB drug to go through stringent regulatory review in the past half a century, and the first developed by a not-for-profit organization."

Government has pledged 2000ha to the African Union for the Wakanda One village to be shared by Zimbabwe and Zambia as part of joint development efforts across Southern Africa.

Wakanda One village is a concept that seeks to rope in Africans living in the Diaspora in spearheading development at identified sites on the continent.

The pledge comes in handy in the country's re-engagement efforts where it also seeks to court Zimbabweans in the Diaspora to contribute to the nation's economic turnaround.

President Mnangagwa has also set an ambitious target to turn Zimbabwe into an upper middle-class economy by 2030 with tourism, agriculture and mining driving the vision.

In an interview during the

inaugural Intra African Trade Fair, which ended on Monday this week in Cairo, Egypt, African Union Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the US, Dr Arikana Chihombori-Quao, confirmed President Mnangagwa's pledge recently.

Zimbabwe Offers Land for Wakanda One

Zimbabwe has pledged 2000ha to the African Union for the Wakanda One village to be shared by Zimbabwe and Zambia as part of joint development efforts across Southern Africa.

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In an interview during the inaugural Intra African Trade Fair, which ended on Monday this week in Cairo, Egypt, African Union Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the US, Dr Arikana Chihombori-Quao, confirmed President Mnangagwa's pledge recently.

"I met His Excellency President Mnangagwa recently and he offered us 2000ha for the regional Wakanda One in Victoria Falls.

"The offer also comes in when the Zambian Government has also offered some land across the river in Livingstone. So we are looking at building the village straggling the border between the countries," she said.

Zambia has offered 132ha for the project.

The Wakanda One village concept expresses a desire by African leaders for all people of African descent - the Diaspora - to return home and participate in building the continent.

Wakanda One - the building of African Centres of Excellence across Africa - is looking at building five centres, one in each region, which serve as growth nodes for each region which should have downstream benefits for the population.

It will provide state of the art healthcare facilities using advanced technology and onsite pharmaceutical manufacturing.



Fictional Wakanda

Chinese woman bringing Mandarin language to Ugandan schools



Wang Li Hong Sooma, who moved to East Africa from China more than two decades ago, is determined to teach Ugandans how to speak Mandarin.

She and her Ugandan husband, Ayub Sooma, are organising nine-month intensive courses for secondary school teachers to learn China's dominant language.

The first 30 teachers have now completed their training and have started holding Mandarin classes in schools across the country.

The couple, who own their own secondary school on the outskirts of the capital, Kampala, met 26 years ago in Beijing, when Mr Sooma was studying at Tsinghua University.

Though at first, Mrs Wang says, it was not easy for them to be together.

"It was a war! At that time, they thought I was a very loose girl to date a black boy. But I knew he is very honest and has a good heart to help other people."

They now have three children and Uganda has been their home since 1996.

Chinese logging criticised in Africa

A US environmental campaign group has accused Chinese logging companies of devastating key forests in the Congo Basin, and so damaging the climate, protected tree species and the habitat of endangered animals. The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) says [its report](#) is the result of four years of research, much of it undercover.

It accused the Chinese companies of paying huge bribes to win logging rights in Congo-



Brazzaville and Gabon, of evading taxes and of violating export quotas. One of the main companies concerned, SICOFOR, has denied the allegations. The EIA says the Congo Basin forests are critical to the planet because they are thought to generate more than three-quarters of the region's rainfall - and about 75 million people live in or de-

pend on the forests.

White privilege tweets sparked in South Africa

South African TV host Janez Vermeiren says white people should stop using the phrase "back in the good old days" saying it insults those who suffered under apartheid.

"It's pretty simple. No matter how bad things are in the country at the moment, it's better than Apartheid. Clearly a lot of white people don't understand this. Probably the same ones that don't understand privilege," he tweeted.

His comments on Twitter have sparked a debate over the past few days.

Vermeiren, who is white, has had his views dismissed by some white South Africans.

One person tweets:

Can white people please stop using phrases like "back in the good old days". Imagine hearing a phrase like this if your family was oppressed by this racist system! I know we have crime & other issues but it's never OK to describe the past as something positive ...

Another tweets:

you're a breath of fresh air! You're amazing. Don't stop calling out racism and white privilege. This needs to be normalized. You're all it takes to make a difference.

One more: Janez I salute you and Danny. The naked truth hurts and lets face it most of your critics were never on the receiving end. Apartheid was a disgusting and heinous system that stripped the majority of their dignity. I have no fond memories of this criminal policy...

What safeguards for women after disaster?

Hundreds of Mozambicans were killed and thousands made homeless recently by Cyclones Idai and Kenneth. Almost immediately, there were reports of a sadly familiar story: women being forced to trade sex for food by local community leaders distributing aid.

