The Cutting Edge

CONTENTS

College Commandant Maj Gen C M Kahariri (seated fifth from left) in a group photo with Faculty Members and Course 24 - 2021/2022 Participants.

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

From left to right: Col Wilson Keter (Chairman), Moses Gicharu, GP Capt Idris Suleiman, Gladys Kurui, Dr Maureen Kamene, Bakari Chongwa, Joseph Sarara, Jasmine Musembi, Stanley Mwangi, Julius Larama.

FROM THE COMMANDANT'S DESK

MAJ GEN C M KAHARIRI
EBS 'nwc'(USA) 'psc'(K)
COMMANDANT NDC

Greetings from the desk of the Commandant. On behalf of the National Defence College (NDC) fraternity, I wish to congratulate Course 24/2021–22 for a seamless admission into the College and subsequent course milestones achieved so far and safely navigating through term one despite Covid-19 challenges, The college newsletter is a forum to which the course participants share their views and experience on a wide range of topical issues in the true spirit of the academy environment.

The NDC is a Centre of Excellence with a mission to prepare selected senior military officers, their equivalent ranking civil servants of Republic of Kenya from selected Ministries, Departments and Governments Agencies and their counterparts from selected friendly countries with intellectual strategic focus in readiness for higher responsibilities in the strategic direction and management of security and public policy. As a college of the National Defence University – Kenya, NDC is increasingly playing a role in shaping strategic thought and national security agenda through research and outreach to relevant arms of government.

As the commandant I wish to thank the Course participants and the editorial committee drawn among the participants and all those who worked tirelessly for their article contributions, compilation and production of this Newsletter. This should serve as an energizer to the long but engaging safari here in the college in our aspiration for producing quality graduates ready to contribute positively in their work place and address country's challenges with added zeal. I have no doubt in my mind that our readers will find this newsletter interesting and leverage on the intellectual value added through it.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPONSOR

BRIG W S WESONGA
MBS 'ndc' 'psc' (K)
SDS ARMY

The National Defense College course 24-2021/2022 - The Cutting Edge and the Editorial team have the pleasure to launch Volume I of the College Newsletter. The "Cutting Edge" comprise of 62 participants from Bangladesh, Botswana, Burundi, Czech, Egypt, Germany, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Nigerian, Pakistan Republic, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. This Volume is largely premised on participant's experiences from the professional and personal standpoints. I am convinced that the newsletter will be captivating on all the articles in this issue due to the diversity of participant's backgrounds.

I earnestly thank the Editorial committee, course participants and faculty members for their robust efforts despite rigorous course work which has resulted to the timely production of this quality and informative publication. I also wish to express profound gratitude to the college commandant for the valuable moral and material support without which production of this newsletter will not have been possible.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, EDITORIAL BOARD

COL W K KETER
MBS 'psc' (K)
CHAIRMAN

It is my privilege and honour to introduce the Cutting Edge group, Course 24-2021/2022 participants and their first newsletter. The group members despite joining the course in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic have managed to keep themselves fit, healthy and produced their first newsletter on time.

Even though the participants are from different countries, different departments and different backgrounds, they have been able to bond and work together as team especially in producing this newsletter.

I would like to pass my gratitude to the Course participants and the College fraternity for their enormous contribution and determination in ensuring the success of this publication. I also wish to pass my gratitude to the Commandant for his guidance and support in the preparation and publication of this Newsletter which covers contemporary issues and personal experiences by 62 participants drawn from 16 countries.

CHANAKYA'S ARTHSHASTRA – A TREATISE ON STATECRAFT 300 BC

BRIG SUMIT MEHTA
INDIA
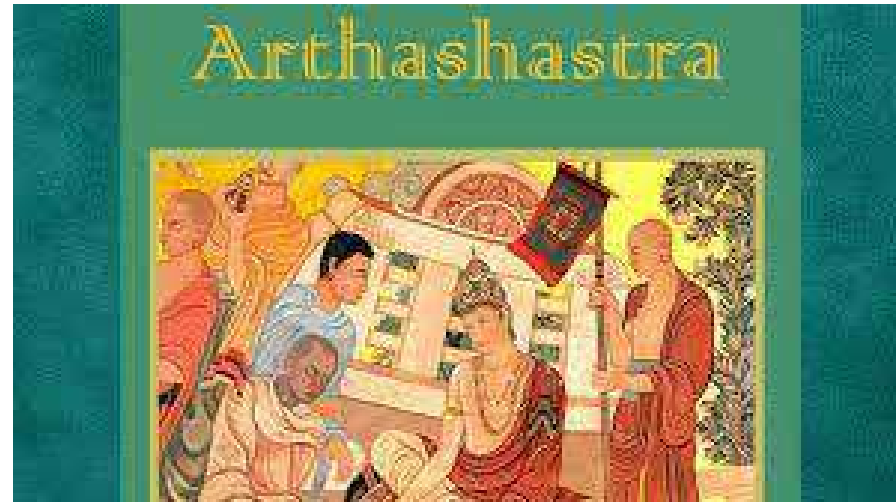
Background

Academic orientation on strategic thought is dominated by Western thinkers of the last 500 years whose works are well documented and accessible to the academia and practitioners. Sun Tsu, the Chinese general, military strategist, writer and philosopher is one Eastern thinker who has been studied through his epic work 'Art of War'. Chanakya, also known as Kautilya, from the Indian sub-continent and Miyamoto Musashi from Japan are two more strategists from the Eastern hemisphere whose thoughts, which have been valued locally, increasingly find resonance in the present day world. Broad timelines and the leading thought of these famous strategic thinkers is laid out in the following paras.

Aim

To give an insight into the core strategic thoughts of Chanakya as outlined by him in his treatise Arthashashtra.

Historical Perspective

Chanakya was a learned sage from the Indian sub-continent who was banished from his home land by the ruler due to his ugly looks. He took grave offence to the treatment meted out to him and vowed to overthrow the King. He gathered wealth through alchemy and ventured to hatch a plan to defeat the King. His initial forays by means of creating discord and uprising against the King did not bring results. He then set out in search of a person whom he could train to lead in battle and eventually become the ruler of the state. He came across an adolescent child Chandragupta, from a royal lineage but in exile, whom he gauged to have all qualities worthy of a King. He took young Chandragupta under his tutelage and in time ousted the King who had disgraced him. He became the key adviser and strategist as Prime Minister to King Chandragupta who goes on to become emperor of the Gupta Empire which extended to cover most parts of the present day Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh. The period has been recorded as the golden age of the Indian subcontinent through unification of the territories and a wise ruler at the helm. All that took place as described above emanated from the mind of one person who conceptualized, planned, built capability, enacted the plan and laid down rules of governance and strategy – Chanakya. He is revered as an ancient Indian teacher, philosopher, economist, jurist, strategist and royal advisor who documented his praxis oriented strategic thoughts in the treatise, *Arthashastra*.

The Treatise

Chanakya's Arthashastra provides an insight into the ancient Indian anthology of political wisdom, theory and the art of statecraft and military strategy. It is one of the major political and strategic treatises that constitute a collection of timeless concepts. The importance of such strategies and concepts lies in its relevance and applicability in contemporary world governance and inter-state relations. Some of the strategies therein can be gainfully employed to achieve long-term benefits and resolve some of the key issues affecting countries today. Chanakya's propounds measures of foreign policy that assist the leader in managing the state through transition from a state in decline to one of stabilization, onto achieving progress. He argues that the choice of policy to be employed depends on relative power, strategic environment and dynamics of political situation. The aim being enhancement of power of the state at the expense of the enemy. Major concepts of Arthashastra are outlined in the following sections.

Arthashastra provides guidance to a wise King to further the *national interests* of the state that center on issues of *security, wealth, and prestige*. Three fundamental objectives pan out in Arthashastra; *good governance* and promotion of welfare of subjects leads to *good economy* and acquisition of wealth which facilitates in *expansion of territory*. The concept of diplomacy is premised towards achieving conquest and consolidation. Chanakya

Concepts: Arthashastra

Law of the Fishes (Matsya Nyaya). Chanakya uses the term 'law of the fishes' to contextualize the chaotic state of social order where 'might is right' is the prevailing dictum. He goes on to recommend the enforcement of punishment to bring order in the society. He also recommends use of spies to keep an eye on behalf of the monarchy such that the order introduced into the society and institutions prevail over time.

Wellbeing (Yogkshima). He advises the King that welfare of the people is the ultimate goal of any ruler or government and good governance is the means to achieve it.

Types of Threats to State. Chanakya identifies four kinds of threat to a nation. He classifies them as *internal; external; externally instigated internal and internally supported external threats*. He warns the King to have systems in place to recognize the threat and identify its nature early such that it can be stemmed at infancy.

Seven Organ (Saptanga) Theory. He has laid down that the protection and promotion of political, military and economic interests of a State rest on seven constituent elements, namely, the King; his Ministers; the Fortress; Countryside (comprising of land and population), Treasury, the Army and Allies of the State. It is through positive interaction amongst these constituents and exploitation of their potential that a state gains in strength and potency.

Four Tactics (Upayas). For the purpose of settlement of disputes with adversaries, four methods were advocated by him; namely, 'Sama' (Conciliation), 'Dana' (Appeasement), 'Bheda' (creating Division or Discord), and 'Danda' (use of force to Punish). Use of force has been recommended to be employed as the tool of last resort.

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Era	Strategic Thinkers	Nationality	Leading Thought
500 BCE	Sun Tzu	Chinese	Acme of skill is to win without fighting
400 BCE	Thucydides	Greek	'Right', as the world goes, is only in question between equals in power. The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must.
300 BCE	Kautilya	Indian	Power is strength and strength changes the minds
1527 CE	Machiavelli	Italian	Ends justify the means
1615 CE	Miyamoto Musashi	Japanese	Perceive that which cannot be seen by the eye
1831 CE	Jomini	Swiss	Employ massed force on decisive point
1869 CE	Clausewitz	Prussian	War is continuation of politics by other means

Six Fold Policy (Shadgunyas). According to Arthashastra, a State should follow a six-fold policy with other States guided by its intended engagement with them based upon the need to secure and promote its national interests. They are Sandhi (Treaty of peace); Vigrah (War); Asana (Neutrality); Yana (March on; Pre-emptive coercive action); Samsrya (Alliance) and Dwidibhava (Double dealing: making alliance with one and war with another).

Constellation of Kingdoms (Raj Mandala). The basic argument in Chanakya's theory is that any neighbouring state should be considered as a potential enemy and dealt with cautiously.

The rationale for this, Chanakya argues, is that all states act in their own self-interest, be it through waging war or negotiating peace. According to the Mandala theory, regional states are grouped in a circle and are numbered. Chanakya suggests that any state located on the other side of an enemy state can be considered an ally. The reason for this categorization is the concept of 'sandwiching the enemy'. The concept is explained in the diagram opposite.

Standing of a Nation. Chanakya maintains that *retention of strategic autonomy* is important for a country as a Nation of Stature.

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Grey Zone Warfare. Among more cynical advices Chanakya offered to the King are about grey zone warfare with stress on diplomatic maneuvers and espionage activity. He recommends that the King can make treaties knowing that he may not keep them in the long term. With a view to apply diverse resources that a state might possess, he opines that the King should not shy away from considering 'doctrine of silent war' or a war of assassination against an unsuspecting King as coup de grace; use of secret agents who can silence enemy leaders and sow discord amongst them, employment of women as weapons of war, use of religion and superstition to bolster his troops and demoralize enemy soldiers and the spread of disinformation.

Conclusion
The Arthashastra has been identified as the first comprehensive statement of political realism. Chanakya defines war as an expression of the foreign policy of a state. He provides guidance to a King to employ the elements of national power to achieve a state of continuing advantage, thereby provides a grand strategy. ■

CHALLENGES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN KENYA

Juvenile delinquency refers to illegal acts by children. This can be differentiated from truancy which is any intentional, unjustified, unauthorized, or illegal absence from compulsory education. The delinquent act is broad in the sense that it ranges from minor conduct of disobedience to serious criminal acts resulting into conflict with the law. This phenomena is a challenge in Kenya and most parts of urban areas within the counties are gambling with the ways to mitigate this phenomena.one major way of addressing this problem is by placing much emphasis on families and children early enough to prevent the child becoming delinquent and in case they do then structures found in place to galvanize

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the child so that they do not become hardcore criminals.

Children are future leaders in all spectrum of life in the society and therefore the way they are nurtured and taken care of in the present time determines what kind of a society they make in future. There are various factors that influence delinquent behavior. Some of these factors emanate within the family, community, peer pressure, drugs and alcohol abuse and socio economic factors just to mention a few. Family can influence behavior of a child due to a number of reasons. A family where parents quarrel all the time with violence acts against one another is likely to impact badly on the child. Also if there

Kautilya's rajamandala
- a directional model to explain geopolitical relationships
- States with common enemies tend to be allies
- relationships are dynamic in nature

■ enemy's circle

■ vijigishu's circle

arimitra (enemy's ally)

madhyama (middle king)

mitra (ally)

mitrami-tra (ally's ally)

ari (enemy)

arimitra-mitra (enemy's ally's ally)

vijigishu (conqueror)

parshni-graha (rear enemy)

Direction of conquest

aakranda-asara (rear ally's friend)

parshnigra haasara (rear enemy's ally)

aakranda (rear ally)

udasina (neutral king)

Sources:
RP Kangle (Kautilya's Arthashastra)
LN Rangarajan (Kautilya: The Arthashastra)

It is believed generally that parental and adult influence is one of important factors in deterring delinquency. When a parent or other adult interacts with the child and shows them what is acceptable behavior and what is considered wrong, the child is more likely to act in a way that is not delinquent.

is practice of excessive drinking of alcohol and abuse of drugs in the family, there is likelihood that parents will neglect their responsibility of providing effective child care. Children looks at adults as their role models and they learn and believe that what adults do are good things. Therefore, need to sensitize parents to become good role models to their children.

It is believed generally that parental and adult influence is one of important factors in deterring delinquency. When a parent or other adult interacts with the child and shows them what is acceptable behavior and what is considered wrong, the child is more likely to act in a way that is not delinquent. It is therefore important for children to bond with good adults who will influence their actions and show them the difference between what is right and what is wrong. Children continue to learn as they grow up and therefore need for good guidance. The other factor influencing child delinquency is the community. Community is a social group whose members have something in common, such as shared government, geographic location, culture, or heritage. It can refer to a town, city, village, or other area with a formal government whose residents share

a nationality or culture. It can also refer to the people who live in a particular area.

When children live in high crime neighborhoods, communities and cities, they are more likely to commit crimes themselves: as they experience violence and criminal activity on day to day basis, this behavior of violence and crime is normalize in their lives. Such behavior is prevalent in informal settlements where most of the people living there are impoverished: poverty- stricken. Youths have formed criminal gangs in most informal settlements in Kenya and branded themselves name like the forty two brothers, Angola musumbiji, kamjeshi, mungiki, munyipi,kamukunji pressure group, Kenya youth alliance, al shabaab, siafu,super power, Taliban, kamukunji boys, Nubians, yes we can and J10 just to mention a few; terrorizing people and causing havoc. There are several reasons why Youths join gangs. Some reasons could be due to pull and push factors. Pulls pertain to the attractiveness of the gang. Gang membership can enhance prestige or status among friends especially girls for boys and provide opportunities such as the chance to selling drugs and make

Social, economic, and cultural forces push many adolescents in the direction of gangs. Protection from other gangs and perceived general well- being are key factors. For some youth, gangs provide a way of solving social adjustment problems, particularly the trials and tribulations of adolescence.

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Social, economic, and cultural forces push many adolescents in the direction of gangs. Protection from other gangs and perceived general well- being are key factors. For some youth, gangs provide a way of solving social adjustment problems, particularly the trials and tribulations of adolescence. In some pastoral communities, youth are intensively recruited or coerced into cattle rustling gangs. They seemingly have no choice. A few are virtually born into gangs as a result of neighborhood, traditions and their parent's earlier and perhaps continuing gang participation or involvement in criminal activity. The other factor influencing delinquency is peer pressure. This is influence by people in the same social group. The term is also used to describe the effect it has on a person to conform in order to be accepted by the group. Often, peers are thought of as friends, but peers can be anyone of a similar status such as people who are the same age, who have the same abilities, and who share a social status.

Peer pressure can have either negative or positive impact on a person. Some of the positive effects of peer pressure could be: a sense of belonging and support, increased self-confidence, introduction to positive hobbies and interests and reinforcement of positive habits and attitudes whereas negative effects could be: pressure to use alcohol, pressure to engage in risk taking behavior, destruction of school property, running away from home and joining street children, drastic negative changes in behavior and attitudes. It should however be noted that peer influence and pressure is a normal part of adolescence as children grow up and move away from the parent-child relationship and seeking their own independence, their peers will become more important to them. Parents and care givers should therefore have interest to know the friends of their children and guide them well so that they do not fall into the snare of delinquency. ∎

THE ROLE OF DEFENCE FORCES IN FIGHTING BANDITRY IN NORTHWEST NIGERIA

The role of Defence Forces in modern warfare whether joint or combined operation cannot be overemphasized. It is a decisive factor and fundamental component of military element of national power. The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) has been in the fore front of the fight against insurgency, criminality and other internal security operations in the country in collaboration with other security agencies. As part of its capability, it has also projected air power beyond the shores of Nigeria as part of efforts to preserve peace in Africa and most especially, the West African Sub-Region. The NAF as a matter of fact has been involved in many operations whether independently or jointly with other security agencies and in all of these, it has left no one in doubt that it is capable of defending the territorial integrity of the country by air. Conscious of the threat armed banditry and cattle rustling could pose to the territorial integrity of the country if not curtailed and effectively dealt with, the President and Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari directed the security forces to flush out armed bandits terrorizing some villages in the North West and most especially in Zamfara State.

Following the C-in-C's directive, on 29 July 2018, the NAF C130 Hercules touched down at the Umar Musa Yar'adua Airport in Katsina State bringing required logistics facilities, ground support equipment and troops signalling the commencement of Operation DIRAN MIKIYA in Zamfara State. DRAN MIKIYA is an intensive air operation purposed to locate and neutralize armed bandits and other criminal elements in the Northwest with a view to restoring normalcy in the affected areas. According to the former Air Officer Commanding, Special Operations Command (AOC SOC), Air vice Marshal Samson Akpasa, the Operation, which is being conducted in close coordination with other security agencies, would be executed with precision and high intensity to degrade the armed

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NIGERIA

bandits and pave way for the return of normalcy, law and order in the affected areas. Other air assets such as helicopter gunships and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platforms were not left out in the deployment. The choice of Katsina as operating base for Nigeria Air Force (NAF) platforms was predicated on its proximity to Zamfara State for effective and immediate response. He emphasized that "there would be no hiding place for the armed bandits" as the NAF would be employing all the means at its disposal to detect the movement and locations of the armed bandits.

Months into the Operation, the NAF in collaboration with other security agencies have recorded significant successes against

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the bandits. On August 2018, NAF combat aircraft neutralized several armed bandits during air attacks near Mashema Village and, at another location 4km Southeast of Yanmari, both in Zamfara State. Also on August 2018, ground troops, while on clearance operations near Mashema, came in contact with a group of armed bandits at a location West of Mashema Village and therefore requested for air support. A NAF fighter aircraft from Katsina and a helicopter gunship from Gusau were scrambled. The two aircraft subsequently pursued the fleeing bandits and thereafter neutralized them in follow-up attacks. Similarly, while on armed reconnaissance on 2 August 2018, a NAF combat helicopter located over twenty armed bandits dressed in black attire with stolen cattle in their custody, in an open field near Yankari and Hayin Alhaji villages. The bandits, some mounted on motorcycles, began to disperse on hearing the sound of the helicopter but were engaged by the helicopters' machine guns. Several armed bandits were neutralized in the air attack.

The NAF on 9 August 2018 destroyed bandits hideouts in Sububu Forest while on 10 August 2018, a combat helicopter on a reconnaissance mission spotted a group of bandits, armed with automatic weapons mounted on motorcycles, at a location about 6km Northeast of Birnin Magaji in the Eastern part of Zamfara State. From all indications, the armed bandits were advancing for an attack on Birnin Magaji. These armed bandits were effectively neutralized. Furthermore, the Air Task Force on 11 August 2018 also conducted another successful attack that neutralized armed bandits at Rugu Forest. The mission was initiated based on credible intelligence that a location on the fringes of Rugu Forest near Ajia, in the Eastern part of Zamfara State, was being used by the bandits as a logistics staging area for the supply of arms and ammunition. Also, between 15 - 18 August 2018 several identified hideouts of a notorious armed bandit kingpin were successfully degraded. The attacks, which were executed in support of ground troops

in Sector 2 of Operation SHARAN DAJI, were planned based on credible intelligence that the kingpin and his group of armed bandits were using an abandoned primary school in Shamashale as well as some makeshift settlements in nearby Rugu Forest in the Eastern part of Zamfara State as bases for their operations.

During the attack at Shamashale on 15 August 2018, some bandits carrying sophisticated high calibre weapons were seen trying to flee the area. Some were on motorcycles carrying AK-47 rifles and, rather than dropping their weapons and surrendering, attempted to shoot at the helicopters; hence they were neutralized. Items recovered from the armed bandits include 2 General Purpose Machine Guns (GPMGs), 2 AK 47 rifles. 100 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition and 2 mobile phones. Following the recent resurgence of kidnappings and killings in Zamfara, the ATF intensified its air offensive against the armed bandits to further prevent them freedom of action. Based on intelligence report, the ATF neutralized 25 armed bandits and destroyed their logistics base at Ajia and Wonaka in Birnin Magaji local government Area of Zamfara on 4 April 2019. From 8-9 April 2019, coordinated air raids against multiple identified armed bandits' hideouts at Doumborou, Sububu, West Malamawa, Baturia Pond, Rugu and Kagara forest. Equally, close air support was provided to surface forces of Sector 2 to enable them move into the attacked areas to mop-up the fleeing survivors and recover their weapons.

In the end of the operation, 8 camps were degraded while scores of armed bandits were neutralized. Another significant gain recorded against the armed bandits was on 13 April 2019, following credible intelligence reports indicating that some of the armed bandits who had fled their camps as a result of NAF's earlier air strikes had relocated some logistics items, including fuel, motorcycles and local arms making equipment, to another location within Kagara Forest. The logistics base was totally destroyed and 4 armed bandits killed as a result of the attack. The airstrikes are on-going but intelligence led and on particular targets on banditry locations and hideouts. ∎

THE LEGAL DYNAMICS IN PROSECUTION OF PIRATES IN MODERN HISTORY

O n 31st January 2006 marked an important milestone in the application of international customary law in recent history in the world in so far as jurisprudence was concerned. The penal code cap 63 was enacted and commenced on 1st August 1930. The provisions of section 69 (1) as read with 69 (3) provided for the offence of piracy. This provision of the law lay idle until the 31st January 2006 when Kenya agreed to produce ten (10) suspected pirates who had been arrested by the US Naval Force three hundred nautical miles off the coast of Somalia.

On 6th of January 2006 a cargo ship, MNV 723, named Safina Al –Bisarat with 15 Indian crew whose Captain was known as Akbar Ali Suleiman sailed off the port of Dubai while loaded with sugar.

It arrived on the 7th of January 2006 and off loaded the sugar. Thereafter it was reloaded with bags of charcoal and sailed off on the 14th of January 2006 from the port of Kisimayu to the port of Dubai. The motor vessel Safina Al-Bisarat was

VINCENT S MONDA
ODPP

approximately 300 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia when it was intercepted by ten (10) Somali pirates who were aboard two skiffs. They fired at the crew forcing them to stop. Eight of the Somali pirates boarded the vessel using ladders. They were armed with AK47 rifles, revolvers, rocket propelled grenades, ammunition, a map of shipping mobiles and motor boat engines. They mistreated the Indian crew and ate their food. In addition, they demanded US $50,000 and an international

Somali Pirates arrested. https://images.app.goo.gl/EJfjUg7AqgmmKWQ87

Somali Pirates Hijack Cargo Ship With 15 Indian Crew https://www.indiatvnews.com/amp/news/world/somali-pirates-hijack-cargo-ship-with-15-indian-crew-2118.html

mobile phone. The Indian crew were held captive from the 16th January 2006 to 21st January 2006.

During this period, the two skiffs were attached to the motor vessel Safina Al-Bisarat and the pirates attempted to hijack 3(three) other vessels albeit unsuccessfully. One of the ships where the attempt was unsuccessful raised an alarm and the US Naval ship responded. They intercepted the motor vessel Safina Al-Bisarat and upon interrogation, found that the Indian crew were victims of hijacking of their vessel. The United States Naval personnel arrested the pirates and they flown to the coastal city of Mombasa. On 31st January 2006 the ten (10) Somali pirates were arraigned before the Magistrate in Mombasa Law Courts. The Director of Public Prosecution and the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Environment assigned this matter to a team of prosecutors one of whom is a Judge of High Court of Kenya.

This was a very complex matter and that involved thorough research in field Public International Law and the Law of the sea. The practical application of International customary law principles and conventions was critical because no other country in the world has successfully prosecuted a matter of such magnitude. In addition, there was media coverage in both the

international and local press media. The modern pirates looked very different from those of the 17th, 18th and 19th portrayed in fiction movies and texts. On the television screens and newspaper, photos a group of ten (10) Somali pirates were visible and seated in the court pensively glaring and staring at the multitude of people who were squeezing each other in desperate effort to catch a glimpse of them. They were a far cry from the pirates of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries who in the fiction movies and texts were perceived to be ruthless, mono-eyed beasts who patrolled the sea anywhere in the world without fear of retribution or consequences. In addition, they would capture vessels and rob the crew off valuables. In a nutshell they acted both as law enforcement agents and robbers at sea.

They were now sitting in court watching from a vantage position how the ten (10) Somali Pirates sat pensively in the docket as the local and international media scrambled to take the best snap shots of them. They were dressed in blue overalls and would converse loudly in court. They seemed not understand the hullabaloo around them and the magnitude of the occasion. They protested their innocence and demanded to be returned home despite being represented by Mohammed Fakii (now Senator, Mombasa County)

and Abdi Hassan. Notwithstanding their protestation, the trial began and immediately the issue of jurisdiction was raised by the defence counsel. We were well prepared and delved at length on the issue of universal jurisdiction in the application of international customary law for such offences as piracy, genocide and crimes against humanity. Further, Kenya had ratified the UN Convention on the laws of the sea of 1982 and for the first time in the history of Kenyan jurisdiction the offence of piracy was being prosecuted. The principle of universal jurisdiction was being invoked.

The trial Magistrate agreed with the submissions of the prosecution team and the trial began in earnest. It was to be unique one, because, the services of a Gujarat interpreter for the Indian crew and a Somali interpreter for the pirates were procured by the Judiciary. In a nutshell the court languages were English, Somali and Gujarati. Furthermore during the testimony of the Indian crew the Judicial officer would constantly intervene to cool tempers as they would speak in anger due to the mistreatment they endured in the hands of the pirates. If let to their own devices it degenerate into a wrestling or boxing match. Astonishingly, the pirates would sit back and smile as though they had done nothing.

However, they were eventually convicted on the 7th of October 2006 and sentenced to seven (7) years imprisonment. What a triumph it was. This case firmly put Kenya on the International map in so far as the jurisprudence on the international customary law was concerned. It was an imprint on the international law that will forever be remembered. Hassan Muhammad Ahmed, Diwan Maalim Abdullah, Abdikadir Labhale Warsame, Hussein Noor Ali, Liban Abdi Ali, Muktah Mohammad Hassan,Muhammed Ali Farah, Mohammed Abdi Fitah, Mohamud Mohamed Juma and A. Mohammad were the pirates charged in criminal case 434 of 2006. These were the modern day pirates who were fishermen and their fishing gear was rocket propelled grenades,AK47 rifles

Training programmes organised under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) in Europe, build the capacity of prosecutors, judicial and law enforcement officers.

revolvers and without fishing nets. Indeed as it turned out they were 'fishers of men'

They drew the attention of the world including the United Nations through various resolutions. In addition the court did invoke the application of International customary law and general principles of International law on the application of universal jurisdiction. The prosecution of Kenya's first piracy case was big step in the world of jurisprudence and set the precedent in the world that would latter be followed by the United States. Notwithstanding the success and accolades received there are vital lessons learnt which have left an indelible mark. First and foremost the it brought to fore the fact that Kenya has signed the United Nations Convention on the law of the sea but had not enacted legislation to bring align it. Consequently, the Merchant Shipping Act was enacted and operationalized on 1st September 2021 aligning to the United Nations Convention on the law of the sea. Secondly, there was effective multi-agency approach especially between the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the National Police Service. The seamless co-ordination of witnesses and availability of documentary exhibits expedited the trial. Thirdly, there was need to build capacity of the prosecutors, judicial officers and law enforcement officers in this specialized area. Subsequently a specialized unit known as the Anti-piracy unit was constituted.

The detention facilities had to be improved to international standards because of the nature of detainees. Consequently Shimo-la-Tewa and Manyani prison facilities were refurbished by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes(UNODC). The diplomatic relations between Kenya,United States of America, United Kingdom, European Union China and India were enhanced through bilateral agreements on co-operation and prosecution of pirates arrested off the coast of Somalia. In addition Kenya was recognized by the United Nations for it's efforts in combating piracy. This a major diplomatic victory worldwide. The introduction of technology through video conferencing led to the review of the Evidence Act. This enhanced assess to justice by expediting trials and drastically reducing travel costs and expenses of foreign witnesses.

Training programmes organised under the auspices of the UNODC in Europe, build the capacity of prosecutors, judicial and law enforcement officers. The officers were inducted on international best practices and therefore it useful in enhancing their skills and competence. Diplomacy played a vital role because of the assistance given to Kenya; countries such United Republic of Tanzania, Seychelles and Mauritius enacted laws relating to piracy and began

undertake trials thereby easing the burden on Kenya. The multi-lateral agreements which signed on behalf of Kenya by the then Minister of Foreign Affairs highlighted the need for involvement of other government departments and agencies. Therefore the provisions of Treaty Ratification Act was informed by this aspect. The other key aspect was the need for inter-agency collaboration. Government agencies had to work together. The phenomenon of piracy had created maritime insecurity, which had to be addressed. Therefore the formation of the coast guard gained currency so as the avoid dependence on foreign naval ships to deal with maritime security.

The setting of regional centers in Djibouti, Kenya, and Tanzania to share information on piracy related crimes was a significantly step. This regional initiative and approach was the proper mechanism to handle such matters. Piracy related crimes have been suppressed but remain a real threat to maritime security. The regional states should remain alive to this fact set up a monitoring, early warning and response system.

We lead ,others follow. ■

Jailed pirates at Shimo la Tewa Mombasa's maximum security prison
https://images.app.goo.gl/DvrNX8VUSWaGTygq6. https://images.app.goo.gl/pV8LGEaNCCLGuzkZ6

GLOBALIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE: OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS FOR KENYA

GLOBALIZATION ERA
The era of globalization brings with it a closer degree of financial and economic integration between countries in an environment where business shocks have become more global in nature and a crisis in one country can easily affect others across the world. This requires knowledge of world market conditions and continuous monitoring of financial market developments. The 1997 economic crisis in the West especially Europe and the United States of America highlighted the tension between achieving the benefits of market integration while minimizing the risks of market instability. The Asian economic model against the crisis was simply unsustainable in an era dominated by the unstoppable forces of globalization hence the economies that were most dramatically affected included Thailand, South Korea, and especially Indonesia. The other countries of the region that were able to ride out the storm more successfully found themselves subjected to massive capital flight, low investor confidence were in an extremely vulnerable position. Systemic risk management is becoming an integral element of the economic framework and has to reflect the broadest possible coverage of the maximum downside risks a country can face. The performance of economies, industries, and firms is continuously compared and benchmarked across nations. This requires the harmonization of systems with internationally agreed codes and at the same time creates pressures for speedy reforms.

In the face of globalization, Kenya like other developing countries has the challenge of forging liberalization policies that promote greater integration of the domestic economy into the global

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economy. There are pressures from trade unions, lobby groups, and local businesses over the effect of these policies on jobs and the closure of local industries. These can make it politically and socially difficult to implement reforms that could benefit a country in the medium to long term. The issue of national ownership of an adjustment program thus presents a challenge in its practical application. The responsibility for achieving the right balance and pace of adjustment lies with Kenyan government, which in practice isn't as simple as it appears.

Opportunities on International Trade
Kenya, based on its endowments and circumstances, will have to design and implement national policies in a range of areas that ensure the country takes advantage of the opportunities that globalization provides and at the same time deal with the risks that it introduces. In terms of the national economy, international trade has three distinct advantages: the demand for a country's product is no longer constrained by its markets; a country's investment is no longer constrained by what it can save

itself; and that a country's producers can have access (at a price) to the most advanced technology.

Threats to International Trade
Challenges and threats to international trade are the dilemmas faced by Kenya in maintaining the national economic policy in an era of globalization compounded by the following challenges: lack of complete access to product markets caused by both trade barriers and hefty subsidies in developed countries on commodities of interest to agricultural producers; limited access to financial resources and for some countries high conditionality attached to concessional resources by lenders; and constraints on acquiring technology in terms of resources, both human and financial, and inadequate infrastructure within the country; steep rise in the price of oil (apart from COVID-19 market reactions); global instability caused by climate change, terrorism and flaring national conflicts happening with closer regularity around Kenya.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE
Building powerful sets of domestic institutions that can meet the rising demands in the race to remain competitive at the global stage comes with its challenges. What determinants of competitiveness should Kenya focus on? The standard determinants of competitiveness are not only economic and technological but also include non-economic factors such as the promotion of democratic institutions, good governance, and human rights. These require robust public systems with a vibrant private sector that can deal with sophisticated transnational companies and others in the global marketplace as well as strong political and social frameworks, which

It is important to evaluate Kenya's position in the market when trends and technological advances come and go otherwise it will be safe to assume that she won't continue to be a threat to her competitors if her business is stuck in time. Remember, everything changes with time, and what worked in the industry today may not work tomorrow.

take time to evolve. In the absence of these frameworks, Kenya may be trapped at the lower end of the international skills market hence the need for a vision to position itself in the dynamic global economy.

Strategic Positioning
A critical step in defining the strategy of a business is to determine its strategic positioning. This is the essence of how Kenya competes and serves its customers in its markets. Key among them is customer bonding; the attraction, satisfaction, and retention of customers, and customer bonding is the driving force in shaping the strategy. The intimacy and connectivity of a networked economy will offer opportunities to create long-term constructive relationships with customers that lead to unbreakable links. Product standardization is the enabler of local producers in a country to position their goods and services across the borders hence attaining a global clientele.

Achieving and Maintaining of Competitive Edge
Gaining a competitive advantage takes

strategic planning and extensive research. Competitive edge is the advantage a country has over the competition. It enables a country to take a bigger market share or generate more sales. To achieve a competitive advantage, Kenya must create an edge over her competitors. In this aggressive business world, especially in today's economy, every advantage counts to establish one's business at the top of the industry. To stay at the top, Kenya must continuously monitor and evaluate her competitive advantage with constant re-defining and re-inventing. So how does Kenya know when it's the right time to do this? The starting point is identifying specific changes in the marketplace, even the subtle ones. As Kenya makes changes and introducing new and innovative changes, it shouldn't be alarmed if her competitors follow suit. If she continually evaluates her competitive advantage, by the time competitors begin to copy her strategy, Kenya will already be three steps ahead and onto a different approach.

It is important to evaluate Kenya's position in the market when trends and technological advances come and go otherwise it will be safe to assume that she won't continue to be a threat to her competitors if her business is stuck in time. Remember, everything changes with time, and what worked in the industry today may not work tomorrow. To stay successful and competitive, a country

Globalization is an unstoppable phenomenon presenting both opportunities to those who are prepared and threats to those who are not. It is not easy for countries to manage globalization for their benefit.

must change and grow along with her industry. Customers' feedback for a report card is critical, with regular checks with them on a random basis from time to time just to see how the country is doing. If you are slipping in places, it may be time to re-evaluate your approach to certain things. The country needs to be seen always by her customers and competitors as extraordinary. In Kenya, globalization has progressed, with living conditions particularly when measured by broader indicators of wellbeing have improved significantly in virtually. The strongest gains have been made by the advanced countries and only some of the developing countries as per the IMF report in 2000.

International trade poses great opportunities as well as threats to workers. When compared to a closed economy, the opportunities outweigh the threats in a global economy. Kenya is therefore better off due to international trade, even as a developing country; a poor country may remain poor, even with international trade, but will not be as poor as it could be without international trade. International trade and globalization give developing countries, along with all other countries, an opportunity to thrive and reach a state of prosperity. To achieve prosperity, there has to be: political will and good leadership, a national consensus needs to be forged among stakeholders concerning the necessary reforms and, appropriate institutions and policies must be put in place to meet these challenges. The rules of the game may be perceived to be unfair by some, but there are few alternatives to well-designed country policies and programs to manage globalization.

Globalization is an unstoppable phenomenon presenting both opportunities to those who are prepared and threats to those who are not. It is not easy for countries to manage globalization for their benefit. Regional cooperation through which the countries look beyond their borders to tap and leverage other's strengths could be an effective approach in this endeavor. ∎

MAINTAINING GOOD ORDER AT SEA – CASE OF BANGLADESH

Introduction
Maintaining good order at sea bears significant importance for any country that has plentiful water bodies including abundant water resources. Water locked countries with owned Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) have now shifted their geo-political interests towards harnessing water resources for the overall economic gains. Hence, having good order at sea is the paramount importance of materializing these huge marine resources in an ecologically sustainable way in accordance with the related international and regional laws and agreements. On the other hand, existence of unlawful and criminal deeds at sea by different actors creates hindrances to maintaining good order at sea.

Bangladesh has approximately 118,000 km^2 EEZ at the Bay of Bengal. Furthermore, Bangladesh being an overpopulated country of South Asia with relatively scarce mineral resources has judicious reasons to be interested towards the huge marine potentials of the Bay of Bengal. Judicious extraction of these potentials could trigger vast financial revenues provided that appropriate maritime order could be preserved. This would at the same time generate sustainable economic growth and create huge employment generation for the country. This article will highlight the prevailing threats to maintaining good order at sea, existing mechanism emphasizing the weaknesses and options open for Bangladesh.

Threats to Good Orders
Maritime disorder could be resulted due to the existence of either non-state criminal elements or natural causes. All the maritime nations are currently more or less subjected to the unconventional threats to varied degrees. In today's world, non-military threats are becoming more

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BANGLADESH

and more prevalent across the sea. Few of the protruding threats are highlighted below:

Criminal Violence and Armed Robbery. Criminal violence and armed robbery by ship or boat-borne attackers upon another ship are one of the most conducted crimes at sea. Sea ports of Bangladesh particularly, Chottagram has been declared as piracy prone high risk areas by International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Commercial Crime Services. Seafarers are guided and advised to take extreme safety measures while transiting Bangladesh.

Maritime Terrorism. Extremism in Bangladesh by some radical groups could not make its gateway to institutionalize their vested agenda within the regions and localities in the near past due to the government's strict commitment towards "a country free from terrorism". Therefore, extremism in Bangladesh is likely to shift their focus to the maritime area targeting the ships carrying dangerous and hazardous materials. This would result in substantial human and environmental damage over a wide sea area.

Illegal Trafficking at Sea. Sea is considered to be the preferred medium by different criminal actors for committing organized crimes like illegal movement of the personnel and merchandises as lesser risks are involved as compared to other modes of transportation. Again, there is a possibility of transporting arms and drugs by the Indian North-Eastern insurgents and domestic extremists through Bangladeshi waters. Smuggling is also a common activity in Bangladeshi waters which threatens country's economy.

Drugs and Arms Trafficking. Trafficking drugs inside the sea cargoes is one of the easiest and economical ways for the traffickers to global consumer markets. Besides, the traffickers find it very convenient in transporting different arms most commonly small and light weapons through maritime vessels for the global crime syndicates. Bangladesh's capture of fishing craft 'Laden' with arms in 2004 was destined to insurgent groups.

Human Trafficking. Stimulated by political instability, poverty and a lack of law and order, international migration has become a significant concern for Bangladesh. Women and children of Bangladesh are becoming easy prey to the traffickers to different Asian and European countries for sex and slavery.

Illegal Fishing. Sea is abundant source of living marine resources, especially fish. Illegal fishing is being conducted globally by the foreign vessels in others' territorial water without permission. For this reason, the fish stocks are being depleted and exacerbating poverty to many coastal people.

Marine Pollution. Release of toxic, harmful substances from land based sources due to gradual growth of industrialization around the globe is the

major source of marine pollution. Again, the accident of sea cargoes carrying different toxic and chemical substances or a blowout of an offshore oil well very often pollutes the sea. Dumping lethal and contaminated materials into the rivers finds its way into the seas is also responsible for marine pollution.

Maritime Accidents. The major maritime accidents includes collision, grounding, terrorist attack, crash of air crafts at sea etc. and 80% of marine casualties are caused or aggravated by human error.

Natural Calamities. Natural calamities like tsunami and cyclone play havoc in sea and coastal area. This can initiate serious disorder at sea.

Existing Mechanism to Maintain Good Order at Sea and Its Drawbacks
To date, Bangladesh does not possess a 'National Maritime Policy'. Instead there is a complex web of interacting and overlapping policies that leaves significant problems connected to the maintaining of good order at sea. Without having appropriate policy, the country can neither identify maritime related issues nor achieve maritime security.

Bangladesh does not have appropriate legislation making piracy on the high seas or in the EEZ, an offence under law and as such have no power to arrest and prosecute the pirates.

It is experienced that the Coast Guard of Bangladesh is yet to achieve its proficiency in policing within the own territorial waters. The situation is further aggravated due to lack of required manpower, training, suitable armaments, patrol vessels, interceptor crafts and aircrafts.

Options for Bangladesh
As Geoffrey Till notes, 'the maintenance of good order at sea requires an improved level of awareness, effective policy and integrated governance'. He argues that the naval and civilian agencies should develop an integrated approach to maintain good

order at sea. This applies at the domestic level as well as the international level.

National Level
Awareness Program. Enhanced awareness will allow sea users to reduce marine pollution and stay away from illegal fishing. A maritime-aware community will also be less prone to illegal trafficking of people, drugs and contraband goods by sea.

Policy Formulation. Adopting an appropriate maritime policy is essential for the management of ocean and coastal affairs. This policy should encompass issues like transportation, exploitation of resources, maritime services, seaborne trade, ports, maritime threats etc. It is also essential to include a 'National Maritime Commission' under this policy. The purpose of the National Maritime Commission would be to stimulate collaboration amongst all related seafaring organizations and the government. Capacity building of both the Navy and Coast Guard is a crucial need for Bangladesh in order to implement Good Order Policy at Sea.

Counter-piracy Operations.
Bangladeshi pirates (locally called Jala Dasyus) are not capable of going out to the high seas due to lack of sophisticated ships and their activities are limited to armed robbery on ships anchored in territorial waters. As such, their activities can be brought under strict surveillance by law enforcement agencies. Here Bangladesh Navy and Coast Guards must be able to carry out counter-piracy operations with the assistance of port authorities. In recent years, amongst the littoral states, the ability of the fleets under Bangladesh Navy and the Coast Guard has improved remarkably with the inclusion of high speed boats, maritime patrol air craft, helicopter and modern ships.

Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinator.
In the northern part of the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh has been nominated as the SAR coordinator by International Maritime

Organization (IMO). This prestigious and significant responsibility should be performed judiciously.

Cohesion Among all Maritime Organizations. As many as 55 agencies and 6 different Ministries of Bangladesh government are working in the Bay of Bengal. Once all the maritime organizations come under a common umbrella it will enhance their effectiveness.

Raise Voice in Regional Forums. Bangladesh should consistently put up the sea related requirements in the regional and international forums. Other developing states are much ahead of Bangladesh in this respect. The legitimate right in the regional forums must be established at any cost.

Safety and Security Infrastructure for Seafarers. A huge number of communities living along the shore are engaged in seaborne activities in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. But the government is yet to develop adequate safety Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for them and therefore, appropriate attention must be divulged to the safety of the seafarers.

Conclusion
Since the sea accounts for nearly 92 percent of its total trade, the interrelationships between the desired economic growth and good order at sea is vividly evident. The security facet of maritime domain includes many issues like illegal trading, unlawful trafficking of drugs, arms and people, maritime extremism, marine pollution etc. Therefore, it is necessary to effectively address the identified challenges for promoting maritime security as well as maintaining good order at sea. Besides, awareness of maritime affairs, sustainable policy and its implementation are paramount for maintaining good order at sea. It is no denying fact that the prospect of a littoral country like Bangladesh largely depends upon its effective and competent use of huge marine resources for a sustainable economic growth. ∎

REFLECTING ON CARE UNDER FIRE

The twenty-first century has seen a great increase in security threats. These can be easily transmitted across borders and can emanate from anywhere, whether global, regional, national or local; it ranges from international terrorism, cyber threats, the spread of diseases and pandemics, vulnerabilities to critical infrastructure or energy grids among others. The idea of terrorism for example originated during the French Revolution of the late 18th century becoming widely used internationally and has gained worldwide attention as witnessed during the conflicts of Northern Ireland, the Basque Country, and in the Israeli–Palestinian war. Therefore terrorism has taken various forms as manifested in different parts of the world.

In the Kenyan perspective, the first major attack was the twin bombing in the center of Nairobi city inside starlight night club and in a travel agent near the Hilton Hotel in 1975.The bombing of the American Embassies both in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in Kenya and the people's Republic of Tanzania in the year 1998 where over 200 people were killed probably was the most highlighted by both local and international media. Kenya has experience several other terrorist attacks but to be singled out is the Westgate mall attack of September 2013. This is likened to the Mumbai attack of November 2008 where terrorist attached multiple sites killing about one hundred and sixty-five people both civilians and security personnel. I was on my annual privileged leave enjoying a much deserved rest with my family and friends. The media was awash with news of the Westgate mall attack which everyone was following closely on television as things unfolded.

In retrospect I recall that evening of the 21st September 2013, I felt like it's not the usual thuggery that Nairobis are used to and I decided to go and rest early. The following day Sunday at about 0600hrs, I

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was woken up by a telephone call from the Chief of Medical Services (COM) Defense Headquarters at that time instructing me to report at the Westgate mall and coordinate medical support to our troops and other injured persons. I immediately informed my family of the task and left thinking that I would be back in a few hours to continue enjoying my leave. I passed through my base Moi Airbase (MAB) to pick some medical staff and suppliers to accompany me to the Mall. The news were now clear that it wasn't the usual thuggery but a terrorist attack where

children and adults had been shot dead and that the mall was under siege. I took the necessary precautions of wore body amour and helmet and instructed my staff of three Nurses to do the same and we left for the Mall with many question marks in our minds because the task was neither clear nor the usual Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC) we were used to.

The first thing which struck me when I arrived was the lack of any coordinated medical plan and I decided to take charge immediately. Both civilian and military medical assets and personnel joined me in the efforts to put things in order. A group of two foreign medics requested to join us and lend some help. We did not get into an agreement on were to set the triage area with one of the foreign doctors drawing from his experience identified an open area fifty meters from the Mall building, a location I was not comfortable with because we were on the line of fire from anyone in the building and especially on the top floors.

Shortly before we could plan further, we received fire from the building and that was the last time I saw the two foreign colleges and civilian staff manning the

Source: https://ufpro.com

Source:https://ufpro.com

civilian rescue vehicles. I took cover under the vehicles packed at the Mall and noticed some blood from my right lower limb.my nurses quickly took care of it and realized it was a ricochet from one of the ammunition which had been directed to my team. From that moment we realized how vulnerable we were and reorganize ourselves to accord the needed medical care while taking care of ourselves also.

In the cover of the night we started to collect the bodies of those who had been fatally short both adults and children and took them to the nearest mortuary. This was a sad state and although am a trained doctor who had seen many dead bodies this one touched me specially the site of innocent kids laying lifeless paying for sins they never committed. The experience would later come to haunt me in the form of PTSD but I sought expert help and recovered fully. We remained at the Mall giving the much needed medical care of the wounded for slightly over forty-eight hours (48) before we could be relieved by a fresh medical team. By that time, we had no communication to our families and colleagues because our phones went off and we could not charge them anywhere. This left our loved ones wondering whether we were still alive or dead for the media was all awash with all nature of sad news and showing what was happening at the Mall instantaneously.

Care Under Fire (CUF) is the first step in Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC). TCCC entails all the medical interventions accorded to a casualty from the point of injury by medical caregivers of buddy, en-route care either in an ambulance by road or air up to a designated healthcare facility. All this is geared towards increasing the survivability of the casualty. The care given at the point of injury determines a lot the outcome of the definitive management. CUF is the medical care given by first responders during war while receiving fire from the enemy. The resources are usually limited to the Individual First Aid Kit popular known as IFAK and usually

carried by the soldier complimented with a few medical supplies carried by the medical personnel assisting the casualty at the point of injury.

It is ironical like the saying goes that "good medicine is bad tactics ", the best care in the line of fire is to return fire and ensure no more injuries take place.The care giver should communicate to the casualty the intended help otherwise he can be mistaken for the enemy and receive fire. The next step is to roll the casualty on his/her back to dislodge anything, which might be blocking the airway because in CUF there is no time for Airway management as usually one would do in emergency medical care. The most important intervention at this point is to stop any bleeding using the tourniquet usually provided in the IFAK or any other means possible and then scoop the patient to a safe place for evacuation by either road or Air to a base Hospital for definitive care.

Today as I reflect back, I remember that following this and other experiences, our military leadership has ensured that all soldiers are equipped with the latest IFAK and are well trained of its usage from the time they are in their basic training. It has become standard practice to include training on the IFAK in most of our schools and soldiers are reminded of the same at the predeployment concentration camps. The proper use of the IFAK has indeed

Today as I reflect back, I remember that following this and other experiences, our military leadership has ensured that all soldiers are equipped with the latest IFAK and are well trained of its usage from the time they are in their basic training.

saved many injured soldiers and my tour of duty as a flight surgeon in the Kenya Air Force can attest to this as we have evacuated injured personnel to safety and subsequent good recovery in our referral Hospital. The IFAK was ordinarily seen as an extra baggage by already tired soldiers and often left behind or not well replenished up until they learned and used it with positive results.

The Kenya Air Force (KAF) medics are often tasked with casualty evacuation within and also outside the country.To undertake this task efficiently and effectively they are usually organized in to several Aeromedical Evacuation Teams popularly abbreviated as AMET. The ideal number of medics in one AMET is five personnel all trained in Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS). The teams are equipped with lifesaving equipment to be able to support life en- route and are usually on standby all times to undertake tasks as and when necessary. These tasks could be military in nature or in support of civil authorities as mandated in our mission. The preparedness culture of the AMET in the KAF is what I later came to learn was the basis of my being tasked by the chief of medical (COM) then to undertake the task at the shortest moment with little/scanty information from the ground in a state of panic and confusion as was the case in the Westgate Mall attack. ∎

TRADITIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION METHODS AMONG THE MERU PEOPLE OF KENYA

Traditional Dispute Resolution (TDR) methods so referred to as 'Traditional' because they relate to or are based on traditions of a people. These methods of solving conflicts are also known by other names such as "Alternative Dispute resolution" or "Appropriate Dispute Resolution" (ADR) while others refer to them as 'informal'. Traditional Dispute Resolution is therefore a general term used to define a set of approaches and techniques that were/are used to resolve conflict in Africa. These methods are aimed at resolving conflicts in a non-confrontational way. These methods were widely used in Kenya to resolve disputes among the 45 ethnic communities.

Most of these ethnic communities have a council of elders as the dispute resolution organ of the community. It was the first port of call when any dispute arose in a community. The Pokot and Marakwet, the council of elders was referred to as 'Kokwo' and was the highest institution of conflict management and socio-political organization. It was composed of the most respected, wise old men who were knowledgeable in the cultural affairs and history of the community. The Agikuyu community referred to theirs as 'Kiama' and used to act as an arbitration forum in dispute resolution. The elders and institutions were accessible to the populace and their decision was respected.

The Meru people had a well-organized dispute resolution method starting from the family level, village, and clan and all the way to the whole community. At each level, the institution had different name, different representative, sometimes more than one organ doing similar job but to different section of the community. 'Family head' was the lowest level while 'Njuri Ncheke' was the supreme governing

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council of elders mandated to resolve community disputes among other responsibilities.

The Njuri Ncheke was founded by a man known as Kaura Bachau assisted by Koomenjwe. The founders of the council were motivated by the need of uniting the whole of Meru people. This council kept the Meru society well governed and well administered. When Kaura Bachau died, he left a will behind and stated that because of its efficiency, Njuri Ncheke 'should never be allowed to die ('Kaura'). Njuri Ncheke headquarters is located at Nchiru near Kianjai Township in Tigania west constituency. It is thirteen kilometers north of Meru town. The venue was and still used once a year for settling disputes arising within Meru communities which could not be resolved by the smaller traditional councils called Njuuri. In most situations, the meeting building was located on higher ground relative to the rest of the houses.

Njuri ncheke does not have a fixed number in terms of membership. However, being the supreme council, all the sub groups of Meru Community from the clan level were represented. Because most cases

were referred from lower levels, they were required to send a representative from their clan. The smaller njuuri houses nominates members to Njuuri Ncheke. There were several Njuuri houses within one sub location. These smaller Njuuri were widely spread all over the districts of the larger Meru community. Other institutions such as 'Ramare' (military administrative unit) sends representatives. Gender was restricted to male elders only. In fact, women were not supposed to know of group oaths and secrets. The members of Njuri Ncheke were carefully selected and comprised mature, composed, respectable old men, incorruptible, full of wisdom, integrity, knowledgeable especially in traditions and customs, wealthy, good morals, courageous and good orator.

Traditional functions of Njuri Ncheke. The role of the Njuri Ncheke was to enact and execute community laws, listen to and settle disputes, pass on community knowledge and norms across generations in their role as the custodians of the traditional culture. They were also to ensure unity of the people, eradicate ethnicity, protect the vulnerable in the society such as women, elderly and the young, safe guard the rights of all members of the community and administer traditional oaths.
The council also oversaw and enforced the rules and regulations controlling the use and conservation of open grassland, salt licks and forest. Their work as conservators extends to the preservation of the Sacred Sites.

Types of disputes handled by Njuri Ncheke. Njuri Ncheke handled various types of disputes that were referred to it. They included disputes over boundaries. Common example is the boundary dispute between Tharaka and Tigania communities over the location of the boundary, family disputes, land disputes, disputes arising over inheritance of family land among family members, disputes over grazing lands. They also handled personal debts, Inter clan disputes, disputes over general conduct and discipline. The cases deliberated by the smaller Njuri houses were normally settled to the satisfaction of

both parties. If one party was not satisfied, he had the liberty to appeal to the higher Njuri. Some members of all the Njuri houses in the location could be nominated to sit and listen to the appeal.

The Procedure of handling disputes. Local disputes were first dealt by lower ranks starting from family level. Those that reached Njuri were those referred by Njuri and Kiama. Before cases were taken to the highest level, they passed from family level through village elder, Clan elder, Kiama, Njuri and finally to Njuri Ncheke. However, Njuri Ncheke had no mandate to handle matters involving non-Meru people or those that are expressively under the Kenyan common law.

The court session. As a sign that the court was in session, the shoulder blade of an ox was placed on top of a pole at the place where the court session was taking place. Whenever the hearing started, the plaintiff and the defendant were provided with trustees from the hunters' organization. The trustees were the custodians of the hunter's scepter

(hunter's rod), their insignia of justice and authority. At the start of the proceedings, the plaintiff was given the scepter by his trustee after cleansing it. It was only afterwards that the plaintiff was allowed to address the court, without any interruption. Once his address was over, he handed the scepter to the defendant's trustee who cleansed it before giving it to the defendant. The plaintiff was supposed to keep standing while the defendant defended himself. If there came a moment when the defendant wanted a reply from the plaintiff, he had to hand over the scepter to the plaintiff trustee who after cleansing it gave it to the plaintiff. Such court procedure continued until the plaintiff and the defendant were satisfied and confirmed that they had nothing more to say to the court.

The Court Verdict. When the time for passing the verdict came, the plaintiff handed the scepter to his trustee. Then the jury of seven was formed. It was comprised of the two presiding elders of the hunters' organization and five prominent judges, known for their impartiality. The jury left the court to decide on the verdict and when they returned to the court, they declared their unanimous verdict. Whoever lost had a fine imposed on him. He was escorted by the two presiding elders out of the court to go and bring the fine of cattle, goats or sheep. ◾

PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE BLUE ECONOMY FOR KENYA

Water is the starting point for all life. It covers nearly 70 percent of the earth's surface and possesses enormous potential to support human activity. Half of the world's population lives within 60 km of the sea, rivers, and oceans, and three-quarters of all large cities are along the coastline. The living and non-living resources currently in the world's oceans, seas, and rivers remain a significant source of wealth, creating trillions of dollars in goods and services. Several industries such as fishery, tourism, ports, shipping, and shipbuilding are dependent on them to provide livelihood and employment to millions of people. Nearly 90 percent of trade by volume and 70 percent by value is conducted via the sea. Thirty percent of the supply of hydrocarbons is sourced from the oceans and seas, which can generate wind, wave, tidal, thermal, and biomass energy. With the fast depleting land resources, the significance of the oceans is becoming increasingly vital. Global warming and climate change is putting pressure on the international community to appreciate that with the supply of resources dwindling, sustainable use of ocean resources would be the only recourse available. Sustainable Development Goal-14 (SDG) focuses on enhancing the health of oceans on a sustainable basis where their conservation would play a pivotal role in the survival of humanity.

The term "Blue Economy" was first introduced by Gunter Pauli in 2010. The "Blue Economy" concept was then coined at the Rio+20 summit in 2012 by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and acknowledgment that the key to their present and future development was intrinsically linked to their vast ocean domains. Blue Economy as a concept has no accepted definition by the United Nations. However, there is a global consensus that it is about increasing

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human well-being through the sustainable development of "ocean" resources while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. Gunter Pauli was the first to propound the idea of a Blue Economy in 2010 and published a book titled "10 Years, 100 Innovations, 100 Million Jobs". The book advocates that as a business model, Blue Economy has the potential to transform society from scarcity to abundance with what is locally available. It highlights the long-term benefits of Blue Economy in tackling environmental degradation. Since its introduction

The "Blue Economy" concept was coined at the Rio+20 summit in 2012 by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and acknowledgment that the key to their present and future development was intrinsically linked to their vast ocean domains.

after the Rio+20 in 2012, Blue Economy is rapidly emerging as a development paradigm that seeks to harness the ocean resources for sustainable development in addressing poverty alleviation, food security, affordable and clean energy, and climate action. Oceans have historically supported humanity for meeting their many essential needs, and if harnessed in keeping with their carrying capacity, they would continue to do so forever.

The important sectors of Blue Economy are fisheries, sea-minerals including oil, gas, ports, shipping, marine tourism, marine biotechnology, deep-sea mining, and transport logistics. The majority of the coastal nations are dependent on the Blue Economy for earning a livelihood, achieving holistic growth, empowering native coastal communities, and attaining greater social and economic inclusion. It is believed that by undertaking the Blue Economy initiative, countries would be able to achieve high economic growth and maintain a healthy balance between resource use and renewability. The Blue Economy has a tremendous potential to contribute to higher and faster Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in the Kenyan economy. This growth will supplement the more extensive economy's traditional segments by creating employment opportunities, alleviating poverty, enhancing food security, and increasing other industries. Kenya has a coastline of about 640 km, extending from the Somalia border in the north to Tanzania in the south. The territorial waters cover 12 nautical miles and the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) covers 200 nautical miles from the shore. These waters contain vast aquatic resources, which presents a significant opportunity to boost the blue economy's growth.

Kenya as a country enjoys vast maritime resources, including ocean, lakes, and

Through the Blue Economy, the country can stop being over-reliant on its economy's traditional terrestrial-based building blocks by diversifying to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

rivers, which have potential in fisheries, tourism, maritime transport, and off-shore mining, among others. There is an opportunity to harness these Blue Economy prospects through deep-sea mining, fisheries development, smart shipping, aquaculture, blue financing, establishing regional centers for ship owners, research and technology development, mainstreaming climate change, and raising awareness on the importance and value of marine resources. Kenyan Government recognizes these marine ecosystems as one of the key natural capitals, protects, and maintains them accordingly. The Government of Kenya continues to source for strategic partnerships to acquire funding and the technical know-how required to exploit these resources. It also endeavours to make budgetary allocation to develop the sector due to its high potential in enhancing the lives of communities and its contribution to the national GDP.

Through the Blue Economy, the country can stop being over-reliant on its economy's traditional terrestrial-based building blocks by diversifying to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The Government of Kenya continues to also closely work with the county governments, Non-Governmental Organisations, scientists, and other professionals to realize the full potential of the country's Blue Economy. These will steer Kenya on its way to realizing the sustainable development goals and its Vision 2030. ∎

SMART POWER AND NEPAL

Hard power is considered as the oldest form of national power and all the wars fought were with the primacy of hard power where military and economic power is influential. Extreme hard power equals anarchy at the level of individual and manifests in aggressive and effective behavior in international relations. It includes coercive diplomacy, military interventions, and economic sanctions, offer of a military or non-military alliance and consequently war becomes the means of deterrence and protection of national interests.

The idea of soft power was created in the post-cold conflict setting. Soft power is capacity to get what you need through fascination as opposed to intimidation or installments since enticement is in every case more powerful than pressure. The sources of soft power are culture, political qualities, financial help, international strategy and discretion. Soft power is somewhat compassionate, practical, less-decimating and favorable to harmony contrasted with hard force. At the point when hard force comes up short, soft power wins. At the point when you can get others to respect your standards and need what you need, you don't need to spend as much on sticks and carrots to move them towards you. The United States of America (USA) crushed Japan and Europe utilizing hard force during the second Great War however gave monetary help and political help to build them up as equitable and created nations. Sovereign state's international strategy, capacity to co-select or draw in is soft power, monetary/financial help, public discretion social limited time tact are the best viable instruments for soft power.

Smart power is another and immature idea that is developed in the 21st century

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NEPAL

in the post-Cold War setting. Key idea of savvy power is to coordinate hard power and soft power into a lucid and composite methodology for progress dependent on data and knowledge. It is the mix of soft power and hard power. In the past power alludes to the hard power, which is known as arm power. In any case, presently, power addresses hard (military and financial force) and delicate political, socio-social, business and hard powers. In present day time, both hard and delicate strategic maneuver equivalent job to keep up with harmony, concordance and security of the country and furthermore safeguard the premium of the country. It includes the essential utilization of strategy, influence, limit building, projection of force and impact in manners that are financially savvy and have political and social authenticity. It is a methodology that highlights the need of a solid military, yet, in addition, puts intensely in unions, associations, and foundations, everything being equal, to extend one's impact and build up authenticity of one's activity, basically the commitment of both military power and strategic influence. It is hard to characterize idea, hard to blend hard and soft power into shrewd systems and hard to gauge achievement so it is

theoretical and vague. Despite the reality, smart power will win in the time of data innovation and advanced cell. Smart power is less expensive and more viable, and nothing to lose even in situations where you can't accomplish anything.

Geo-political situation of Nepal
The geo-political situation is changing quickly and is probably going to keep on doing as such in the coming many years. Nepal lies between India and China, and bears vital significance. Nepal as minuscule Himalayan and sandwiched country between two arising world forces China and India conveys vital interest of the two neighbors just as USA. Albeit the USA's one-sided administration is shaking as of late and the world is seeing the rise of different focuses of force or rapidly moving towards multi polarity. Nepal is additionally at the middle in light of three-sided cross – cutting interests of USA, China and India. Each focal point of force is endeavoring to accomplish a 'equilibrium of interest' instead of the past 'overall influence'. Nepal needs to adjust the expanding effective reach of our neighbors with right coordination of strategy, information, military and economic instruments and appealing diplomacy.

Geopolitical situation of Nepal is different from other nation so security apparatus of Nepal should be more conscious about national security. China and India both are stronger than the Nepal so in the issue of Nepal using hard power is not so relevant. Nepal needs to use smart power to maintain peace and harmony within the nation as well as with neighbors. Furthermore, Nepal can preserve its interest by using smart power with the benefit of religious similarities (Hinduism with India and Buddhism with China), people to people contact, military diplomacy and Nepali diaspora abroad.

Hard Power and it's Applicability
Hard or order power is the most established type of force; it is associated with the possibility of an anarchic global framework, where nations don't perceive any better position and consequently have

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than center around power legislative issues. Hard force is characterized as a capacity to arrive at one's objectives through coercive activities or dangers, the alleged 'incentives' of worldwide governmental issues. Truly, hard force has been estimated by such measures as populace size, an area, geology, normal assets, military power, and financial strength. In the contexts of Nepal, practice of hard power is out of thinking as Nepal's hard power is a no match to both neighbors.

Soft Power and its Applicability
Soft power lies on the capacity to shape the inclinations of others, without the utilization of power, intimidation or brutality, however, through immaterial resources like an appealing character, culture, political qualities, foundations, and approaches that are viewed as real or having moral position. Soft power, instead of different foundations of strength, has been progressively being used in global governmental issues. Culture is the arrangement of practices that make significance for a general public, and it has numerous indications. A portion of the wellsprings of soft power are undertaking, culture, computerized, government, commitment, training and so forth. Soft power is a significant way for a nation like Nepal to draw in with other created and agricultural countries where governments

are going after consideration and impact. Nepal being between the rising giants of Asia, India and China, has seen the two states separately apply soft power as a significant international strategy contribution to accomplish their state plans and have effectively figured out how to expand their influence abroad throughout the long term.

Smart Power in the context of Nepal
In the context of Nepal smart power is important to preserve its' national interests because Nepal is reasonably weak in military power compared with neighboring nation India and China. Smart power gives opportunities to small nation because its focuses other form of power like economic and technology rather than on traditional military based power. All things considered, it doesn't have hard force and different assets to impact the worldwide. Nepal as an underdeveloped country has been highly influenced by the global and regional balance of power. Moreover, Nepal is undoubtedly suffering from geostrategic rivalry between India, China and the western powers. Nepal, therefore, should handle international issues in a more effective and efficient way to tackle the emerging security threats. Hard power alone is not sufficient to deal with conventional threats therefore; Nepal should explore smart power to enhance its security.

Nepal is not in a position to play with hard power. Soft and smart powers are more appropriate and relevant than hard power in the changing global political, diplomatic and strategic context. Nepal cannot fight with neighbors – emerging super power and nuclear countries – India and China. Nepal cannot afford military based foreign policy and even the army has been following defense diplomacy. 'Panchsheel' is fundamental principles of Nepal's foreign policy and Nepal has been maintaining good relations with both neighbors including super power. Nepal has been using its military as soft power by contributing to global peace through peace keeping missions and thereby influencing the world in its own way. ∎

HOW MY FAMILY AND I ESCAPED DEATH

In October 2011, I was nominated to attend Staff Course at Defence Services Command and Staff College. The Course commenced in January 2012, and it was to end in December 2012. Going for Staff Course was a sure way that from Staff Course it was a posting-out of Central Region to elsewhere. The Course ended in December 2012 as scheduled. Having completed Staff Course, it was time to receive postings. I received my posting during the Graduation Dinner. As per the College Tradition, during dinner and just after the official speeches, Colonel Coordination calls out the names of the officers and the Spouse to the Officer goes to collect the posting Letter. On return to the seat, the Spouse opens the Letter and hands it to the Officers to share the content. On receiving the Letter, having read the posting and appointment, I was torn apart on how to break the news. She kept on asking, "where are we going?". I pretended I was still reading the Letter for 5 minutes. I said to her, "Just one moment, Sweetie".

I was well aware she was hoping to move to Lusaka. I quickly gathered some courage to break the news and told her that we were going to Abercorn Town up North. I could see the dejection in her as she asked, "why?". "We have never been there". "There is always the first time for anything," I responded. Dinner ended, and the commandant congratulated everyone for their appointments and the new units as he bid farewell to us that evening. We drove back to the College. I spent the whole night with my mind speculative of the new unit and how life would be like there. The following morning, we drove back home to Central Region. I was due to report on duty in my new unit up in the Northern Region two weeks after graduation. Upon getting back home from College, it was all excitement that we were moving up North. Preparations for movement commenced immediately with packing and vehicle servicing.

The two-week course break ended, and we waited patiently for the transport to move our households. Unfortunately, we received a call that transport was not ready and that it would only be ready after the Christmas holiday. After the Christmas Holiday, we were informed that the vehicle would be available on New Year's Eve. Came new year's eve, it was time to go and after having finished packing. The packing took much

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longer than expected, and we finished at 4:00 pm. The Truck carrying Household goods went ahead of us. Finally, we started for a 1,215kms journey up North at 5:30 pm. Having driven for over 200km through two Districts, it was time to buy some food and water at a popular restaurant in the Farming Block. While at the restaurant, I saw one of the Soldiers from my new unit on a bus heading to the same unit we were going to. We started after about 30minutes after finishing our meal.

Our next stop was to be about 355kms to refuel and do a hot check on the vehicle. It was now getting late, and the Sun had set the road was getting busy with Cargo Trucks entering through the Nakonde/Tunduma Border Post. This is one of the busiest on the Zambian Roads throughout the year; Traffic movement is nonstop. We arrived at our next stop around 11:`40 pm and quickly refueled to try and catch up with time. We drove around to try and get some water, but

most places were closed. Luckily, we found one grocery near the Bus Terminus which was open. While we were buying water, the bus on which that soldier heading to the same unit arrived. We decided to go ahead of the bus so as to have alternative transport in case of a breakdown. We then started off for the second last leg of our journey. As we drove off , it occurred to me that we should have given the soldier a ride, however, since we had no space, we decided against it and drove off.

The next leg was 230kms on a narrow two-way tarred road. Since it was during the rainy season, visibility was a bit poor with drizzles all the way. Halfway through the journey, a warning sign alerted us of a possible danger. The vehicle hit a dog, veered off the road into the bush, and got stuck on the muddy grounds from the rain. We were so scared we took a few minutes to catch our breathe. We needed to continue our journey, but the vehicle wouldn't move from the grounds. We engaged the four-wheel drive and got back on the highway. We came out of the vehicle to ascertain the general conditions of the vehicle before proceeding with the trip. The vehicle was in good condition due to the high-profile tires. We were at our next stop around 02:20 am and only one leg of the journey was remaining. We were hopeful that we were almost reaching with only 170 kms remaining.

We did not stop this time round, as we wanted to arrive and have some rest. We kept on crisscrossing with Truckers with their usually irritating use of headlamps at full beam. Every so often, we would flash at them to reduce the full beam. We reached some straight stretch with about

Our vehicle at the scene of the accident

54kilometers to Abercorn Town where an oncoming Truck was at full beam so as usual had to give a reminder by flash so he could lower his beam. However, there was no response. Once again, we flashed the truck again but there was no response. It was closing up and visibility was becoming poorer. We then decided to drive at full beam with the headlamps. The response we got was a shocker with the Trucker switching on four bigger lights from the roof and got on the middle of the road covering both lanes and we just had to move off the road to pave way because the road became invisible. As we tried to give way by going off the road the vehicle tipped off because the road was higher than the road shoulders and it lost balance. It the rammed into a tree stump and overturned two times and started sliding on the roof.

It came to a halt after sliding for 20meters or so. The engine was still running, and we were trapped inside. Out of fear that the engine was running and the possibility of going up in flames, forced me to find my way out through the broken driver's window. Then I pulled out my wife and she came out. We called out for the children out, but it was all silent and dark to see behind the vehicle. Fear and hopelessness crept in as I asked myself "Have we lost the Children?". Out of fear of what could have happened, I decided to crawl back into the vehicle. At the point of going in one came out then followed by the other. We were all alive and safe with just injuries. The last-born was bleeding badly from the head, we moved away from the vehicle, and I removed my t-shirt, tore it and tied it on his head. I moved to the roadside to ask for help, the trucker did not even stop. Shortly, the bus we had left behind arrived and passengers came out to help. I heard behind me, " Sir, what happened?". When I turned, it was the soldier.

We narrated what had transpired to him and then he said, " Sir, here in the early hours after 2am, you just have to wait until a truck comes by, then you can continue with your journey and avoid flashing full beam at them". We had our lessons from the journey, and I share the following: First, always travel with someone who understands a route you have never used, secondly, do not flash full beam at a truck driver along the Great North road it maybe at your own peril, third, give a lift to anyone even your subordinates who are heading in the same direction with you despite it being against your own comfort and finally don't drive at night on a long distance when visibility is poor especially if you have an option to rest and move during the day. ∎

IRAN'S FOREIGN POLICY IN IRAQ AFTER THE POST-ELECTION PRESIDENTIAL ERA

Introduction

On 5 August 2021, the new Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (see Figure 1) held official talks with Iraqi President Barham Salehi in Tehran. The reason for the visit was the participation of the Iraqi side in the swearing-in ceremony and the expression of congratulations to the newly elected Iranian President. During the bilateral meeting, the Iraqi President reaffirmed his position towards Iran and the future direction of Iraq's domestic and foreign policy. The Iranian side made commitments to continue their support, focusing on the upcoming Iraqi elections in October this year. As in the past, Iran intends to continue its foreign policy and strengthen bilateral relations towards Iraq to protect its territorial integrity, security, and stability.

The presidential victory of Ebrahim Raisi, a hard-line conservative cleric and head of the judiciary, has shown the direction Iran will take in the coming period. His political views promote a hard conservative line. It assumes that his regional foreign policy will shape mainly along this political line in the coming period, without many

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reformists or moderate conservatives. For this reason, it cannot expect any significant positive change in relations with the West or Sunni regional actors seeking to gain dominance over friendly countries with unstable or weak political leadership in the Middle East region. The new Iranian President will continue existing foreign and security policy based on deterrence, including a conventional ballistic missile programme and support for Shiite militias in the Middle East region. Although Iran's foreign policy goals towards Iraq possible future federalisation persist, the Iranian conservative line may be less willing to make concessions to the Iraqi government or seek compromise in dealing with the country's security stability. The surviving Daesh cells and the causes of its massive support across the Sunni population in Iraq persist. The re-emergence of the organisation or its offshoots is only a matter of time.

Main discussion

The timing of the joint meeting, even before the swearing-in ceremony of the new Iranian President, clearly indicates the importance of joint bilateral relations between Iran and Iraq. This trend is not new and traces back to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. The US intervention then brought about the fall of the Sunni regime under

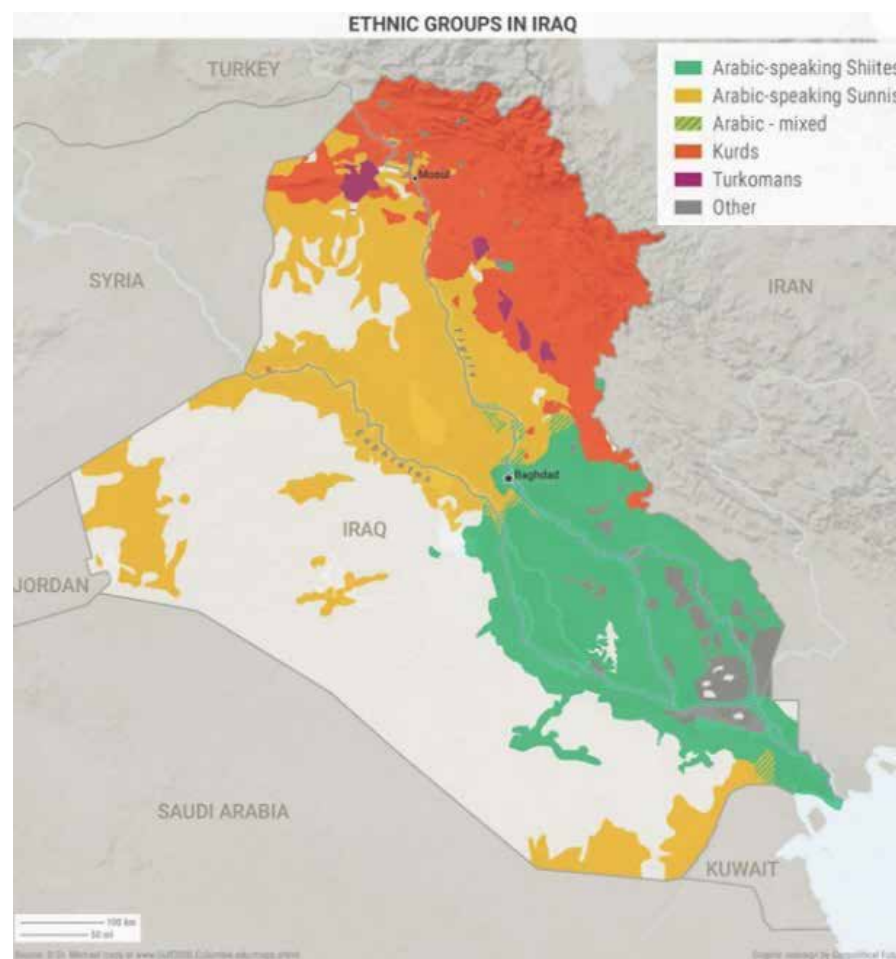Figure 1: Ebrahim Raisi (Source: Britannica, 2021)

Figure 2: Ethnic groups distribution in Iraq (Source: Insider, 2016)

Saddam Hussein; however, it nevertheless aroused contradictory reactions in Iran. The overthrow of this hostile regime, which was a threat to Iran and a major regional competitor, caused relief among the Iranian leadership. However, the US military presence on the borders of the Islamic Republic has begun to raise new concerns on the Iranian side. As a result of preventing a permanent US military presence in Iraq, Iran has begun to make the most of its influence and support the majority Shiite population. It wants to establish a friendly but subordinate regime in Iraq. However, this objective has long been at odds with the foreign policy interests of Saudi Arabia, which has sought to prevent this Shiite expansionist in the region efforts at all costs.

This development suggests that Iraq is a significant area of contestation, where Sunni and Shi'ite influence has clashed significantly due to the post-conflict reconstruction of Iraq's internal political scene. These contradictions were further strengthened by the withdrawal of US troops in late 2011 and Daesh's operations between 2013 and 2017. The unfinished construction of the Iraqi Armed Forces prevents their effective deployment during the emergence of domestic destabilisation processes. It continues to pose a significant and long-term security risk characterised by the rapid destabilisation of the country and the resurgence of sectarian violence. Clearly, in such a case, Iran would have to reactivate the security mechanisms it has successfully established in Iraq over the past few years to prevent new violence and thus a threat to its strategic interests in Iraq. Despite proven instances of Iran interfering in Iraqi affairs and actively working against coalition forces, recent developments in Iraq suggest that the situation has changed with the defeat of Daesh and the departure of US forces. Iran is also acting more and more as a stabilising and intrastate security element in Iraq. This change has seen the disappearance of the significant security risk posed by Daesh and the significant US military

presence in the region. In addition, Iran has successfully infiltrated significant parts of the Iraqi security apparatus during the battles with Daesh, further enabling it to continue pursuing Iranian strategies to dominate the Iraqi political scene through its Shiite sympathisers.

Conclusion
However, alongside these successes on the Iraqi domestic political scene, Iran also forces to take the necessary additional measures to prevent the possible collapse of the Iraqi intrastate political system. The stability of the Iraqi political scene has significant cracks in it due to long-term poverty and unresolved socio-economic problems. This dangerous trend further reinforces the growing Sunni resistance to the spreading Shiite political dominance gained during the fighting with Daesh. An unstable Iraq also poses a severe security threat to Iran, both in the form of spillover violence and unrest through groups such as the Daesh and its affiliates and the possibility of Iraq breaking up into three parts - Shia, Sunni and Kurdish (see Figure 2). The quest for independence of the Kurdish ethnic group (they profess predominantly Sunni Islam) would pose a domestic threat to Iran. The Kurdish minorities living in the north-western part of the country would probably begin to annex this territory to Iraq, thus providing a gradual basis for creating a new state entity, Kurdistan.

Although it may appear from the above that current developments in Iraq tend towards Shiite domination, it is evident that Iran's interest is in stabilising Iraq, but preferably with a federalist state structure. Such an arrangement intends to ensure a specific stabilisation of the security situation, to prevent separatist aspirations and, above all, to slow down Iraq's re-empowerment as a regional power. Federalising the government would also guarantee that Iraq does not become a puppet state of the central Sunni states or the US. Thus, a continuation of Iran's foreign policy towards Iraq set in previous years will highly likely follow for the coming period. Even the President's conservative approach is unlikely to reverse this trend. ∎

MY JOURNEY TO ARMY AVIATION AND INSIGHT TO MD HELICOPTER SERIES

I f you are in trouble anywhere in the world, an airplane can fly and drop flowers, but a helicopter can land and save your life. Welcome to aviation, the home of helicopters and probably the most versatile machines ever invented by man. This article will highlight my experience from being an aviator, and more captivating is the new addition to the home of aviators the MD 530 F combat helicopter. The role of aviation today is very vital to any nation, be it at war or stable nation. Aviation has made manoeuvre warfare a more central part of conflict, with Intelligence, Situation Awareness, Air Mobility, Attack and Control as strengths. While aerial support has greatly increased the tempo of war as well as its potential casualties, the helicopters within the Defence Forces of any nation in the world provide different roles based on the need tasks for which it was acquired; Attack helicopter for fighting, Observation helicopter for reconnaissance and Utility helicopters for carrying troops and luggage.

I grew up in a tiny village in Nyeri where I saw the small, tiny planes flying on the skies from south to north and back. Whether they were civilian or military aircrafts, I could not tell at the time. I had no idea that one day, a small boy from Nyeri would become a pilot not just any pilot but a combat aviator. I worked hard through my studies, completed my university education, and then secured myself a slot into the prestigious military cadre as a cadet. I joined the Kenya Army Corp of Aviation the then 50ACB after completing my cadet training. That was the beginning of a beautiful experience in flying helicopters. After the basic pilot training I was launched to a world of operational flying. Some of the tasks during operational flying involves, reconnaissance and on target operations among other military operations.

I began by flying MD500D/E, which

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was both an attack helicopter and reconnaissance. This helicopter has been useful in both close and deep operations. Later, I transited to Z9WE attack helicopters that are used for combat support and limited casualty evacuation operations. Civil Military Co-operation (CIMIC) played a critical role in support of internal operations. Recently, Kenya acquired a new addition into the Aviation industry, MD530 F known to have the precision of an eagle. Insight into these operations, reconnaissance helicopter is a manned or unmanned military aircraft designed to carry out aerial reconnaissance. These helicopters collect imagery intelligence, measurement and signature intelligence. The scout helicopters from Army aviation combat wing have been used for reconnaissance purposes to provide timely information on various types of reconnaissance. Area Recce is conducted to obtain general information concerning a specified area while Zone Recce collects detailed reconnaissance of all manmade features within specified boundaries. Route recce is a reconnaissance mission assigned to obtain detailed information on a specified route on all adjacent terrain from which the enemy could influence movement along that route. Aircrafts have evolved

considerably in line with technological advances, be it fighter, bomber, light, trainer, cargo, attack aircraft, as you can't predict the condition, time, and place of war to be favourable or to your desire in relation to changes new limitations and challenges.

MCDONNELL DOUGLAS 530F (CAYUSE WARRIOR)
Kenya Army Aviation, through the KDF sourced for the new McDonnell Douglas 530F (Cayuse Warrior) light attack aircraft to boost its capability majorly for war on terror. This is the latest addition into the Aviation Corp. It has come at a time when the ground troops have experienced challenges such as frequent attacks by IEDs, poor logistical infrastructure due to ragged terrains, poor road network, and harsh weather condition, vast areas of operation, time, and weariness of the troops. The MD530F multi-purpose armed helicopter can be deployed in tactical and reconnaissance. The aircraft can also do air medical services, Search-And-Rescue (SAR), providing intimate support

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ARMED 530F HELICOPTER

In getting the MD-530F aircraft, Kenya is proving herself as an effective force multiplier on the battlefield. More so, KDF has ongoing modernization efforts to realize their security objectives in the region.

to ground troops both day and night. It is a versatile, flexible and very effective machine. Its capabilities include light attack missions, reconnaissance missions, airborne command and control, airborne observation posts, airborne direction of indirect fires as well as air raids in support of ground troops.

MD 530F Cayuse Warrior is an armed variant of the OH-6 Cayuse light observation helicopter built by MD Helicopters. Cayuse single-engine light helicopter, the MD 530F delivers increased operational capabilities, greater mission versatility and superior performance in the execution of a broad range of mission profile. It is designed to enhance scout attack, armed escort, and close air attack

capabilities. The MD 530F is engineered to meet your requirements for hot day, high-altitude operation. Equipped with the 650 shp Rolls-Royce 250-C30 engine, the MD 530F operates more effectively in hot, high environments than other helicopters in its class. With a take-off power of 317kW and maximum continuous power of 280kW the helicopter can fly at a maximum cruise speed of 248km/h and has a maximum range of 430km and service ceiling of 5,700m. The Kenya Army Corps of Aviation supports the Kenya Defence Forces in its fight against the Somalia-based Al-Shabaab Islamist militant group.

Kenya contributes to the African Union's AMISOM mission towards peace and lasting solution. In addition to the advanced

aerodynamic performance, this helicopter exhibits an unusually low empty-weight to gross-weight ratio. Strength and safety were not compromised or relaxed in any way in the MDHI design philosophy in order to achieve these results. In fact, the weight reduction evidenced in this helicopter results primarily from the extremely compact design, efficient space utilization and from a constant adherence to the design approach to extreme functional simplicity. To assure maximum safety and freedom from catastrophic failures, the design incorporates several fail-safe features in the rotors, airframe, and mechanical systems.

In getting the MD-530F aircraft, Kenya is proving herself as an effective force multiplier on the battlefield. More so, KDF has ongoing modernization efforts to realize their security objectives in the region. The successful delivery of these assets could not have come at a better time for Kenya. Finally, to sum the aviation experience is a saying among the aviators that when once you have tested flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been and there you will long to return. I am optimistic enough that the coming future in the world of ever-changing technological aspect in aviation, aviators will not only fly the MD 530F Cayuse Warrior, but in other types of aircrafts with similar and modernised technology as well. ∎

ARMED 530F HELICOPTER IN FLIGHT

SECURITY DILEMMA: UNDERSTANDING THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AS A ZONE OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT

Introduction
The **SOUTH CHINA SEA** is an area of the sea that is part of the Pacific sea covering area from Karimata, Malacca straits to the Taiwan straits around 3,500,000 km, it's an area of strategic importance as one third of the world's ships passes through carrying over $ 3 trillion in trade each year, apart from trade it contains lucrative fisheries and huge oil gas deposits. The sea contains several inhabited islands collectively as archipelagos which are claimed by several countries. Overlapping countries interest China, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan claims that are regarded as Asia's **"most potentially dangerous point of conflict"**. It contains over 250 islands most of which are naturally under water at high tide and some of which are permanently submerged.