Globally, international organisations appear to be grappling with the issue more seriously than before. Yet reports about sexual exploitation keep coming. How does the aid community strategise to protect women's safety in disaster situations?

Over the past 15 years, I have done research on sexual exploitation of displaced women in Uganda and Colombia. I have also worked with a variety of humanitarian organisations on accountability and legalisation. Through this, I have identified the factors necessary to bring justice to the victims of predatory aid workers.

Sexual exploitation must be recognised as a real and widespread problem. There must be staff and management accountability. Transgressions must be sanctioned through disciplinary or penal measures. But there are also major dilemmas that need to be understood and tackled by governments, agencies and, most importantly, local communities.

The sexual exploitation of disaster and conflict victims is a global - and longstanding - phenomenon. Over the last 25 years, there have been radical changes in the standards of global public morality around the conduct of personnel working for international organisations and NGOs when vulnerable adults and children are involved.

Nevertheless, the willingness to see sexual exploitation as an inherent feature of the international community's intervention to bring development, humanitarian aid or peace has been much slower to evolve.

It was only 24 years ago that UNHCR issued guidelines on sexual violence and refugees that expressly mentioned international refugee workers as being implicated in sexual violence against refugees.

The sexual abuse of vulnerable women and girls in several African countries by international aid workers was recently described as "endemic". It was also noted that perpetrators easily moved around the sector undetected.

Several recent cases have been reported from Cote d'Ivoire, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

These have involved aid workers and peacekeepers, as well as local aid workers and government employees.

In my research on refugees, accusations concerning "sex for resettlement" registration surface regularly. I found these to be frequent while working on refugee resettlement in Kampala 15 years ago. Despite the UNHCR's promise to reform, similar accusations keep resurfacing, most recently in Kenya. The time has come for the international community to seriously debate the power mechanisms embedded in the resettlement process that enable sexual exploitation to fester. Safeguarding includes all actions by aid actors to protect staff from harm (abuse, sexual harassment and violence) and to ensure staff do not harm beneficiaries.

Written by:

Kristin Bergtora Sandvik, Research Professor in Humanitarian Studies and Professor of Sociology of Law, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Journalists escape lynching in Kano

From The Nigeria Vanguard newspaper

Some journalists covering the Supplementary Governorship election in Kano State on Saturday escaped lynching by some suspected thugs at Suntulma Primary School in Gama ward of Nasarawa Local Government Area of the state.

NAN reports that the journalists who were in the area to monitor the poll, were chased out of the place by the hoodlums.

Trouble began when some of the newsmen tried to interview some voters who were denied access into the classrooms where some of the polling units were stationed.

While trying to flee the troubled area, some of the journalists fell on ground and one of them (Name withheld), had to take refuge in a nearby Mosque in order to save his life.

NAN also reports that some of the reporters had their clothes torn by the thugs.

Speaking to newsmen, some voters alleged that they were not allowed to exercise their franchise as they were chased out of the area.

One of them, Comrade Aminu Tijjani, said he went to the primary school to cast his vote at his polling unit but had to return to escape the hoodlums' attack.

"The situation is very bad and this is not how to conduct an election where people or voters are denied the opportunity to vote," Tijjani said.

Another voter, Sani Abdullahi, said he came to vote as early as 8 a.m. but was scared away by the suspected thugs numbering about 10.

Meanwhile, voting has commenced in other affected polling units across the 28 local government areas of the state.

NAN reports that the re-run election is being conducted to decide the winner between two candidates - Abba Kabir-Yusuf of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who polled 1,014,477 votes, and incumbent Gov. Abdullahi Ganduje of the All Progressives Congress (APC), who got 987,810 votes in the first poll conducted on March 9.

Mozambique picking up the pieces after cyclone destruction

From News24 Wire, South Africa

A week ago, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi were hit by one of the biggest tropical cyclone ever recorded in the southern African region.

Within hours, Cyclone Idai took lives, toppled homes, uprooted trees and left scores of people submerged in water.

Beira, the third largest city in Mozambique, received the lion's share of the devastation. The port city known for its warmth (both in temperature and its people) was turned upside down.



Destruction from Cyclone Idai in southeast Africa

Once hailed the hidden gem of Mozambique - the city is now at centre stage - for the most unfortunate of reasons.

"The cyclone has really disrupted our lives," said 60-year-old Laurita Santos. Santos is a Beira native. She claims to have seen it all.

"This is the worst disaster to hit our town."

She lives in the outskirts of the city called Estofo. On Thursday evening when Idai hit, Santos said the cyclone announced its arrival with heavy winds. The corrugated iron she used as roofing started to tremble and Santos knew that trouble was on the horizon.

"I grabbed the children and we hid under the kitchen table and the beds."

She shares her four-roomed home with her eight grandchildren. When rain and wind speed intensified, the children started to scream.