The features are grouped into three archipelagos (listed by area size), Paracel islands, Scarborough Shoal and Spratly islands as indicated.

Resources/Claims
The South China Sea is the second most used Sea lane in the world while in terms of world annual merchant fleet tonnage, over 50% passes through the Strait of Malacca, the Sunda Strait, and the Lombok Strait. Over 100 million barrels of crude a day are shipped through the straits of Malacca, the region has proven oil reserves of around 7.7 billion barrels with estimated natural gas

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KENYA ARMY**

reserves of around 7,500 km³ (266 trillion cubic feet). In 2014 China began to drill for oil in waters disputed with Vietnam. China first claimed the South China Sea in 1947. The line claimed reaches as far as 1,200 miles from the south of Mainland China, but it is less than 200 miles away from some coastal areas of Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Every country has the right to claim 12 nautical miles from its coast as its territory and can also claim an exclusive economic zone extending 200 nm for other activities like drilling/fishing.

Previous Conflicts
In 1974, China and Vietnam who were vigorously prosecuting their claims for control of the Paracel Island clashed briefly resulting in 18 Chinese and 53 Vietnamese deaths, China has controlled the whole of Paracel since then. Another clash occurred in Sparkly Islands in 1988, in which over 70 Vietnamese sailors were killed. In May 2014, China established an oil rig near the Paracel Islands, leading to multiple incidents between Vietnamese and Chinese ships. Disputing claimants regularly report clashes between naval vessels. The Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) which most of the countries surrounding the South China Sea are members has been keen to ensure that the territorial disputes within the South China Sea do not escalate into armed conflict. China has preferred to resolve competing claims bilaterally while some ASEAN countries prefer multilateral talks, believing that they are disadvantaged in bilateral negotiations with the much larger China and that because many countries claim the same territory only multilateral talks could effectively resolve the competing claims.

Arbitration
In 2013, the Philippines formally initiated arbitration proceedings against China's

claim on the Spratly Islands, which it said was unlawful under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In 2016, the arbitral tribunal backed the Philippines, saying that there was no evidence that China had historically exercised exclusive control over the waters or resources, hence there was "no legal basis for China to claim historic rights". The tribunal also criticized China's land reclamation projects and its construction of artificial islands in the Spratly Islands, saying that it had caused "severe harm to the coral reef environment". Taiwan also lay claim to the Island. China does not recognize the ruling citing western influence purporting to be able to resolve the dispute within the ASEAN frame work. "*The backing was for Philippines but there is no enforcing mechanism*"

Development
To assert and enforce its claims, China started a reclamation project in the Spratly Island extending the size of seven reefs they have occupied and constructed three airfields. The airfields can support military aircraft including bombers and large transport aircraft. With this military presence, China would be able to control the South China Sea. On the other hand, the U.S. military frequently carries out Freedom of Navigation Operation Patrols (FONOP) in area which it considers international waters. This has annoyed China which has gone ahead to militarize the Island by deploying of missiles and long range bombers patrols in retaliation to the continued FONOPS. It's believed that China has added bunkers, hangars and advanced radars to strengthen its grip over the islands. On 15 September 2021, Australia, United Kingdom and United States signed a trilateral security pact known as AUKUS for the Indo-Pacific region. Under the pact, the US and UK will help Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. This further heightened tension in the area resulting in an arms race.

What is likely to happen?
The United States of America 7th Fleet has continued to dominate the South China Sea. Other Navies French, UK and India have also continue to conduct Freedom of Navigation Patrols within the South China Sea. There is a likely formation of an American South China Sea naval squadron that would maintain a regular presence in the region. Formation of a coalition of powers bringing together US, Australia, India, as well as Japan, to stand up to China would be another possibility. The South China Sea is likely to be a Potential Conflict Area. ∎

TAKING CARE OF SCARCE RESOURCES IN OUR ORGANIZATIONS AS PART OF OUR CHARACTER

Introduction

It is great opportunity specifically at this time of the year for all of us particularly the participants of Course 24-2021/22 to take part in contributing articles for our first newsletter. This affords us the opportunity to contribute positively in jotting down a number of positive attributes concerning Course 24-2021/22 participants. Course 24-2021/22 joined the NDC fraternity on 17 June 2021 and all factors constant it will hopefully graduate on 26 May 2022. The course in unique in many ways. One it has the highest number of participants ever since inception twenty-four years (24) ago. The total number of participants stands at sixty-three (63). Two it has largest number of representation from friendly allied countries. Sixteen countries are participating including Kenya.

What is **character**? According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary it basically defines character as "all the qualities and features that make a person, groups of

COL PAUL K KOECH
KENYA ARMY

people and places different from others. It includes strong personal qualities such as the ability to deal with challenging, difficult or dangerous situations." It includes attributes that defines us all the time. A **resource** on the other hand is anything that is used to satisfy human needs. Typically, resources are materials, energy, services, staff, knowledge, or other assets that are transformed to produce benefit and in the process may be consumed or made unavailable. Benefits of

resource utilization may include increased wealth, meeting needs or wants, proper functioning of an organization such as National Defence College – Kenya as well as improving the wellbeing of humans.

Resources are closely linked to another important term called logistics which is defined as the science of planning and carrying out the movement and maintenance of forces. It deals with those aspects of military operations that deal with the design and development, acquisition, storage, movement, distribution, maintenance, evacuation and disposition of material; movement, evacuation, and hospitalization of personnel; acquisition of construction, maintenance, operation and disposition of facilities; and acquisition of furnishing of services. All these tasks will be performed by you directly or indirectly during your course of duty while serving in various organizations in your respective countries. In the Military the human resource component plays a critical role especially the leadership corps which all of us in this course are leaders by our own right. It behooves upon us to take care of all resources bestowed upon

What is character? According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary it basically defines character as "all the qualities and features that make a person, groups of people and places different from others. It includes strong personal qualities such as the ability to deal with challenging, difficult or dangerous situations."
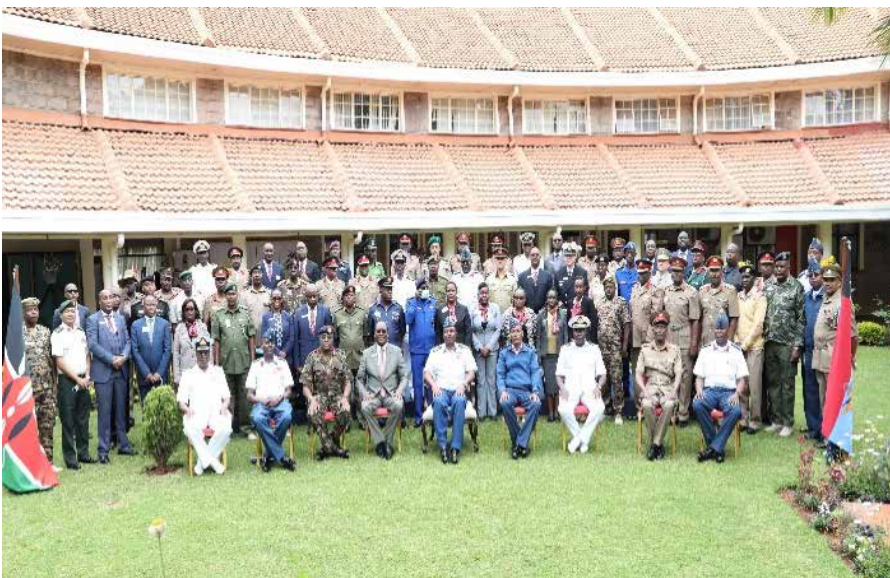

Group photo outside the Auditorium

Auditorium

us in whatever capacity we hold in our respective Ministries, Departments or Agencies in our respective countries.

The environment here at the college is challenging. The weather is hostile for us who live close to the equator where the weather is normally warm. Minimum temperatures here range from between eight to twelve degrees Celsius at night and daytime temperatures are not friendly either from fourteen to twenty degrees Celsius on most days. This could be attributed to the localized weather as Ngong hills is close by and thick forest in the neighborhood as most residents nearby have conserved the environment by planting a lot of trees and preserving

them. The course is equally demanding as we have now cleared the foundation phase and transiting smoothly to academic phase which will be equally demanding. All in all, we are soldiering on and as the saying goes a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, we are determined to journey through the entire course.

Among the key areas the participants are taking good care are the auditorium facilities including the microphones, the seminar room facilities, the dining facilities, the accommodation facilities and the sterling lawns within the NDC – Kenya cantonment.

The course is equally demanding as we have now cleared the foundation phase and transiting smoothly to academic phase which will be equally demanding. All in all, we are soldiering on and as the saying goes a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, we are determined to journey through the entire course.

Amazing facilities available at NDC – Kenya.include: Freshly lawned garden in front of the auditorium and library interspersed with fresh green variety of flowers as depicted by the photo. The entire compound is evergreen and welcoming to all who reside here. Towards the gate is the graduation square which also doubles as our games training area. The water fountain is another attraction just in front of the college headquarters. Engraved therein are key words "Maarifa, Busara, Uzalendo" loosely translated as "Knowledge Wisdom and Patriotism".

Conclusion

Resources are finite hence the need to take good care of them. The cumulative savings effort when replicated in each and every sector of the economy will lead to substantial savings to a state. Any accrued savings if prudently invested in critical sectors of the economy together with adoption of appropriate technology will propel the growth of the country. Kenya like other developing countries will easily transition to a middle-income country and later to a developed country as a consequence of such savings. Keep it up Course 24-2021/22. The journey continues! ∎

Library Orientation tour

IMPACT OF RELIGION ON MILITARY OPERATIONS

Religion and religious believes is complex issue and difficult to define. However, it's generally defined as the acknowledgment of a higher, unseen power and an awed necessity on that power of creation and existence of life. Special actions of rites, prayers, and acts of mercy are required as expressions and means of cultivation of the religious attitude. Religion and religious belief are powerful forces that have existed since the dawn of man. They are not limited to any one part of the world but touch the lives of men, women, and children around the globe. On the grand scale, religion has the power to change the very fabric of society. It can shape the personal, political, economic and cultural foundations of a people. On the personal level, religion can alter individual lives. It has brought comfort and peace of mind to millions of men and women, providing a sense of meaning and worth and offering the key to understanding oneself and one's existence.

Religious faith has enabled people to

COL JEREMIAH KOIKAI
KENYA ARMY

endure, even triumph over, personal hardship and tragedy. For many, religion is the true source of courage and strength. It can inspire and mobilize combatants and affect the outcome on the battlefield.

The three elements of Fighting Power are conceptual, Physical and moral component. The moral components is the driving force of the two other components

and manoeuvre warfare seeks to defeat the enemy by shattering his moral (ability to fight) rather than to destroy him physically through incremental attrition. As Carl von Clausewitz acknowledged: "Military activity is never directed against material force alone; it is always aimed simultaneously at the moral forces which gives it life. Precisely because religion touches on the moral component and it is intensely personal, it can be a destabilizing social factor, especially when attempts are perceived to trivialize, control or destroy it. An operational commander, no matter how well trained in military issues, who is ignorant of or discounts the importance of religious belief can strengthen his enemy, alienate his own forces, antagonize public opinion and offend his allies, Religious belief is a factor he must consider in evaluating the adversary, Identify sacred shrines, temples or holy places, of which the damaging could be portrayed as violation and as a propaganda tool by the enemy to inspire his forces and erode own forces will to fight.

The commander also needs to be concerned with the impact of religion upon his own forces. He is responsible for the religious, spiritual, moral, and ethical well-being of those within his command. As soldiers approach combat, their anxiety over their safety and their interest in spiritual matters increase. The commander who develops a strong plan for combat religious ministry will increase the morale and combat effectiveness of his unit. Spiritual resources can provide strength, inner peace, security, and a sense of tranquility to the soldier, thereby increasing the moral force of the unit. Here a chaplain provides the spiritual resources that enable soldiers to strengthen their faith and thus the moral courage crucial for survival in combat. Public opinion must also be considered as interest in spiritual matters also increases domestically as

friends and family members in the military face potential combat. The public is concerned about anything that threatens loved ones. The Commander must be sensitive to any decisions that will be perceived as inhibiting the fundamental right to worship or violating religious codes or freedoms. Such actions can arouse public opinion and erode support.

Finally, the commander also needs to consider how religion affects relationships with his allies. He should be sensitive to religious issues that might offend his allies or be used as propaganda by the enemy. Joint doctrine recognizes that "each partner in multinational operations possesses a unique cultural identity - the result of language, values, religious systems, and economic and social outlooks. Even seemingly, minor

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differences, such as dietary restrictions, can have great impact. An example, On 5 April 1991 the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 688, calling on Iraq to end repression of its civilian population. On 6 April, Operation Provide Comfort began to bring humanitarian relief to the Kurds. The US, the UK, and France established a no-fly zone north of the 36th parallel, as part of the Iraqi no-fly zones. During Operation Provide Comfort in April 1991 the United States air-dropped military "Meals Ready to Eat" containing pork to starving Kurdish Muslims, who complained about being given food that violated their religious dietary restrictions.

Religion's role in the theater of operations is often underestimated, because of underestimation of religion's influence on politics and war as it is hard to quantify, due to varying individual cultural backgrounds. In general, commanders need to examine the religious factors involved on all sides to achieve operational success as any wrong decisions related to religious belief can seriously impede operations and may affect the outcome of the war. One battalion commander has said, "Combat veterans know fully well the positive influence a chaplain has on unit morale, and few at any level would go into combat again without one. ∎

KDF Soldiers during a prayer session.

THE NILE RIVER WATER DISPUTE AND WATER CRISIS IN EGYPT

Conflict is as old as mankind. It is a salient feature of the human society Interactions between individuals, groups and states are characterized by competition, disagreement and clashes. In simplest terms, conflict is a struggle or a contest between people with opposing or incompatible needs or ideas. A Conflict not only can arise between individuals but also among countries, political parties and states as well. There are many theories that try to explain the nature and causes of conflicts. The realist theory describes conflict as a product of the innate selfish nature of man, who continues to pursue his own best interests. This selfish nature of man leads to competitive processes between actors who seek to have all or most of available scarce resources. According to realist theory, hostility can arise as a result of conflicting goals and competition over limited resources. Therefore one of the causes of conflict is competition over resources.

Natural resources particularly shared ones such as water shape international relations. Indeed many water bodies such as rivers and lakes cross national boundaries and their exploitation can be a source of dispute. The tensions over the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) in Ethiopia are a relevant example of such type of conflict. Therefore, this article is centred on the dispute between Egypt and Ethiopia over Nile water. The origin of the current conflict over Nile can be traced back to Nile Water Agreement signed between Egypt and the United Kingdom in 1929. The Agreement bound the United Kingdom, and by extension all of its colonies, to refrain from any action regarding the Nile that would diminish the volume of water that reached Egypt. It also gave Egypt the authority to inspect any projects conducted on the Nile, and to veto any undertaking that negatively impacted on its interests.

The Agreement infringed on the internal

STAFF COL MOHAMED Y Z MAHMOUD
EGYPT

and external sovereignty of upstream riparian states. On one hand, it restricts their right to fully exploit water resources for the benefit of their citizens. Riparian

countries rely on irrigation projects to meet their food needs and the construction of dams to generate hydroelectric power that is critical for their industrialization. On the other hand, the Agreement subjects upstream riparian countries to Egyptian interference. Ethiopia started the construction of the GERD on the Blue Nile in 2011 in order to generate power. With an installed capacity of 5150 MW, the dam is expected to annually generate around 16 TWh of energy. When completed and operational, the GERD will be the largest hydroelectric power generation facility in Africa and the fifth largest in the world. The GERD Reservoir will have a total storage of 74 billion cubic meters, 59 billion cubic meters of it active, or nearly 1.2 times the average annual flow of the Blue Nile at the dam site. The construction of the GERD has fuelled tensions with Egypt which

fears disruption of water supply.

By virtue of the concept of sovereignty, Ethiopia has the right to fully enjoy natural resources within her boundaries including Nile waters. The concept of social contract put also the Government under the obligation to provide for the needs of the citizens. Therefore, the construction of the GERD is in Ethiopia's prerogative as a sovereign state. It is true that Ethiopia has the right to enjoy her resources. It is also important to acknowledge that Egypt relies on Nile waters for her survival. For Egypt, the Nile waters constitute one of her vital interests and therefore Egypt is likely to resort to all means to protect her vital interests.

The question is how to reconcile the competing interests of Egypt and Ethiopia?
The starting point would be for both countries to value each other's interests and recognize that the Nile waters can be shared to the satisfaction of both parties. So long as the water will be released from the reservoir and allowed the normal flow into Nile, the dam would not disrupt Egyptian water supplies. On the other issues on the timing required for filling the reservoir and the management of the dam in times of drought, the parties should agree on mutually beneficial terms. In any case, peaceful settlement should be given first priority.

WATER CRISIS IN EGYPT
The impact of the construction of the Ethiopian Grand Renaissance dam on Egypt's national security is quite significant. Egyptians consider the Nile River as a gift to Egyptians and humanity as a whole. Water is becoming increasingly a prominent variable in international relations of nations that share common water resources. It is a potential source of conflict as the competing nations scramble to derive the maximum benefits from the shared resource in furthering their national interests. The construction of the Grand Renaissance Dam on the course of the River Nile is one such example. The sheer size of the dam is a valid concern from an Egyptian perspective. Its construction has a direct effect on Egyptian politics, economy and security. Statistics show that the average availability

The construction of the Grand Renaissance Dam affects not only Egypt but also Sudan. Activities of Ethiopia and other upstream countries regarding the use of chemicals and fertilizers, industrial effluent, pesticides and insecticides also affect the water's quality reaching the downstream countries, with Egypt and Sudan bearing the brunt.

of freshwater per capita in Egypt has steadily declined from about 1,893 cubic metres in 1959 to approximately 900 cubic metres in 2000 and 700 cubic metres in 2012. This puts the country under the threshold of water scarcity. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the currently available 1000 cubic metres of water available per capita per year are set to decline to 534 cubic metres per capita by 2030. This will relegate Egypt to a water-poor nation.

Government statistics indicate that the Egyptian population is set to reach 112 million by 2025. This will only increase the competition for water. The construction of the Grand Renaissance Dam affects not only Egypt but also Sudan. Activities of Ethiopia and other upstream countries regarding the use of chemicals and fertilizers, industrial effluent, pesticides and insecticides also affect the water's quality reaching the downstream countries, with Egypt and Sudan bearing the brunt. Farming practices by upstream countries such as large-scale irrigation by inundation leads to excessive loss of water by evaporation, also leads to damaging of soils, and causes elevation in the salinity

levels of underground water. According to Egypt's Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the country requires approximately 127% of its existing water resources. It will require an additional 20 % by the end of 2021, bringing its total water consumption to 147% of its current water resources. The importation of water can only fill this deficit.

The United Nations expects Egypt to face acute water scarcity by 2025. With increased population growth, Egypt is already importing more than 50% of its grain. Sustainable food security can only be achieved by reclamation of desert land irrigated by waters from the Nile. In addition to this precarious situation, surface water evaporation in Lake Nasser is believed to exceed the previously estimated amount. The average rate of evaporation current 7 mm is expected to be up to 7.3 mm by the year 2050. Egypt is already using most of the Nile's flows and plans to use more. According to the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, there is a deficit in the national water budget of about 19.5 billion cubic metres. Additionally, climate change has affected the entire Nile Basin. Economic development in upstream countries and the measures taken to adapt to climate change are likely to increase Egyptian water resources pressure. Studies have shown that the Nile is very sensitive to temperature changes, which have precipitated the decline in the rate of runoff and precipitation by 4%.

The Egyptian government has come up with techniques of recycling water to overcome the water shortage. Better irrigation techniques have seen the government saving up to 10% of the water used in irrigation. The government recycled 2 billion cubic metres of water in 2017. The government is also planning to modernize recycling plants to provide a total of 11.67 billion cubic metres of water through recycling. However, recycling of water entails massive energy consumption, which strains a country's economy. Convincing the citizenry to use recycled water for home use, let alone for drinking, is also a challenge. Treatment of recycled water to make it fit for human consumption is also quite expensive. The use of cheaper treatment techniques

as well as re-use of water treatment equipment above recommended practice can lead to pollution and contamination of surface and underground water. This has necessitated the Egyptian government to employ more natural water purification techniques such as soil and sand filter layers, reducing the cost.

There are many manifestation of water crisis, which include:

1. Insufficient access to drinking water for about 100 million people.
2. Deterioration in health due to lack of access to clean water.
3. Depletion of groundwater, which leads to a significant decrease in agricultural yields.
4. Excessive contamination of water resources and causing damage to vital biodiversity.
5. Latent regional conflict due to water scarcity, which could lead to war.

Waterborne diseases due to lack of clean drinking water are among the major reasons for the death of children under five years. Patients suffering from waterborne diseases occupy half of the world's hospital beds. The World Bank estimates that 88 % of all diseases are caused by lack of sufficient water for sanitation and hygiene and unsuitable drinking water. Drought affects the delicate balance in the supply of clean drinking water. However, human

The UN further states, "There is enough of water for all," and " lack of sufficient water in many cases is due to poor water management and corruption, lack of appropriate institutions, bureaucratic inertia and lack of investment in human capacity and infrastructure.

Grand Renaissance Dam

Ethiopia's new Nile dam
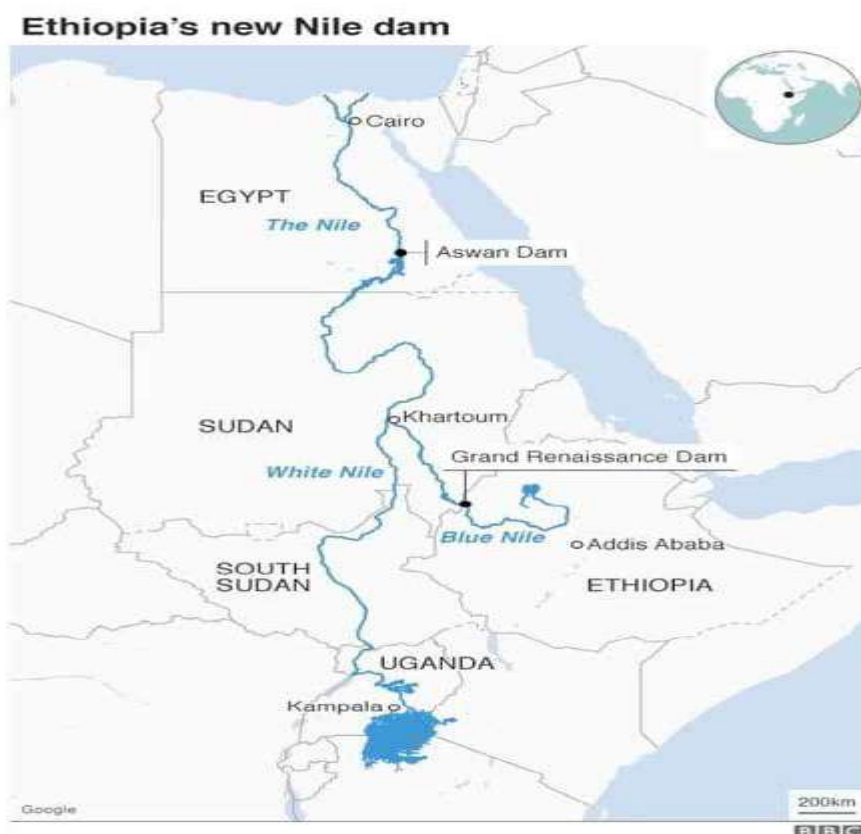
acts such as an irrational decision by leaders exacerbate the effects of drought. A UN report indicates that governance is the core reason behind the water crisis being experienced in different parts of the world.

The UN further states, "There is enough of water for all," and " lack of sufficient water in many cases is due to poor water management and corruption, lack of appropriate institutions, bureaucratic inertia and lack of investment in human capacity and infrastructure." The expected effects of the Ethiopian insistence on the construction of the Renaissance Dam on Egyptian national security are through: The design of the Renaissance Dam, with its current capacity of 74 billion cubic meters, will impact negatively on the electric power production capacity of the downstream Aswan High Dam. These effects will be exacerbated in times of drought. The anticipated reduction of Egypt's share of the Nile waters will lead to

the wastage of large tracks of agricultural land as well as the displacement of millions of Egyptian families. The possibility of a collapse of the Renaissance Dam, as the dam is built on a steep slope, can lead to the wiping out of entire settlements downstream, such as the city of Khartoum City and possibly the Aswan High Dam. The construction of the Renaissance Dam will affect Ethiopia's strategic control of the Nile River water, increasing the chances of the dam collapsing; because of geological factors and the rush of the waters from the Blue Nile.

Conclusion

The effects of the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam have a direct impact on Egyptian national security, and this requires adherence to previous signed treaties and agreements that require the respect of Egyptian rights regarding any future changes to the Nile, as well as its historical rights in the Nile River, being its only source of water. ∎

MALAWI DEMONSTRATES DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE AMIDST ELECTORAL FRAUD: 2019-2020 ELECTORAL PERIOD

Malawi, like some other African countries, recently experienced a political quagmire that emanated from mismanagement of elections. Events that followed 2019 mismanagement of the electoral process left a trail of repercussions, which affected the security of the Republic. This article intends to analyze implications the 2019 Tripartite Elections had on Malawi. On 27 May 2019, the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) announced election results declaring Peter Mutharika winner of the constitutionally mandated election amid allegations of fraud and use of tippex to conceal a true reflection of the voters' decision. This announcement was met with countrywide demonstrations which were more severe and violent in the central region of the country; home and stronghold of the losing candidate; Lazarus Chakwera who the demonstrators thought had won. Shops were broken into and tyres burnt on the highways. Some criminal elements exploited the opportunity and started stealing property leaving owners in fear for their lives. Blocking of roads and halting of business was hurting the economy.

Apart from the demonstrations, vehicles bearing registration numbers from the southern region of the country; home and stronghold of the declared winning candidate were either burned or damaged. These elections were therefore being viewed as a tribal rivalry affecting societal security. Social cohesion is one of the social structures that strengthens national security meaning the breaking of the social fabric negatively affects security as citizens see each other as adversaries. The electoral fraud thus brought issues of societal security among the citizens. Police was deployed to subdue the situation but instead the state of affairs kept escalating. Some police stations and government

COL ALFRED L MATAMBO MALAWI

structures were demolished leaving some areas without governance structures. The police were even chased from their houses including their families by the angry mobs. The situation kept escalating until the military had to be deployed to the streets. On the sidelines, the presumed losers of the election sought redress at the Constitutional Court. After lengthy court proceedings, on 3rd February 2020, the Court annulled the elections and declared MEC incompetent. Consequently, the head of MEC was forced to step down. The electoral fraud therefore affected the effectiveness of the Police, MEC and led to deployment of the Military to policing duties.

The situation kept escalating until the military had to be deployed to the streets. On the sidelines, the presumed losers of the election sought redress at the Constitutional Court.

After this judgement, the then President Peter Mutharika and MEC appealed against the ruling to the Supreme Court of Appeal. Again the President attempted to untimely retire the head of the Judiciary; Chief Justice Richard Banda. This attempt was however declared illegal by the courts. This means that the two Arms of the Malawi Government; Executive and the Judiciary were now at loggerheads. The ruling from the Supreme Court of Appeal upheld the ruling of the lower court. Both rulings ordered MEC and the then President to shoulder the costs of the case which amounted to around US$4 Million. By extension, the government was to shoulder cost of this electoral fraud. The fresh elections would cost over US$60 Million. These funds could have been used to provide social services or to improve economic infrastructure thus positively impacting on human security of the citizens. The nullification of the 2020 elections by the Court brought many questions with regard to the role played by the so-called International Electoral Observers who are always quick to declare elections free and fair without critically analyzing the process.

The period of campaign and running of the court-sanctioned elections came at a time when COVID 19 was garnering its toll on Malawi. The government declared the State of Emergency to curb the spread of the virus. This declaration was however interpreted as politicization of the pandemic and political rallies continued defiantly, thus increasing the virus prevalence to unmanageable levels. July 2020 Fresh Presidential Elections were largely run to the satisfaction of most Malawians with Lazarus Chakwera declared a winner. Some lessons can however be drawn from the events of the 2019 and 2020 Presidential Election. The first is the role the Judiciary played

in highlighting the value of electoral jurisprudence. The second lesson is the importance of a vibrant democratic culture and an active civil society and active citizenship. The Malawian civil society demonstrated its vibrancy through protests and court cases. Thirdly, an independent Judiciary is very important as it performs its duties of checking abuse of office as MEC did. Events after 2019 electoral fraud highlighted the importance of a strong institutional framework that effectively entrenches the principle of checks and balances. Despite the Executive attempting to derail the court proceeding by retiring the Chief Justice, an independent judiciary checked this attempted abuse of powers.

Fourthly, the events call the need to revisit the roles of Electoral International Observer Missions. Observers from both Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) reported the elections to be 'Free and Fair' while the Courts determined otherwise. This demands a revisit to the way business is done in these organizations with regard to elections. The last and possibly most important of all the lessons learned is the need for professional integrity by individuals holding public offices. The new Chair of the MEC made several changes in the operations of the commission, increased transparency. This increased organizational integrity even among the staff that worked with the leadership of the annulled electoral process. Integrity of the whole organization rests on the individual integrity of the leaders.

In conclusion, events that unfolded in the post-election context demonstrated the resilience of Malawi's democratic culture and the importance of stakeholder engagement. Civic activism and Malawian civil society demonstrated that elections are not about a single event of voting, but rather about a broader context that must enjoy the confidence of the people. The events also highlighted the increasing positive role of the judiciary in electoral processes in Malawi, which will in the long run facilitate the value of electoral jurisprudence. More importantly, it has been observed that lack of integrity in individual leaders nearly led the country into a civil chaos; it led to loss of millions of government coffers. This should be lesson to other public officers that they should always strive to prioritize public interest ahead of their own desires. ∎

UGANDA GIFTED BY NATURE

Uganda a country with a population of 45m people has more than 50 different tribes; it is astride the equator in the East African sub region has some of the most astonishing facts as follows bellow. Uganda is the source of the river Nile which is the most ancient and mighty river covering a distance of about 6853 kilometers. Along the Nile, up-to until recent, Uganda boasted of the best rafting opportunities in the world in terms of two to three days and the main reason was that most rivers across the globe are seasonal rivers and yet the Nile here is almost constant. The Nile in Uganda has probably the most powerful waterfalls of the world in a place called Murchison Falls National Park. The whole of the Nile struggles to pass through a canyon which is seven metres wide, falling more than 30 metres deep, something which gives us a bragging right that we aren't utilising.The same Nile in Uganda could probably offer Africa's biggest opportunity for cruises aiming at the wildlife views at its banks with some of the most beautiful scenaries.

The stretch between Murchison Falls

COL MICHAEL W HYEROBA
UGANDA

National Park and Nimule is about 220 kilometers of calm waters for massive potential of cruises which would give a visitor opportunities of going through former Aswa Olilim game reserve degazatted by president Idi Amin, Ajai game reserve and east Madi game reserve. Uganda boasts of hosting more than 53 per cent of the world population of the mountain gorillas which are in both Bwindi National Park and Magahinga National Park.

Uganda, which is about the same size as the United Kingdom (UK) or Oregon in the United States of America, has about 1,078 different species of birds making it 50 per cent of Africa's species and 73 per cent of East Africa's. Uganda having a diverse environment including water bodies, rivers, forests, savanna areas, swamps, woodland act as habitat for the different species. Uganda is on the major migratory route for birds escaping the bad weather during the winters in Europe. The birds tend to come to the Mediterranean, partly follow the Nile and end up mainly on the islands on Lake Victoria. These birds leave again for good weather in Europe using their internal clocks. Uganda has 22 game reserves and national parks combined which makes us unique. It is impossible to find a place anywhere in the world with a concentration of primates like the Kibale Forest National Park. Those that have written about Kidepo Valley National Park think it is the most beautiful scenically on the continent to the extent that one time the British prime minister Winston Churchill called her the "**Pearl of Africa**", let alone the wildlife opportunities therein which is a big attraction in its self is also.

Kidepo is surrounded by lots of hills and mountains, which offer a photographer a life time opportunity of photography. Queen Elizabeth National Park, which is about 1998 kilometers squared, is believed to have the highest concentration of birds in the world.

This park also offers the best opportunity of watching the tree climbing lions which is very rear. I can't forget to say, it has a very special water channel connecting two major lakes namely, Edward and Lake George commonly known as the kazinga channel. This channel is a "birders" paradise and offers close opportunities of watching the giant hippos that laze around during day time. I can't mention Queen Elizabeth National Park without talking about Kyambura Gorge hosting many primate species including the famous chimpanzees. A visitor to Queen Elizabeth National Park will enjoy visiting the communities surrounding the park, the salt mining areas of Lake Katwe and big numbers of craters across the national parks.

The hippopotamus experience The third largest living land mammal after the white rhino and the elephant its hide alone weighs a half atone. The hippopotamus popularly referred to as hippo is asocial animal found in East Africa majority of whom are in Uganda. Hippos are very aggressive most of them will be seen with old and fresh scars, deep wounds which are a sign of daily fights that are accompanied by much **bellowing, snorting and neighing**. The hippo has huge open–mouth, razor sharp incisors and tusk like canines which are some of the characteristic postures of the hippo. Hippos have unique glands that produce viscous red fluid; leading to the myth the hippos "**sweat blood**" they rely on water or mud to keep cool. Its **plumb** and **bulk** body is set on **short**, **stumpy**, **legs**, with each foot having four **webbed toes** on each foot. They are well adapted to their aquatic life, with the **small ears**, **eyes**, and **nostrils** set at the top of the head. These senses are so **keen** that even when submerged in water the hippo is **alert** to its surroundings. By closing its **ears** and **nostrils**, the adult can stay under **water** for as long as **six** minutes. To watch hippos visit Uganda's national parks like the **queen Elizabeth N P** and **mackson falls NP**. as challenges are part of the human struggles, our parks had a problem of poaching and human encroachment by individuals from communities neighboring our national parks however this was sorted by establishing the **Uganda wild life authority(UWA)** that has gone a long way in stemming the vices that had otherwise threatened our **gifts of nature** as custodians of security we would be keen to support our wild life conservationists in the continued struggle to preserve the **Devine treasures** of our country. In conclusion, Uganda is not just **gifted by nature** but it is **Africa compressed**. ∎

Beautiful sceneries.

A family of hippos at pakwach on river Nile.

A young hippo.

Lake Katwe Crater in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Crater Lake.

Beautiful sceneries.

THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN DISPUTE SETTLEMENT: A CASE OF BURUNDI

In traditional African society, conflicts of various forms occurred. The resolution, transformation and management of the conflict may, however, produce a win-win situation or result in a win-lose situation. The essence of dispute settlement and conflict resolution in traditional African societies includes removing the root-causes of the conflict; reconciling the conflicting parties genuinely; preserving and ensuring harmony, and making everybody involved in the resolved conflict happy. A long time ago, Burundi, like other African countries, had a way of dealing with conflicts. In this regard, Burundi has an institution called *Bashingantahe,* in charge of the disputes. Although, the legal traditions of the institution were largely unwritten, law derives essentially from customs, traditions and common sense. A society which neglects the instructive value of its past for its present and future, cannot be self-confident and self-reliant; and will therefore lack internally generated dynamism and stability. Therefore, the institution of *Bashingantahe* continues to attend to the dispute resolution of the grass roots despite some challenges they are facing.

The origin and selection of the bashingantahe

The concept or the term *bashingantahe* (singular *umushingantahe*) refers to men of integrity who are responsible for settling conflicts at all levels, from the top of the hill to the courts of kings. According to legend, the institution of *bashingantahe* goes back to the late 17th century and a wise elder famous for his judgements rendered during the reign of the first king. This indicates that the origin of the institution is essentially judicial. It is made up of the elderly, people of irreproachable morality, and has played an important role for many decades, particularly during the era of the monarchy. According to the research carried out countrywide by Assumpta Naniwe-Kaburahe, to be selected, a candidate must exemplify certain essential qualities, such as experience and wisdom; a high regard and love for truth; a sense of

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honour and dignity; a love of work and the ability to provide for the needs of others; a highly developed sense of justice and fairness; a sense of the common good and social responsibility; and sobriety and balance in speech and action. Other moral and intellectual qualities are also needed, such as discretion, a keen intelligence, self-respect and respect for others, a spirit of temperance, courage and dedication.

The investiture of Bashingantahe and the meaning of the oath

Prior to the investiture, the candidate has a mentor who monitors him more closely, lavishing advice on him, initiating him into a deep knowledge of customs and skills in dispute settlement, which is the knowledge and information that he needs in order to perform his future duties. During the investiture, the candidate must take the oath of loyalty, which represents not only the covenant between the people and the newly invested *umushingantahe,* but also the commitment to fulfill the obligations that flow from it.

The challenges of the institution of Bashingantahe from the colonial

The institution was an integral part of traditional Burundian society, which, as is observed above, had clearly defined missions and played the role of check and balance. However, subsequent socio-political developments did not leave it

untouched. In the course of its historical evolution, it has both changed its form and lost some of its prerogatives. Thus, all through the different regimes, colonial as well as post-colonial, the institution of *bashingantahe* has experienced many vicissitudes and distortions of its basic values, in the sense that it has sometimes been oppressed and forgotten, and sometimes been used as a tool for the programmes and policies of successive administrations.

The impact of the 1993 crisis on the institution

The 1993 crisis was a further difficult test for an institution already seriously affected by the vicissitudes of the colonial and republican regimes. The role it played during the inter-ethnic massacres that plunged the country into mourning for over a decade cannot be passed over. Following the return of calm, in several areas, these men started to organize themselves to engage in a process of reuniting and reconciling communities, which had been tearing themselves apart along ethnic lines, and with the intention of restoring dialogue and progressive reconciliation among their members.

The institution of Bashingantahe today

This section analyses the role it has been able to play during the various events the country has experienced over the past decade, the impact of these events on its functioning, and its overall place in society. Despite the prevailing situation, the institution has not completely lost its credibility in the community it serves, which continues to resort to its wisdom. The strengths of this secular institution, which has traditionally played a primary role in the organization of Burundian society, are found in the way it is organized, its mission and the principles that guide its actions. On the social front, the institution was and is still a factor in social cohesion, order, the resolution of conflicts, and reconciliation between individuals and families. The institution has a national dimension in the sense that its members

are active in all provinces right down to the hill (village) level, and membership is not limited to a particular ethnic group or clan. As a result, it can exercise moral authority and influence in society, and participate in the moral reconstruction of public life and in community harmonization. It is also founded on universal values, especially concern for justice, a high regard for the truth and a deep respect for the common interest.

Conclusions and recommendations

The respected institution of *Bashingantahe* is the crucible of national values. For a long time it has offered Burundian society, a basis on which its communities could be held together and prevented from collapsing. The *Bashingantahe* have

served as lubricants for the wheels of traditional Burundian society. At the time of the monarchy, the functions delegated to them went beyond purely judicial: they served as custodians of tradition, and their mores were a force for social cohesion and the maintenance of order and exercised a regulatory role within the politico-administrative system.

The evolution of the institution from the colonial era up to the third Republic was marked by periods of darkness. With the intrusion of civil servants, the manipulation of the institution, its politicization and the forbidding of investiture, it has been denatured and has lost some of its substance. Fortunately, it has survived all forms of adversity and

remains alive and vibrant up to this day. The time has come for it to be rehabilitated and modernized in order to adapt it to current challenges and needs, so that it can contribute to the restoration of social harmony and the reconstruction of the country.

This is a condition for its survival. It does not necessarily mean a revival of ancestral customs simply for the sake of remaining faithful to tradition. It is rather a question of drawing out the essential from tradition and integrating it with the positive dimensions of modernity in order to derive an organic synthesis from the process. It is a question of building something new upon the old, of adapting the institution to contemporary challenges. ■

The investiture of Bashingantahe Source: https://www.google.co.ke search?q=investiture+of+Bashingantahe&sxsrf

UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS AND THE NEED FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS IN SOCIETY

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The serious need to address mental health is necessitated by the high numbers of people affected. A good example is with depression. Depression is the most common form of mental disorder affecting over 264 million people globally. In the United States, 51.5 million adults suffered mental illness in 2019. The 51.5 million represents about 20.6% of American adults. In Kenya, it was discovered that one in every ten people suffer from a mental disorder. This numbers were part of the findings by a Mental Health Taskforce led by Dr. Frank Njenga. The task force recommended that mental illness should be declared a national emergency in the country to give it more attention and focus.

The World Health Organization describes good mental health as "a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and can make a contribution to his or her community". For any successful and productive society, the mental state of the communities within it is crucial in achieving prosperity. However, in modern-day society, mental health has become a big challenge. Mental health disorder has negatively impacted on the society. Whether you are affected directly or indirectly, mental disorders have become a real problem to the economies and productivity of those affected by mental issues. Some of the causes of

mental health disorders include: -

Trauma: Post-traumatic stress disorder, a mental health condition, is prevalent in people who have undergone a traumatic event. Trauma can be in different forms. It can range from abuse, both emotional, physical and psychological. Witnessing a traumatic event can also be distressing. For instance, soldiers returning home from war often experience trauma from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Having to constantly re-live harrowing experiences without timely intervention can easily develop into depression.

Hereditary Factors: Some mental conditions are suspected to be influenced by the genetic history of an individual. It is believed some mental disorders run in the family. They include autism, schizophrenia, bipolar and major depression.

Substance Abuse: Alcohol and drug abuse is the most common form of substance abuse. Addiction from substance abuse is hard to handle and manage. There are many reasons why some people resort to substance abuse. It can be due to alcohol influence. Some people including soldiers facing PTSD end up abusing substances as a way of coping with the stress. Alcoholism and drug abuse play significant roles in some depression patients.

Environment: Some predisposing factors for mental disorders are present in the environment surrounding an individual. Frequent experiences with stress, abuse, drugs and other factors can easily set one on a path of mental turmoil. These experiences are likely to influence people. They can also affect how they may end up dealing with things in the future. The surrounding environment has a significant impact on one's mental health.

Stigma: Stigma can occur because of different reasons. It can be because of dealing with a personal experience because of family or dealing with a situation like a disease considered socially a taboo by the immediate society. Stigmatization results in isolation and loneliness in most instances. Having to deal with this kind of pressure can be overwhelming. It can easily result in a mental illness.

Fight against Mental Disorders: Generally, societal views and responses towards mental illness have been changing positively in the recent past. With the large numbers of people affected by different forms of mental illness, efforts towards helping and managing mental disorders have improved. Some of the ways that can help patients deal with mental illness include: respecting and accepting them. This goes a long way in making patients feel part of the community. It sets them in a good mental space to help them battle the illness.

Advocacy for mental health patients and victims: Taking part in campaigns and initiatives that promote equality and fair treatment of people affected by mental illness forms a basis of advocacy. Other forms of participation include: Learning about mental health and trying to understand more about mental health as a way of helping people facing mental health problems. Supporting wellness centers that care for mental illness patients. Wellness centers are crucial in getting mental patients and families back on their feet and the subsequent integration into society.
Supporting welfare initiatives contributes positively to the well-being of the patients. Support can be offered in any form, including: financial aid, giving talks and volunteering in helping out at mental and wellness centers at different roles and capacity.

Mental Health Awareness: Mental health awareness involves initiating a conversation about the importance of mental health in society. It revolves around promoting mental health and the steps needed to create a conducive environment for everyone to have a better mental state in the community.

Importance of Mental Health Awareness: It is informative and educative. Awareness provides an opportunity for people to learn about mental health and mental illnesses. Knowledge acquired is crucial in tackling matters of mental health. Enough knowledge about mental health also makes it easy to understand and help families affected in the community.

It helps in fighting stigma: The more people know about mental health, the easier it becomes to embrace those affected by mental health disorders. Stigma reduces in a society where the majority of the people are well informed. Reducing stigma by creating awareness allows the affected to heal quickly by having a conducive environment around them.

It promotes chances of early intervention: When people are aware of early indicators of a mental health disorder, it becomes easy to intervene early incase an illness manifests. Early intervention can be very crucial in some cases. When an illness is noticed during its initial stages, steps towards managing and curing the illness can be taken at an early stage as well. Intervention can be in form of medication, therapy just to name a few. Such intervention can end up playing a crucial role in ensuring the illness is controlled and managed preventing it from developing into a major mental disorder/illness.

It promotes healthy living: Having a good state of mind is part of healthy living. Awareness allows people to learn about promoting a healthy mental state for themselves. Promoting healthy living through dietary changes, working out or attending informative sessions at a wellness center nearby. Learning and trying out things that promote a healthy life improves mental health.

It promotes hope to patients and affected families: When patients and families see people close to them invested in their well-being, it gives them a sense of hope. Hope is a huge psychological lift to any patient. When patients see initiatives focusing on their health, it is easy to motivate them to focus on recovery.

Conclusion
Mental health is a significant aspect of life in today's society. Mental illnesses have recently been on the rise exponentially. Directing time and resources towards improving mental health is very important. Understanding the concepts of mental health is critical in handling and helping patients with active cases. It also helps in limiting and fighting the stigma directed towards patients and their families. A community with excellent mental health is a healthy community. With the prevalence of mental illnesses growing, it is crucial that governments step in and raise their involvement in combating mental health. Mental health should be an integral part of any government when it comes to policy making. Inter-governmental cooperation in improving mental health can help a great deal in reducing the bulging numbers of mental health patients. ◼

RISE IN TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN KENYA

While teen pregnancy is common in Kenya and should remain at the top of the government's political agenda, it only comes up in public conversation on rare occasions when sparked by certain circumstances after which it is buried, and life goes on as usual. The last time this issue made the front pages and caused a stir was during the national examination period in 2018 when reports surfaced of several young girls becoming pregnant or giving birth while taking their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education or Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exams. It, therefore, begs the question why the rise in teen pregnancies in the country. First of all, increased juvenile pregnancies can be attributed to the increased access to the internet which exposes teenagers to inappropriate content. In the recent past, there have been viral videos on social media exposing school children engaging in egregious behavior. Whereas each century is characterized by some transformations that shape human behavior, it seems like the 21st century has revolutionized the values, beliefs and tenets that once defined morality and ethicality regarding sexual perspectives. There are a number of aspects that the current century has imposed on us that continue to mutate our behavior.

When the internet was introduced in Kenya in the early 2000s, teenagers flocked to cyber cafes to watch erotic material. One can now imagine how the century has advanced technologically; most households can afford smartphones and the Internet. The 21st century has replaced toys with tabs where children own one even before they learn to crawl. By the time they step in school, they are already exposed to obscene content a factor further augmented by the television culture. Children spend most of their time watching music videos with indecent dancing styles and soap operas that acquaints them with courtship skills and lustful desires. A relentless exposure to such programs indoctrinates children with premature sexual wishes and the anxiety to explore exciting things. Second, the mannerisms in which children talk about sex unashamedly coupled with the increased liberalism also induce them into premature sexual life. Sex is no longer revered and is treated casually thanks

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to increased content from the West. At teenage, these youngsters act mature as a result of early exposure to social media. By the age of 15 years or even less, children have fully developed social media pages and at such a tender age, they chat and respond to erotic messages with alacrity. As time goes by, the 21st century continues to morph teenagers into independent-minded people seeking pleasure.

Unfortunately, there is nothing parents and teachers can do to contain the wave because they are also trapped in the same 21st century winds. Most contemporary teachers and parents are

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youthful people who also spend most of their free time on the internet consuming erotic content. Addiction to social media is slowly enervating parents' ability to curve a morally accepted path for their children. Besides, teachers cannot stop children from accessing phones, for it is tantamount to breaking the 21st century parenting cycle that they themselves helped to curve. It is also almost impossible denying teenagers the gadgets they started using in their infancy. The 21st century has also contaminated the nobility of parenting as guardians fail to act as role models. Most young mothers not only dress provocatively but also adorn their children in a seductive way. This, amplified by the increased rate of children maturity, exposes teenagers to men who derive trophies from sexing young girls. Besides, young parents rarely control what they talk before their children. Some of the conversations between children and their parents makes one think it is two adults speaking.

Fourth, the COVID-19 pandemic leading to lack of access to sexual and reproductive health treatments during the period has exacerbated the rise in teen pregnancies. As the country's healthcare system and medical resources are focused on, combating the coronavirus and caring for the sick, reproductive health services may have been neglected. Further, in April 2020, Kenya implemented strong preventive measures to try to stop the spread of the coronavirus including restricting movement and closing schools, making it far more difficult to get sexual and reproductive health services. Due to the lockdowns, the younger generation suffered and continues to suffer an unwanted and unexpected side effect of a huge increase in teen pregnancies. A number of reasons can be attributed to the rise in teen pregnancies during the period. Kenya was already grappling with reduced funding for reproductive and sexual health services, as well as restricted sex education in schools, even before the pandemic. Since sexual health is rarely discussed at home, Kenyan teenagers rely on their schools for information. However, they could not obtain the necessary education for pregnancy prevention because the sex education curriculum focuses primarily on HIV prevention and abstinence. Kenyan pupils, on the other hand, do not have

access to even this restricted sexual health instruction while in lockdown, hence the exponential increase in unintended pregnancies.

Lastly, despite accumulating evidence that our young people are commencing sex younger than in the past, initiatives to address teenage pregnancies and other sexual and reproductive health issues have previously been resisted by parents, religious leaders, political leaders and other stakeholders. Proven interventions, such as appropriate sexuality education are sometimes criticized as encouraging young people to engage in sex. Evidence must play a vital role in designing solutions that can stump out the problem from its fundamental cause in order to solve this challenge decisively.

Teen pregnancies are a huge socioeconomic concern since they deny young girls the opportunity to continue with their education and pursue their career objectives. It also puts them and their children in grave danger. According to the World Health Organization, pregnancy and childbirth problems are the biggest cause of death among females aged 15–19 years. To stem the tide and protect young girls, it is critical to address the structural causes by properly supporting and consistently implementing cost-effective programs. Cultural, religious, and socioeconomic variables have a role in this problem and strategies to address them. With honesty and openness, hard truths and realities of the matter must be confronted. On the flipside, although the charm instigated by social media has adulterated discipline among youngsters, the society should realize that as the century advances, new normalcies must be adopted. It is quixotic to think that the debacle of teenage pregnancies can be prevented. This is a menace that cannot be determined by how disciplined or undisciplined a child is due to its deep entrenchment in the very systems that control our demeanors in the 21st century. Instead of fighting so hard to avoid teenage pregnancies, the society should now focus on exposing schoolchildren to sex education where they can learn safe sex practices. Moreover, the society should accept teenage pregnancies as a new normalcy brought about by the 21st century and help prepare juvenile mothers for the arduous task of juggling between education and parenting. ∎

AFRICA, WHY DON'T WE UNITE? WHERE ARE WE STUCK?

History shows that the idea of Uniting African countries originated in the United States with Americans of African descent under the name "Pan – Africanism". Initially it was a cultural movement and later turned into a political movement aimed at uniting independent African nations. The movement came at a time when the struggle for African rights around the world, so it was time. The movement was supported by leaders of independent African countries. For example, Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), Julius Nyerere (Tanzania) and others. Kwame Nkrumah and Julius Nyerere differed on how to unite these African countries. Kwame Nkrumah thought it best to speed up the alliance and Julius Nyerere saw the right way to go slowly. But great efforts were made by the leaders, it was a difficult period for them as African countries had come out of the liberation movement from their colonial hands. Its people were poor and many were uneducated. currently elite Africans are many, the state of poverty has diminished. The question therefore is whether Africa has agreed to remain where our ancestors left us with little progress

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now regardless of our States, Provinces, Counties, Regions, Districts and Villages, as well as our ethnicity and religion. If we continue to embrace those things, we will remain living the life we have and with no one to blame but ourselves. I wonder, where are we stuck? There is no answer. Africa has a size of 30.37 million Km² has a fortune of $ 2.2 trillion according to *van Fleet, Justin W.*

It is a great possibility that if these countries unite, the people of this continent can have a better life and enjoy their presence here in a wonderful world God created for us. But also, Africa would consolidate its resources and be under the control of one government. For example, minerals found in Tanzania, Ghana, South Africa, DRC and elsewhere, Oil in Nigeria, South Sudan, and elsewhere; Gas is available in Tanzania, Mozambique and Forests, Rivers, Lakes, Livestock e.t.c. These resources for lack of unity, end up benefiting the few, especially those in power, politicians and foreign countries. Government officials and politicians are a minority on the continent, hurting many Africans and making them live in miserable poverty. Our leaders have become selfish, looking more closely at their lives and are not addressing the grievances of the citizens they lead. Another group belongs to some

are African elites. It is possible that this group is not to blame, but they have the opportunity and contribution to change this continent. Some scholars have indulged in politics and stopped lecturing in universities and other high learning institutions. It is right for them to become politician, but they were expected to be a catalyst of change in the way politics is operated in Africa and not to play the same game that other politicians used to, they had to use that arena to come up with new constructive ideas to change not only their countries but also the entire continent. Africa has scholars who have specialized in various fields, it is a pity that we do not see these scholars helping this continent, we do not see them unite as scholars and fight for Africa. Writing books as scholars is a very good thing but putting into practice what is in the books, is a much better thing. Leaders and Scholars of the liberation movement of our African countries we have seen and benefited from the fruits of their labour, which was, the redemption of our countries. We relied on and still the Children of Africa believe the current Leaders and intellectuals have great potential to make this continent one country.

I love Africa without Borders, see how it attracts

Developed nations have a significant contribution to the ideological and developmental decline of the African continent and are still interested in the continent, and are not ready to see this continent become united.

By dividing us they benefit, one does not need to be a scholar of any level to understand this. Haven't we figured out yet? Who doesn't know that our colonists

then are still colonists so far? They planted the seed, has grown and now we call ourselves Franca phone and Anglophone and they are happy while drinking coffee grown in Kilimanjaro, Ruvuma and Songwe Regions as well as Kiambu, Nyeri and Kirinyaga Counties. We are satisfied and continue to help them achieve their (European) strategic plans. Africans have no plans to liberate the continent from the new type of dependence. The African Union is changing its name, it does not change the state of the African continent, and those who came up with the idea left the scene; Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Jomo Kenyatta, Kenneth Kaunda and others.

The challenges of uniting and becoming one continent exist and will continue to exist, the key is to look at the pros and cons of merging African countries. I believe that if Africa unites, there are bigger benefits than disadvantages. The Great Nations are afraid and hesitating of this continent uniting, let us not fall for their fear. Let's start now with the idea of uniting to get rid of the problems that plague this continent. Leaders at various levels and departments, intellectuals and sons of Africa, our unit our strength. ∎

THE TRIBES AND CULTURE OF THE PEOPLE OF UGANDA

In the 21st century, one may argue that people have abandoned their cultures because of religion, education, and western civilisation. However, across Africa, the traditions, customs and beliefs of many tribes have been carefully passed on to their children, such that these cultures continue to thrive. In pre-colonial Uganda, culture had long interacted with other civilisations, especially the Arabs, during the Long-Distance Trade. This was before the advent of western civilisation and culture has continued to survive despite the coming of Europeans towards the end of the 19th Century. Uganda culture has remained resilient and has withstood the assault by the so-called modernity, featuring high levels of advancement

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in science and technology. Uganda is a country with many diverse, rich and unique culture.

In pre-colonial times, the country was organised into kingdoms and chiefdoms stemming from four ethnic groups. The prominent kingdoms included Buganda, Bunyoro and Tooro, while prominent chiefdoms included Acholi and Busoga. These were comparable to absolute monarchs. They were abolished in the 1960s for political reasons but again restored in the 1990s in consideration of their role in promoting and preserving culture. The four ethnic groups in Uganda include the **Bantu**, the largest group originating from the Cameroon highlands.

The other three ethnic groups are the Luo from southern Sudan, the Nilo-hamites from Abyssinia in Ethiopia, and the group from West Nile, sometimes referred to as the Sudanic group. Most of these ethnic groups are widely spread, closely related. They are in Uganda, East Africa and beyond.

The other three ethnic groups are the **Luo** from southern Sudan, the **Nilo-hamites** from Abyssinia in Ethiopia, and the group from West Nile, sometimes referred to as the **Sudanic** group. Most of these ethnic groups are widely spread, closely related. They are in Uganda, East Africa and beyond. For instance, the Bantu tribes comprise several hundred indigenous ethnic groups in Africa, spread over a vast area from Central Africa across the African Great Lakes to Southern Africa.

In Uganda, the Bantu covering most of the southern Uganda are primarily organised in kingdoms. These people are primarily agriculturalists as well as pastoralists. The **Bantu**, with 'ntu' letters in that word which means human beings, are the Baganda, Basoga, Banyankore, Bagisu, Batooro, Bamba, Batwa, Bakonjo, Banyole, Bakiga, Bagwere, Basamba-bagwe, Banyoro and Bafumbira. The **Luo** comprises of the Acholi, Alur, Japhadola and the Jonan. The Luo are mainly organised in chiefdoms such as the Acholi Chiefdom; the ruler is Rwot Onen Acana 11- Paramount Chief. The **Nilo-Hamites** include the Karimojong, the Itesots, the Langi and the Kumam. The **West Nilotes** comprise of the Madi, the Ikebu, the Lugbara, Bari, Metu and Kakwa. All these different tribes have features that vary like the traditional names, marriages, burials, ceremonies, dances, staple foods, economic activities, languages, the dressing, art and crafts, just to mention a few. These aspects of culture transcend individual wishes and have remained, existing alongside western civilisation.

For instance, the institution of marriage with its ceremony is always a highly anticipated occasion filled with joy and celebrations. In most African tribes, their culture demands that a girl bring her suitor to her parents, despite being modern. This has a bit changed, compared to arranged marriages of the past. Currently the Baganda, for example, have a traditional marriage known widely as an introduction ceremony 'kwanjula' where the girl introduces her suitor to her parents. There is always the 'kasiki', which is held at the girls' home and at the boys' home on the night before the wedding ceremony. On the cultural dances, these differ by tribes as well as occasion. They include celebrations during birth, harvest periods, circumcision or initiation ceremonies, marriage, and death in some cultures. Some of these dances include Entongore by the Batooro for wedding ceremonies, Imbalu by the Bagisu for circumcision, Amagunjju by the Baganda for coronation or ceremonies the king must attend. When dancing the dancers wear beads, earrings, traditional backcloth, feathers, papyrus reed, ankle bells, cow horns and they use spears, fishnets, pots, milk items, jars to bring out the message in the dance. Drums, a xylophone, shakers, bow lyre, harp are also used to accompany the dance. All these are in line with beliefs and traditions of the ancestors.

Cultural dress is another aspect that has outlived modernity. The Gomesi in Buganda is the most common traditional wear mainly worn by the women in the central region of Uganda. It is named after a Goan tailor called Gomez, the first person to develop the design in the early 20th century. It is a very descent and elegant, floor length dress with puffy sleeves worn with a sash that tied around the waist. The dress was later adopted by the Baganda who first made it using backcloth and later moved on to other materials when the Asians started trading at the coast of East Africa. The gomesi is worn on various occasions like wedding ceremonies, funerals, state functions and traditional festivals. During funerals, the women are not supposed to show the sash. For the men the kanzu is the most popular. Its origin is traced from the Arab traders who came to the mainland and contacted the local people. The local chiefs adopted it as a special dressing. The kanzu has two different types in Uganda: the Muslim kanzu and the Buganda kanzu, which has embroidery (muleera) on the front side in the middle. The king wears kanzu with all the clans on it to signify he is their head. The king and his officials wear a special cap over the kanzus to set them apart from the rest of the members of the kingdom. (The Chinese also have their version of a kanzu with buttonholes and cuffs on the sleeves.) In rural areas of central Uganda, the elderly people wear kanzus and gomesi because they are perceived as a descent dress, according to customs and traditions.

Uganda has preserved historical sites, quite scattered around the country. They represent the unique cultural heritage like the Kasubi Tombs, still under construction after being burnt in 2020. The tombs are burial site where the kings (kabakas) of Buganda Kingdom are buried. There are also the Nyero rock paintings in Kumi district, the Mparo tombs in Hoima where the Omukama Kabalega, the king of Bunyooro was buried and the ruins of Fort Baker at Patiko in Northern Uganda.

Finally, it is now over a century since western civilisation; religion, education, and art or culture first set foot in Africa and Uganda. Indeed, some aspects considered primitive or against human rights such as circumcision of girls in some tribes, rituals involving human sacrifice, etcetera, have been discarded or discouraged. There has also been marked influence of modernity in many aspects of Africa culture. Equally, most of the traditions and customs still survive and might remain so for a long time to come. ■

Uganda has preserved historical sites, quite scattered around the country. They represent the unique cultural heritage like the Kasubi Tombs, still under construction after being burnt in 2020.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN KENYA: WORKING TOGETHER

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In one of Kenya's referral hospitals hangs the sign 'Universal Health Coverage' pointing down a long corridor. The slogan insinuates the focus on investment in the health sector after the launch of the Big Four Agenda by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta on December 12th, 2017. It may be that in this facility, the responsibility to support the UHC agenda resides in a particular office or department. However, Universal Health Coverage is indeed everyone's business. The World Health Organization defines Universal Health Coverage as when 'all individuals and communities receive the health services they need, when and where they need them, without suffering financial hardship.' It adds that 'it includes the full spectrum of essential, quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care.' Delivering a health service requires making available medicines and other health products prescribed by a well- trained and motivated health worker who has access to the intellectual resources they require for best practice within proper health facilities. In addition, the finances to cater for these services need to be available and at all levels of the health system, effective leadership ought to govern.

The initial steps towards the realization of Universal Health Coverage in Kenya have often been triggered by macro level decision makers in the health system. In addition, the resources directed to support UHC have tended to focus on the higher levels of the health system such as in the equipping of large hospitals. This ap-proach may imply that realizing Universal Health Coverage is a resource intense intermittent venture to the exclusion of more simple interventions. It should be considered that even the simplest interventions within the health system have the potential to bring countries such as Kenya a step closer to realizing Universal Health Coverage. The health systems of different countries vary in how they finance their health care. Some countries have a tax-based system that funds their health care while others have a social health insurance-based system with individuals eligible for predetermined benefits. Most systems depend on out-of-pocket payments to varying degrees with other countries having a mix of these models.

Various reforms have been envisioned for Kenya's healthcare system as regards its financing in the context of devolution. At county level, the power to prioritize expenditure presents a great opportunity to progress towards Universal Health Coverage. One example is through targeted funding of health prevention and promotion programs. These programs aim to prevent disease which costs less than treatment. In addition, utilization of community engagement to bring together households to contribute to the National Hospital Insurance Fund has the potential to reduce catastrophic out of pocket spending. Strengthening existing health information systems and providing intellectual resources can greatly facilitate the progression of the UHC agenda. Hospitals and service delivery points can support the collection of vital data for decision making. Health workers can also be provided with up-to-date information and training to improve their knowledge and clinical skills such as on online training platforms at low cost. This can improve access to quality healthcare services with the added benefit of reducing the need for client referral.

When considering drugs and medical products, there exists in-country capacity to strengthen pharmaceutical supply chain management particularly at county level. This can effectively contribute to the reduction in drug shortages sometimes faced by patients at local health facilities. Local drug manufacturers can also receive incentives so as to reduce the cost of health products. In addition, intervention to ensure proper and prudent prescription of drugs and medical devices by health workers, such as with training or sanctions, may serve to improve patient outcomes. Health workforce investment and planning has great potential to support the UHC agenda even without considering recruitment or pay increments which are the concerns of current wage bill discourse. The Kenya Human Resource for Health Strategic Plan 2019-2023 has prioritized interventions such as the rationalization of existing staff. This, for example, would result in the redeployment of existing health workers within facilities in a region based on need and ensure the availability of health professionals from different disciplines to offer integrated rather than

fragmented care. In addition, if staff are moved from higher level facilities that are often located in urban areas to lower-level facilities, this has the potential to increase access to health services, reduce the distance that clients have to travel, reduce opportunity costs and support care to prevent rather than cure disease.

Service delivery can be conceptualized as the overall function of the health system and the composite product of other health system resources. Well-conceived service delivery has the potential to support the realization of UHC. One key intervention for consideration is the concept of service integration. An example would be integration of physician and mental health clinics to address the rising cases of mental health illness. This may increase access to services that are not routinely available and reduce the cost incurred by patients in travelling between various facilities. In addition, as the patient is able to have multiple needs met in a reduced number of health visits, this may also serve to prevent occurrence of complications related to delays caused by referral. Leadership and governance in the health sector aims to direct and prioritize all resources within the health system. By monitoring performance with pre-determined indicators, ensuring accountability and taking corrective action, health sector leaders play a pivotal role in the realization of Universal Health Coverage. It is possible to develop and guide implementation of interventions that do not require great resources with significant impact. This provides an opportunity for all decision makers in the health system to contribute including the nurse in charge of a rural dispensary.

Finally, the clients or patients themselves can play a role in the realization of Universal Health Coverage. Patient choice may serve as a means by which the quality of health services can be improved. A Kenyan patient, enrolled in the National Hospital Insurance Fund, who seeks care at a health facility and leaves with unmet needs such as due to poor quality of care may seek health care elsewhere. With cumulative transfer of facility choice, this could serve as a source of feedback to this facility. Universal health coverage may thus be viewed as a continuous process with a role for all Kenyans to play, to improve health outcomes for a healthier nation. ∎

CONTRIBUTION OF AFRICAN WOMEN GROUPS IN DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY

The rural African woman is usually forgotten as discussions on women empowerment continue. The Kenya government promulgated the Constitution in 2010 in which thirty per cent women representation in all public positions was entrenched. The women and youth have been targeted to access funds to actualize their business ideas. Further, the girl child opportunities for education have been enforced. However these efforts have targeted women with an education and ability to access this support. I look at two groups I met in my childhood and the impression they left on me.

As a young girl growing up in the village, the feel of clay on my fingers elicited a feeling second to one of a mother's hug. I enjoyed moulding different things. You surely remember young girls loved to imitate their mothers. I would make pots and dolls and feed the dolls with porridge made from the same clay. As I grew older and joined primary school, I was amazed to see a group of middle aged women who too enjoyed the feel of clay in their fingers. I watched them convert the brown, red soil into a mould of clay and they mesmerised us with their skilled workmanship as they converted that mould into different sizes of pots.

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Each homestead among the Kamba community had to have different pots for cooking various dishes. A big pot sat at the corner of every grass thatched house. It was the freezer in the house, providing the coldest water to quench thirst after a long day under the hot semiarid sun. The women sold these pots and made an income to support their families. Majority of these women were widows and this was not only their main source of income but also their psychosocial support system. In the absence of their husbands, women learnt to hold the family together. This was

my first encounter with a self-help group. This group later registered an association and bought machines that made more pots and cured pots faster for sale.

The second encounter occurred when I visited the village to see my grandparents. In this village, homesteads are named after the woman of the house and not the men. One wonders why but you will soon realise. In this village, Wednesdays were special days as mothers, daughters and daughters-in-law would pick up and tie their *lesos* around their waists and carry their little ones on their backs ready to go for "*yielo*", the name given to group contributions in Kamba language, otherwise known as "*Merry-go-round*". All roads led to the host who would also be the recipient of the contributions made that month. As they awaited for 4 o'clock tea, they would share experiences and the older women took this opportunity to educate the younger ones on how to take care of their families. Disputes, especially between daughters and mothers-in-law were resolved informally ensuring peace was maintained.

After tea was served and they had their fill, the chairlady would invite the treasurer to report on the contributions made the previous month. The contributions made

on that day were divided into two: the host received a share while the rest was available to members to borrow as loans. The loans were taken at a monthly interest rate of ten per cent and the women struggled to pay on time, with a collective interest of increasing their contributions. This method is commonly called table banking. At the end of the year, the women would use the money to buy household items for each household and ensure that every child in the village had an opportunity to celebrate Christmas. Women were the source of livelihood in this village. It was the one village I knew where all men left home by 10 am everyday either for work or returned late at night drunk. The women groups used their savings to buy property and sell at a profit, rent for monthly income, establish business and even support the less fortunate in the community.

The role of the rural African woman in ensuring the stability of the society is very clear. The women described above remind me of the woman in the book of Proverbs who must go out of her way to tend the land and provide for her family. The two groups ensured the financial freedom of their families.

Mentorship and the psychosocial support

received through these groups maintained the society and family structure intact. In times of loss, the women would support the deceased's household with food, house chores and kept the night vigil as they sought to comfort the families of the diseases. During the planting and harvesting seasons, the women visited different homes to farm together. This reduced the cost of labour and built community cohesion. The culture of these women was emulated by their children becoming providing good guidance as they grew up to take up their own family responsibilities. This support structure that urban women do not have may have contributed to the high divorce rates as compared to those in these villages.

In conclusion, Rural African Women groups should be recognised and supported. The family unit was/is respected and women played a key role in holding it together. Where possible, this practice should be replicated in the urban centres to hold together the family and societal fabric and structure that is disappearing at a fast rate. Similar support structures should be extended to the men as they have been observed to have limited access to meaningful support structures. ∎

Sigoro Women Group Members. (The Scholar Media Africa)

Purity Gachanga leads the merry-go-round women's group saving money for on and off farm projects Credit (https://www.thelocalafricanews.com/the-wonder-of-merry-go-round-women-groups-in-kenya/)

ISSUES OF MORALITY AND TAX AVOIDANCE

Generally speaking, the conduct of tax affairs is governed by both tax law and morality. Taxes are part of the obligations of the citizenry of a nation. The manner in which taxes are levied is a function of the state. Taxation is heavily governed by laws, commonly known as tax laws. The manner in which individuals conduct their tax affairs is also deemed to be a matter of morality. Since many people do not like paying taxes, a situation called tax avoidance arises. The tax law considers this to be legal as opposed to tax evasion, which the tax laws regard as illegal.

During the last few years, Kenya has been having a national conversation on whether the political class is right in legitimizing their cause for not paying taxes on their high incomes. The citizenry has been asking if it is moral for their representatives in parliament to increase their pay, which is funded by taxpayers' funds and at the same time refuse to be taxed. Furthermore, in spite of the very action of legitimizing both the increase and their non-payment of tax, questions of morality regarding how individuals conduct themselves in meeting their tax obligations has left an indelible imprint in the mind of Kenyans. Most tax payers see no need to pay their full potion of taxes and have justified this position by resorting to the practice of tax avoidance. Is it good or bad to avoid paying our taxes, even though the law allows it? This is not only a question as to whether people should pay their taxes but also a call for people to pay "the right amount of tax".

Morality generally refers to the codes of conduct put forward by a society or, some other group, such as a religion, or accepted by an individual for her own behaviour or normatively to refer to a code of conduct that, given specified conditions, would be put forward by all rational persons. Tax, on the other hand, is a compulsory contribution to state revenue, levied by the government on workers' income and business profits, or added to the cost of some goods, services, and transactions. Tax laws refer to the constitutional, statutory, regulatory, and legal rules and procedures that constitute the law applicable to taxation, which is the method by which the government uses to levy tax on economic transactions. The

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laws cover income, corporate, excise, value added and customs to name just a few. Tax avoidance, on the other hand, is a practice of using legal means to pay the least amount of tax possible. It therefore refers to the usage of the tax law to obtain a tax advantage that the government never intended.

The crux of the matter is that whereas tax avoidance is considered to be immoral by some, others think it is largely a legal issue not a moral one. Other key questions of concern are; whether tax avoidance, although legally provided for, is a moral issue? Is it morally acceptable for anyone to practice tax avoidance by arranging their tax affairs so as to reduce the burden of taxation to a minimum? Does legitimizing a conduct into a law make it moral?

Many have argued that the whole issue of taxation is a moral issue. First, they contend that this is because the whole process of declaring, self-assessing and payment of tax touches on taxpayers conduct. Anything that touches on the conduct of taxpayers certainly becomes a moral issue. When individuals conduct their tax affairs in a moral and honourable way, this is something that ought to be encouraged. Anything else will lead to tax avoidance, dishonesty and ultimately tax evasion.

Second, they insist that the very process of levying taxes always gives rise to questions of fairness and equity. Levying of taxes by the government is obviously an extremely important matter of great sensitivity to taxpayers. There are bound

to be consequences when taxpayers perceive that they are being unfairly taxed. Issues of fairness in taxation are moral matters. Such consequences may include aggressive forms of tax avoidance. Some thinkers have argued that the nature of consequences is the major yardstick by which the morality of our actions is judged. What makes something good or bad, right or wrong, is that it produces the greatest amount of pleasure (or lack of pain) for the greatest number of people. It has been held by some that the right action is that which maximizes the positive outcomes for the largest number of people or alternately, bears the least negative outcomes for lowest number of people. Accordingly, one should choose the action which will lead to the greatest happiness (pleasure, lack of pain) at all times. An unfair tax may give rise to the consequence of a high rate of tax avoidance and tax evasion. This is because this is what will bring happiness to most people. This makes tax avoidance a moral issue. It will also be prudent to say that when one perceives some inequity in the taxes that have been formulated by the state, to the extent that they will decry that inequity or unfairness and seek to bring some fairness for all by practicing tax avoidance makes this a moral issue.

Third, they maintain that tax avoidance as a moral issue lies within the context of the individual. A person who believes that it is immoral to cheat on his taxes will feel guilty for so doing; conversely, he will also feel virtuous for paying the proper amount, because of the assurance he has that he honestly paid his taxes. Such a person holds to high ethics of virtue, in that he believes that what makes something right or wrong, good or bad, is the extent to which it actually enhances desirable human traits that are recognized as good or bad (e.g. charity, justice). These result into a higher or lower attainment of potential for the flourishing of fully human lives. Aristotle once taught that virtue ethics is about actions which portray or produce good or bad character that eventually manifest into positive human habits. It would therefore appear that paying taxes correctly, without trying to cut corners is indeed a virtuous thing that we all ought to aspire to. This therefore makes the conduct of tax avoidance a moral issue.

Fourth, it is also generally held that

something is made good or bad, right or wrong, if it conforms to some (rational) duty. The act of fulfilling duties towards self or other persons is generally considered as morally acceptable, so long as it a widely acceptable human practice; one should therefore chose that action which best conforms to one's recognized duties. The only thing good about the act is the willing to perform that which is generally considered a good act; that will is to do our duty. In matters of taxation, it is our duty to pay our full taxes and not just part of it. We should do so in such a manner that we would desire everyone else to act in a similar manner in similar circumstances all over the country. This therefore makes tax avoidance to be a moral matter.

Fifth, tax avoidance usually employs the adoption of legal avoidance techniques. Kenya has experienced instances where its Members of parliament, driven by self-interest, make and amend laws to increase their pay and further minimize the tax that they ought to pay. The overriding issue here is that someone, who has the legal power to amend a law, has chosen that action whose consequences benefit their self-interest. Public opinion arising out of increasing pressure from various groups has always required our leaders to demonstrate some level of sacrifice, service and social responsibility.
What makes something good or bad, right or wrong, is that it satisfies one's desires, or meets one's needs to the detriment of another. This qualifies to make tax avoidance a moral matter.
Many have countered whether tax is a

moral issue. For instance, they say that complying with one's tax obligations is a matter of lawful conduct-not moral conduct. According to them, tax avoidance should only be judged by tax laws and not morals. The right amount of tax payable is that which is determined by a criterion that is set out in the tax law. It is not an amount that is set out arbitrarily. Tax liability is therefore dependent on the law. When tax payers pay their taxes in obedience to the law, which allows for tax avoidance, it can be said that such an action has been done dutifully, since the obedience of the tax law is in and of itself a good thing.

The second counter argument is that the process of raising taxes is one which the government engages in within the boundaries of its regulations and laws. The government is made up of leaders and bureaucrats who have been elected by the citizens to serve the citizens. This therefore makes such a process lawful and questions of moral inequity cannot therefore arise. It is certain that there will be major conflicts between the essential need of a government to raise revenue and the lack of desire of its citizens to pay for this. Each taxpayer will consider that he should pay only his fair share. What is his fair share may be a matter for argument, but what is clear is that the taxpayer himself is not the proper person to decide what it should be. Consequently, issues of tax avoidance only exist within the ambit of legality and not morality.

The third counter argument is that tax avoidance is itself permissible in law.

Engaging in tax avoidance practices is simply therefore not illegal. Morality cannot be helpful in determining the correct amount of tax to pay or to avoid. Taxpayers have a guiding principle that they need only pay what has been determined by Parliament through legislation and as such they may arrange their affairs in such a way as to pay the lowest amount of tax possible, provided they are within the law. Normally, the law does not extend to a moral code not embodied in legislation or case law. Hence tax avoidance is not a moral issue.

In order to wind up this discussion, it can be concluded that there is a vital connection between morality and legality in matters of tax avoidance. Morality alone, without legal backing, seems inadequate as a principle that guides our duty to pay. It is evident that both law and morality serve to direct our behaviour with regard to the payment of taxes. Tax law accomplishes this primarily through the threat of sanctions if we disobey legal rules. Morality too involves incentives: bad acts may result in guilt and disapproval, and good acts may result in virtuous feelings and praise. Consequently, tax avoidance is both a moral and legal issue. It will be in our best interests that any decisions made with regard to tax avoidance be done guided by both moral and legal considerations. Applying one consideration without the other is likely to lead to sub optimal and risky decisions. ■

BEYOND AID! THE PARADOX OF FREE TRADE AND RISING INEQUALITY IN AFRICA

As the world becomes more and more of a global village, globalization has become the main driver and catalyst for international trade and more so the push for global free trade. But at the heart of this globalization and international trade, there lies the paradox of inequality and exploitation. Africa is well endowed with huge human capital and natural resources, but only occupies about 3% of global trade whereas countries in Asia such as South Korea and China are big players in the global trade system, despite not having an iota of Africa's natural resources. Primary and intermediate products form the substantial share of exports from Africa, whereas advanced industrialized economies, which occupy a greater proportion of world trade, have more advanced technology, know-how, manufacturing industries and access to finance.

In the 1980s, the World Bank and IMF developed structural adjustment loans for developing countries such as Kenya, Malawi, Senegal and Ivory Coast that involved IMF-style macro-economic conditionalities. These aid programs were criticized for increased poverty and unsustainable dependency of developing nations on rich countries. Whereas it is understandable that these institutions pursue their members' interests and place conditions upon their lending as assurance of getting their money back, the question that often lingers is the extent of fairness of the imposed conditions. Among the conditions imposed included: liberalization of the economy, open markets, reduced protection of domestic industries and elimination of subsidies and non-tariff barriers. The results have been damaging as developing nations were pushed into the turbulent global market stage, long before they were ready to engage at the global arena. Despite the growth of trade in goods and services by African countries from the year 2005 to 2015, its global share of imports and exports has remained consistently low at just 3%. This is a little hard to believe owing to the tremendous natural resources available in the African continent including: oil, gold, diamonds, copper, agricultural resources, among others. Moreover, the World Bank in its 2021report titled 'Strengthening Africa's Capacity to Trade,'

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estimates that almost 40 million people will be driven into extreme poverty from the adverse economic effects of CoVID-19 and further erase development gains achieved in the past five years.

Africa has largely been viewed as a source of cheap raw materials. Trade agreements such as the *Contou* Agreement between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (EU-ACP) on trade and aid specify economic partnerships requiring both sides to lower tariffs. Such agreements provide the allure of free access of African goods to the huge world markets. However, the twist of liberalizing African economies has not only been skewed towards more industrialized countries and has had disastrous effects on economic inequalities between the developed and developing countries. The potential "benefits" from these agreements have been uneven and are yet to produce the intended results. Competition in the international trading system can be compared to an obstacle course in which the weakest athletes face the greatest obstacles. When developing countries export to developed countries' markets, they face tariff and non-tariff barriers that have a negative impact on countries. As traditional tariff barriers decline, regulations requiring imports to conform to certification, quality, traceability and phyto-sanitary requirements imposed by developed countries only serve to impose additional costs and hurdles on exporters and limit access to international markets. Although certification and quality standards are necessary for health or national security, other barriers such as subsidies offered to farmers in developed countries lead to overproduction and distort world prices. This is an indicator that despite various modalities and commitments by countries under the World Trade Organization aimed at harmonizing trade; developed countries

Picture of a ship and a poor coastal village: A depiction of the paradox of Poverty and International Trade in Africa
Image retrieved from Coulibaly, S., 2021. Six steps to start changing how Africa does development. [online] Brookings. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2017/07/19/six-steps-to-start-changing-how-africa-does-development/> [Accessed 14 September 2021].

continue to keep their markets closed, while poor countries have been pressurized by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to open their markets, as a conditionality for accessing aid.

The costs of unfair trade are immense and millions of the world's poorest people have been left behind. Increasing trade and wealth has gone hand in hand with mass poverty and the widening of inequalities between the rich and poor. It's almost as if the rules governing international trade were rigged to the detriment of developing nations. If Africa was to increase its share of global exports by just one per cent, the resulting income could lift millions out of extreme poverty, and the ripple effect would further contribute to other sectors of the economy, such as health and nutrition, infrastructure and education. The Global Aid for Trade (A4T) Initiative launched at the 2005 WTO Conference in Hong Kong, purposed to help developing countries build their export trade capacity and infrastructure needed to benefit from opening trade and integrating into world markets. A4T is an integral part of the Official Development Assistance program aimed at linking aid and trade policies and is disbursed by donors bilaterally or through multilateral institutions. There is need to establish the impact of such initiatives on decreasing poverty levels.

Countries all over the world acknowledge the fact that trade is a powerful force and that open economies have the potential of unprecedented wealth for developing countries, if well managed. It is in this breath that Kenya has stepped up its efforts and intensity in negotiating various trade relations and entered into several multilateral trade agreements including: African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), EU-ACP/*Contonou* Partnership, Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and US-EAC Trade and Investment Framework agreement (TIFA). It has also signed bilateral trade agreements with several countries including: Argentina, Bangladesh, Bulgraia, China, Comoros, Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Egypt, Hungary, India, Iraq, Lesotho, Liberia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Korea, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These partnerships present an opportunity to drive Kenya's prosperity if properly aligned to the domestic environment through private sector consultations and government coordination.

David Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage premises that nations specialize in producing and exporting the products they are good at as no country is fully self-sufficient. 21st century globalization has shifted from merely producing goods in one area and selling to another. It now entails the flow of goods, know-how, investment, ideas and human capital. This raises hope

for less industrialized countries such as Kenya, which can become competitive by combining their abundant cheap labour with firm-specific technical know-how and high technology from developed nations. Successful initiatives can be exemplified by the AGOA treaty, in which Kenya has had some success stories. In year 2020, Kenya supplied 29% of the US's global import of nuts, second only to South Africa's 47% supply. In the garment manufacturing sector, Kenya was the largest exporter of apparel to the US in year 2018. Further, Kenya has segmented a specialized category in the export of 'artificial flies' used in fly-fishing sports, accounting for 96% of total exports under AGOA in year 2020.

Considering these success stories, should developing countries confidently rush towards fully liberalizing their economies? The answer is that trade liberalization effects on poverty are varied depending on various factors such as macroeconomic stability, the financial sector and infrastructure. Still, there is no doubt that trade is the key to the long-term sustainable development of Africa. It is also apparent that there is no single prescription that can fulfill Africa's needs. It's time that Africa charts a path away from dependency and towards self-reliance to improve the well-being of its citizens. Firstly, developing countries should initiate efforts towards value addition before opening up to global markets. Secondly, developing countries should focus on under-developed sectors with comparative advantage to absorb the unemployed including stepping up education, training and reskilling. Thirdly, developing countries should leverage on established bilateral and multi-lateral frameworks towards collaborative research in science, technology and innovation to spur industrialization. Fourth, strengthening of revenue institutions to enhance domestic revenue mobilization and addressing illicit financial flows. This is because liberalization often decreases government revenues. Fifth, it is also necessary to enhance fiscal capacity and transparency towards budgetary and expenditure systems to ensure allocated resources are used wisely to achieve national priorities. Sixth, African countries should enter into more preferential trade agreements that foster intra-Africa trade, which is more balanced and less exploitative Finally, the international community should double up its efforts in setting the right environment for developing countries to cope with the global market setting, before fully opening up their economies. Notable efforts include the Aid for trade initiative. ∎

Picture of an obstacle race: A depiction of the hurdles faced by the Developing World in accessing International Markets

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

The ringing noise startled me out of my deep slumber. I jumped out of bed sure that it was my alarm, time for my morning call-up. For those to whom this is Greek, it's our way of saying morning security situation brief. Picking my phone, I realized it wasn't the alarm. Indeed, it wasn't even time for the brief. It was a distress call on a robbery that was happening some seven kilometers away. As a National Government Administrative officer, work entails the overall coordination of National Government business across all field administrative units, security being core. Being the Chair of the Security and Intelligence committee, I mobilized my other members so that we could head to the scene together. And just like that, my workday had started at 2.37 am.

The scene was not for the faint-hearted. The thugs had escaped into the neighboring Koibatek forest after hacking three watchmen, leaving them for dead and carting away an unknown amount of stock from the depot that they were guarding. First things first, the guards were rushed to the hospital with two succumbing on the way. Our scenes of crime officers embarked on preliminary work as the rest of us addressed distraught members of the public who had by this time gathered, assuring them of action.

Back to the house and the sun was already peeping out of the horizon. A quick shower, breakfast, and by 7.45 am I was in my Ravine office. The day ahead was loaded with several scheduled activities. Before I could complete responding to some emails, the door flung open. Here was a lady old enough to be my mother, her weak body struggling to hold on to a walking stick. Helping her down a seat, the old lady had a winding and distressful story. She would narrate how her husband, two adult sons, and a daughter-in-law were heinously massacred during the Post-election violence. Her world had been shattered leaving her struggling to fend for three grandchildren and a paralyzed 38-year-old son who survived the ordeal. She couldn't hold back tears describing how she struggled daily dragging the son out since he couldn't walk out unassisted. To add insult to injury, she couldn't even go searching for odd jobs as the four

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dependent souls couldn't be left alone. Even for a seasoned administrator, this was too much to hold. However, the nature of the job requires lots of patience, active listening skills, empathy, not forgetting counseling skills. Every day is unique; dealing with a myriad of societal issues that are never monotonous. You can never predict your next moment, and this day wasn't going to disappoint. Dark memories of that period when we as a country came to the edge of a precipice came flooding in my mind, having experienced it first-hand.

I was just in time for a staff meeting with my field administrators before leaving for a public baraza at Mumberes village. We had scheduled the meeting after numerous complaints about rampant brewing and consumption of illicit brews in the area.