Soothed kids with prayer and song

They wanted Santos to loosen her grip so they could run out of the rattling house. Santos tightened her grip and soothed them with prayer and song. They only came up for air after the house stopped shaking.

Her house is small, but she took pride in its decor and cleanliness. Memories of her home are now scattered out in her front yard - with the hope that the sun would dry what Idai has drenched. Santos is petite but the calluses on her hands show that she's a woman who has carried many loads.

At the edge of her yard, a hut made out of wood and mud slants like Italy's Leaning Tower of Pisa. For the past 10 years on Sundays, Santos has opened her home to people in her community.

Anything from 20 to 60 people will gather in her yard to worship at a church called Igreja Evangelica Palavra Da Vida.

Although Santos doesn't lead the ministry, she is the chief coordinator, and on Saturday, she was thinking about the logistics around Sunday's service.

"People will have to stand here," she said while gesturing to an unoccupied area in front the old church.

The extent of the devastation experienced by the people in Beira is difficult to fully illustrate. The city is still primarily without electricity, running water and cell service.

Even if you have money to buy water, the lines at the ATM machines are long. Locals average about an hour's wait to withdraw money.

This has to be done during the day because at nightfall thieves lurk around the corners ready to strike.

Electronic payments can't be processed because the network is patchy at best and nonexistent at worst.

Everything is either wet or damp - the humidity and frequent rain showers continue to delay the drying process. In a small village called Chota, all that 21-year-old Esperança Americo wants is clean and easily accessible

drinking water.

Her one-year-old son Silva is her main priority and she worries that the lack of clean running water could lead to his ill-health.

On Friday, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said in a statement that they were concerned about a possible cholera outbreak. The relief organisations said some cases of cholera had already been reported.

To wash their clothes, Americo uses water from a mini-dam that has formed in her backyard.

For drinking, her husband fetches water from a well a few kilometres away from the airport in Beira. When Idai hit, Americo, along with her husband and Silva, had to evacuate their three-roomed home.

Their home wasn't strong enough to withstand the winds so they fled to a neighbour whose home seemed to be more solid.

Now, more than a week after the storms hit, they still haven't moved back home. Their home is without a roof - which has forced her to move her furniture to drier land.

"I asked my sister-in-law if she could please store my fridge, TV and chairs."

Her sister-in-law also lives in Beira but in Macurungo - her home wasn't as badly affected as Americo's.

'We didn't expect it to be so bad'

"When we saw on the news that the storm was coming we didn't think it would be as bad." A lot of people share the same sentiments as Americo.

Most of the locals thought the storm would be short-lived and wouldn't be as devastating. On Saturday, during a media briefing, the Minister of Land and Environment Celso Correia said the death toll was now 417.

The situation remains critical. Crockery, cutlery, suitcases, socks and shoes litter the streets - a constant reminder of how people's lives have been disrupted. Generations of accrued wealth were wiped out within minutes.

Beira has been the economic hub of many regions - for decades the port city has linked countries like Zimbabwe and Zambia to the world. Although the city is bruised, there are glimmers of healing.

Every third or fourth home has a ladder hoisting a man as he tries to repair a broken window or a cracked roof. Women sweep the streets and young boys place broken branches into wheelbarrows which makes navigating the streets a bit easier.

Most importantly, children in the village are laughing and playing, which makes dealing with the tragedy a bit easier.

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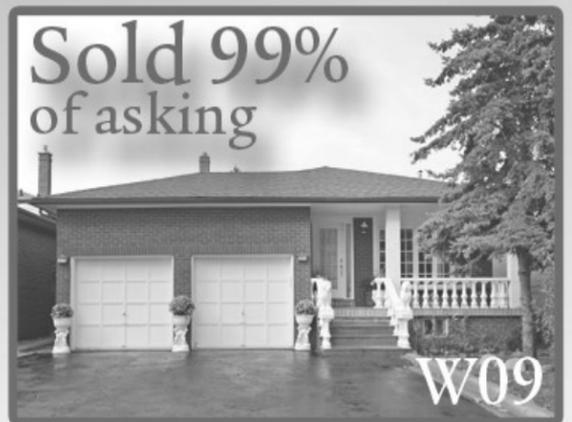
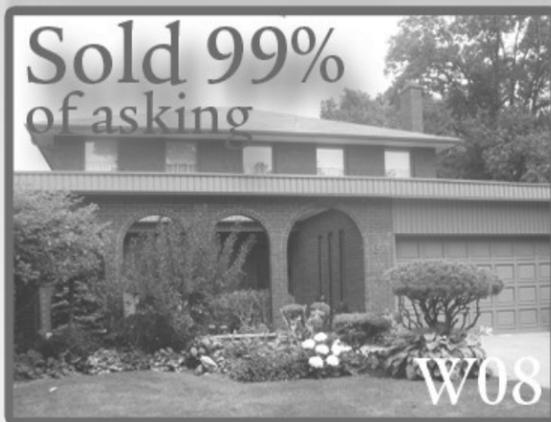
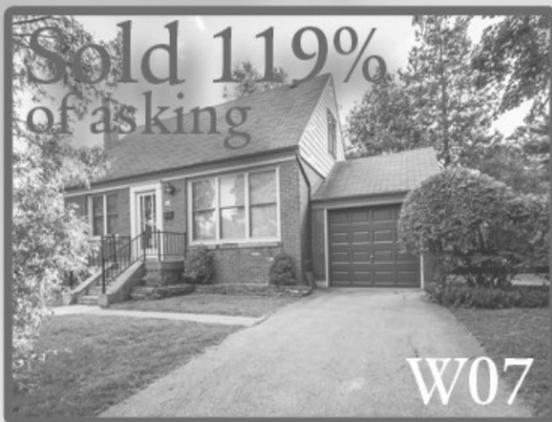