The lady had only one request. Out of a tattered bag, she pulled out a brand new sweater. The same was a Christmas gift from her late daughter in law which she had not worn. She desperately needed to dispose of it to secure some Kshs 300 bus fare to Nairobi to pick a wheelchair for her son from a well-wisher. Like Francis Imbuga would say, when the madness of an entire nation enters a solitary mind; it's not enough to say that person is mad. This lady had been to hell and back. In the end, she didn't sell the sweater but she got the fare that she needed. She went down on her knees, gave thanks to the Almighty, and pleaded for His blessings on me; I needed them, my day was just starting. It is such experiences that remind us to always thank God for His uncountable blessings upon our lives and provides us the motivation to carry on.

I was just in time for a staff meeting with my field administrators before leaving for a public baraza at Mumberes village. We had scheduled the meeting after numerous complaints about rampant brewing and consumption of illicit brews in the area. The menace was having serious negative social impacts, especially on the young generation, A shocking number turning into dependent and irresponsible zombies who couldn't fend for themselves leave alone raising a family. The crack downs and arrests seemed not to be working. We needed new strategies to arrest the situation including closer partnerships with various stakeholders. As they say, when it rains it pours. As the meeting was progressing, some irate farmers protesting diversion of Government-subsidized fertilizer had blocked the main Nakuru-Eldoret highway causing a heavy traffic blockade. We had to conclude our meeting hurriedly to attend to the ensuing emergency. It didn't matter that we hadn't taken lunch and sugar levels were going down.

As my teacher Oduogi would tell us, administrators are jacks of all trades and masters of statecraft. Those skills would come in handy. We managed to clear the road, assuring the farmers of our immediate action. There were allegations that one agrovet stockist working in cahoots with rogue National Cereals and Produce Board staff was hoarding

With fatigue and pangs of hunger; I headed back to my house not sure whether I would get anything to bite before retiring. It had been a long and eventful day with its fair share of surprises.

Government-subsidized fertilizer in his store. Together with my security team, we needed to confirm the allegations and take necessary action. The idea of diverting subsidized fertilizer was becoming a serious issue that denied genuine farmers the much-needed input for their farms and negatively affected crop production. We picked some volunteers to direct us to the alleged rogue businessman. It was another journey and we would finally find our way there some few minutes past 7 pm. As if sensing danger, the crook fled leaving us with no alternative but to break into the store. As the door gave way and to our surprise, we came face to face with over 200 bags of branded government-subsidized fertilizer. By the time we were through loading and ferrying the same to the Police station, it was some minutes past 10 p.m. We parted ways with my security team members agreeing to meet early the following day to complete the unfinished business; we needed to apprehend the rogue stockist for arraignment in court.

With fatigue and pangs of hunger; I headed back to my house not sure whether I would get anything to bite before retiring. It had been a long and eventful day with its fair share of surprises. Even with the fatigue, my consolation was that I had played my part in service delivery and nation building. Reaching into my pockets for the door keys, it dawned on me that I had left them together with my mobile phone on the window sill of the agro vet store while we were breaking it. True to my earlier assertion, there's no monotony in an administrator's day. You only require strong shock absorbers to weather each day's storms. It's all in a day's work. ∎

IMPACT OF COVID-19 CONTAINMENT MEASURES ON INDIVIDUAL FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

The outbreak of coronavirus in China in late 2019 and its subsequent spread to other countries, forced various governments to adopt stringent measures to contain the spread of the pandemic. Some of the measures included lockdowns, curfews, and ban on public and political gatherings, cessation of movement and closure of recreation facilities including restaurants. The enforcement of these COVID-19 measures by security personnel violated individual fundamental rights of citizens in various countries. The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index report 2020 indicated that there has been a decline in fundamental rights score than any other rule of law since the outbreak. In addition to the dramatic effects of quarantines, the pandemic is triggering some state responses that are discriminatory in nature and unequal in their effects on certain minority or vulnerable groups besides impacting negatively on political, civil rights and freedom of expression and peaceful assembly of citizenry.

Further, the contact tracing for COVID-19 patients by health and security personnel in most countries violated the rights to privacy of the concerned people. According to public health experts, an effective pandemic response demands tracing the spread of the virus from one individual to another in order to isolate and contain it. However, the use of digital technology, facial recognition software, and big data by authorities as surveillance tools for COVID-19, is undermining individual right to privacy, which is guaranteed under international law, and fully applicable to the digital age. The protection of fundamental rights as per the international rule of law standards serves not only justice to affected patients but also helps to contain the spread of the pandemic. There is also fear among citizens that the use of surveillance tools with other databases containing personal information could further undermine the rights to privacy unless greater transparency, monitoring, and accountability are designed into the systems.

According to international laws, all individuals shall be treated equally

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regardless of their race, age, gender, ethnicity, religion, status and political affiliation. In emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic, the states may suspend certain rights in accordance with the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality, but must do so with full respect for the non-discrimination clauses of international human rights law. However, the reality for millions of people around the world is quite different. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only affected some groups due to their vulnerability, socio-economic and health status, but has further deepened the widening inequality in many societies. Some governments have either neglected or deliberately discriminated against certain groups or sectors in their response to the pandemic, thus violating their rights and putting them at greater risks. For instance, lockdowns restricted access to food and health services to some vulnerable people in the society while lack of economic stimulus and adequate safety net initiatives had devastating consequences on many disadvantaged people across the world.

In some countries, the rights of the migrants, asylum seekers, and other displaced persons were violated with some government forces using the COVID-19 pandemic to control and restrict their movements. For instance, the United States, Hungary, Turkey and Cyprus were barring asylum seekers and refugees from

A makeshift migrant camp for asylum seekers in Matamoros, Tamaulipas state, Mexico, on March 1, 2020. © 2020 Alejandro Cegarra/Bloomberg/Getty Images where it was alleged that the USA officials were forcing asylum seekers to stay in unhygienic camps and shelters in Mexican border cities.

entering their countries, under the disguise of implementing COVID-19 containment measures. These restrictions against the asylum seekers and refugees infringed on their fundamental rights to better living conditions under international human rights law.

Elsewhere, in the United States of America and Europe, as well as some African countries like Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Africa, there was an increase in anti-Asian propaganda, violence, and harassment over accusation of being responsible for the spreading of the virus. It was alleged that the obtaining situation triggered similar, discrimination against Africans particularly in China where they were forced to test for COVID-19, evicted from their homes against their will while others lost their jobs. The stigmatization did not also spare some non-governmental organizations that were helping the affected people.

Meanwhile, some governments, while enforcing COVID-19 measures across varied jurisdictions, deployed excessive and harsh measures, including use of repressive and violent tactics by security forces to enforce COVID-19 containment measures. These measures affected mostly low income, marginalized, homeless and vulnerable people most of whom have little or no option for their shelter or livelihoods. Women and girls who face higher risks of domestic violence or who need reproductive health services were also directly affected by the closure of clinics and women's shelters. For instance, India and Nepal, authorities declared some women's health clinics as non-essential

services, thus denying women rights to access basic health services.

In Kenya, the security personnel forced people into crowded vans and cells for allegedly violating COVID-19 rules, a move that may have unnecessarily exposed Kenyans to COVID-19 virus. In El Salvador, police arbitrarily arrested hundreds under the guise of enforcing COVID-19 public health rules and put them in overcrowded holding facilities, thus exposing them to risks of contracting the virus. These situations not only undermined the rights of the victims to quality healthcare in detention but also risk further spreading the virus. Emergencies, such the COVID-19 pandemic, may call for certain extraordinary measures to protect public health, among them restrictions on fundamental political and civil rights. Even in such dire situations, restrictions on

Kenyan Police Brutality against a journalist. Photo courtesy Standard Media Group.

freedom of expression must be narrowly construed so as not to unduly impede the free flow of information and protection against arbitrariness.

According to the European Commission for Democracy (Venice Commission), freedom of expression should rarely, if ever, be limited in a public health emergency. While it may be appropriate to protect the information ecosystem from deliberate attempts to misinform the public, some governments are selectively enforcing such laws against perceived anti-government or critics such as Media, civil society organizations and opposition political parties. Other governments, among them Azerbaijan, have also taken advantage of severe lockdown measures to shut down Facebook accounts and posted personal information of political opponents and journalists online under the guise of cracking down on dissents. In Algeria, for instance, since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, the regime has used the judicial system to imprison activists or hold them in lengthy pre-trial detention on false charges under the guise of fighting COVID-19 pandemic thus violating their rights. The restriction on freedom of movement and speech have affected the media's ability to adequately cover and report on the pandemic, government responses and other important political and economic developments. According to International Press Institute, which monitors media freedom around the world, over 426 incidences of media violations during COVID-19 pandemic were reported. These includes arbitrary arrests and restrictions to access to information, physical and verbal attacks on reporters, censorship of news websites and other

outlets. In, Iraq Yemen, Morocco, Oman, Jordan, and Iran for example, newspapers were suspended following introduction of COVID-19 emergency laws.

Meantime, the health workers play critical role by virtue of their occupations of caring for the sick in hospitals and nursing homes, however, some were arrested or prosecuted by their respective governments for publicly criticizing the handling of COVID-19 pandemic and agitating for the improvement of their terms and conditions of service. According to Amnesty International, cases of attacks or threats against healthcare workers were reported in some countries during the pandemic. For instance, in Malaysia, Russia and the United States some health workers were prosecuted for protesting failure by their respective governments to provide Personal Protective Equipment. Under international law, states have an obligation to respect prisoners' human rights other than those strictly necessary to the requirements of confinement. The fact of detention or imprisonment does not strip any person deprived of their liberty and their fundamental rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health due to their legal status.

Inherent challenges associated with maintaining social distancing behind bars exposed not only detainees and their custodians but also to surrounding communities, their families, and the criminal justice service providers to the coronavirus. Additionally, the diminished functioning of courts and related criminal justice services owing to the pandemic has affected dispensation of prisoners' cases and subsequently their right to justice. The rights of freedom of individuals to assemble or hold a political rally to air grievances to those in power is a longstanding instrument of self-government under a rule of law. However, some governments infringed on this key fundamental right. For instance, it was alleged that the Uganda government used the military to disperse, arrest, beat and terrorize the opposition leaders and supports during campaign rallies prior to the January 2021 elections under the guise of implementing COVID-19 rules.

In conclusion, it is imperative for the various governments world over, to consider the rights of individual citizens while implementing measures to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic as per the international human rights law. ∎

YOUTH AS SOCIAL TRANSFORMERS IN MAKUENI COUNTY

Social transformation is the process by which an individual alters the socially ascribed social status of their parents into socially achieved status for themselves. Social transformation can also refer to large scale change as in cultural reforms at the individual level or transformations of social systems. Social transformation means a shift in collective consciousness of the community so that reality is refined by consensus. It is the awakening of people's consciousness to take steps towards embracing a new sustainable status for their wellbeing. Scientific discoveries have triggered many social transformations throughout our history, together with, religion and cultural edicts. Social Change means alterations in basic structures of a social group in a community. However, it is important to note that social change builds community-based responses, not solutions that affect just a few individuals and leave the underlying social problems intact. It changes attitudes, behaviors, laws, policies and institutions to better reflect the values of inclusion, fairness, diversity and opportunity. Social change insists on accountability and responsiveness among institutions, including the government, large corporations, universities and other entities whose policies and actions profoundly affect the living conditions of individuals and communities in identified locality. It expands the meaning and practice of "democracy" by involving those closest to social problems in determining their solutions.

In many parts of the country, the local youth are plagued with social concerns of poverty levels as stated by the 2020 Comprehensive Poverty Report by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) which indicates that 15.9 million out of 44.2 million Kenyans are poor, describing this scenario as an adult earning less than Ksh. 3,252 and Ksh. 5,995 monthly in rural and urban areas respectively. Some 26.3 percent of workers in Kenya were estimated to be living on less than 1.90 U.S. dollars per day in 2021. In 2020, the share was estimated at 27.3 percent. Overall, the extreme poverty rate has been decreasing among people

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employed in Kenya. As of 2017, 30.2% of workers lived below the poverty line. Un-employment has also affected the youth to a great extent, however, in the third quarter of 2020, the unemployment rate in Kenya decreased to 7.2 percent, down from 10.4% in the previous quarter. The world is undergoing important social transformations driven by the impact of globalization, global environmental change, economic and financial crises, resulting in growing inequalities, extreme poverty, exclusion and the denial of basic human rights.

"Poverty reduction is not only about meeting our basic needs, it's also about participation, influence and power." Hanna Hallin, President of LSU 2007–2009. Today's youth is disgusted with today's politics, education and social atmosphere. They are facing the problem of unemployment hence turning towards crime. Many people are using the youth's energy for a destructive purpose than for constructive purpose. In Kenya, the youth are exploited by some politicians during elections by being bribed and coerced to cause violence. It's my view that today's youth is unhappy, unsatisfied, disgusted and in a pitiful condition. Youth have been responsible for prompting a variety of social changes that include influencing debates of national importance that impact social, economic, and political

environments. Despite their input, youth are increasingly disenfranchised from the decision-making process on matters that affect them. When youth are engaged, particularly through empowerment and affording of development opportunities there are multiple benefits to society, including decreased poverty and improved sustainable livelihood. Young people are seldom recognized as a resource in decision-making processes. Instead, they are systematically excluded from important arenas of decision-making and development processes, which should not be the case. As a result, they do not contribute in policymaking. At the same time, many youth and youth organizations remain drastically under-resourced and ill-equipped to participate in development processes and efforts.

Young people should be given the chance to be actors and drivers of social transformation and change beyond development targets. This improves the quality and relevance of poverty reduction. Young people have the right to participate, influence and have power over issues that affect our lives. It's about young people having the same rights as the rest of the population.

There are more young people in Kenya, especially in the rural areas than ever before. This fact makes it even more important to make sure that development structures and policies are reviewed and that the youth are given greater opportunities, stronger capacity and a genuine chance to participate in various local projects. A 'Youth Perspective' in

local community development projects is a potentially powerful tool for community administrators for policy making. Youths can also identify age specific vulnerabilities, gaps and opportunities for investment, and they facilitate co-targeting of interventions, leading to synergies across sectors and ages within the community. A 'Youth Perspective' in poverty reduction contributes to greater efficiency by increasing the probability of making efforts that suit different groups of young people within the community. Young people often have the best knowledge of how to reach out to other young people and the best means of doing so effectively. Supporting young people to organize themselves is also a way of strengthening the work for sustained livelihood and productivity. An essential part of applying a 'Youth Perspective' in poverty reduction is to integrate young people into the shaping, implementation and evaluation of programs and policies within the communities. This helps to ensure that the needs of the youth are addressed at all levels. This does not only require more research on youth in poverty, but also a more general understanding of the needs and aspirations of those affected; and who would be better for the task than the young people themselves? Well guided, the youth contribute to better results by relevance, efficiency, legitimacy and democratic means.

The youth can play pivotal role as social transformation agents in poverty reduction in Mavindini Ward, Makueni Constituency in Makueni County. Of the many challenges that Makueni County has

had to grapple with, poverty ranks among the most critical issues and consequently thousands of people go without many necessities of life. There is substantial body of evidence that shows poverty eradication is a subject that has attracted a lot of debate in the region and the country as a whole. The sustainable development goal No.3 call for eradication of poverty. It compels Governments to end all forms of poverty globally. The youth need to be directed to raise their consciousness and guided on income generating activities rather than looking to formal employment, which is never forthcoming.

In view of the above, it's the role of the County Government, Mavindini Ward administrator, local administration, area MCA and the member of parliament to team up and raise the consciousness of the area youth on the activities of income generating to utilize the full potential of the upcoming Thwake Dam that's about to be completed next year, 2022. The youth need to be organized into base groups, trained in order to manage their activities. Leaders need to take note this is an opportunity to change the community for a better tomorrow.

Poverty is a social problem, which has affected different aspects of human life and has existed in society despite various programs and initiatives that have been introduced to eradicate it. However, it seems that the efforts to eliminate poverty require special attention by the youth as the future makers in valuable social capitals. They can contribute to decision-making and enhance the effectiveness of organizations and communities; hence, the way the youth think about society and how they participate in decision making as well as national and international development programs, have a considerable impact on achieving the 'Sustainable Development Goals' and on top of it, eradicating poverty. Makueni County has now the right opportunity to change the youth in the community accessible to Thwake Dam and its environs. ∎

Thwake Dam under construction, 2021

01. Opening ceremony of NDC Course 24-2021/2022. **02.** Celebrating Botswana's Independence Day. **03.** Celebrating Burundi's Independence Day. **04.** Celebrating Egypt's Independence Day. **05.** Celebrating Malawi's Independence Day.

06. Cabinet Secretary for Defence Ambassador Monica Juma, with NDC Leadership and Course 24 -2021/22 Participants.
07. Celebrating Nigeria's Independence Day. **08.** Celebrating Rwanda's Independence Day. **09.** Celebrating Germany's Unity Day. **10.** Celebrating Pakistan's Independence Day.

11. Commandant NDC Maj Gen C M Kahariri with Course 24-2020|2021 Female Participants. **12.** Cabinet Secretary for Defence Ambassador Monica Juma gives a keynote address to Course 24-2021/2022 Participants. **13.** Course 24-2020|2021 Participant from Nepal Col Jagat B Paudel presents a Nepal Army Memento to SDS Air Brig Edgar P Lopokoiyit during Nepal Independence Day Celebrations. **14.** Course 24-2020|2021 Participants during a party. **15.** Course 24-2020|2021 Participants during a party .

Course 24-2021/22 Participants during the Course Group Dynamics Exercise

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) MECHANISM AMONG THE SOMALI COMMUNITIES:
A CASE OF ACCELERATED JUSTICE

Aristotle the celebrated Greek philosopher said, "**Man is by nature a social animal**; an individual who is unsocial naturally and not accidentally is either beneath our notice or more than human. Society is something that precedes the individual." Man cannot live alone. ... No man can break the shackles of mutual dependence. He further alluded that "Man is a political animal. **A man who lives alone is either a Beast or a God".** Social contract theorists, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau advocated for an organized society where individuals lived harmoniously to avoid living in the Hobbesian state of nature where there was '**war of all against all'**, which made life nasty, brutal and short. The above assertion is accentuated by J S Mbiti in his works on African philosophy and religion in which the running theme is **"I am because we are, and because we are, therefore I am".**

This assertion is true about the Somali Community that live together under strong family ties. As human beings live in society, competition arises, which sometimes causes conflict among the community members. Naturally, the society in its quest to avoid self- annihilation developed mechanisms to regulate social interactions. It is in this context that we look at the conflict resolution mechanism among the Somali community and its relevance to the propagation and perpetuation of peace and security in the North Eastern region of the country. The Somali community is a Cushitic nomadic Pastoralist group that occupies Semi-Arid North Eastern part of Kenya, which is a fairly harsh environment. To surmount this environment the community is organized on clan and sub clan system that is closely knit. The clan groupings are important social units that play a central part in Somali culture and politics.

The major Somali clans living in North Eastern Kenya are the Ogaden, Degodia Arjuran, Gare (though linguistically different from the other clans) Murulle, Wardey, Gasan and others, generally referred to as Corner tribes. This

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community has a well-developed system of dispute resolution known as the "Maslahi" system. This traditional system is a derivative and modification of the *Xeer* system which is used in Somali, Eritrea, Djibouti and pre-dates the advent of Islam. The '*Xeer*' system is one of the three systems from which Somali law draws its inspiration, the others being civic law and Islamic Law. The "Maslahi" which integrates Islamic values plays a central role of dispute resolution through arbitration, mediation, and negotiation, hence maintaining peace, security and harmony in society. Following the problem of case backlog in the conventional courts and delay to delivery of justice many Kenyans opt to various systems of resolving disputes. The Kenyan constitution recognizes the role of ADR and the traditional system of resolving disputes.

The "Maslahi" system being one of the vehicles to resolve disputes is fast and efficient in dispensing Justice. More than 80% of the Somali community population subscribe and have access to this system of dispute resolution. The courts are located far in Wajir, Garissa and Mandera towns, making it extremely difficult for the people to access them. Since the system depends on elders of integrity and good social

standing, most people prefer this system in resolving issues amongst themselves. The "Maslahi" system is generally accepted and therefore has some form of legitimacy. The people prefer "Maslahi" because it resolves disputes, facilitate reconciliation and promote restorative justice. It is worth noting that, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) recently adopted the system to resolve conflict between the Garre and the Murulle Communities in Mandera County. The product of which was the "Sheikh Umal Peace Accord II 2021", which restored normalcy after violent clashes in Yedo.

Section 48 of the Kenyan Constitution (2010) grants Kenyans the right of access to justice to every Kenyan, while section 159 (2) provides for alternative forms of dispute resolution including reconciliation, mediation, arbitration and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms. ADR shall be promoted but, subject to Clause (3); which states that "Traditional dispute resolution mechanisms shall not be used in a way that—contravenes the Bill of Rights; is repugnant to justice and morality or results in outcomes that are repugnant to justice or morality; or is inconsistent with this Constitution or any written law. Due to a backlog of cases in our courts, coupled by the distance and the use of a language that the majority of the illiterate and semi illiterate bulk of the Somali population does not understand "maslahi" system comes in to fill the gap. Therefore "maslahi" as an ADR is recognized in our constitution and statutes. This system of dispute resolution shall remain the first line of choice as long as the courts continue taking eternity to resolve matters brought before them.

The win-win situation in "maslahi" system amicably leads to reconciliation leaving the parties united. However, unlike the formal justice system that sets jurisdictions and categorizes cases in to civil and criminal the "maslahi" system lacks such classifications. The elders exercises their mandate without limits. They handle and resolve both criminal and civil matters. That is why, some of their resolutions have been questioned and condemned by the

A peace reconciliation and and restorative justice pact between the Murulle and Garre Communities achieved by the "Maslahi" system. This is a system purely driven by elders of both communities.

authorities as contravening Section 159; 3 of the Kenya Constitution (2010). However, before we condemn the elders, we should acknowledge and appreciate the fact that the environment and context in which they are operating offers little options and choices as to how justice should instantly be dispensed to avoid the vicious cycle of revenge and reverse the trajectory of conflict in the community.

The procedure for resolving conflicts under the "maslahi" system has not been codified. Therefore the elders in the exercise of their mandate, draw their authority from the Somali traditions, customs, accumulated wisdom and the Islamic religion as the majority of them are practicing Muslims. The communal nature of life also ensures that the disputes are treated as clan or sub clan affair. Consequently the whole clan takes the whole responsibility for a mistake committed by one of them. The whole process of dispute resolution under the above system begins when an aggrieved party reports an occurrence to immediate clan members and or any member of the community who witnesses an event that jeopardizes peace and requires resolution. This is very interesting as it allows the elders to handle issues even when the parties concerned have not reported them by themselves. This kind of approach ensures that, community members are responsible, have an obligation and are duty bound to report any incidence that happens, that is an affront or inimical to peace and security. Upon receiving reports of the occurrence, the clan orchestrates

the dispute resolution process.

Consequently, after receiving a report on an issue that amounts to a dispute, the elders isolate and identify the facts about the conflict, after which they do research on the issue by collecting sufficient data and seek the opinion of the local administration (chief) who may also be a clan member. These in itself is a very important process that involves contextualizing the problem, in terms of where it occurred, who were involved, why it happened and when it took place. This information assists the elders to select a team that will be tasked to resolve the matter. Further it informs them on what method of dispute resolution shall be used. Therefore, the elders choose from the following methods; arbitration, adjudication, mediation, reconciliation or negotiation. This is because various conflicts require different approaches. Therefore one or more of the approaches is used depending on the simplicity or complexity of the issue.

After the method of resolution is settled upon by consensus, a date is set for the parties to meet and have the matter thrashed out. The "maslahi" system allows the presence of all parties. Sometimes, the offender may not be allowed to attend, and in that case, he/she is fully represented by the family and clan members. All sides are carefully listened to while making their representation. A cross examination is done, after which the evidence is weighted, crosschecked and facts thoroughly and meticulously corroborated before a

decision is reached. In the whole process all parties undertake, and sometimes take an oath to speak the truth. The name of God is invoked frequently to achieve honesty and truthfulness in the various submissions by the parties in dispute. The truth is critical and fundamental in arriving at a just decision. It is important to consider the various dispute resolution methods, namely, negotiation, mediation, adjudication, reconciliation and arbitration.

NEGOTIATION
The use of negotiation is occasioned by a situation of competing interest that have caused a conflict. Among the nomadic pastoralist Somali community, competition for pasture and water resources is common. Therefore elders from both sides, always rise to the occasion and use their dexterity in negotiation whenever there is resource based conflict within a framework that is locally developed. Government policing agencies have leveraged on this structures to ensure peaceful co-existence. The concept of **"negotiated democracy"** others call it **"guided democracy"** as opposed to liberal democracy among the Somali community is anchored in the "maslahi" system and has been instrumental in maintaining sanity and smooth transition in electoral politics. Perhaps if other communities borrowed a leaf, the hatred and animosity generated by competitive politics will subside, hence enhancing peace levels in our community. Negotiation entails harmonizing interests among the conflicting parties. The elders always, ensure that structured and genuine apologies and reparations are rendered to individuals or clans that had been wronged.

MEDIATION
Mediation as a method in "maslahi" system was meant to restore peace and harmony. This is used whenever there has been violent and even fatal clashes. The approach used is based on the dictum of **'no victor, no vanquished'**. The elders have skills and use their wisdom to blame both sides and make everyone "guilty". They exert pressure even on the complainant to accept blame. In case one person remains obstinate, the elders chase him away from the sitting and the clan takes full responsibility and any ruling or decision will be binding on the excluded individual. This approach was very important in ensuring that there is no stalemate and delays in putting the matter to rest and closure. These results in

a **win-win** situation that is instrumental in maintaining peace.

ADJUDICATION
When a conflict of higher magnitude arises and the two parties involved are seemingly too hostile to meet together. Therefore an independent third party is used. Elders from a clan that is not part of the conflict and is deemed not to have interests in the conflict are allowed to resolve the issues at the base of the animosities. In these cases all the disputants are brought to the meeting to have the matter resolved. The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) bought in to the idea and recently had elders from Garissa to resolve a dispute among two belligerent clans in Mandera County.

RECONCILIATION
A situation occurs when a wrong had occurred and was not resolved to the satisfaction of the members. These remains a septic wound that causes suspicion and hostility. Note that under the "maslahi" system, matters solved are not revisited except for precedent references. In the same vein unresolved matters are

not forgotten. Unresolved matters are passed on from generation to generation. This is what informs a third generation carrying out a revenge on a matter that happened before they were born. That is why reconciliation is important in bringing together the two parties to make peace. In this process making concessions in a give and take philosophy is critical. The process ends up in handshake and the hatchet is buried. A camel or goat is slaughtered and shared to seal the reconciliation. Such an approach can be used to address historical injustices to create a cohesive and prosperous nation.

ARBITRATION
Under "maslahi" arbitration that encompasses submission of a disputed matter to an impartial person or persons is done. The two parties must agree and have confidence in the arbitrator. This is not commonly used as, decisions made entail a winner and loser positions. The arbitrator listens to both parties, weights the evidence and makes a decision. The arbitrator orders for compensation of the aggrieved party as per the customs. Most of the fines meted are found in the

peace declarations like **The Modogashe Declarations revised 2005**, and **Al-Fatah Declaration** by the Al Fatah Council of Elders in Wajir. The declarations are intriguing illustration of bottom-up law making. They are also an encouraging development, as they point to the need for legal regimes to respond more adequately to local values and social realities. These declarations clearly spell out compensations to various grievous actions that violate the rights of members of the Somali community. Therefore the arbitrator has a guide in making decisions/awards in restorative justice.

CONCLUSION
The 'Maslahi' system of dispute resolution has worked well over the years for the Somali community. It has been responsible for maintaining harmony, peace and security in a very challenging environment where access to formal court systems remain a pipe dream to the greatest majority of the population. The system can be adopted and fine-tuned to address the problem of case backlogs in our courts, especially in civil matters even in present times. ■

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PARTICIPATION OF POKOT WOMEN IN CATTLE RUSTLING

ivestock rustling is a traditional activity that has existed for many centuries not only within African communities but also amongst white communities in North America and Europe. However, violent conflicts by pastoralists in Kenya has increased over the years, with an increasing number of women joining the fray. Pastoralists in Kenya usually move from one County to another in search of water and pasture for their livestock. With Kenya being about seventy percent arid or semi-arid, access to these essential commodities sometimes lead to competition and hence conflicts. Consequently, herdsmen appropriately armed themselves when traversing the country with their livestock in search of pasture and water. Shortage of pasture and water often result in the deaths of both animal and people due to starvation. Accordingly, the loss of animals due to draught pushes the herders to raid other communities for their replacement

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especially when new rains come. Clashes ensue with occasional loss of human lives as well.

As a pastoralist community, Pokots are faced with a myriad of challenges first among them the inter-ethnic resource based conflict especially during drought periods. Others include aggressive neighbours, proliferation of small arms and under-development. The effects of these challenges and especially insufficient rains have contributed immensely to the insecurity of the entire region including the neighbouring counties. It is for this reason that Pokot and Turkana women have been taught handling of arms to a point that some are more lethal than men.

Poor Weather Patterns
Generally, the regions occupied by pastoralist communities are arid or semi-arid meaning that the most likely form of occupation and livelihood is animal keeping and a bit of farming. Rainfall patterns in these areas are unpredictable more especially now because of global warming. Climate change might explain the present

reason for wandering for pasture and water. Normally, most parts of Kenya receive rains twice a year. In these particular areas, long rains come between April and June while the short rains are between October and December. The periods between the rainy seasons become a challenge to the livestock dependent communities. The men (herdsmen) are forced to relocate to other areas in search of pasture and water for their animals, leaving behind their wives to take care of the homes and a few other animals. For instance, the Pokots and Turkanas relocate to Uganda. Sometimes the Pokots drive their animals eastwards in the neighbouring counties of Elgeyo Marakwet, Laikipia and Samburu. The arrival of huge herds of livestock means competition for the meager resources. This competition more often than not leaves behind a string of deaths and loss of livestock. These deaths are not let to go unchallenged. Pokots raids are usually the bloodiest since they ensure they have killed everybody when they raid a "manyata". Consequently, the Pokots ensure that their women are well equipped with firearms to repulse potential attackers. Pokot women in conflict prone areas are able to use firearms efficiently.

A Turkana woman teaching a young girl weapon handling

Conventionally, there has been a notion that women are victims of armed conflict, but some studies have proven that, a section of women are active participants of violence. Violence has generally been associated with men. However, lately women have become active participants in armed conflict where they engage in spying, ferrying of the arms (it is hard to suspect women) and even killing.

Conventionally, there has been a notion that women are victims of armed conflict, but some studies have proven that, a section of women are active participants of violence. Violence has generally been associated with men. However, lately women have become active participants in armed conflict where they engage in spying, ferrying of the arms (it is hard to suspect women) and even killing. Women also played extra role of cheering and care giving. They joined the armed violence for moral support or to defend those remaining behind after their men-folk left for grazing in far areas. Reliably, some women may have been inspired to violent activities from benefits of previous raids, to punish the opponent and sometimes just to belong.

Leadership and Marriage
"*Men with huge herds of cattle gain leadership positions and young men must accumulate sufficient cattle to pay dowry. In pastoralist communities, a cow is the source of life and to some extent cause of death".*

Some communities such as the Pokot, huge herds of cattle is a source of wealth and prestige. They are bestowed leadership positions and more women to marry. Young men must strive to acquire animals in order to marry. Consequently, there are more raids in the North Rift region within the Turkana, West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Laikipia and Baringo Counties. Restocking of animals that died during the drought season is one of the major causes of cattle rustling. Having observed that respect and leadership is derived from the number of animals one possesses, it therefore means that restocking must be done once the rains come. This explains why there are uncountable raids and animal thefts

during these periods. The other main causes of cattle rustling are the customary values of is marriage and "*sapana*" the Pokot traditional rite of passage for boys. The Pokot community demands that for a young man to get married, they must pay a huge dowry. The efforts to get the required animals for dowry makes any prospective bridegroom to go for raids to accumulate the number expected.

Traditionally, marriage is regarded highly mainly because it is a source of increase, family continuity as well as posterity. Usually, marriages are graced by showering of gifts and merry making. In the Pokot community, it is the groom that gives an agreed number of animals (usually above 40 cows and 60 goats) and other presents to the family of the bride. This is not a small number of animals to be gotten easily. This number of animals is a major contributor of young men into raids that by and large is a source of insecurity in the entire region. Some Pokot leaders have actually urged the community leaders to consider lowering the bride price, just like other neighbouring communities to reduce the pressure on the young men. However, some studies have revealed that women and girls motivate their men not stop the tradition for their worth. "We are not cheap" so they say. This emboldens men to go for more raids in order to accumulate enough animals to marry them.

Elsewhere, commercialization and politicization of cattle rustling that has also roped in the women-folk as perpetrators have been causes of the numerous violent raids that have been witnessed. Police records indicate that between 2014 and December 2016, over 100 people were killed in fifty-six raids and cattle rustling

Cattle lined up for the ceremony.

An initiate.

and over twenty-five thousand livestock stolen. The same period witnessed the destruction of 5250 illegal firearms. In March, 2017 a returning Pokot contingent of Pokot raiders narrated how they attacked neighbouring communities. On the material day, the Pokots claimed that they raided the neighbouring Marakwets since the government had reportedly armed them to attack the Pokots. Pokots are famous for revenge attacks. By so doing, it has inculcated in children, and especially boys to grow knowing that for them to succeed in life they must raid and bring back the animals which in the process means they must kill.

Passage Rite of Pokot Boys
The traditional way of life of the Pokot society has stages that demand possession of large numbers of animals. The "*sapana*" stage requires that young men of roughly age 20 be recognized as adults. The ceremony requires that the initiates kill the biggest bulls in the homestead for the feast, from which they are smeared with the bulls' faeces. During the feasting, battle

parades are performed by the young men.

The animals to be killed in this ceremony are not always homegrown but more often than not stolen. The fact that all male young adults must undergo this rite means that they must get the animals for the occasion. They raid the neighbouring communities to acquire the animals.

Since this is a rite that all men must undergo, women are not mare spectators but motivators and participants. Besides encouraging men to go for raids through songs, proverbs and poems when they return with animals, women also challenged men to go for many more raids, as they too were active participants in conflicts. Some machetes wielding women are said to have confronted and burned a dead body to show their anger. Inversely, during inter clan conflicts amongst the Pokots, women used the "leketio" belt to end the conflict. (what is the meaning). The removal of the belt; made of cowrie shells denotes motherhood and fertility and highly respected in the community.

Commercialization and Politicization of Cattle Rustling
Cattle rustling in the past few years has however been claimed to be motivated by trade and political power play. Claims of political leaders sponsoring raids for commercial gains were rife during the 9th and 10th Parliament. In March 2014, Governor Joseph Nanok of Turkana County is recorded to have told IRIN (The New Humanitarian) news that cattle rustling has highly been commercialized by politicians with a view to create new support bases for themselves.

In conclusion, it is apparent that a sizeable number of Pokot women are active participants in the cattle rustling process either as cheer givers, spies, weapon carriers or actual combatants. Inadequate interventions and little economic development in the area have contributed heavily to insecurity including cattle rustling. Traditions and ready markets for the stolen animals have escalated the attacks. Additionally, illegal acquisition of arms for self-defence and regional power dynamics is also responsible for insecurity as politicians discretely encourage the vice. However, not all Pokot women are involved in armed cattle rustling.

Under the new political dispensation following the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, the country has gradually continued to witness development in almost all sectors of the economy to the extent of minimizing crime and traditions that appear to hinder development. Implementation of development programs including restructuring trade in livestock has gone a long way in minimizing cattle rustling. It is expected that once the entire population has an income generating occupation, criminal activities and more especially cattle rustling will be eradicated. ∎

A herd of cattle that had been stolen from Turkana

POST-TRIAL HANDLING OF CONVICTED OFFENDERS

The Kenya Prisons Service was established Vide circular No 1 of March 18, 1911. The main purpose of setting up the prisons was to instill punishment and offer protection to the society, at the time rehabilitation was not part of the task for the prisons. Over the years, the Kenya Prisons Service has made several milestones including its transformation. The service has witnessed a paradigm shift from punitive correctional measures to a robust rehabilitative approach with special focus on individual treatment for convicted offenders that anchor on basic human rights principles. It has also structured and enhanced its Human resource training and development activities with the aim of achieving its mandate which is to contain offenders in humane safe conditions in order to facilitate responsive administration of justice, rehabilitation, social re-integration and community protection.

A convicted offender is a person found guilty of an offence against the law and he or she is sentenced to serve a term of imprisonment. Post-trial handling of convicted offenders is the procedure or process that follows after an offender has been sentenced in a court of law. This is the action of restoring an offender to health or normal life through providing different therapies within the correction facility. Rehabilitation is a central goal of any correctional system and it vests on the assumption that individual offenders can be treated/rehabilitated and adapt to a crime free life. There are several post-trial processes carried out after an offender is escorted to prison. These will include;-

Admission: The process involves informing the inmate about the sentence period, what is required of them while serving the sentence, the right to appeal within 14 days, documenting of demographics and photography and finally administration of Prisoner's health record (Pf 10).

Reception/Assessment/Transfer Board: The Board consists of; Officer in charge as chairman,_Social welfare

HENRY K LIMANYE
KENYA PRISON SERVICES

officer as secretary, Technical officer, Medical officer, Spiritual chaplain and Documentation/Classification officer all who assume a membership role. The responsibilities include; Inmate classification, labor distribution, inform the inmate of available rehabilitation programs and therapies, risk assessment and transfer of inmates.

Rehabilitation Programs: These are programs designed to facilitate behavior change, empower inmates with skills and knowledge that will be of help to them upon their release from prison. Some of the rehabilitation programs offered include;

Spiritual Nourishment: Spiritual programs are offered with the intention of giving hope to the inmates. They serve as an avenue for forgiveness, reconciliation and spiritual nourishment.

Family Visits: Family visits are an important in maintaining the family Bond whereby inmates don't feel withdrawn from their families, in spite of imprisonment. Research has shown that Prisoners who receive family visits are less likely to re-offend as compared to prisoners with no family visits.

Counseling: Prisons offer counseling services that employ cognitive and social

learning methods to effect on both the attitude and behavior of the offender. This will result in the client developing better self-awareness and appropriate problem solving skills.

Training: Vocational training and formal education programs in prisons are designed to teach inmates about general employment skills or knowledge needed for specific jobs and industries.
Sports: Sports serve as a recreation tool to inmates. They explore their talents and abilities as well as contribute to their physical and mental wellness. This is available to both convicted and un-convicted inmates.

Discharge Board: It is composed of the following members: the Officer in charge, Assistant County Commissioner, social welfare officer, education officer, labor officer, spiritual personnel, children's officer and non-governmental organization representatives. The discharge board interviews all long-term prisoners within three months of their due date of release from prison and explore any viable assistance that can be given to the inmate with a view of empowering them once resettled.

Re-integration: This is the process of restoring inmates back to the society once they are released from prison. It involves looking into the current home situation, the economic empowerment of the inmate and identifying sources of social support. This sis a collaborative effort between the prisons department and Non-state actors such as NGOs, CBOs, Religious organizations, etc. Prisons will continue to be a significant part of any society, for its unique role of community protection, behavior modification and facilitation of administration of justice. The UN standard minimum rules on human rights (Mandela Rules) will be upheld at all times during an inmates stay in custody contributing to good governance and effective management of correctional facilities. ∎

THE WORKSPACE DURING THE ADVENT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30th January 2020, and a pandemic on 11th March, 2020. COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Subsequently on 13th March, 2020, the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta in his Presidential address informed the world that Kenya had received confirmation of the first case of COVID-19. This address enumerated a number of containment measures that included suspending of travel for all persons coming into Kenya from countries with reported Coronavirus cases; quarantine of persons for 14 days upon arrival to the country; closure of schools; the use of cashless transactions such as mobile and credit cards to avoid the risk of transmission through physical handling of money; avoidance of crowded places including places of worship; and the introduction of work from home concept for employees working in non-essential services. This was in addition to the WHO protocols of protecting oneself and others that included social distancing, washing of hands or using an alcohol-based sanitizer; not touching one's face in addition to practising respiratory etiquette as we were informed that the virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva.

Shortly thereafter on 27th March 2020, President Kenyatta announced a nationwide dusk to dawn curfew that

LINNET M VITISIA
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set the stage for what we now call the 'new normal'. The onset of this 'new normal' brought about a new wave of stigmatization as was once experienced during the HIV-AIDS pandemic; there was dread against those who tested positive. In the case of COVID-19, testing positive for the coronavirus was perceived as a death sentence on the infected, which was followed by the immediate tracing of persons who had been in contact with the one declared positive for isolation purposes. This was exacerbated by the government setting aside isolation centres to accommodate not only those who had contracted the disease, but also those who had been in contact with the infected. The daily update by the Ministry of Health on the state of the infections compounded the unease in the community. The scenes

relayed on our media on the handling of those who had succumbed to the disease were unsettling, as the victims received what was perceived as indecent burials, and this made matters worse leading to a general tension in the society. The right to human dignity even at death was violated as we saw cases of burials of those who succumbed to the disease done even at night.

The graveside that was once a community gathering to pay last respects to the deceased became a lonely affair as only the family members were allowed to attend the burial, negating the social fabric of togetherness during seasons of joy and of sorrow. It is no wonder that the sighting of the arrival of an ambulance in places of residence was unnerving especially so given the Personal Protective Clothing donned by the health professionals. This was traumatizing to families dealing with the likelihood of either being isolated or undergoing an indecent burial should one not make it. The workplace was no different. For fear of the unknown, officers declined to undergo COVID-19 testing until the administration made it mandatory and facilitated for the testing to be carried out at the work place. Positive test results led to a sharp decline on productivity and service provision was interrupted and almost paralyzed. This was evidenced by the closing down of entire units/sections of departments for fourteen days where a positive case had been reported. The return to work of the officers meant retesting for the coronavirus and sometimes one would test positive again and be subjected to additional isolation. Though counselling services were provided, the information given by the counsellors to the infected was scanty, unprofessional and disturbing. At the onset, those who tested positive were informed though a phone call to pick their bags and leave the office as they had tested positive for the coronavirus; this mode of communication lacked decorum to say the least considering the environment at the time. The caller did not offer information on what was expected of one as they were directed to leave the office and one could be heard saying; 'pick my bag and go where... to die?'

The 'new normal' brought with it challenges as well as opportunities at the workplace. From accounting services perspective, it was and still is not possible to work from home due to nature of work involved that requires handling of physical transactions regarding processing of payment vouchers and exchequer releases to fund Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). These processes are captured through the Management Information System (MIS) in place that encompasses Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) and Internet Banking (IB) which have been configured to a particular IP address for security purposes. Initially, there was absenteeism of employees, some who had either tested positive or had been in contact with those who tested positive. Further, there was an immediate reduction in productivity leading to a decline in meeting of strategic objectives that had been set to be achieved. In addition, there was evidenced steep reduction in revenue collection leading to the inability to adequately fund the budget; delays in processing of payments that are received from MDAs due to late submission of requests as works on major construction projects slowed down; not to mention the spike in psycho-social health related issues arising from the cabin fever of being enclosed in one place.

Thus, the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and the swift containment measures not only disrupted the normal life and livelihoods, but to a greater extent businesses and economic activities. In a bid to ensure there was adequate funding to cater for requirements by the Ministry of Health to contain the pandemic, the National Treasury engaged our Development Partners with a bid to source for external funding as the revenue collection had been adversely affected by the shutdown of the economy. These engagements involving numerous meetings and negotiations gave rise to the virtual platform of conducting business using technology. The initial drama of conducting these meetings on this new platform had to take a learning curve for officers to acquaint themselves on the art of uploading a presentation to the digital platform and the etiquette of muting and camera sharing.

On the other hand, this 'new normal' has seen the birth of a niche in the digital age evidenced by the advancement of the digital meeting place as is characterized by WebEx, Zoom and Microsoft Teams. As meetings shifted to the virtual platform, our President led by example and this resulted in efficiency in time management occasioned by officers being able to log in on any internet enabled and connected device including the mobile phone. There was thus reduction in travel costs to attend in-person meetings, guaranteed quorum during meetings as all it required was for the participants to log on to a gadget and faster decision making in spite of the teething problems with technology at the onset. This will then become the renaissance of the new workplace with the replacement of the physical workplace to IT gadgets whose workplace is everywhere. The level of hygiene improved through constant washing of hands and sanitizing that led to the immediate reduction in infectious diseases like the common flu and related ailments (coughing, sneezing and blowing of the nose became a thing of the past).

Lessons learnt from this pandemic have proved that critical thinking is key in navigating the highs and lows of every season in life with a view to reinventing oneself and scanning the new environment as in 'blue sea strategy'. Though most businesses were affected and some had to close down, there emerged new opportunities as seen with the entrance of the virtual platforms (WebEx, Zoom and Teams) that have replaced skype. Other businesses would emerge that dealt with the production and supply of masks, sanitizers and temperature monitoring gadgets. This also shows that functions can easily change hands as was seen by the change in conducting temperature checks changing from trained medics at hospitals to security guards at the entrance of every establishment. Secondly, the key lesson learnt in this pandemic is that information is power, and should be relayed at the right time, in the right form using appropriate and acceptable channels as misinformation or the lack of information leads to unnecessary adverse consequences as was evidenced by the stigma the pandemic brought about at the beginning. Lastly, it is worth noting that the enemy that brings governments down is not always known and physical to be dealt with by one's military muscle; but can manifest in that which is unseen not knowing how and when they will attack and how to remedy the aggression. To this end, the unseen enemy that manifests itself through pandemics should be securitized thereby informing research and development in areas of vaccines as an important national interest to be adequately funded by the government.

It is noted that as we adapt to the new normal, there is more information available on the pandemic that has since been relayed bringing a calm to the society and this has been enhanced further with the vaccination campaign in place that aims at containing the spread of the virus. It is hoped that a time will come when we will stop wearing masks, congregate again without observing social distance and be able to shake hands, or even greet with a hug like the one we did before. It is true what the adage says; 'you don't know what you have until you lose it' - a lesson we have learnt the hard way. ∎
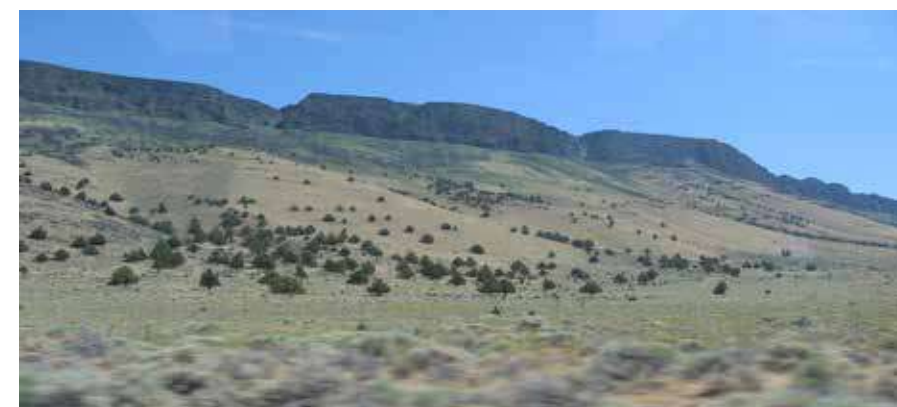
THE KITISE WATER CATCHMENT CONSERVATION

Background on Kitise Water Catchment Area

Water catchment conservation area is defined as an area from which surface run off is carried away by a single drainage system or the area of land bounded by watersheds draining into a river or basin or reservoir. Kitise Water Catchment Area is found in Kitui County, in the south eastern part of Kenya. Kitui County falls under the semi-arid areas of Kenya and therefore it is paramount to note that Kitise water catchment receives normal or below normal rains and lies in a very dry area that is regularly affected by serious and prolonged droughts. Kitise Water Catchment area was comprised of six villages, which were heterogeneous with three distinct clans. Therefore conservation of the water catchment area was critical for the survival of human beings and livestock. Accordingly, a small committee was formed to scoop and commence preparatory work for the day when the whole community will be involved in the catchment conservation. The members of the committee were drawn from the Government, the religious groups, non-governmental organizations, community based organizations and the Kitise water catchment area community.

Importance of a well conserved water catchment area to the community

A well conserved water catchment area provides a reliable source of clean drinking water; water for livestock; water for small scale irrigation; healthy unspoiled natural areas for recreation; habitat for plants and animals; healthy vegetation and water storage on the surface and under the sand;

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opportunities for sustainable agriculture and industry; and conserve soil erosion. Other complimentary benefits of conserving the Kitise water catchment area will be to provide short term employment and income to the community especially, those who will be employed to dig holes for tree planning, construction of gabions and river weirs, construction of terraces and cut-off drains in farms in order to conserve the water within the farms and increase farm productivity.

Constitution of the Kitise Water Catchment Committee

The scooping committee recommended that a committee be constituted drawing its membership from the Government, the religious groups, non-governmental organizations, community based organizations and the Kitise water catchment area community. Towards this end, the committee whose members were; the area Chief, the officer in charge of forest, the officer in-charge of agriculture, the officer in-charge of water, a representative of community based organizations working within the water Kitise water catchment area, a representative of the non-governmental organizations working within the catchment area, a representative of the religious community within the water catchment area and three community members from Kitise water catchment area.

The water catchment conservation Committee commenced its work in earnest and drew the terms of reference which inter alia included mobilizing the community and development partners to support this noble idea; prepare an engagement schedule with the water catchment area community to identify the appropriate water catchment conservation measures; seek Government support in terms of provision of seedlings for planting during the main day and other support measures; and sensitize all the key stakeholders for buy in and support during the entire process. The committee formed two thematic sub-committees to deal with various aspects of planning for the water catchment area efforts namely; resource mobilization sub- committee and community mobilization sub-committee.

The Community Mobilization Sub-Committee

The members of this sub-committee convened and appointed its office bearers including the Chairperson of the sub-committee responsible for engaging the community through focused group discussions and community sensitization. The composition of this sub-committee comprised of the area Chief, a representative of religious organizations, a representative of the community based organizations, a representative of non-governmental organization, the officers' in charge of water, agriculture and forestry, three members of the community, one representing each clan within the catchment area and myself.

The sub-committee held two preparatory

meetings to brainstorm on the assignment and build common understanding on the terms of reference, put in place clear strategies to accomplish the assignment; prepare a schedule of meetings for both the sub-committee and the community on the exercise. The sub-committee agreed that the sub-committee meetings will be held every Saturday afternoon from 4.00 pm for two hours, community sensitization will be done for the first five weeks, while focused group discussions will follow thereafter to be held during the next three weeks; and one main community meeting (baraza) will be held on the final week before the big day; the budget for the meetings and sources of the monies to support the sub-committee activities were prepared, deliberated upon and approved for onward transmission to the main committee for consideration, adoption and resourcing. In addition, the sub-committee agreed that progress reports will be prepared and submitted to the main committee fortnightly to keep it abreast.

Each clan within the Kitise Water Catchment Area was allocated four focused group discussions segmenting women groups, the youth groups, the middle class and the elders of the clans due to their varied interests in the exercise and to ensure each segment had a voice during the focused group discussions. The Chief of the area and religious organizations were assigned the responsibility to communicate to each segmented group, when the focused group discussions will be held with them including the date and time.

Community Engagement and Its Roles
During our first community meeting with the three clans, one of the clans within the water catchment area, the community elders, posed that if one of the other clans will be involved in the water catchment conservation efforts, then this particular clan will pull out of the exercise. In addition, the land under their clan's control shall also not be available for water catchment conservation efforts. The Sub-Committee going forward agreed to proceed to discharge its mandates of focused group discussions while highlighting the benefits of conserving the Kitise water catchment area. Accordingly, we drew a schedule of meetings to be held every Tuesday and Thursday Afternoons from 4.00 pm when children were at home from school.

The first focused group discussion was held with the clan elders from the north

and north-west of Kitise water catchment area. The elders were very resourceful, they shared with us their past experience interventions to conserve the water catchment Area, both successful and failed and reasons why according to them. In addition, they shared with us the type of tree species, which would grow in this area and will also provide folder for their livestock, conserve water and prevent soil erosion. The second focused group discussions were held with the women groups of this clan. The women groups also shared their experience with past efforts to conserve the water catchment area, which succeeded or failed and the reasons for success or failure. In addition, women preferred among others planting fruit trees within the catchment area to complement their incomes and diet. Further, they preferred the employment opportunities which will accompany this exercise to have two components, shared on a fifty percent basis, on one hand to be cash and on the other hand to be food rations inform of proteins, oils, starch in order to facilitate more people to participate in the exercise and improved nutrition. Thirdly, we engaged the youth groups of this clan on focused group discussions. The youth groups were interested in employment creation and provision of unspoiled natural areas for recreation. In addition, the youth were more interested in interventions which will make them more economically independent from their parents and the sustainability of their incomes once the exercise is over. Finally, we engaged the middle class of this clan. Interestingly some of their interests were outside the water catchment conservation area and required fairly more investments such as electricity, piped water from the rivers to their homes and planting of commercial trees for timber. In addition, the middle class preferred conservation measures which will increase their incomes and farm produce. We prepared a report on this community clan and shared with the Sub-Committee which was responsible for resource mobilization immediately due to its usefulness. Further, this report was sent to the main Committee for further deliberations and action.

We engaged the second community clan of the water catchment area with the focused group discussions. This community clan is found in the west and south of Kitise water catchment area. The first focused group discussion was held with the elders, who shared with us their past experiences

with the conservation efforts of the water catchment area, why some interventions succeeded and others failed. In addition, they shared with us the lessons learnt during and after those interventions. The elders were particularly interested in planting trees which will support bee keeping, would co-exist with grass for their livestock and an arm's length relationship and equity when it comes to sharing short term employment opportunities. Further, the elders were clear that earlier interventions were marred with irregularities' where some youth worked and were not paid and no explanations were provided to date. Towards this end, they gave a condition that their full participation will be subject to the exercise being conducted in an open, accountable and transparent system being put in place and all people within their community be paid on the same day. The second focused group discussion in this community clan was held with the women groups. The women groups shared their past experience why some water conservation measures were successful and others failed.

The women groups interest particularly were on the construction of water weirs, shallow water dams and terrace construction. In addition, they were more interested in moderate drought resistant trees, which could double as fruit trees and firewood as well. We held deeper discussions, on their departure with the community elders. They opened up to the demands by the elders, on the accountability and transparency of the exercise. The women groups were very candid that one clan benefited more during the last water conservation exercise, which led to sabotage by the other clans and all the clans were now suffering. Towards this end, they were emphatic on the integrity of the exercise for it to succeed. Indeed, they felt, almost different clans got into security conflicts given most of the water points and folder for animals were concentrated on the community clan in the east and central part of the Kitise water catchment area. This focused group discussion brought to the fore the issue of water and food security conflicts which this exercise was trying to address. The women told us that the community clan in the north and northwest lost a lot of livestock and their people during the conflict which ensued immediately after the latest Kitise water conservation area exercise. They cautioned us that we need to move forward with a lot of openness

and integrity for the exercise to succeed. The third focused group discussion was held with the youth groups. The youth groups were clearly only interested with employment opportunities, the fauna and flora which comes with the conservation efforts. In addition, they submitted that payments be done at the end of each working day, so that if they are not paid, the following day, they can withdraw their labour before it is too late. The middle class in this clan did not turn up for the focused group discussions.

Finally, we engaged the third community clan on focused group discussions. This community clan lives in the east and central part of Kitise water catchment area. This clan had more educated people; their region had high potential as compared to the other regions occupied by the other two community clans. The first focused group discussion was held with the elders of this clan. The elders were proud and had a sense of entitlement that they should benefit more than the other two clans. The elders demanded higher pay for the same job done as compared to the other two clans. In addition, the elders demanded that the community meetings (baraza's) should be held in their location. However, as a Sub-Committee we persuaded them that we focus on the issue at hand, and thereafter we shall address their concerns to their satisfaction. Accordingly, the elders preferred cash crops, fruit trees and specific types of grass for planting. In addition, they also wanted more river weirs to be built in their location for storage of water as compared to the other clans. Finally, the clan elders demanded that any employment opportunities available should be skewed towards their community. The Sub-Committee probed them to know, if previous efforts to conserve the catchment area were successful, and whether there were lessons learnt which could inform this exercise. The elders were clear that resources under their control were not available for sharing with other clans, and the small issues, which arose from previous efforts, were sorted out and hence no need to worry. Further, we held focused group discussions with the women groups, who were open and candid that previous efforts to conserve the catchment area led to conflicts, which led to lost lives of both their sons and livestock.

According to the women groups, several factors led to this conflict among them being refusal to share the water points

by their own clan elders with the other community clans in the north and north western; the perception that their community clan benefitted more from the other two clans. The women groups had specific interest in cash crops and fruit trees, which will enhance their capacity to be more independent in terms of their farm income. In addition, they were opposed to under age employment of the youth from their clans, who were in school. The third focused group discussions were held with the youth groups. The youth groups were more interested with conservation measures which will generate income and employment to themselves to make them more independent from their parents. The youth groups also demanded that they be paid fortnightly on Fridays so that they can plan their incomes. Finally, we held focused group discussions with the middle class, who were very clear that the water conservation efforts were welcome, more cash crops, fruit trees and rivers weirs should be focused on to support irrigation of crops and napier grass for their dairy cows. In addition, the middle class were also interested in piping water to their homestead to save man-hours used to go and fetch water from the rivers. Interestingly, this community clan middle class focused group discussions were attended by both men and women.

The sub-committee prepared a situation report from the focused group discussion for the Kitise Water Catchment Area, with lessons learnt and clear recommendations to achieve the desired objectives for conserving the water catchment area and submitted this report to the Committee for adoption and further necessary action.

The Community Buy-in of the Project
The Committee approved and adopted Sub-Committee recommendations and therefore proceeded to the next assignment, which was holding one big community meeting (baraza) with representatives of the three community clans scheduled to talk in support of Kitise water catchment conservation area. We also invited professionals from three clans, who were in the diaspora and gave them opportunities to address their community in support of the exercise. However, we faced some challenge here given the community clan in the east and central of Kitise water catchment area wanted to speak last and their professional sons also to speak last as a sign of superiority over the other two clans. We held negotiations with this clan to break this new challenge, under the leadership of the area chief and the religious organizations. At the end, it was agreed that each community clan will have one person, in either category speak last. Therefore the elders settled for their clan elder to speak last, and let go the speaking slot for the women, youth and middle class.

We therefore proceeded to hold the Kitise water catchment area meeting, the community agreed to support the exercise. Accordingly, the development partners came in hardy to support the Kitise water catchment area. The Hon. Governor, the County Commissioner and the area Member of Parliament all graced the launch exercise of the conservation of the Kitise water catchment area. In total, twenty thousand different tree species were planted during the date of the launch, with a target of additional seven river weirs
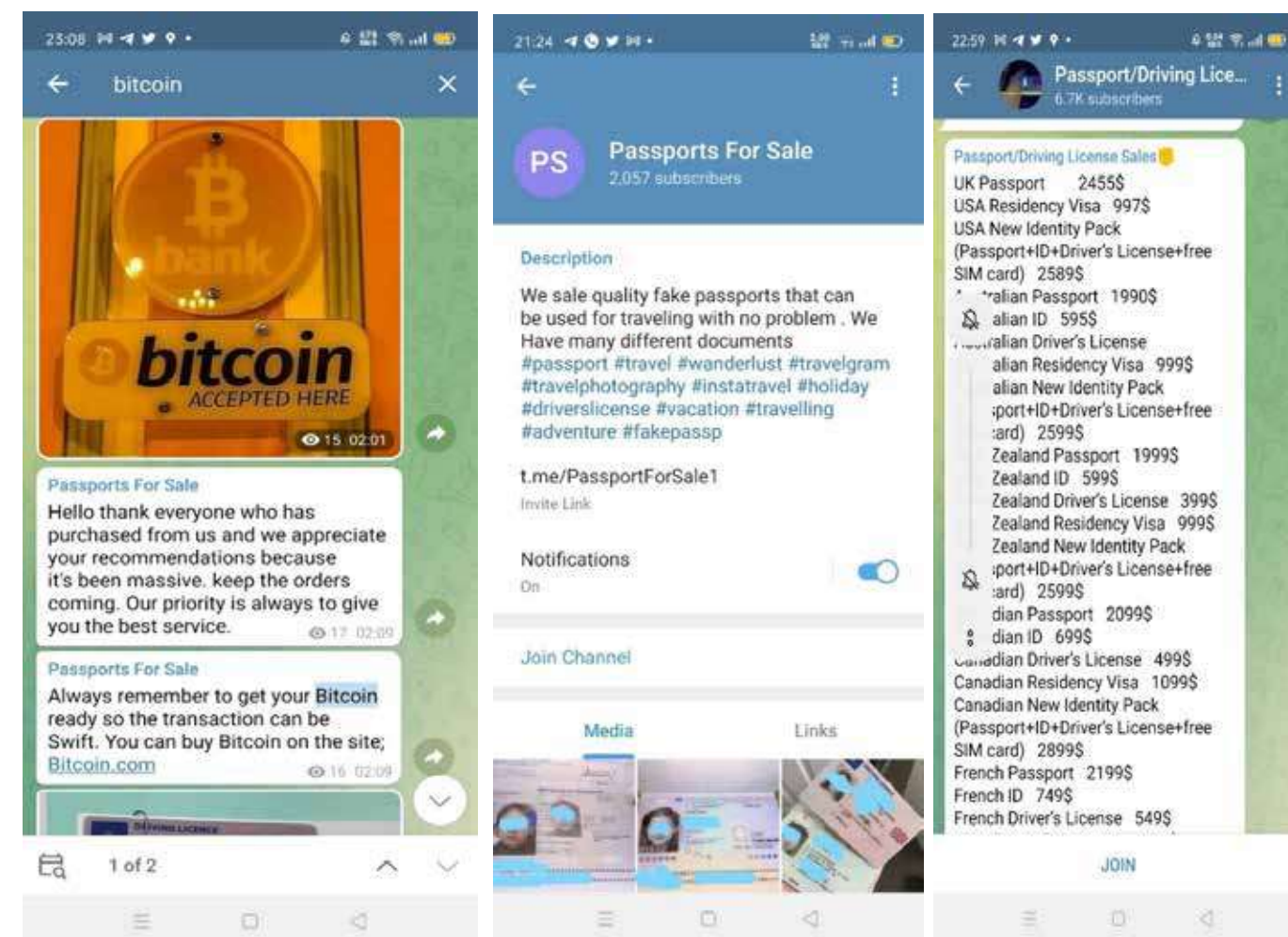
(A) (B) (C) (D)

to be constructed, three thousand meters of terraces, and thirty two gabions to be constructed within the catchment area. Women sang great songs, ululated with joy and many employment opportunities were created for both skilled and unskilled labour for the Kitise water catchment area community.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, the objective of conserving the Kitise water catchment area was achieved and the benefits are still accruing to date, the conflicts which existed between the clans have been averted due to abundance of water resource to all the clans and everyone benefited. Towards this end, Kitise Water Catchment conservation area boosted agricultural production, contributed to food security in Kenya, provided employment opportunities to the community and enhanced socio-economic welfare of the community. Further, it is important to sensitize both the National and County Governments, non-governmental organizations to assist and replicate the lessons learnt elsewhere in the state to conserve water catchments areas. ∎

IDENTITY FRAUD AND ITS IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

A document that verifies a person's identification is an identity document. These identity documents include passports, national identity cards, driver's licenses, student identification cards, biometric residency permits, and identity cards for military personnel, public servants, and any other document issued by a government to citizens for identification.

Document fraud, particularly the forgery and counterfeiting of travel papers like passports, poses a severe threat to personal identity and national security. Fraudulently acquired and counterfeit or forged documents facilitate organized crime and terrorist travel and have far-reaching implications on national security. Criminals use false identities or the stolen identities of other persons to commit financial crimes such as credit card fraud, wire and mail fraud, money laundering, bankruptcy fraud, cybercrimes, and evading law enforcement. Criminals use

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counterfeits which are unauthorized reproduction of a genuine identity document. They also forge real identity documents by altering them. Impostors using genuine documents may also try to circumvent immigration control.

Al Qaeda Training Manual was seized by British investigators in May 2000 Manchester while searching the apartment of Anas al-Liby, AKA Nazih al-Raghie. Anas al Liby, a suspected al Qaeda member and a perpetrator of the 1998 bombings in Nairobi, and Dar es Salaam provides an insight into Alqaeda tradecraft and the use of falsified identity and travel documents.[1] The manual advises operatives on using false documents, securing them, and taking precautions while travelling on the said documents. Fazul Abdulla Mohamed aka Harun Fazul, Comoran national, an accomplice of Anas Al Liby on August 2, 2008, is alleged to have escaped a Kenya police operation at Silver Sand estate in the coastal town of Malindi. In the flat, two forged Kenyan

[1] http://www.au.af.mil/au/, United States Air University. "Al-Qaeda Training Manual." Homeland Security Digital Library. Air University (U.S.). Air War College, March 19, 2003. https://www.hsdl.org/?abstract&did=2046.

Source: "Passports For Sale". 2021. Telegram. https://t.me/passportforsale1.

passports were recovered. Fazul was killed in 2011 near Mogadishu, Somalia, at a Somali government security checkpoint and at the time of death, he had a South African passport under the name Daniel Robinson.[2] Counterfeit, forged or fraudulently obtained identity and travel documents are crucial in terrorist operations. Terrorists must travel for meetings, training, surveillance of targets, and execution of attacks.

Due to advancements in security printing, altering and counterfeiting passports is increasingly becoming difficult; hence Terrorists and criminals may opt to obtain Identity documents by making false claims to Kenya citizenship. The integrity of a passport depends on the integrity of the process issuance of breeder documents such as birth certificates and identity cards. In December 2015, Jermaine Grant, a British national, was jailed for nine charges related to illegally obtaining a

[2] "US Africa Embassy Bomber Fazul Abdullah Mohammed Dead'." BBC News. June 11, 2011. Accessed August 30, 2021. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13737942.

Kenyan identity card by posing as Ali Mohammed Ibrahim, Peter Joseph, and Robert Mwakio Mwata.[3] Grant was arrested in 2011 in Mombasa for having bomb-making material at a flat he shared with another terrorist widow of the July 7, 2005 London attacks suicide bomber Germaine Lindsay, Samatha Lewthwaite. Lewthwaite had entered Kenya on a South African passport under the name Natalie Faye Web, whose identity she had stolen.[4]

Criminals may use legitimately acquired birth certificates to apply for identity cards or passports as imposters and may hire citizens to pose as parents for purposes of obtaining identity documents.

[3] "The Jermaine Grant Case and Fight against Terrorism." The Jermaine Grant Case and Fight against Terrorism | Kenya. Accessed August 30, 2021. https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/opinion/the-jermaine-grant-case-and-fight-against-terrorism-1158330?view=htmlamp&__cf_chl_captcha_tk__-pmd__EpjzBsT81kaWlwDID28TaIMs1vRfb3ruxGMjKibIBU-1630325556-0-gqNtZGzNAzujenBszQqR.

[4] Mike Pflanz, Aislinn Laing. "Samantha Lewthwaite 'received British Passport before Going on Run'." The Telegraph. October 27, 2013. Accessed August 30, 2021. https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/southafrica/10407513/Samantha-Lewthwaite-received-British-passport-before-going-on-run.html.

They can also acquire identity documents by compromising the issuance process through corruption.

Worldwide, human trafficking is a 150 billion dollar industry[5], and criminals utilize fraudulent travel documents and lost or stolen passports to facilitate migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons, and irregular migration. Millions of people are trafficked by organized criminal networks worldwide for purposes of sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, slavery, domestic servitude, organ harvesting, forced marriage, criminality, and terror radicalization. Underground syndicates dealing in stolen, forged, counterfeit documents, visas, and residence permits facilitate this crime.

Technology plays a vital role in this vice, with criminals advertising their services on the Dark Web and mobile apps such as telegram. Criminals auction passport

[5] Niethammer, Carmen. "Cracking The $150 Billion Business Of Human Trafficking." Forbes. February 04, 2020. Accessed August 30, 2021. https://www.forbes.com/sites/carmenniethammer/2020/02/02/cracking-the-150-billion-business-of-human-trafficking/?sh=263deeb94142.

Source: "Passports And ID For Sale". 2021. Telegram. https://t.me/idpassportoriginal.

data on the dark web as digital scans, templates for creating a finished passport and actual physical passports.[6] The payments for stolen/counterfeit identity documents are paid through anonymous cryptocurrencies.

Narcotic trafficking is also tied to passport fraud, as falsified travel documents are vital in moving drugs and proceeds of crime across borders. Fraudulently acquired passports can be used for espionage and deep cover operations. Criminals exploit loopholes in the immigration system to gain entry into any country. Visa applicants may commit fraud through false marriages, non-disclosure of criminal history in a visa work permit or residency application, and using counterfeit or false documents to support applications.

States must enact laws to deal with identity and travel document fraud. In Kenya, identity and travel document fraud suspects are prosecuted under the Penal Code Cap 63, Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011 and the Registration of Persons Act 107. Nowadays, passports are equipped with a range of security

Narcotic trafficking is also tied to passport fraud, as falsified travel documents are vital in moving drugs and proceeds of crime across borders.

features, including biometric chips and optical components for security paper and polycarbonate. Continuous innovation ensures that the security features are enhanced to deter forgery. A security risk management framework needs to be put in place to ensure that identity and travel documents' integrity is not compromised. These include measures to detect false claims to citizenship, falsified breeder documents and security vetting of applicants and personnel involved in the issuance process. States must enforce data protection laws to ensure that data collected is safeguarded and not corrupted, compromised or lost to third parties.

According to Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, every child has the right to be registered at birth by the state in which they are born.[7]Governments should put mechanisms in place to promptly register children irrespective of whether they are citizens or migrants immediately after birth will enable the child to access identity documents. The practice of late registration of births has profound security implications. It provides a backdoor for criminal aliens to obtain this crucial document fraudulently, enabling them to get the host nation's national identity cards and passports. Late birth registration may expose children to exploitation or forced marriage because the actual date of birth is unknown. Governments can enhance efficiency in processing identity information by digitizing Civil Registration Vital Statistics and linking them to other government identity management systems. States should ensure that migrants and stateless persons have a path to citizenship, and their access to vital registration documents is fundamental to a country's socio-economic development. DNA testing is essential in determining

genetic relationships in cases where no documentation of individuals claiming citizenship or applying for a visa. Governments need to train frontline officers to document fraud detection and equip border controls with forensic document examination equipment.

Countries have put precautions to prevent terrorist travel, particularly by investing in new technology since September 11, 2001, AL Qaeda attacks on the United States. Integrated border management enhances interagency cooperation in dealing with transnational crimes while facilitating regular migration and trade. The Government of Kenya established the Border Control and Operations Coordination Committee (BCOCC) in 2014 to improve border efficiency and inter-agency coordination in border management. This was accomplished by amending the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, under Section 75 of the Security Laws (Amendment) Act no. 19 of 2014[8], by adding Sections 5A-5D.[9]States maintain terrorist screening databases or watchlists to ensure detection and interception at the point of departure or entry. Additionally, they manage databases of stolen and lost travel documents and are connected to Interpol's Stolen and Lost Travel Document database, which contains more than 99 million records.[10]

Intelligence plays a crucial role in the fight against identity fraud. It supports the passport issuance process and the visa and residence permit issuance. Inter-agency cooperation is essential in dismantling and prosecuting criminal enterprises involved in identity document fraud, trafficking in human beings, human smuggling and narcotics trafficking. Eternal vigilance is critical in fighting transnational crimes, and in this era of globalization, governments must embrace new technologies and collaboration in fighting these vices. ∎

6   Fazzini, Kate. 2019. "Here's How Criminals Use Stolen Passport Information." CNBC. July 5, 2019. https://www.cnbc.com/2019/07/05/how-criminals-use-stolen-passport-information.html.

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8   "Security Laws (Amendment) Act, No 19 Of 2014 - Kenya Law - SLIDELEGEND.COM". 2021. Slidelegend.Com. https://slidelegend.com/security-laws-amendment-act-no-19-of-2014-kenya-law_59df63f617233dd8761773d04.html.
9   "Kenya Launches Revised Immigration Border Procedures Manual: International Organization for Migration." Kenya Launches Revised Immigration Border Procedures Manual | International Organization for Migration. Accessed August 30, 2021. https://www.iom.int/news/kenya-launches-revised-immigration-border-procedures-manual.
10   "Stolen and Lost Travel Documents Database." Stolen and Lost Travel Documents Database. Accessed August 30, 2021. https://www.interpol.int/en/How-we-work/Databases/Stolen-and-Lost-Travel-Documents-database.

MILITARY MUSEUMS: PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

The ideal purpose of most historical museums is to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret-objects of historical significance. Thus, the fact that museums have a critical role to the society generally means that at least everyone knows a thing or two about them. In the twenty-first century, museums are becoming destinations for socio-cultural exchange, where individuals meet and spend time with friends. A successful museum focuses on the needs and interests of its visitors and usually embraces the many different audiences that visit them.

In the beginning of what is considered organized society, the museum was taken as one of the institutions exhibiting objects of interest, such as statues, artifacts, writing, books, and arts and crafts. Later, when printing was invented, there was a more distinct division between museums and archives. The museums are sustained by acquiring objects, arranging them in form of exhibits, and preserving them for display, while archives keep writings of informational and historical significance.

Museums are meant to be respected places that provide a reliable source of knowledge and information by their collections that provide real-life connection to the past, engage with the present and open windows to the future. They serve varying aims, ranging from the conservation and documentation of their respective

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collections, serving as research hubs, catering to specialists and exhibiting to the general public. It should be appreciated that there are many types of museums, such as art museums, history museums, science museums, war museums, military museums, sports museums and children's museums, among others. The National Museums of Kenya (NMK) have numerous museums scattered across the country, as well as other professional and private museums; such as the Judiciary museums.

The ideal purpose of military museums is to collect, preserve, interpret and display objects of military relevance. This therefore means that from the view of a visitor, a trip to the military museum can be an entertaining and enlightening way to get to know more about the military, especially of the particular country.

Military museums have always played key roles in civilized societies and so have the material culture associated with them, and artifacts such as weapons, uniforms, medals, trophies, flags and all the other trappings of military endeavours, that have regularly attracted the interests of collectors and the general public. Displaying these military antiques to the public became the main purpose of the modern military museums. Recently exhibition in military museums have undergone a major shift, from simply displaying artifacts to using them to tell

stories; which in turn helps to foster national pride.

It is often through that military museums have two main lines of origin; one sprang from private or restricted collections of arms and amour amassed by the very wealthy, often titled "collectors editions". The other ancestral line of military museums was derived from the outdated firearms and other military materiel, stored in state arsenals, where these became known as arsenal and artillery museums.

The collection of arms and armour plus other weapons steadily made-up the vast majority of national military museums, that were open to the public. These museums were mainly concerned with primary historical and technological advancements made by the military. These types of military museums showed the military in classified displays, usually arranged in chronological order. Significant military collections of the same kind that found their way into new military museums also went to other kinds of museums, especially art museums.

In the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF), military museums have mainly been at Infantry Regimental level, depicting the history and battle spoils of the respective regiments; however, the NMK and KDF signed an MOU to undertake the establishment of KDF Museums. It is hoped that the creation of a KDF museum will collect, preserve, study, document and present Kenya's past and present military heritage, so as to enhance knowledge, appreciation and respect for the Kenyan military. This will not only act as a source of knowledge, but also a potential source of motivation for would-be soldiers to join; with the promise of immortalization by virtue of the museum. ∎

THE ART OF LAND USE IN KENYA

The general logic behind the proper use of land often involves the management and proper modification of the natural environment into upgraded and builds up environment such as settlements and semi-natural habitants like arable fields, pastures and wood. This means that the idea of land use has had a long history, though land use practices vary across the world. Land use and the land management practices have had a major impact on natural resources, some of which include water, soil, plants, nutrients and animals.

Effective land use is essential for Kenya's sustainable development and as such the Country's development matrix needs to take cognizance of the holistic aspect of land use by embracing best practices. The type of land use in Kenya depends on the location, availability of water, soil moisture, soil fertility or proximity to other human activities. Thus a large number of land-use types and categories have been worked out by various scholars and planners in different disciplines. The classification of land into its various uses and how these uses change over a period of time provide the background information needed for the planning of land resources.

The land in the Kenya context is categorized as public, private and community based on ownership. Land ownership dictates the usage with private land being currently the most impacted. The usage of private land has consistently changed with the Country's population growth with most it being used for the settlements at the expense of other uses. The ever increasing demand for human settlement has subjected this land to frequent sub-divisions. Similarly, the same fate has started setting in on community land with the going allocations to individual members while encroachments has not been spared off some of the public land resulting to increased informal settlements and destruction of the ecosystem.

These scenarios provide a platform for evaluating land use with the objective of identifying areas where interventions are required. Since land is a scarce and vital resource, it is imperative for it to be

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utilized prudently and optimally for the benefit of the Country. First, the naturally food producing areas like some parts of the Rift valley, Western and Central regions of the Country have continued to reduce as they are being utilized for other purposes other than farming. Land in these regions has over the years been sub-divided to accommodate the ever growing population. This has not only substantially reduced the farming space but has also made the ever increasing small plots untenable for mechanization. Important to note is that these Regions were initially designated to sustain the Country's cash crops but this is not the case anymore as majority of the plot owners have over the years continued replacing these crops with settlements.

It is worth noting that despite the above damage, there still exists a widow for further restraining similar consequences on the plots of land currently being leased out to multinational companies in these Regions. However, with the expiry of their leases setting in, communities in these Regions are already agitating for the re-distribution of the said land among members as they view these plots as community owned. Thus, if necessary measures are not taken, this land would end up in the control of the same community members culminating to similar land use that has continued to undermine food security. This ought to be discouraged by

generating relevant regulatory safeguards geared towards retaining this land for agricultural purposes.

Secondly, the failure over the years to secure some of the public land within some major urban centers has continued to encourage the mushrooming of informal urban settlements particularly in the Country's capital. Settlements of momentum magnitude have mushroomed on reserve plots along railway/electricity power transmission lines. This trend has encouraged similar encroachments on private land within the Capital and other urban Centre's countrywide giving rise to majority of the urban residents living in deplorable conditions. Over the years, these informal settlements have been prone to disasters that have been destroying properties and claimed lives. They have also been resisting evictions as well as efforts by the Government to upgrade despite the exercise being overwhelming.

Subsequently according to the Ministry of Land (2021), the threat on land set aside for conservancy and water catchment has equally not been spared from this plunder with the forest cover having reduced to

about less than one percent (1%) today. The five water towers of Cherangany, Mount Kenya, Mount Elgon, Mau Complex and Aberdares have not been spared either. Some of the water catchment areas had been excised paving way for settlements as others continue to be plundered through illegal loggings and encroachments. This has adversely affected the ecosystem with some of the rivers' survival being threatened as well as exacerbating human wildlife conflict. Although this threat played out for a while, the Government has already been addressing this through evictions and forestation. However, these interventions have been attracting resistances resulting to loss of lives and destruction of property.

Fourthly, it is worth acknowledging that the Government has been re-distributing land to members of the different communities in Regions where land was communal. Majority of this land is located within the Arid and Semi-Arid lands (ASAL) areas. This redistribution exercise would adversely affect the livelihood of local populations as pastures for animals would disappear. This category of land constitutes about two thirds of the Country's land mass and has been supporting the livelihood of the

majority of locals residing in the Regions of North Eastern, Eastern, North Rift and Coast regions. Majority of locals in these regions have collectively been using their land to practice pastoralism over the years and this arrangement has all along served them satisfactorily. The livelihoods of these communities are headed to the headwinds with the surging population and the ongoing redistribution of this land to individuals. There is need for this issue to be revisited to salvage these populations from their accustomed livelihoods.

In conclusion, the time is ripe for everyone to embrace effective land use as a growing phenomenon. Land use is an emerging socio-economic activity wherein a region of one major specific purpose utility may be converted into another for general purpose utility. A Country's development matrix must take cognizance of the holistic aspect of the land use. The failure to enforce the already designed regulations as well as formulating new ones to deal with emerging realities has contributed to the current crisis that the Country finds itself in. Over the years, the Country lost the opportunity for the proper planning of the capital City following several years of uncontrolled informal settlement. ∎

THE POTENTIAL OF FORESTRY IN KENYA'S DRYLANDS

The county's arid and semi-arid areas which cover about 80% of Kenya's total land surface and hold 25% of the human population, are unique in nature and require special attention to strengthen not only the economic base of the inhabitants but also the national economy. They also

offer the greatest potential for intensified afforestation towards achieving the national objective of 10% tree cover. Dryland forests have the potential to supply marketable commodities on a sustainable basis – such as gums and resins, aloe, charcoal, essential oils, silk, edible oil, commercial juices, frankincense,

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indigenous fruits, honey, thatching materials and timber – an improvement in the livelihoods of those people living in the Arid and Semi-arid areas (ASAL) will

depend upon development of processing technologies and markets for the non-wood forest products and the provision of sufficient economic incentives.

Desertification, which is the process of degrading the drylands into deserts is a major problem in the drylands. Most of these processes occur as a result of many causes both natural and human. Destruction of vegetation cover in drylands occurs for a variety of reasons such as overgrazing, over cultivation, fuel wood collection and burning. Animal grazing is the most widespread use of drylands and it is widely regarded as a major cause of desertification owing to its increased intensity. The major role of the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) in the drylands is sustainable management and utilisation of drylands forest resources for community livelihood improvement and climate change mitigation. The Service is increasing and maintaining the area under tree cover in ASALS through institutional tree planting approaches, household tree planting and rehabilitations of degraded areas for enhanced environmental conservation and livelihood improvement. KFS is also promoting sustainable investments in dryland forest enterprises such as bee keeping, silk and aloe farming, value addition for products such as gums and resins. The Service is also enhancing its information generation, dissemination and technology transfer capacity within the ASAL areas. KFS has started programmes to ensure that sustainable forestry management practices are achieved in the drylands. These include the promotion and establishment of suitable multipurpose tree species as well as water harvesting and conservation measures in the drylands

The Service in conjunction with stakeholders including the County Governments is also promoting catchment protection and rehabilitation and also supporting community initiatives in sustainable utilization of tree products through promotion of value addition. Other activities aimed at developing dryland forestry include streamlining the charcoal industry for sustainability through formation of charcoal producer associations and establishment of woodlots of suitable drylands tree species.

Charcoal is a key source of energy in Kenya providing 82% of urban and 34% of rural household energy. According to Kenya Forest Service (KFS), the sector provides employment to over 700,000

The weed is spreading rapidly in the rangelands, croplands and forests and in particular is threatening pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods.

people who support over two million dependants. Kenya's urban centers are highly reliant on charcoal to meet the population's energy needs. In Nairobi alone, 86 percent of households use charcoal for cooking and boiling water and 43 percent use it as their main energy source. Ecological alternatives such as briquettes made of charcoal dust or sawmill waste, have failed to gain widespread consumer acceptance due to local sociocultural and economic barriers.

Charcoal business is big and remains active even after several bans by the Government to curb cutting down of trees, which charcoal producers harvest unsustainably, sometimes in desperate moves to feed their families. Research indicates that charcoal producers, despite doing all the hard work of charcoal burning, remain financially challenged while the transporters get most benefits from the venture. It is for this reason that KFS is keen on empowering the producers through capacity training to ensure that they understand fully and are part of the value chain for full benefits.

The Service is also working with other agencies including the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) to identify and develop tree species that can withstand the climatic conditions of the ASALs with a view of introducing these to tree farmers. KFS is also sensitising pastoralists on sustainable methods of grazing by building on the Indigenous Technical Knowledge such as deferred grazing patterns. Other approaches include the Green Schools Programme that aims at involving educational institutions in tree planting activities nationally.
Despite all these initiatives, the forest resource in the drylands is facing multiple and interwoven challenges that threaten its existence. The challenges include climate change, loss of riverine forests

to irrigated agriculture, mushrooming settlements, fires, illegal wood and non-wood harvesting, illegal Charcoal production, poverty and the ever-increasing population pressure. Prolonged stay of Refugeees in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps (that houses over 500,000 refugees) is also to blame for massive degradation of forest and allied resources. This is made worse by the fast growing *Prosopis juliflora* (Mathenge) invasive weeds in some part of dryland areas.

The weed is spreading rapidly in the rangelands, croplands and forests and in particular is threatening pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods. *Prosopis* has also invaded parts of wildlife reserves threatening biodiversity and in the recent past its spread is favored by large scale construction projects such as highways. Not only does it affect food security and biodiversity but it also harbors wildlife predators because of its impenetrable thickets. There are several factors favoring its rapid distribution in the environment. Its ability to adapt wide range of climatic condition, effective dispersal mechanism, its allelopathic effect, prolific nature, having large seed bank in the soil environment, fast growing and vigorous coppicing ability are among the principal factors. *Prosopis* has the capacity to decrease the composition and diversity of plant species and it has adverse effects on crop yield, as well as animal and human health. On the other hand, manual, mechanical, chemical and biological control methods as well as control by utilization is an effective control and management of this weed although there is fear in using some of these methods due to their adverse environmental impacts.

Currently, KFS is encouraging use of *Prosopis* for charcoal production through charcoal producer associations, use of improved kiln for charcoal production, firewood, posts and poles for construction, crushing of pods for fodder, replacement of *Prosopis* with high value tree crops and pastures on farms. The institution is also encouraging *Prosopis* management for timber production. There is need to improve *Prosopis* charcoal value chain to avoid exploitation of charcoal producers by wholesalers/middlemen. Further, there is urgent need to develop management strategies that are environmentally friendly and economically viable to bring the weed under control. ∎

KENYAN DOMESTIC WORKERS IN THE GULF STATES

Following numerous complaints about the mistreatment of Kenyan domestic workers in the Gulf States, the then Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services, Hon. Kazungu Kambi banned the recruitment and export of domestic workers to the Middle East. He also appointed a Task Force to Review Matters Relating to Foreign Employment Administration and Labour Migration Management on 15th October 2014. The Task Force was mandated amongst others, to: consider the existing framework for the management and regulation of recruitment agencies and assess its effectiveness in protecting Kenyans recruited to work outside the country; the causes and extent of the increasing number of reported cases of mistreatment of Kenyan workers and unfair labour practices in the Middle East; and review the existing framework and recommend how it can be strengthened to ensure effective protection of Kenyans working outside the country; recommend considerations to be taken into account in vetting and accreditation of recruitment agencies; recommend measures for effective co-ordination and regulation of recruitment agencies; and consider any other matter related and incidental to the foregoing and make such recommendations as may be appropriate.