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Osimhen's hat trick pushes Eagles U-23 forward in second leg in Olympics qualifier



Victor Osimhen scored a hat-trick as Nigeria swept aside Libya in the second half to win 4-0 Monday and reach the third qualifying round of the 2020 Olympic Games football tournament.

The Belgium-based striker was drafted into the team after a shock 2-0 first leg loss last Wednesday and demonstrated his worth with the treble.

Nigeria won the tie 4-2 on aggregate and will face Kenya or Sudan, who take a two-goal lead into the return match in Nairobi Tuesday, in the next round during June.

Osimhen, on loan to Charleroi from Bundesliga outfit VfL Wolfsburg, opened the scoring after 33 minutes of a first half staged in 33 degree celsius (92 fahrenheit) heat.

Nigeria should have been more than one goal ahead by half-time in southeastern town Asaba as they were denied several times by the woodwork.

The second half was one-way traffic toward the Libyan goalmouth and Osimhen completed his hat-trick with goals on 67 and 82 minutes.

Libya needed a goal to move ahead on aggregate through the away-goal rule, but it was Nigeria who netted again, this time through David Okereke in the final minute.

The Nigerian squad finished the match four million naira (\$11,100) richer as senior team captain Ahmed Musa promised a million naira for every goal his compatriots scored.

Nigeria are the most successful African country in Olympics football, winning the 1996 Atlanta tournament and finishing runners-up to Argentina in Beijing 12 years later.

In Abidjan, the Ivory Coast hammered Niger 6-1 to equal the biggest winning margin set by Kenya in a 2020 qualifier in Africa.

Leading 2-1 from the first leg, the Ivorians scored three goals in each half at home with Italy-based Willy Braciano bagging a brace.

Ivory Coast are likely to face tougher opposition in the third round when they come up against Guinea, who surprisingly eliminated Senegal.



Midfield tussle as the north Africans fall

A further seven qualifiers are scheduled for Tuesday with Ghana and South Africa poised to advance after building impressive first leg leads.

Olympics qualifiers are restricted to under-23 footballers with three over-age stars permitted at the finals.

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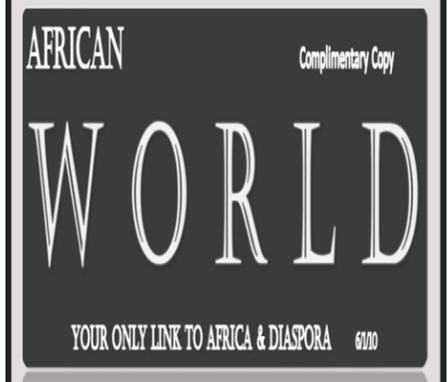
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Tanzania qualify for AFCON 2019

Tanzania beat rivals Uganda 3-0 in Dar es Salaam on Sunday to qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations finals for the first time since 1980.

The Taifa Stars secured the victory they needed to join already-qualified Uganda at Egypt 2019 from Group L. Lesotho drew 0-0 in Cape Verde which confirmed Tanzania's qualification as runners-up to Uganda in the group. It means four East African teams - Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Kenya - will play at the finals in Egypt. Uganda went into the derby in Tanzania having not conceded a single goal during their entire 2019 Nations Cup qualifying campaign.

The record ended emphatically in Dar es Salaam in their sixth and final group fixture with Simon Msuva beating Denis Onyango in Uganda's goal in the 21st minute.

Experienced Erasto Nyoni added a second after the break with Aggrey Morris making it 3-0 to Tanzania on a memorable day for the hosts. Despite the comfortable scoreline, it was still a nervous end to the match as Tanzania's fans and players anxiously monitored news from Praia where - if Lesotho had won - their dream of qualifying would have ended.

Photo-left: Tanzania's Mbwana Samatta was part of the side that sealed qualification for Egypt 2019 with victory over Uganda





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