Following the taskforce recommendations, the Ministry of Labour implemented measures to streamline and strengthen management of labour migration such as creation of National Employment Authority charged with the registration of employment agencies and management of foreign employment. Registration and Regulation of the recruitment agencies through vetting and licensing, Introduction of pre-departure training for recruited domestic workers. Signing of Bilateral Labour Agreements with the Gulf States of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates and Posting of Labour Attaches to Kenya Embassies in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar in 2017. Despite the above measures, Kenyan domestic workers are still facing a myriad of challenges, ranging from unpaid salaries, physical abuse, lack of medical

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treatment, confiscation of passports, failure or delay in repatriation of dead Kenyans, amongst others.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and embassies abroad have been inundated with cries for help from relatives and friends of distressed Kenyans especially in Saudi Arabia. Further, both the Cabinet Secretary and Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs have been summoned several times by Parliamentary Committees to respond to questions on the plight of distressed Kenyan workers whose problems mainly arise from contractual labour disputes or violations. In addition, the Parliamentary Committee of Labour and Social Welfare visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 27th February to 3rd March 2019 and prepared a report that was adopted by the National Assembly in September 2020. In the report, the Committee among many others, made two recommendations that were directed jointly to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and MFA

The first recommendation was that the Ministry of Labor and Social protection and MFA must continuously monitor the implementation of the bilateral labour agreement to ensure that the measures initiated to protect Kenyans working in Saudi Arabia are fully adhered to. The Bilateral labour Agreement was signed on 25th May 2017 between the Minister of

Labour and Social Development of Saudi Arabia and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary responsible for Labour Article 3 of the Agreement designates the two Ministries of Labour as the implementing agencies of the Agreement on behalf of the two Governments. Article 7 of the Agreement mandates the two Ministries of Labour to establish a Joint Technical Committee to supervise and coordinate implementation of the Agreement, and carry out periodic review, assessment and monitoring of the implementation of the Agreement. The second recommendation was that the National Employment Authority and the Directorate of Diaspora Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs should embark on a rigorous campaign to Market Saudi Arabia as an important destination country for foreign employment. The current notion that foreign workers in Saudi Arabia go through suffering need to be corrected and the citizens sensitized on the correct procedure of travel to Saudi Arabia.

Executive order no.1 of 2018(Revised) on organization of the government of the Republic of Kenya gives the mandate of National Labour and Employment Policy Management, and Migratory Labour and International Jobs Policy to the State Department for Labour and its Agency, the National Employment Authority (NEA). MFA has no mandate or role in the management of foreign employment. The National Employment Authority regulates and licenses the recruitment agencies and conducts the pre-departure training to the migrant workers. MFA only receives requests from families for repatriation of migrant workers when they are in distress or die abroad.

Ongoing efforts on labour migration
The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection formed an inter-Ministerial Bilateral Labour Agreement Committee on 13th October 2020 consisting of Ministry of labour, MFA, Ministry of Interior & Attorney General's Office. The Committee is tasked with reviewing the existing BLAs and address weaknesses such as Gender discrimination and abuse, Inadequate wage protection measures, Confiscation of travel and identity documents, Unclear complaints resolution mechanisms,

Inadequate pre-departure training as well as Non-operationalization of the Joint Technical Committees to monitor & evaluate BLAs. The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Labour organized a joint meeting on labour migration on 16th November 2020, with Ambassadors of Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). This led to establishment of a Regional Ministerial Forum on Harmonizing Labour Migration Policies in East and Horn of Africa: a United Approach on Safe, regular and humane labour migration christened "The Nairobi Process". The first meeting was held in Nairobi on 20 -21st January 2020. Further, there is an ongoing exercise to review Bilateral Labour Agreement between Kenya and the Gulf States and adopt measures to mitigate challenges faced by Kenyan Migrant workers on 5th August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a retreat to review the Diaspora Policy and to develop a migrant labour policy to protect Kenyans abroad.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the strategic objective which is to Promote and protect interests of Kenyans abroad, and through the Directorate of Diaspora and Consular Affairs, facilitates the provision of consular assistance and support to Kenyan nationals in distress abroad. Additionally, the Ministry strives to enhance and mainstream Kenyan Diaspora in national development and in this regard facilitated Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics to carry out the first ever Diaspora Remittance Survey in February/March 2021. The Survey aims at collecting valuable information on remittances to help guide government policies on remittances support to the economy and livelihoods. ■

MENTAL HEALTH IN KENYA: THE SILENT PANDEMIC

News making headlines in the recent past, a doctor in Nairobi committed suicide. This caught the eye of many, seeing that she was considered successful in many respects, and would thus not be expected to take such drastic measures. Other instances reported recently have involved police officers killing their loved ones and then taking their own lives. Cases of suicide have been on the increase in the country, with suspicion of high burden of mental health challenges even before the Covid 19 Pandemic. This brings to light the conversation on mental health and its place in the healthcare system and the overall society in Kenya. The World Health Organization defines health as the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not just the absence of a disease. We can therefore rightly state that mental health entails more than just the absence of mental disorders or disabilities, and forms an essential part of health. It entails successful mental performance which results in productivity, fulfilled relationships with other people, improved physical health and the ability to cope with the normal stresses of life. All these result in an improved quality of life with good social relations.

A World Health Organization report in 2014 ranked Kenya the fourth among African countries with the highest number of depression cases. Mental health experts have made an estimation that 1 in every 4 Kenyans may be suffering from a mental health related issue, ranging from mild to severe disorders. At least 10% of the world's population is affected by one or more mental disorders. Through a combination of its health effects, injuries, and suicide, mental disorders are also a major killer. It is documented that people with severe mental disorders die 10 to 20 years earlier than the general population, states WHO, in their report in 2014. At its worst, depression can lead to suicide. According to the World Health Organization, depressive disorders and schizophrenia are responsible for 60% of all suicides.

Suicide is defined as death caused by self-directed injurious act with intent to

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die. A suicide attempt is a non-fatal, self-directed, potentially injurious act with intent to die. A suicide attempt might not result in injury. Suicide is an extreme but not uncommon outcome for people with untreated mental disorders. Note up-to 79% of these reported suicides occur in low and middle income countries. WHO statistics (GHO, 2016) estimates an annual global age-standardized suicide rate of 10.5 per 100,000 people. Suicide rates are under-reported both globally and locally due to a number of factors including the illegality of suicidal behaviour leading to fear of stigma and persecution and lack of a formal data collection mechanism for suicide data. In 2014, Kenya's mortality rate due to suicide ranked 29th worldwide with an estimate of 5.6 per 100,000 deaths (WHO 2015) With all these damning statistics, the country is still struggling with providing affordable mental health care and treatment.

There is no single cause for mental illness. A number of factors contribute to the risk for mental illness, such as; drug and substance abuse, alcohol abuse, unemployment or job loss, trauma such as rape, witnessing murder or violence, relationship problems, loneliness and self-isolation, death of a loved one, stigma and discrimination, gender-based violence and all forms of bullying including cyber bullying. Terminal or chronic illness

such as cancer and HIV can also lead to mental illness. It must be remembered that challenges related to poor mental health are compounded by several factors including ignorance about the extent of mental health problems, stigma against those living with mental illness and mistaken beliefs that mental illnesses cannot be treated and that, it is some type of witchcraft or a spell upon the affected person.

There are many misconceptions among Kenyans about mental illnesses with the belief that certain people in society are more prone to illness than others. For example, the menace of drug abuse and rampant alcohol addiction has seen the elite hiding and taking their children abroad for psychiatric care where they spend millions of shilling rather than invest locally to expand and advance the care to meet the local needs. Mental health illnesses are not a preserve for the poor. It affects all and sundry in the society, and this is why Kenya's leadership should not overlook the menace. Having a mental health illness can be upsetting, confusing, and frightening. One may feel that it is a sign of weakness, or one is losing their mind, however, it is important to note that mental health problems are a common human experience, and that it is important to seek help. In Kenya, when people talk about having the desire to kill themselves, it's often taken as a joke and if when one trys unsuccessfully be it suicide or homicide, s/he will end up in jail instead of a mental health institution. Many mental health patients are in prison instead of mental health institutions where they will be evaluated to divulge or rule out their mental state in relation to the crime they committed before their incarceration.

As part of the government's efforts to deal with mental health problems, President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya ordered the formation of a task-force on mental health, with the primary mandate to study the status of mental health in country, and recommend solutions to reform mental health systems. The Taskforce was inaugurated on 11th December 2019, and comprised of a multi sectoral team from the Ministry of Health, and other relevant agencies. Noting the huge gaps in treatment and care, The Taskforce on Mental Health recommended that mental illness should be declared a National Emergency of epidemic proportions, to prioritize mental health as a priority public health and socioeconomic agenda. A holistic approach from all stakeholders

is required in addressing mental health issues. The government, legislators, the citizenry, the church, and other professionals have to play a role. Sound mental health policies through service design and awareness will be the clearest roadmap for effective mental health intervention. Other actors who have direct contact with mental health victims such as teachers, lecturers/Professors and clergy can play a pivotal role if they're empowered with knowledge and the basics of mental illnesses, especially in referring patients to hospitals for appropriate treatment.

What can one do?
Talking about ones feelings can help one stay in good mental health and deal with the times when one feels troubled. Regular exercise can boost self-esteem and can help concentrate, sleep, and feel better. Exercise keeps the brain and other vital organs healthy, and is also a significant benefit towards improving mental health. The brain needs a mix of nutrients in order to stay healthy and function well, just like the other organs in the body, thus a diet that's good for the physical health is also good for mental health. Reduce the amount of alcohol one consumes, most often people drink alcohol to change moods and some people drink to deal with fear or loneliness but the effect is only temporary.

When the drink wears off, one feels worse off because of the way the alcohol has affected the brain and the rest of the body. Drinking is not a good way to manage difficult feelings and circumstances. If things are getting too much and feel that one can't cope, always ask for help. Family or friends may be able to offer practical help or a listening ear. A change of scene or a change of pace is good for mental health. It could be a five-minute pause from work, a half-hour lunch break at work, or a weekend travelling and exploring somewhere new. A few minutes can be enough to de-stress a person. Give oneself some 'quality me time'.

The Ministry of Health is urging employers to put more emphasis on mental health at workplace. The old adage which states that a stitch in time saves nine should be applied so that the country does not continue to lose productive members of the population due to treatable mental ailments. Finally, people are all different. It is better to accept that persons are unique rather than wish to be like someone else. Feeling good about oneself boosts confidence just as to learn new skills, visit new places and make new friends. High self-esteem helps one cope when life takes a difficult turn. ■

PAKISTAN'S LOOK AFRICA POLICY

Introduction

A recent conference in Kenya (Eastern Africa) called as Horn of Africa on 30–31 January 2020 allowed more than 200 participants throughout the African area to identify methods to interact and cooperate with Pakistan for the first time. Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told the media at the highly-profiled conference that Pakistan was being called upon by Somaliland to extend its Look Africa policy initiative, in general, to the Horn of Africa states, in particular. The case study analyzes the potential of Pakistan participating actively in the area. The history of Pakistan is extensive and has been explored in detail with a number of African governments. The economic context between Pakistan and Africa is still extremely elusive. Pakistan has to take formless steps to avoid falling between two cracks in order to move successfully. Constant adaptability to the market trends is significant in the way forward. This article, therefore, assesses challenges and opportunities for Pakistan in the region. It also suggests some policy measures to Pakistani policymakers to get the most out of the opportunity.

There are numerous things in common in Pakistan and Africa. The continued economic policies that can only be realized via stability in political institutional structures are all economic growth indicators such as production, sales, jobs and GDP, etc. This article addresses the possibility to get positive outcomes via joint economies in Africa in a favorable socio-political context. It also highlights the necessity of looking at Africa. It concentrates on measures for Pakistan to take over the position of Morocco in the CPEC from African markets with its scant resources.

Strategic Importance and Potential of African Region

In order to realize their variety, the continent of Africa is typically split into five areas. North Africa is the first thing.

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Although political upheavals have been prevalent in that area, both economic and coercive tactics have been used to control democratic standards. In certain situations, these regimes met the West's goals and were further reliant on the West for their entrenched interests. The Northern Part is compared to the other regions of Africa more developed and wealthier. As a natural neighbor of Europe, this area is in contrast with other areas in terms of economic growth. This is of course part of the EU's dependence.

Second is East Africa or Horn of Africa, area of the Red Sea and an important maritime commerce area between the East and West. It is also one of the world's most sensitive areas of conflict. This area has a strategic relevance in two dimensions; the first dimension is of a political character. Political turmoil in the East African area created a danger perception after the post-colonial era. Trade is the second aspect of its strategic relevance. Taking the first dimension into consideration, it is important to mention prevailing political upheavals and external efforts to mitigate them. There is a rise in the piracy and the shortage of resources on the shipping route of the horn of Africa. Somalia's neighbors were in strife with one another. During its conflict with Eritrea, (1998–2000), Ethiopia has good ties with Djibouti since it traded

via a landless nation, the Djibouti Seaport. Relations between Djibouti and Eritrea which were strained in 1998 were restored with the end of the conflict in 2000. Both neighboring countries in the horn of Africa currently have good ties. Sudan has participated in South Sudan and Egypt border conflicts.

The third is Central Africa, which is part of the Central African Economic Community (ECCAS). The Economic and monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), which has a common currency, also consists of six Central African States. As European colonial powers gained strength in the twentieth century, militant groups gained momentum and countries in that region attempted to win independence. This area is quite impoverished and farming, husbandry and fishing are the major activities of the inhabitants. The Congo River is the world's deepest fluvial system. Lake Chad is positioned at the edges of the access to water problem of four nations. The primary livelihoods of million people in the area include Deepwater lakes, Tanganyika and Albert as well. Cameroon and Gabon are relatively stable countries in the area in terms of politics. Most of Africa's political history is filled with short-lived democracy, corruption and incompetence, which have influenced their economic stability. Ethnic conflicts in Rwanda have given rise to genocides and Congo wars have led to huge migration from one nation to another.

West Africa is the fourth region. The Atlantic Ocean is bordered on the West, and the North by the Sahara Desert. The Portuguese were the first people who conquered those nations in the 15th century and began black slavery after British French, French and Dutch because of the geographical proximity. In especially British and French, Western African kingdoms fought their conquest but could not sustain colonial forces.

All Western African States gained independence until 1974, but engaged in domestic political disputes. In this region, the bulk of the countries are coastal, and few are landlocked. The Western African Economic Community was established in 1975 to improve economic conditions.

Southern Africa is the fifth region. Here, especially in South Africa and Zimbabwe, people with EU ties settled. The first Portuguese to annex the West of Africa to the southmost tip of the continent. The Indigenous Commerce Market was controlled, yet was not. Like the Portuguese, in this region the Netherlands too had their own communities. Africa contains a large number of natural resources and precious quantities, including minerals, oil, gold, animals, plants, flora and forests, from east to west and north to south. The richness of natural resources cannot signal development. Niger, despite the fact that there are deposits of gold, iron, uranium, coal and oil, is one of the most conflict-prone countries. In order to attain progress and economic success, it is also necessary to manage these valuable resources. Political stability is quite important in this respect. Political instability, inter-state wars and frequent government changes have taken place in African countries. This continent with its vast resources is nevertheless unstable and reliant on commerce and development in the USA, Europe, China and others.

African governments and the business sector have taken steps in recent times to decrease the dependency of the area on Western countries. These initiatives included bilateral attempts to strengthen commerce and development with nations such as Pakistan and others. The aim was to create multilateral platforms. In order to ease economic activity in African governments, the African area is split into Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The Lagos Plan for Africa's development was first launched in 1980. They tried to reduce their dependency on Western countries while enhancing their autonomy. They were persuaded that they

African governments and the business sector have taken steps in recent times to decrease the dependency of the area on Western countries.

were used by western countries for growth and economic integration. However, a wide-ranging collaboration approach to get out of the predicament has been seen as necessary. At national and regional levels their promises to enhance economic growth would eventually become an African Economic Community and a Common Market.

Role of Pakistan in Africa

Pakistan enjoyed cordial relations bilaterally with several African countries, such as Somalia. Both nations belong to the Islamic Cooperation Organization (OIC). The oil-based GDP of Algeria is 41,66 million. Most of the creation of commerce and revenues are related to the oil sector, which could never grow other industries. Pakistan was the first country to recognize Algeria's independence in 1954 and to start direct ties with the newly independent state. The Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) was then set up in 1958, although for a long period no additional trade cooperation or any other collaboration remained a major issue. This JMC was conducted in Islamabad for the first time in 2005. Relations between Pakistan and Egypt are friendly, although with time, imports and exports have fallen. Pakistan supported Sudan in its war, too. The ties between Pakistan and Ethiopia are warm and polite. Since 1983 Pakistan has been in a position to implement bilateral economic agreements with Kenya.

Pakistan's Look Africa Policy

Increasing the years-old diplomatic connections remain insufficient in the Afro-Pak commerce volume. The Look Africa initiative to enhance the volume

and linkages of commerce was recently launched by Pakistan. In the area, Pakistan has pledged to strengthen both bilateral and multilateral collaboration. Recently, the Kenya trade conference united stakeholders on a platform to optimize advantages for both parties. Action is planned in many phases in this respect. New commercial networks in Kenya, Egypt, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan and Algeria are opened for increased involvement in the first phase. These trade divisions have been moved to Africa from Europe. With the formation of the Africa cell to facilitate Pakistani entrepreneurs the joint working group will be set up. The proposal also includes commerce with Pakistan and other African countries. Pakistan also participates in discussions with multilateral political and economic institutions in the area. Recently, the ports in Mombasa, Kenya, Casablanca in Morocco, Nouakchott in Mauritania, Takoradi in Ghana, Lagos in Nigeria, Cape Town in South Africa and Dar -E- Salam visited the ports in order to improve diplomatic relations with Africa (Tanzania). In the port towns of Pakistan Navy has put up free medical care medical camps as a show of goodwill. The debate during their visits was also on safety issues, such as piracy, armed robbery, marine pollution and drug trafficking.

Prospects for Pakistan

It is time for Pakistan to create a comprehensive African policy, since Pakistan's all-weather friend, China, is investing in development in virtually all of Africa's impoverished countries. Algeria, Africa's largest country, has considerable trading potential and an oil-based economy. The Algerian economy, notably the energy sector, is primarily government-controlled. There are economic changes aimed at reducing unemployment in the country and attracting foreign investment to explore diverse economic and commercial prospects. For foodstuffs and agricultural goods Algeria and Egypt are highly dependent on the nations of Europe and the Middle East. The export policy of Sudan has never been conservative, but new export polices are more likely to

attract FDI and extend its reach, from oil to non-oil items. Unlike Algeria and Sudan, the Ethiopian economy bases primarily on agriculture but is keen to take any chance of diversifying its export development. Foreign investment is attracted to textile, leather, agriculture, and manufacturing industries. Ethiopia and Pakistan have had good trade relations for a long time, however, business communities from both sides are keen to open new channels of trade and investment. Somaliland is the huge exporter of livestock, largely dependent on Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen, and Oman. Pakistan can fulfill its demand for livestock.

The weak, but open economies of Somaliland and Somalia have deteriorated. They are quite open to investment abroad. Somaliland expressed interest and asked Pakistan to invest during the recent conference held in Kenya. A prospective agreement between the ports of Tangier and Gwadar to improve bilateral cooperation at various levels was announced by Moroccan Ambassador to Pakistan Muhammad Karmoune on 20 February 2020. The port of Tangier is positioned at an important strategic junction between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Seas. A million containers may be handled concurrently in this port and 750 firms are on the platform. As the Morocco Joint Business Council was established recently to exchange trade delegations that can imperatively recognize bilateral trade potential, Morocco is an important player in promoting trade and commercial relations between the two countries. The Joint Business Council has been set up in Marocco-Pakistan. There is also debate on the joint coordination between the Pakistan Stock Exchange and the Casablanca Stock Exchange of Morocco and high-level talks were held in August 2019 to set the framework for future debate. Pakistan is a major investor in Al Jadida's fertilizers in Morocco, although it has a strong interest in Pakistan's tourism in Morocco.

Recommendations
The following are policy recommendations

The weak, but open economies of Somaliland and Somalia have deteriorated. They are quite open to investment abroad.

for policymakers and practitioners to make the measures most advantageous for Pakistan:

- The competition for Pakistan are China and Europe in the area. Pakistan can assist Algeria in investing in creating small enterprises that may help generate money, which has declined in recent years since oil prices have fallen generally. Algeria needs aid to increase its export potential, thus Pakistan should take advantage of this chance.
- Rice and textile goods may be sold to Algeria, for which European nations are heavily dependent. Pakistan should not be left alone, and should make use for Pakistani rice and textiles of the good cordial connections it already has with Algeria.
- Pakistan can try to reduce Algeria's Libya and Egypt's closeness to Europe. For imports of agricultural products and food products, they are dependent on Europe. In Pakistan, rice cotton and textiles might be the biggest exporter in the region.
- China is the greatest commercial partner and this relationship is becoming the major investor in all of the countries in which Pakistan has initiated new trading routes, i.e. North (Algeria and Egypt) from east (Kenya, Sudán, Ethiopia and Somalia). Pakistan may also provide its services and joint enterprises to boost old industries and build new sectors to take advantage of this potential. Training programs may be carried out and Pakistan can also give its skilled staff with training such as China.
- Pakistan should cooperate with local authorities and stakeholders to

achieve peace and stability.
- With its diplomatic and economic commitment respectively, Pakistan has effectively built a favorable image. The execution of the Look Africa Policy now has to be strengthened and taken to the next level. Exchange programs for students have been carried out.
- Military and marine cooperation may be strengthened, which might in turn represent the bilateral conviction of strategic fronts. The share of knowledge and defense agreements and investment can therefore be improved.
- For the future, tourism provides outstanding opportunities. It might be a unique way of exploring and improving unmatched trade and investment prospects for Pakistan and Africa.
- Africa can be sighted by Pakistan's pharmaceutical businesses, targeting a population of 1.2 billion. Pakistan may particularly offer its expertise in the fight against Covid 19, malaria and dengue.
- The inclusion of Morocco in the CPEC and tourism investment potential can create a new door for Pakistan on the African continent.

Conclusion
Since its independence, Pakistan has enjoyed friendly relations with African countries. Since that time, in nearly 13 nations in the area Pakistan has been on its resident mission, and they have been accredited by other countries. There are several similarities and grounds of shared interest in Pakistan and Africa. Pakistan does not, but has long enjoyed good relations with Africans in commerce. Pakistan and Africa have the capacity to establish together in the area a business-friendly climate and to meet their unique demands. It will lead to new levels of collaboration. The current rise in better economic cooperation may draw them closer, and because of political stability Pakistan can profit of the rising significance of Africa and the changing environment. ◼

THE 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES IN PANDEMIC TIMES

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The modern **Olympic Games** or **Olympics** are leading international sporting events featuring summer and winter sports competitions in which thousands of athletes from around the world participate in a variety of competitions. The Olympic Games are considered the world's foremost sports competition with more than 200 nations participating. The Olympic Games are normally held every four years, alternating between the Summer and Winter Olympics every two years in the four-year period. Sport is an inclusive dialect, which is shared by all the individuals all around the world and it is easily understood by people in terms of worldwide recreations, gatherings and relaxation. Sports have struggled within many disciplines to establish itself as a serious area of interest, for instance as was seen when state are encouraged to participate in several Olympic Games.

The evolution of the Olympic Movement during the 20th and 21st centuries has resulted in several changes to the Olympic Games. Some of these adjustments include the creation of the Winter Olympic Games for snow and ice sports, the Paralympic Games for athletes with disabilities, the Youth Olympic Games for athletes aged 14 to 18, the five Continental games (Pan American, African, Asian, European, and Pacific), and the World Games for sports that are not contested in the

Olympic Games. Baron Pierre de Coubertin founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894, leading to the first modern Games in Athens in 1896. The IOC is the governing body of the Olympic Movement with the Olympic Charter defining its structure and authority. The IOC also endorses the Deaflympics and the Special Olympics. The IOC has needed to adapt to a variety of economic, political, and technological advancements. The abuse of amateur rules by the Eastern Bloc nations prompted the IOC to shift away from pure amateurism, as envisioned by Coubertin, to the acceptance of professional athletes participating at the Games.

Olympic Sports endeavors and seeks to achieve socio-economic, cultural, environmental security and political interests. In addition sports were in the past regarded by diplomats as occupying the terrain of low politics, far from the weighty matters of the state. Globally, sports occasions give a theoretical opportunity for states to demonstrate their ability and prowess, through sports persons who demonstrate extra-ordinary achievements, and therefore make the respective states be perceived in very positive light. It is thus worth noting that like so many Olympics, the Games reflect the world in which they are taking place. This time, it's a microcosm of the pandemic with all its challenges and fears, all of its irritations and surreal landscapes, jammed into a single metropolitan area during a brief moment in history eyed warily by a COVID-wearied civilization.

A century ago, the 1920 Antwerp Olympics were held only a few months after the Spanish flu ravaged the world, killing at least 50 million people. In 2010, the Vancouver Olympics were threatened by an outbreak of H1N1. In 2016, the Zika virus prompted calls to cancel the Rio Games.

Most recently in 2018, officials in Pyeongchang wrestled with an outbreak of the norovirus. Mass gatherings like the Olympics, that bring together people from all over the world, have always posed a huge infectious disease risk. Visitors bring viruses, which may not be endemic to the host country and may take viral souvenirs home to their own communities. It was right ahead of the 2016 Rio Olympics; the Zika virus, a mosquito-borne disease primarily transmitted through the bite of an infected female Aedes aegypti mosquito, dominated talk. Symptoms include fever, rash and joint pain, though a Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause microcephaly, a neurological disorder that results in babies being born with abnormally small heads. Several high level athletes, dropped out of the competition due to concerns about the illness.

The Olympic games of the modern times have established themselves as the pinnacle of sports achievement; athletes

often train most of their sporting lives to compete, if not win a medal, and the dreams of millions of their countrymen accompany them to the games. The Olympics are often billed, enthusiastically and with no small amount of self-interest, as a slice of the globalized twenty-first century world in miniature, humanity's very best on display. However, for these weeks in Tokyo, the entire affair instead feels more like an industrial-strength clip reel of humanity's last eighteen months. The growing importance of mass media has created the issue of corporate sponsorship and general commercialization of the Games. World Wars led to the cancellation of the 1916, 1940, and 1944 Olympics; large-scale boycotts during the Cold War limited participation in the 1980 and 1984 Olympics; and the 2020 Olympics were postponed until 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Olympic Movement consists of international sports federations (IFs), National Olympic Committees (NOCs), and organizing committees for each specific Olympic Games. As the decision-making body, the IOC is responsible for choosing the host city for each Games, and organizes and funds the Games according to the Olympic Charter. The IOC also determines the Olympic programme, consisting of the sports to be contested at the Games. There are several Olympic rituals and symbols, such as the Olympic flag and torch, as well as the opening and closing ceremonies. Over 14,000 athletes competed at the 2016

Summer Olympics and 2018 Winter Olympics combined, in 35 different sports and over 400 events. The first, second, and third-place finishers in each event receive Olympic medals: gold, silver, and bronze, respectively.

The Games have grown so much that nearly every nation is now represented.

The Olympic Movement consists of international sports federations (IFs), National Olympic Committees (NOCs), and organizing committees for each specific Olympic Games. As the decision-making body, the IOC is responsible for choosing the host city for each Games, and organizes and funds the Games according to the Olympic Charter.

This growth has created numerous challenges and controversies, including boycotts, doping, bribery, and a terrorist attack in 1972. The rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus led the IOC, the International Paralympics Committee (IPC), the Tokyo 2020 Organizing committee, the Tokyo Metropolitan government and the Japanese government to agree to postpone the Olympic game and the Paralympic games by one year and select new dates. Originally scheduled to take place from 24 July to 9 August 2020, the Olympic Games were held from 23 July 2021 to 8 August 2021 and the Paralympic games from 24 August 2021 to 5 September 2021. Though the event was held in 2021, it retained the Tokyo 2020 name for marketing and branding.

Postponing the games represented an enormous challenge for the Olympic movement and all its partners including country teams and individual athletes. It required enormous discussions between the various stake holders on issues that were key for proper holding of the games. This included among other things securing and preparation of competition and non-competition venues, the qualification process, ticketing, the Olympic flame and torch relay, agreement with sponsors, The Olympic Partner (TOP) Programme, Olympic broadcast and other stake holders within and without Japan. To address all these issues a task force entitled "Here We Go" was created under the auspices of the Tokyo 2020 Coordination committee and the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee.|

Previous Olympics have seen best athletes from all over the world come together in a spirit of celebrations and camaraderie in the Olympic Village, but this time round the Tokyo 2020 proved to be the most restrictive sporting event in the world as noted by Thomas Bach, the president of the international Olympic Committee. As entertaining as Olympic events can be, most of the sporting events were largely held behind closed doors with no public spectators permitted due to the declaration of the state of emergency in greater Tokyo area in response to the pandemic. Despite all these challenges the Tokyo 2020 managed to successfully host 11,656 Athletes for the Olympic Games from 205 nationalities and 4,403 Athletes for the Paralympic Games from 162 nationalities.

The Games also provided an opportunity for Japan and in particular Tokyo City to showcase themselves to the world. ■

ENHANCING STATES RELATIONS THROUGH JOINT MILITARY TRAINING AND EXERCICES

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The twenty-first century has seen a rise in security threats to many countries across the world. These threats are cross border and transnational thus calling for the need States to have well trained and mission ready military. The militaries are maintained by Sovereign States for the purpose of protecting citizens against external threats, protecting vital National interests and undertaking other tasks in the interest of National security. The role of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) like other militaries is provided for in the constitution and has been recognized when allocating tasks during peace time, crisis and war. The KDF Act,2012 provides for the functions, organization, administration and discipline of the Kenya Army (KA), Kenya Air Force (KAF), Kenya Navy (KN) and the Reserve. To effectively undertake their Mandate KDF continues to train hard as a Defence Force and jointly with other militaries regionally and globally with an End State of building coalitions to successfully accomplish strategic, operational and tactical objectives together with allies.

Military exercises involve the employment of military resources in the training for military operations and this ensures combat readiness prior to deployment

for future missions. The introduction of modern technology creates realism in the military exercises and facilitates the troops to rehearse complex scenarios that at times cannot be replicated physically. These requirements are generally the defining characteristics of military training and exercises.

The joint military exercises generally provide essential training for the Defence Forces, these exercises are the best means for testing the armed forces capacity to perform their missions effectively. Joint military exercises usually involve two or more states and promote better interoperability and coordination between

militaries/security agencies. At times the exercises are used as a show strength/capability for each participating country.

Globally, one of the key allies of the KDF is the UK Armed Forces. The UK Armed Forces not only train in Kenya but train with KDF regularly under the existing Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA). The UK have a permanent British Training Unit in Kenya (BATUK) in Nanyuki and UK Armed Forces Battle groups regularly train with KDF Battlegroups in joint exercises codenamed "Exercise Askari Storm". Locally, the UK also train with KDF in the areas of Counter Improved Explosives Devices(C-IED), Counter Terrorism (CT), Peace Keeping Operation (PKO), Counter Piracy among others. In UK, KDF Officers continue training on leadership and management with the UK Officers at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS), Royal Air Force College Cranwell, Britannia Royal Navy College Dartmouth, Joint Services Command and Staff College Shrivenham, Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) among others.

Further, through the UK- KENYA Defence cooperation and BATUK has employed more than five hundred Local civilians at their Base in Nanyuki. The Unit has contributed approximately Kshs 5.5 Bn to the local economy since 2016. The Defence Cooperation with the UK continues to progress well with UK Ministry of Defence (UKMOD) investing annually a substantial amount in Defence partnership. In addition, through Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) during the Joint Military exercises "Askari Storm", UKMOD in partnership with KDF completed Quick impact Project within the general area of Laikipia, Dol Dol on Sanitation, health and education worth approximately 28m.

Regionally, KDF continues to engage in Joint exercises/Command Post Exercises (CPX) with militaries from East Africa Community (EAC) States. The Exercises are conducted pursuant to Article 10 of the EAC Protocol on Cooperation

KDF troops training with UK Armed Forces troops during Exercise Askari Storm in Archers Post, Isiolo.
Source: KDF (2020)

The UK Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Sir N Carter and the Kenya Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Gen R Kibochi visit BATUK in Nanyuki where they were briefed on Joint Military training and Exercises between KDF and UK Armed Forces. Source: KDF (2021)

in Defence Affairs and EAC Defence Sector calendar of activities. Apart from the field training exercises the overall aim is to bring together EAC Partner States' Armed Forces and other Civilian Key Stakeholders to plan and conduct integrated missions that encompasses; Peace Support Operations (PSO), Disaster Management (DM), Counter Terrorism (CT) and Counter Piracy (CP) in order to improve capabilities that jointly combat the dynamic, complex security challenges in an austere environment. Further, the Exercises equip the participants with new competencies and capabilities in the

enhancement of peace and security in the region.

EAC's collective security will be best guaranteed by cooperation in defence and security. Countries participating in "Exercise Ushirikiano Imara" include: the Republics of; Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda with each country contributing both military and civilian components. To date EAC has organised 12 "Exercises Ushirikiano imara" and more than 2000 troops from the Member States, Defence Forces participate in each

Exercise. Kenya has participated in all the 12 "Ushirikiano Imara" Exercises, and this has indeed deepened and widened the regional agenda in the Defence Sector. The event has been held on a rotational basis through all EAC Partner States, except for the Republic of South Sudan, since 2005. During the Exercises the Defence Forces conduct CIMIC activities such infrastructure development, health facilities rehabilitation, refurbishment and construction of education sector facilities among other quick impact project i.e. sinking of bore holes, provision of health care to the local population, their livestock etc. It is important to note that after the "Ushirikiano Imara Exercises" there is usually a substantial positive Socio- Economic impact within the area and country the Exercise was conducted.

Apart from the Joint Exercises EAC partner' states Armed Forces exchange students and Directing Staff within the EAC Military Academies, Command and Staff Colleges, Higher military Colleges; Cooperate in the Health services; Military industries are availed for shared utilization and have a common Counter Terrorism strategy. The EAC Member States' Joint military training enhances networking, bonding through capability development, integrate emerging concepts and doctrines leading to enhanced interoperability of the Defence Forces.

Defence Cooperation through Joint military exercises/training is important because the demand for international security and peace support operations remains high while the willingness of the militaries to intervene is declining and defence budgets continue to shrink. Most States opt to use Soft Power and the Military only deployed as the last resort when resolving contentious issues. The networking, bonding, cooperation and synergy enhanced through the joint military training determines how the military forces will enhance their respective capacities and collectively address the emerging complex security challenges confronting the globe and region. In conclusion, it's evident with defence cooperation and joint military exercises, States shall continue to promote peace and security both regionally and globally. ■

The PS KMOD talking to KDF troops participating in "Exercise Ushirikiano Imara– 2019" in Jinja, Uganda. Source: KDF (2019)

THE EVOLUTION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN KENYA SINCE INDEPENDENCE

INTRODUCTION

The colonial government wielded total control of the nation's natural resources, which served to only benefit non-Africans. The indigenous population remained largely uneducated, untrained, inexperienced and thus did not benefit much from the economy. The attainment of independence in 1963 presented an opportunity for the mobilization of its resources for rapid economic growth for the benefit of Kenyans.

The development strategies and policies that emerged immediately after independence were thus focused on poverty alleviation, eradication of diseases and formal education for the achievement of social justice, human dignity and economic welfare for all. However, the proportion of Kenyans living below the poverty line has steadily increased over the years, depicting unsatisfactory poverty alleviation strategies. It is estimated that over 36% of the Kenyan population still live below the poverty line.

EVOLUTION OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

The National Development Plans in Kenya have evolved over the years through experience and the integration of new ideas. The initial economic development plans followed the Western development model as was propagated by the British colonial masters by default and as was dictated by the Cold War environment. These development plans met diverse challenges, which translated into lower growth performance than were projected.

On the contrary, the East Asian nations, otherwise known as the 'Four Asian Tigers', are an example of countries that registered rapid economic growth, within the same period as post-independent Kenya. A study of the economic growth determinants of the 'Asian Tigers' may thus offer a pragmatic lens for consideration by the developing countries in their economic growth plans.

Kenya's economic growth strategies and policies have evolved since independence.

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The first Development Plan was for the period 1964-1970, which was shortly followed by the Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965. The government faithfully prepared the consecutive Development Plans in five-year cycles interspersed with policies and initiatives such as the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD), Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) in the 1980s and the 1990s, among others. The post-independence period was also shaped by the Cold War environment, which ended in 1989 with the collapse of USSR, notwithstanding Kenya's non-alignment status.

According to Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1986, the Government of Kenya (GoK) experienced a severe setback in achieving economic growth targets due to a series of global crises that included the oil price rises of the 1970s, the decline in Kenya's terms of trade, domestic inflation of the early 1980s, the world recession of the same period, and the devastating drought of 1984. The Gok drew satisfaction from the successful response to the crises, which it described as a tremendous achievement against the backdrop of a stagnating economic growth and rising population. This was a strong indicator that a lot more required to be done if the socio-economic growth targets were to be meaningful and of impact.

The transition of government in the year 2002 from the Kenya African National Union (KANU) regime to National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) introduced new ideas that ideologically different from the traditional Western model of economic growth as adopted at independence. This event was a watershed moment in Kenya's economic and infrastructure growth. Infrastructure development was prioritized by the new NARC administration as a gauge and accelerator for socio-economic growth, and it is the backbone for all other sectors of advancement.

Notably, the delivery of quality livelihoods to majority of Kenyans is dependent on the attainment of the economic growth targets set forth in the National Development Plans. However, for various reasons, these goals have remained elusive since independence. The traditional challenges of poverty, disease and ignorance that existed at independence are still prevalent hence necessitating the need for a development plan that comprehensively addresses the existential and emerging hurdles to Kenya's socio-economic progress.

KENYA VISION 2030

On the 10 June 2008, the Government of Kenya (GoK) launched a long-term development plan, namely the Vision 2030. Kenya Vision 2030 is the country's development blueprint covering the period 2008 to 2030. It aims to transform Kenya into a newly industrializing, "middle-income country providing a high-quality of life to all its citizens by the year 2030".

The Vision 2030 has its foundation on macroeconomic stability, continuity in governance reforms, enhanced equity and wealth creation opportunities for the poor, infrastructure, energy, science, technology and innovation (STI), land reforms, human resources development, security as well as public sector reforms. The Vision 2030 has further been crystallized by the GoK into the Big '4' Agenda which prioritizes food security, affordable housing, universal health care, manufacturing and Job creation as the pillars for rapid economic growth.

THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA 2010

The constitution of Kenya 2010 anchors Economic and Social rights under Article 43, in which;

(1) All citizens have the rights;

(*a*) to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to health care services, including reproductive health care;
(*b*) to accessible and adequate housing, and to reasonable standards of sanitation;
(*c*) to be free from hunger, and to have adequate food of acceptable quality;
(*d*) to clean and safe water in adequate quantities;
(*e*) to social security; and
(*f*) to education.

(2) A person shall not be denied emergency medical treatment.

(3) The State shall provide appropriate social security to persons who are unable to support themselves and their dependants.

The achievement of economic and social rights as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya (CoK 2010) is a major pillar of the country's national security and social progress. To close the gap between development plans and results, it is necessary to examine current resource mobilization strategies and policies and push forward efforts that will attract faster and more efficient models to catapult Kenya onto the anticipated growth trajectory by 2030.

KENYA'S FOREIGN POLICY

In retrospect, the Kenya's Foreign Policy is meant to drive the national development agenda in its articulation of economic and social rights orientation in the external environment. Kenya's long struggle for national liberation laid strong foundations for the country's foreign policy orientation which establishes an inextricable link between national independence and humanity's larger freedom, equity and a shared heritage. Kenya's recognition of its obligations as the cradle of mankind, custodian of a common heritage and protector of rare species (both flora and fauna) necessitates a pragmatic approach in the management of foreign relations. The foreign policy approach also demonstrates a firm understanding that Kenya's future is inevitably linked to the stability and security of the immediate sub-region as the bedrock of its nationhood, prosperity and livelihoods of its citizens. In the context of Kenya's Foreign Policy, the Government of Kenya (GoK) subscribes to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Africa Union (AU) Vision 2063; the Africa We Want, and East Africa Community (EAC) Vision 2050.

CONCLUSION

To achieve shared prosperity for all Kenyans, it is necessary to examine socio-economic growth trends since independence, identify gaps between National Development Plans and targets achieved, learn from the Asian Tigers and other best practices around the world and adopt a sustainable socio-economic development path that is mindful of an increasingly complex and competitive global environment. ◼

significantly increased and most of them are environmental related. Current projections regarding climate change suggest this trend is set to continue and that weather related disasters will become more frequent and volatile. Patterns of floods are also intensifying due to heavy rainfalls in the area. In addition, vulnerability is furthermore growing. Increasing urbanization, including growing concentrations of people in unplanned and unsafe settlements, poverty, and inadequate attention to changing risk patterns, are placing more and more in disaster-prone locations known as high-risk zones.

Recent experience has proved that due to the topography, demography, hydrography, settlement, etc. Rwanda is exposed to various types of disasters such as volcanic activities, floods, earthquakes, landslides, storms, fire outbreaks. Following the demography and settlement profile of the country, most of the disasters in Rwanda are susceptible to devastation. In addition, environmental degradation is likely to aggravate the situation by causing more disasters with even higher magnitude. It

is therefore imperative to spare no effort in order to substantially reduce the impact of disasters and make risk reduction a priority for national development policies and programs. Disasters in Rwanda have caused human, material, and economic or environmental losses and most of the time communities or individuals are not capable of dealing with those kinds of situations using its own resources. It is imperative that the Government will intervene in support of its people thus posing adverse economic impact on the country. The also advised the population on different preventives measures against disasters such as relocation from high-risk zones, tightening houses roofs, rainwater harvesting, planting trees on hills for erosion prevention among others.

In order to minimize effects of disasters and hence protect communities, it is imperative to create mechanisms aimed at forecasting, mitigating and offsetting any disaster so as to strengthen preparedness whenever a disasters is about to strike. Without concerted efforts to address root causes of disasters and develop a comprehensive resilience plan, they will

remain an increasingly serious threat to the achievement of national development plans. Experience has proved that during the disaster management, the Ministry of Refugees and Disaster Management is expected to hold the situation. In most cases, the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) takes the lead in finding solutions and the previous cases were successfully handled within that framework. Currently, this Ministry is responsible for preventing, mitigating, and responding, recovering, monitoring and timely acting positively in order to promote the disaster awareness culture. However, due to lack of technical capability that includes equipment and personnel, the Ministry appeal to other institutions such as RDF and Rwanda National Police (RNP) to control and contain the situation. This kind of intervention could work for small scale cases such as fire outbreak; landslide and floods although this may take long due to bureaucracy involved which result to inefficiency.

For large scale and unforeseen cases that require rapid response, this framework would be inadequate due unprofessional

DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN RWANDA AND THE NEED FOR RESILIENCE

A disaster is a sudden, calamitous event that seriously disrupts the functioning of a community or society and causes human, material, and economic or environmental losses that exceed the community's or society's ability to cope using its own resources. A disaster occurs when a hazard impacts on vulnerable people. The combination of hazards, vulnerability and inability to reduce the potential negative consequences of risk results in disaster. Though often caused by nature, disasters can have human origins.

Disasters can be classified into three types: Natural, Man-made and Hybrid disasters. Natural disasters are catastrophic events resulting from natural causes. Man-made disasters include socio-technical and warfare disasters. Socio-technical disasters occur due to human, technical, operational errors. Hybrid disasters occur due to natural forces and human error such as extensive clearing of jungles causing

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RWANDA

soil erosion and subsequently heavy rain causing landslides. It is believed that these three disaster types cover all disastrous events and have different characteristics and impact but have a common element, which is their severity; although natural

disasters are beyond the control of human beings, the impacts of natural disasters can be reduced by setting up advanced warning systems that forecast impending natural disasters. In addition, the consequences of natural disasters can be reduced through effective disaster management. Disaster Management can be defined as the organization and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with all humanitarian aspects of emergencies, in particular preparedness, response and recovery in order to lessen the impact of disasters.

Disaster Management requires skilled professionals who can respond to emergencies and manage both immediate and long-term results of disasters on human health. Disaster Management is a multi-disciplinary field and brings professionals from several fields together as one team to respond to any kind of disaster. During the recent years, the number of disasters in Rwanda has
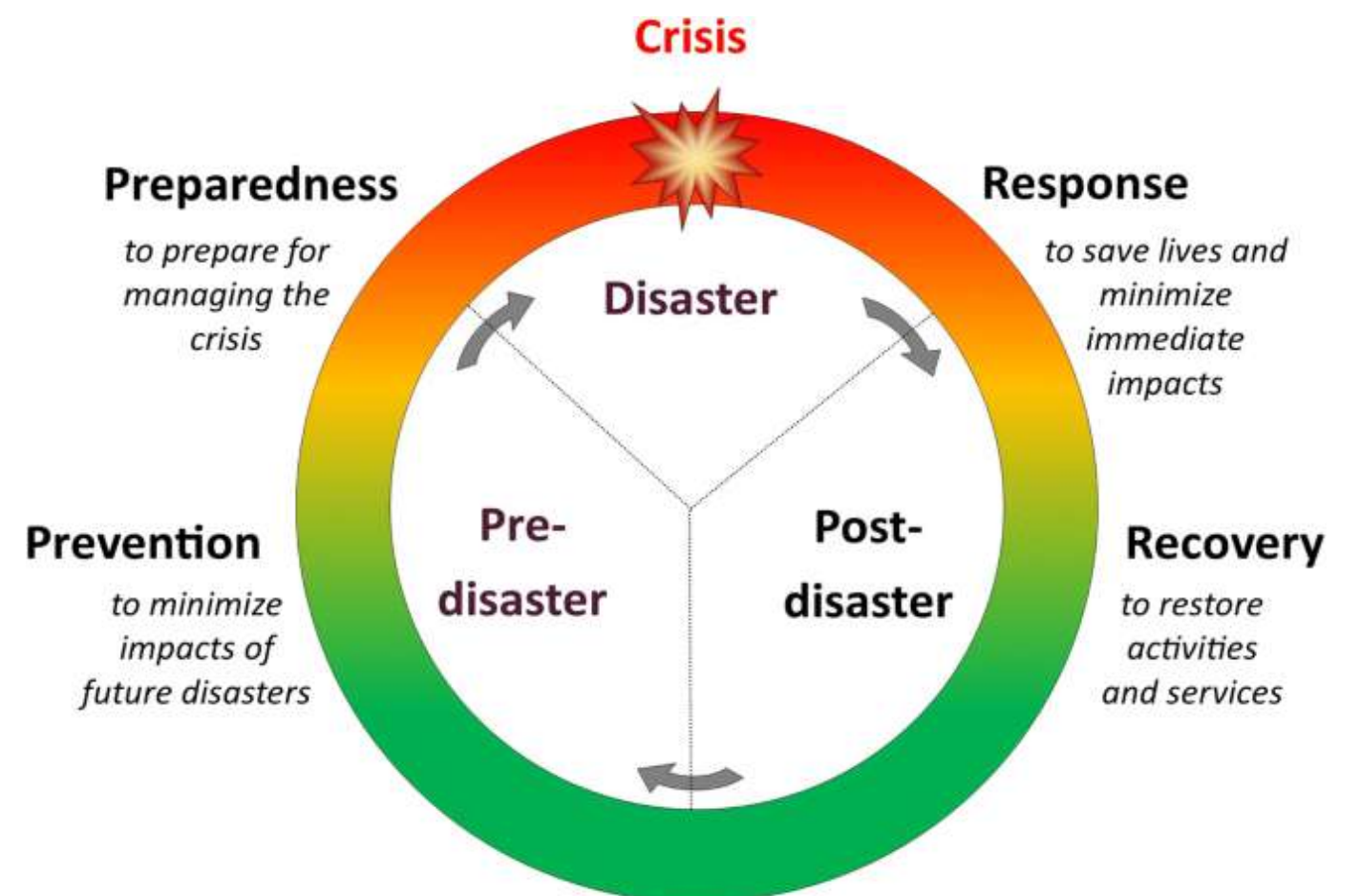
The Disaster Management Cycle Source:https://www.gdrc.org › uem › disasters › 1-dm_cycle

personnel and lack of suitable equipment required. Always depending on other institutions is not recommendable since they may be engaged elsewhere. This can be achieved by creating a rapid response unit staffed; trained and equipped that is capable and with the ability to timely respond to any disaster, save lives and minimize damages within the community. This rapid response unit would implement a contingency plan to thoroughly analyze hazard risks, vulnerabilities and capabilities that will be technically developed and regularly updated. Contingency planning would be a management tool to analyze the potential hazard events so that adequate and proper arrangements are made in advance to respond in a timely and appropriate manner to the needs of the affected people. Early Warning teams which are used to monitor signals and indicators of both natural and man-made threats. This information warns of emerging events, such as typhoons, flooding, the precursors of famine and stirrings of conflict, so we can anticipate and reduce the impact of a humanitarian emergency.

The Disaster management cycle illustrates the ongoing process by which governments, businesses, and civil society plan for and reduce the impact of disasters, react during and immediately following a disaster, and take steps to recover after a disaster has occurred. Appropriate actions at all points in the cycle lead to greater preparedness, better warnings, reduced vulnerability or the prevention of disasters during the next iteration of the cycle.

In conclusion, since a disaster can strike anywhere and anytime in the country, the ability to intervene timely even in the most remote areas is essential for effective emergency response. In addition, during the acute phase of disaster response, which requires short time to save lives, the rapid deployment is extremely critical. It is therefore imperative to increase capacity to predict, monitor and ready to reduce damage or address potential threats and strengthen preparedness to respond to an emergency and assist those who have been adversely affected. The disaster rapid response unit can therefore significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction, establish, continually review, and improve capacities, mechanisms and procedures to enable the optimal reduction of disaster risk and vulnerabilities. ∎

TWITTER IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL DIPLOMACY

Digital Diplomacy has evolved into a cheap and effective tool of smart statecraft that is ideally suited for the changing nature of power and diplomacy in an increasingly networked and digitalised global society. The age of Digital Diplomacy is characterised by constant unmediated dialogues and information exchanges between states and people, and the growing use of social media platforms by states to achieve their foreign policy goals and proactively manage their image and reputation.

Twitter, in particular, has become an integral part of contemporary international relations allowing policymakers to interact with each other as well as audiences at home and abroad. Twitter not only enables diplomats and other actors to communicate directly with the people but also lends a more participatory character to foreign policy debates. This constant and broad exchange of ideas and debates has changed the nature of international relations.

Today's battlefields are being fought in hearts and minds; they are contests over values and ideas and struggles for the legitimacy of positions held. The ability to attract and influence is therefore even more crucial in achieving desired outcomes. Twitter has evolved into a versatile political public square for domestic and global affairs. This platform is today the centrepiece of what has come to be conceived as "transformational diplomacy". Diplomatic institutions have embraced Twitter and other social media platforms to move beyond traditional government-to-government relations and engage directly with people around the world. Twitter is an ideal platform. It complements traditional foreign policy tools and instruments of statecraft by fully leveraging on the opportunities provided by technological advancement and global interconnectedness. The effects of these are self-evident globally.

The Arab Spring which was also termed a "Twitter Uprising" was highly dependent on the use of social media networking to cause regime change. Later in 2016, over 50,000 foreign-linked accounts used Twitter in an attempt to influence

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

the electoral outcome in America. More recently, in the region, the social media monitoring tool Meltwater Explore reported that approximately 4.3 million original tweets from 73,277 were posted between November 4, 2020, and April 7, 2021, in an effort to influence global opinions on the situation in Tigray. These incidences demonstrate the potency of Twitter and other such platforms globally and within the region.

Within Kenya's domestic context, Twitter has come to epitomise the open and democratic nature of the Kenyan society. Kenyans on Twitter or #KOT, as they are more commonly known, have become a prominent expression of national psyche and mood as well as a *baraza* where all issues, including issues of global concern can be discussed and opinions expressed. Conversations by Kenyans on Twitter are often flavoured with humour, rancour, and candour. With skills honed from the common and intense debates on social, political, economic, and other developments in Kenya, #KOT police the regional and global arena with bullhorns often creating incidences of great discomfort for their diplomats with unabashed comments on matters in other countries. Their agility often ensures that a "Kenyan" position is swarming in circulation hours or even days before formal communication is issued.

Governments have recognised this potential and have widely adopted Twitter as the channel of choice for digital diplomacy. *The Twiplomacy Study 2020* identified a total of 1,089 Twitter accounts of heads of state and government and foreign ministers, 632 of which have been verified by Twitter and carry a blue verification mark. The U.S. State Department is the most followed foreign ministry, with 5,843,040 followers on Twitter. The foreign ministry of Saudi Arabia and the foreign ministry of India complete the top three with 2,708,727 and 1,461,097 followers, respectively.

The COVID-19 pandemic, and the limitations it has precipitated, as well as need for information and awareness have further amplified the importance and place of social media platforms. The pandemic has led world leaders and diplomats to adapt to working from home and adopt virtual meetings and communications as the new normal, diplomacy has finally become truly digital.

When sufficiently optimised, Twitter and other social media platforms are effective in facilitating knowledge and information management, consular communications and public diplomacy initiatives. Effective use of social media can harness departmental and government knowledge and facilitate its retention, sharing, and optimisation in pursuit of national interests abroad. Public diplomacy using social media maintains contacts with a global audience and allows practitioners to listen and target important audiences with key messages. Consular social media communications are an effective emergency response that creates direct, personal communications channels with the diaspora and harnesses the power of connective technologies in disaster response situations.

Governments are building capacity for the strategic use of social media platforms to broaden public diplomacy efforts and engaging a wider audience when communicating and distilling our global positions and interests; to ensure clarity, expediency and buy in communication by amplifying messaging, building traction and enhancing presentation; and to push back against counter narratives intended on harming national interests.

Twitter is, therefore, an essential tool for the strategist. When was the last time you checked your Twitter account? @KoiguNdegwa ∎

FOOD NATIONALISM IN THE KENYAN PERSPECTIVE

In the twenty-first century, the world has seen food being elevated as a major factor in diplomacy. States throughout history have competed and fought for control, access, production and distribution of food. In addition, food and food security has occupied the minds of many governments throughout developing countries. An example is the attempt by Kenya government to develop Galana Kulalu food security project in 2014 in Kilifi and Tana River counties that was to put a million hectares under irrigation.

Food brings about both structurally and functionally a shift in the global food economy and trade in general. It affects it by increasing the efficiency of food production, meeting minimum levels of food consumption, stabilizing food prices and managing the disposal and distribution of surpluses. In this regard, food diplomacy can be looked at as a dimension of a country's soft power.

Food nationalism sometimes gets politicized and debates such as rice from Vietnam is better than rice from Pakistan, or when the US has a diplomatic tiff with France and the congress of the United States decided to change the name of the French fries served in their cafeteria from French fries to freedom fries. In some jurisdictions, policy of protectionism dictates that some products can only be grown under certain specific condition and only in certain geographic areas. A good example is the European Union (EU)'s Protected Geographical Status framework that limits the production of certain potato, tequila, vinegar and cheese varieties to certain regions under specified conditions.

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KENYA ARMY

Traditional food crops play an important role in food and nutritional security, especially in the dry parts of Africa. Africans have traditionally made use of edible leaves of species growing in the wild as weeds whose origin was in the African continent. These vegetables were well known to the rural people and were often planted in home gardens as intercrops with staples and could find their way to local markets. For some traditional vegetables, wild collection is still practiced in many parts of Africa especially Southern Africa. Some work done in selected countries in Africa has identified some of the traditional vegetables that are utilized throughout the continent and could be developed as cultivated crops.

The power and connection of food and nationalism leads us to consider the potential of using this link as a tool of international relations. In the Kenyan perspective, food diplomacy has the

Irrigation Infrastructure Galana Kulalu
Source: standard media co ke

President Kenyatta in Galana Kulalu
Source: star.co.ke

Maize Harvesting in Galana Kulalu
Source: nationafrica.com

Tomatoes planted in Galana Kulalu
Source: kenyanews go.ke

Kenya has over 45 ethnic groups each with their own beliefs, customs and traditions that they have preserved since time immemorial. The ethnic groups have their own unique traditional foods that been preserved over time

Green Mataha with beef stew

potential of being a distinctive form of communication through food and it has the possibility of being used to promote the country as a stable food production hub within the region in order to enhance regional development. Food is fast becoming recognized as an official soft power or public diplomacy tool and this journal helps to bring it to the fore, now than ever before.

Food as an essential ingredient of human existence has always played an important role in interstate relations and diplomatic practice. It has been used as a medium for projecting influence, communicating one's culture, identity and messages that express friendship or enmity. Indigenous foods are usually used to project a people's culture and it can be used to exhibit generosity and warmth and thus it can be a very powerful diplomatic tool. Some of the indigenous vegetables that were consumed on the African continent include vegetable amaranths, *(Amaranthus species)*, spiderplant *(Cleome gynandra)*, African vegetable nightshades (Solanum species), cowpeas (Vigna unguiculata), African eggplant (Solanum aethiopicum), African kale *(Brassica carinata)* and jute mallow *(Corchorus olitorius)*.

The introduction of exotic vegetables in the African continent had some negative impact on the consumption and domestication (cultivation) of indigenous vegetables. During the colonial time, a deliberate suppression of the indigenous vegetables was done and a lot of efforts were made to promote the exotic vegetables such as cabbage. Food has been used to project influence, communicate one's culture, identity and messages that express friendship or enmity. In recent years specialization in food production has occurred around the whole world. For example, Kenyan for its coffee; tomatoes

and onions are Tanzanian; bananas are Ugandan; strawberries are South African and Egyptian; fish and garlic are Chinese, poultry is from the United States; maize is from Mexico; and butter comes from South Africa. This is all well and good for trading and promoting multiculturism but in these isolation times of the corona pandemic, cuts in imports by countries scared of spreading the virus in their territories has led to some food shortages in some parts of the world and has resulted in the dramatic increase of food prices.

Kenya has over 45 ethnic groups each with their own beliefs, customs and traditions that they have preserved since time immemorial. Each ethnic group has its own unique traditional foods that been

Mombasa food market
Source: Ministry of Agriculture (2021)

Vitumbua: These are made from wheat flour and other ingredients and sugar they are popular in coast especially during the Holy month of Ramadhan.

preserved over time. Over time, inter-marriages, and urbanization some of the delicacies are have become universal and are unique to Kenya. Some of these foods are Nyama Choma (roast meat) served with kachumbari (tomato/onion salad). Roast meat was traditionally associated with the pastoralist communities. Communities in Mount Kenya region were associated with Githeri (boiled maize and beans) prepared

Mishikaki. Meat on skewers Source: facebook.com

Chapati: Chapati is unleavened flat bread that originated from the Indian Sub-Continent. In Kenya it was introduced by Indian workers who were brought to build the Kenya – Uganda railway. In Kenya it is consumed by all the communities, especially during festivities.

Nyama Choma &Mutura. Widely consumed in Kenya especially while relaxing over weekends.
Source: pd.co.ke

Brown Mataha

{Both are Widely consumed in Kenya but are associated with Mount Kenya communities}

Githeri: Although associated with the Mount Kenya region it is a national delicacy.

Matoke: Although associated with the Kisii community it is widely consumed delicacy especially with meat, boiled or otherwise.

Omena, Ugali & Greens. Omena though nutritious is associated with the poor

Whole Fish, Ugali, Greens & Kachumbari

in different ways, The Somali community in Northern Kenya have their own peculiar traditional foods just like communities in Western Kenya who were linked with fish and ugali that today are consumed countrywide. The coastal communities also have their own traditional foods together with seafoods and skewers (mishikaki) that today are consumed countrywide,

It must be appreciated right from the onset that throughout history the interaction of peoples, the exchange of language, religion, ideas, art and societal structures have consistently improved relations amongst divergent groups. Food is a powerful tool in diplomatic circles. It has the power to convey clear messages all in its self. However, it must be noted that in these pandemic times, there has been a disruption in the supply chain of food around the world and this has led to the expansion of the industry in some parts or the total overhaul of some parts of the industry. The silver lining in all this is that most countries have had to seriously evaluate food security of their people and this might lead to resilient agricultural economies in the future. ∎

STREAMLINING OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF VISION 2030

The Kenya Vision 2030 is the country's national development blueprint with the objective of transforming the country into a newly industrializing, middle-income country by the year 2030. One of its pillars is the economic pillar, which aims to improve the prosperity of all Kenyans. The main means of achieving economic growth is through industrialization, which is a priority in Vision 2030, in transforming the country into a developed economy. The Vision proposes intensified application of science, technology and innovation to raise productivity and efficiency levels across the three pillars. It recognizes the critical role played by research and development (R&D) in accelerating economic development. It recommends devotion of more resources to scientific research, technical capabilities of the workforce, and raising the quality of teaching mathematics, science and technology in schools, polytechnics and universities.

For Industrialization to be realized, technology and innovation is required in all sectors. Technology comes with modern equipment and machines, which requires well skilled labor to operate. This skilled workforce is a basic requirement for driving the engine of industrial and economic growth; therefore, a well-equipped technical institution holds the key to building this type of technical and entrepreneurial workforce. In the early 2000 most of the Technical Colleges in Kenya (especially government sponsored) were converted to universities (examples being Kenya Polytechnic and Mombasa Polytechnic), thereby robbing the country the production of much needed technical manpower which play a crucial role in the attainment of Vision 2030. The conversion of technical colleges in Kenya into Universities has had a negative impact on the future of industrialization in Kenya. Firstly, is that the few remaining Technical Colleges are not sufficient to produce the high number of technicians needed in the expanding industrial development. Secondly, is that the conversion of Technical Colleges to Universities has led to mushrooming of ill equipped Technical

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KENYA AIR FORCE

Colleges whose main purpose is to make financial gain at the expense of production of quality technical manpower.

These Colleges have taken advantage of the vacuum created by the elevation of Technical Colleges to Universities. They lack the necessary training equipment and teaching aids needed for technical oriented subjects, thereby ending up in producing theory oriented technicians rather than practical hands-on technicians. On top of this is the mindset, which has been cultivated in our current generation that without a degree from university, you one is not educated or one cannot get a well-paying job. This has prevented many young people with potential from joining Technical Colleges. In order to have a strong technical workforce, the government has embraced Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as one of the most effective human resource development strategies with the purpose of training and modernizing its technical workforce for accelerated industrialisation and national development. The argument being that for technical and vocational education to effectively support industrialisation, skills training must be of high quality and competency-based.

For many years, TVET in Kenya has been considered as a career path for the less academically endowed. This perception has been fueled by the low academic requirements for admission into TVET Programmes and the limited prospects for advancement in education and professional development. Furthermore is the impression that the primary objective of the vocational education trajectory is to remove those who have failed in basic and secondary school system from the streets, rather than projecting this type of training as an effective strategy to train skilled workers for the employment market.

In order for TVET to be more attractive to students and to produce skilled and entrepreneurial workforce needed for achievement of vision 2030, the government enacted Technical Vocational Education and Training Act, 2013 to streamline the management of TVET. Under this Act, Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA) which is a state corporation was established. The mandate of TVETA is to coordinate and regulate training in the TVET sector through the licensing, registration and accreditation of programmes, institutions and trainers. It is also placed with the responsibility of promoting access and relevance of training programs, determine the national technical and vocational training objectives, and assure quality and relevance in programmes of training among others functions as spelled out in the TVET Act, 2013.

The creation of the Act alone cannot be able to address the challenges of perception and attitude that have persisted in the curriculum and job opportunities for years. The government need to encourage local companies and industries to be Proactive in adopting mentorship programmes that integrate on-the-job training that ensures that lifelong learning will go a long way in remodeling the perception around the entire manufacturing sector. In addition, companies need to be robustly involved in shaping the future of industry by being proactive in the planning and designing of TVET programmes to include a global perspective of manufacturing trends, in line with Kenya's unique needs. This will change the current biased narrative, that the only entrepreneurship and innovation worth noting is ICT sector related.

A TVET Institution workshop in Kenya (Jambonews.co.ke).

The government should also allocate more funding to stimulate TVET programmes' ability to deliver quality training for graduates. Furthermore, industries on their part should ensure that their standards of employment encourages the youth to value their jobs as much if not more than 'white-collar' jobs. Industries should be involved in the development of occupational standards, invest in building the skills that they would like the graduates to possess, make these jobs more lucrative and host open-days where they can demystify their work and educate parents on the benefits of a thriving industry for their children. Investment in TVETs is not meant to benefit only a few, but TVETs are the main means of securing the future of this country, by assuring long term productivity, economic sustainability and inclusive growth. In the recent months, the Kenyan Government has been focused on improving the quality of education offered in government-sponsored technical institutions by increasing budgetary allocation towards the development of TVET institutions and by planning to reduce tuition fees for courses offered in TVET institutions. This is driven by the need to create a workforce that will help in the implementation of the Big Four Agenda in the sectors of manufacturing and affordable housing, and the need to achieve the Vision 2030 goals on technical training. According to Vision 2030, the government seeks to ensure equitableness and access to Technical and Vocational.

This will be achieved by establishing a central body to place government-sponsored students in TVET institutions, building at least one vocational training center per constituency and one technical training center per county, incorporating the use of ICT in the dissemination of education and using flexible modes of delivery for the modules. This will ensure enhancement of quality and relevance of skills in

industrial development by streamlining management and assessment of industrial attachment. So far, there has been positive accomplishment in revitalizing TVET in line with achievement of vision 2030. Apart from creation of TVETA, the government has carried out massive infrastructural renovation and expansion of facilities in most public TVET institutions. The government has also endeavored to equip most of the institutions with modern equipment in the preparation of the new Competency Based Education and Training (CBT). The involvement of the government in streamlining TVET programmes has bear fruits. Generally, there has been an increase in the number of TVET institutions and an increase in enrollment in TVET offered courses.

Kenya can harness more from TVET by implementing best practices from developed countries through bench marking. First is that the government need to involve community, parents and other stakeholders in order to have a change on the mindset that vocational education and training is second choice to academic education. TVET should no longer be viewed as training meant for those who have failed in the society. Secondly is that there should be a systemic professional development of trainers. Technology is evolving very fast and therefore trainers need to keep abreast with emerging new technologies and new teaching methods by undertaking refresher courses in line with their profession. This is to ensure that quality of training is maintain or even improved. The government should also support TVET institutions in acquisition of the state-of-the-art equipment in order for them to cope up with evolving technology. Thirdly is that the government should ensure inclusion of apprenticeship during technical training. In developed countries, students spend part of their time in training institutions and the rest of the time in an apprenticeship in one of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The industry is involved in the formulation of the curriculum to enable vocational education trainers to know what skill sets are in demand. Fourthly is the creation of innovation hubs where student are introduced to investors and mentors this would boost the emerging enterprises and ideas. Finally is for the government to increase the number of TVET institutions especially in the rural areas. This will not only ensure increase in enrollment but will also ensure utilization of talents which could otherwise have been lost. ∎

A TVET Institution in Kenya.

FEMALE CIRCUMCISION IN THE GUSII COMMUNITY

Female circumcision had lived for a millennium and is believed to have started in ancient Egypt. Although it has declined, it is still persistent in some communities in Kenya. Although poorly understood, transformation of FGM/C including medicalization has increased to undermine abandonment efforts for the practice. Female circumcision is a widely used term in both national and international settings. Activists for the eradication of the practice feel that it should be called female genital mutilation (FGM) instead of circumcision. Female circumcision implies the many forms of proof of identity marks done on young females as a specific way of advancing from childhood to adulthood.

According to the report of the World Health Organization (1996), female circumcision involves all procedures involving part or total removal of the female outside genital and injury to the female external organ for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. World Health Organization identifies three major types of female genital mutilation. Clitoridectomy circumcision is where all or part of the clitoris is removed. Excision involves the elimination of the clitoris and complete removal of the labia minora. This is widely practised, and it is estimated that about 85% of women who undergo female genital mutilation have excision. Infibulation is the severest form where the clitoris and the labia minora are removed as well as the inside surface of the labia majora. The two sides of the vulva are then tacked together to leave a small opening to let for the passage of urine and menstrual blood. The practice is widely practised in the Somali community. Clitoridectomy circumcision is generally practised in Kisii. Amongst the Kisii, initiations were gender-segregated, and the operations were performed by female and male circumcisors. There was a period of seclusion for both genders. The circumcision rite involved training the initiates to know rules of shame (*chinsoni*) and respect (*ogosika*). Girls were circumcised at the age of seven or eight, and boys a few years later.

In Africa, over 28 countries circumcise females where more than 100 million

ENOCK NYANDEGE
NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE

women have been circumcised, including approximately 50 per cent of Kenyan girls and women undergo the cut. Female circumcision is practised in Arabia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Ghana, Sudan, Senegal, Mauritania, Somalia, and Kenya. It is also practised in Britain and America by black women living in the countries, among the Aborigines of Australia, a few minorities of Asia and in the Middle East. Kenya is among the African countries where the practice of female circumcision is predominant and has continued to serve as a solemn mark of identification and unity among the communities which practice it. The practice is believed to be so rooted in the culture of many African societies that sometimes it is taken as a way of life. Those rejecting it are seen to get off

In Africa, over 28 countries circumcise females where more than 100 million women have been circumcised, including approximately 50 per cent of Kenyan girls and women undergo the cut.

their traditional heritages. This might explain why the to practice is rampant and persistent in the areas which practice it. It was observed that FGM is far more prevalent among the Somali, Kisii, Maasai, the Kuria, Suba, Meru among other Kenyan. As a result, FGM is also geographically unevenly spread in Kenya and; it is more evident in rural areas than in urban among the contemporary cultural grouping who continue to believe in the importance of the practice. The Gusii are no exception. As a Bantu ethnic group, female circumcision is of great significance to them in terms of maintaining a strong cultural identity against the practices of the neighbouring Luo, who are Nilotes. Studies have revealed that most of the Gusii still practice female circumcision as a condition before a girl gets married. This may explain why even those leaders, especially the church leaders who publicly claim to be in favour of its abandonment in Kisii, secretly arrange for their daughters to have this operation done in hospitals. However, the women and the young girls have become increasingly disappointed with the practice to the extent that, in some cases, some of the women have had to be forced to undergo the rite.

On some of the negative consequences of the practice, it states that, apart from a great deal of unnecessary pain and trauma, some girls have bled to death as a result of their genitalia having been mutilated by inexperienced and crude hands. The practice has been seen as a health risk, a heathen practice, barbaric mutilation of innocent victims, a violation of both human sexual expression and women's rights. Circumcised women suffer great pain during intercourse and childbirth as the scars tear up instead of enlarging. This causes painful and prolonged labour. Studies have also revealed that traditional knives and other devices used during the operation are sometimes shared and are not sterilized. This puts the initiates at risk of contracting diseases like HIV/AIDS.

Harmful traditional practices, particularly Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Early marriages, continue to express the lives of girls and women across the world. This has affected the livelihood and economic

well being of numerous groups of women and girls. Internationally, many crusades have been introduced to help end these harmful practises. One of the policies that have been employed in Kenya, for example, is the strengthening of policies and legal frameworks, this has taken the form of legislation and institutionalization through an anti-FGM board with a mandate to coordinate andspear head the rejection of this harmful practice. As a result, the World Health Organization discouraged the practice worldwide. As early as 1952, Black women in Britain were pleading for the stoppage of the practice. In Kenya, the church, the ministry of Health and Public Service Youth and Gender Affairs, as well as other Organizations launched campaigns to eradicate the practice.

The mass media, interested organizations and schools have also contributed to this crusade by holding seminars to discourage the practice. Despite all the efforts to stop female circumcision, the practice still persists in most parts of Kisii. In spite of the fact that female circumcision is a well-studied area, the studies in question are mainly skewed and centred around women and young girls, overlooking the issue of the male role in female circumcision. Although no analysis of the role played by men in female circumcision has been studied. Such deep understanding and insight into men's participation in the practice have not been developed, resulting

in a serious lack of details. However, men's attitudes and participation very little is known about men's role in the practice of female circumcision. Therefore, their contribution to the persistence of the practice has not been seriously questioned. The Gusii have a deep-seated male-controlled family set up in which men are the heads of the family and are the major decision-makers and custodians of cultural values that cement and maintain their cultural identity.

The fundamental requirement in identity is recognition and acceptance by others. Her identity is linked to the existing norms and values which prescribe the rules and requirements of behaviour that must be followed in order to achieve recognition and acceptance from others; therefore, among the Gusii, one has to undergo female circumcision in order to be accepted and recognized as 'Omogusii' by others. Based on the above, the rationale behind the practice of female circumcision needs to be understood from a male perspective, as women on their own without the support of men cannot easily succeed in rooting out the practice although there has been decline in prevalence of FGM cases among most communities.

The data also shows that there is a low occurrence of cases of FGM among the educated and those with a high standards of livehood. However, the fast urbanization

of the region including Kisii and Nyamira is surprisingly not influencing the decline seen among other urbanizing communities elsewhere. According to the demographic survey mentioned, the majority of the Omogusii live in urban areas and are well educated, but despite such high evolving indices, evidence suggests very low declining FGM prevalence among the Kisii community. In addition, FGM practices have progressively been medicalized FGM among this community.

An interview with a doctor working in one of the facilities inside the two counties revealed that the health system within the county had been reinforced in various ways such as enhanced service delivery, infrastructure as well as legalized human resource personnel providing support within the various levels of the health systems. "*the quality of primary health care has really improved and this means that they are able to manage Female Genital Mutilation complications adequately more especially when dealing with botched circumcisions."* More sensitization on Female Genital Mutilation in the community is also compulsory alongside anti-bullying measures put in place in institutions of learning to protect girls.In Kenya today, Female Genital Mutilation is illegal and communities are encouraged to adopt alternative initiation practices. ∎

EVOLUTION OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN KENYA: KEY MILESTONES FROM PRE-INDEPENDENCE ERA TO-DATE

Introduction
The fight against corruption in Kenya has gained momentum in the last decade or so. It is one of the most topical issues in the country and the most misunderstood subject in equal measure. It has occupied the psyche of most Kenyans, and rightly so from the political elite, bureaucrats, business people, foreign diplomats, civil society, faith leaders, to the ordinary citizen. The most dominant issues revolve around such questions as *"what are you people doing about corruption?", "why are you not catching the big fish?"*, and *"where is value for our money?"* among others. These are indeed valid concerns and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the agencies involved always do their

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best to provide answers. In this article, I trace the steps of the anti-corruption war in Kenya from the colonial times to date, reflecting on how the war has been fought, the milestones made, the challenges that remain and some insights on what needs to be done going forward.

Pre- and post-independence efforts (1956-1980s)
Efforts to fight corruption in Kenya started to emerge in the mid-1950s, specifically in 1956 when the colonial administration put in place the Prevention of Corruption Ordinance in response to the emerging challenge of bribery during the construction of residential estates for the working middle class of African

descent in the Eastlands areas in Nairobi. The colonial administration noted that the contractors, then mainly of Asian descent were allegedly engaged in the vice to keep something for themselves. In its early form, the Ordinance was principally geared towards combating the offence of bribery by public officials. It did not address the many other forms of corruption and economic crime which is a feature of current anti-corruption legislations.

When Kenya gained independence in 1963, the Ordinance was renamed as the Prevention of Corruption Act, Chapter 65 of the Laws of Kenya. The Kenya Police remained the enforcers of the provisions of the Act, which was done through the normal course of duty of police officers. Corruption was then treated like any other crime. This trend continued for about thirty years, during which period the war against corruption was not a major topic in the minds of many Kenyans. While it was increasingly becoming a concern, it was not talked about in public. The scourge had quietly creeped in the public service and was spreading like a malignant cancer. One could conclude that the thirty years or so was a lost period in the war against corruption. Corruption was entrenched in society, assumed normalcy and somehow became a way of life.

The Advent of Structural Adjustments and Clamor for Democratization (1980s and 1990s)
The mid 1980s saw the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) with tough measures for public service reforms and cuts in public expenditure including cost-cutting, cost-containment measures, cost sharing, deregulation of prices, divestiture and privatization of state corporations. Any donor support was accompanied with strict lending conditionalities. At the same time, the clamor for multiparty democracy was gaining currency and crystalized in the early 1990s. Furthermore, with the contractionary fiscal policy adopted by the government to respond to the requirement of SAPs, and a leaner purse, international lenders and the civil society beamed more light on corruption. The Bretton Wood Institutions - World Bank and International Monetary Fund - demanded for accountability from Government as a pre-condition for aid.

The Prevention of Corruption Act was amended in 1991, mainly to provide for

Integrity Center, EACC Headquarters, Nairobi

stiffer penalties for persons convicted for corruption. Later in 1993, an Anti-Corruption Police Squad was established to investigate cases of corruption in the private and public sectors. The Squad commenced its operations by dealing with corrupt police officers within its ranks in what was perceived as cleaning its own house. The Squad was disbanded in 1995 following allegations of widespread bribe taking among its officers.

Emergence of Specialized Anti-Corruption Institution (Late 1990s – 2002)
In 1997, the Prevention of Corruption Act

When Kenya gained independence in 1963, the Ordinance was renamed as the Prevention of Corruption Act, Chapter 65 of the Laws of Kenya. The Kenya Police remained the enforcers of the provisions of the Act, which was done through the normal course of duty of police officers.

was amended to establish the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority (KACA) whose first head was a marksman and renowned police officer John Harun Mwau, who initiated investigation against "powerful people" in the then government. Mr. Mwau was removed from the Authority and replaced by a serving Judge, the Hon Justice Aaron Ringera in 1999. KACA was disbanded in 2000 after the High Court declared it unconstitutional {Stephen Mwai Gachiengo & Another vs Republic [High Court Miscellaneous Application No. 302 of 2000}. Justice Ringera returned to the Judiciary and assumed his work as Judge.

Following the disbandment of KACA, the government published a Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill to establish and entrench KACA as a constitutional authority. However, the National Assembly rejected the Bill and consequently, the President in exercise of his executive power, immediately ordered for formation of the Anti-Corruption Police Unit (ACPU) within the Police Force. Notable personalities who headed the Unit include Swaleh Slim Khalil and Gideon Mutua (both then serving senior police officers).

A government elected on a promise of anti-corruption agenda and strengthening of anti-corruption legal and institutional framework (Late 2002 –2009)
In December 2002, a new government was elected on a platform of fighting corruption. Less than one year later, in May

2003, the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act (ACECA) was enacted. The Act established the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC) with the mandate to prevent and combat corruption in the country. At the same time, the Public Officer Ethics Act, 2003 was enacted. The Act provides a mechanism for enforcing proper work ethics among public officers. Later on in the year, on 9th December 2003, Kenya was the first country in the world to simultaneously sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) when it was opened for signing. The 9th December since then marks the day for the commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Day each year. Kenya also later signed and ratified the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) among other state parties to the Convention.

The developments in 2003 were significant milestones in the war against corruption in Kenya. They showed renewed impetus and commitment of government to fight corruption. Justice Aaron Ringera was appointed the first Director of the KACC in September 2004. Between 2004 and 2005, he succeeded in putting in place an elaborate structure and recruited the first batch of staff for the Commission. I joined the team in senior management in February 2007 as Head of Research and Planning. I still serve the Commission with dedication to date now as Director.

For the first time, a specialized and dedicated team took charge of the war against corruption in Kenya. Many cases were being investigated on small and big fish such as the Anglo-leasing cases and suspects were being charged in court. With the war gaining momentum, there were various threats to disband the Commission. In 2009, the Director and two Assistant Directors left office after expiry of their tenure. One Assistant Director was appointed Acting Director until later 2010.

Entrenchment of the Anti-Corruption in the Constitution and operationalizing anti-corruption commission (2009 –2015)
In July 2010, Prof. PLO Lumumba was appointed as the Director of KACC along with three Assistant Directors. However, their stint was short-lived, as the law changed soon thereafter following the promulgation of the new Constitution of Kenya, 2010. The team left office in September 2011.

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The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011 enacted pursuant to Article 79 of the Constitution, abolished the offices of the Director and his Assistants. It created the position of Chairperson and two members of the Commission, and a Secretariat headed by a Chief Executive Officer who is also the Accounting Officer of the Commission in line with the Constitution. The Act was amended in 2015 to increase the number of Commissioners from three to five and to serve on a part-time basis.

Declaration of Corruption a National Security Threat and attendant anti-corruption legal and institutional reforms (2015 - 2018)
On 26th March 2015, the President of the Republic of Kenya, in his state of the nation address, declared corruption as the greatest threat to the country's security, fundamental rights and social-economic transformation. This declaration led to a phase of anti-corruption reforms encompassing policy, legal and institutional reforms, adoption of high impact investigations and a multi-agency approach in the anti-corruption law enforcement. The anti-corruption agencies were revamped through the establishment of the multi-agency team drawn from law enforcement agencies, establishment of the anti-corruption division in the high court, and enhancing the capacity of EACC in terms of financial resources and personnel.

A vibrant Commission delivering on anti-corruption mandate (2019 onwards)
Today, the Commission is strong and on a firm trajectory in the war against corruption. There are over 800 public officials charged in court, 263 convictions achieved in court, assets worth Kshs.26.65 billion recovered, and an averted loss of Kshs.135.9 billion made through disruption of corruption networks. Systems review of public bodies have been conducted in over 15 national government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and 20 county governments, and over 400 advisories provided to MDAs on corruption prevention. This has led to improved systems of accountability and service delivery by sealing corruption loopholes in the targeted public bodies. The Commission has established the National Integrity Academy (NIAca) to provide specialized training and research on corruption, ethics, integrity and governance related areas.

This level of achievement has been made possible due to strong and stable leadership of the Commission that has reoriented the anti-corruption strategy to focus on high impact cases, asset recovery, prevention and partnerships. The Commission has also enjoyed political goodwill that has led to increased funding and institutional stability.

Conclusion
From this article, one can be able to appreciate the journey the war against corruption has taken in the country. It also shows what a stable, committed and well-resourced Commission can do. While the past was characterized by disruptions in the legal and institutional framework and political interference, the last five years or so has seen marked progress that should be sustained if Kenya is turn the clock on corruption and improve her fortunes in terms of favorable international rankings, foreign direct investment and economic growth.

Challenges still remain but they are surmountable. With strong and committed leadership, the future looks bright and promising. As John C. Maxwell said, "Everything rises and falls on leadership". So is the war on corruption. ∎

OPERATION OKOA RAFIKI

Among many operations that the Engineers Brigade has undertaken, Operation Okoa Rafiki is one that cannot fail to go unmentioned due to the intensity of work involved and the tight schedule the service men had to meet to save a friend (*rafiki*). The last months of the year 1997 were characterized by heavy rainfall, a resemblance of El Nino phenomenon in major parts of the country with reports of floods causing mayhem and displacing people.

The Nairobi – Mombasa Highway was no exception to this natural calamity as it was closed for the second time on Saturday, 31st January 1998 following a heavy downpour that led to the collapse of Thange Armco culvert. Coming after the collapse of Kambu Bridge which links *Mtito Andei* and *Kibwezi* leading to the closure of the same road on 16th January 1998. The closure of the busy road that links major parts of the East Africa regions to Mombasa left hundreds of passengers stranded and goods and services on transit delayed. Following this unfortunate occurrence, the Kenya Army Engineers Brigade was tasked to step in and save the situation by repairing the collapsed Thange bridge and restore the stalled economy as a result of delayed goods and services on the Highway.

The officers in 10 Engineer Battalion, a unit of Engineer Brigade received a call from Army Headquarters enquiring if the unit had enough material to undertake a bridge construction along Mombasa road. Around that time, the 10 Engineer Battalion had constructed some bridges in the unit as they were preparing for a course for its service personnel.

After confirmation of the length that was to be constructed (20 – 30m), the duty officer at HQ Kenya Army, Lt Col Radina (Now Maj Gen and GOC Border Comd) through the hierarchy of Kenya Army gave an okay for the Engineers Brigade to take up the task at hand. After quick initial recce of the task, which was conducted by Capt Emathe (Now Participant in NDC) and Capt Vungo (Now Lt Col (Rtd) Vungo), it was concluded that a Bailey bridge of configuration Triple Truss Single Story (TS) would be the ideal structure for the task of providing a reasonably long temporary means of crossing the gap as

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the ministry of public works looked for a permanent solution.

Preparation
Initial preparations involved designing a safe structure of carrying the heavy bridge from Nanyuki to Thange, a distance of about 400 km. There was need to seek for bridge transporters from Kahawa Garrison. Two low-loaders to act as the Bridge transporters, an FFR and two 5-ton trucks was requested. The required vehicles arrived in Nanyuki on 1st February 1998 at about 1400 hrs. First, there was need to deluge the Bridge from the construction gap. The Bridge had been constructed on the gap as part of training for the troops. The process was completed at about 1400 hrs. Bridge loading begun immediately thereafter and was completed at 2000 hrs same day and the bridge troop was ready to depart from Nanyuki under the leadership of Col F E Emathe as the Troop Commander by then serving in the rank of Captain.

The trip
Due to the urgency of the operation, the troops had to move by night. In fact announcement was there in the radio that Kenya Army Engineers had taken the task of constructing a bridge on Thange. This announcement was true only that the timings were completely wrong. The troop had not left Nanyuki, yet it was being announced as though the troop was already working on the construction. The team from Nanyuki left at 2030hrs to link up with another team comprising of administrative elements from Kahawa

Barracks. The convoy consisted of two low loaders, two trucks and one Landrover FFR. From Nanyuki, the troops had two stopovers, one at Kiaganjo and another at Makuyu to check and ascertain that the bridge parts were still intact on the low loaders.

It is in the morning of 2nd February that the two teams met at Kahawa. The movement was slow as the low loaders were heavily loaded and the night speed was confined to 30kph.

After a 400km slow journey, the bridge parts finally arrived at Thange shortly after midday on 2nd February 1998. There was a stretch of parked vehicles of about 10km on either side of the collapsed bridge. The stranded people were happy to see the troop arrive and a sigh of relief could be seen shining on their faces. The troops were given a short time off to take tea as the command team remained at the demolished bridge site to perform a quick reconnaissance and assessment of the expected task before commencement of the bridge construction.

Construction
After the short tea break, offloading of the bridge parts commenced. Confirmatory reconnaissance at the site indicated that a Bailey bridge of triple truss and single storey would be adequate for the wet gap which had expanded to about 20m wide and for the expected traffic load. A safety set back of 3m had been arrived at during the initial design but since the volume of water was increasing and the banks faced an eminent collapse, an additional 3m was allowed to take care of future uncertainties. By 1900hrs, setting out, site arrangement and division of tasks amongst bridge parties had been completed and the first bay of the bridge nose placed on the rocking rollers on the near bank (Nairobi).

The construction process went on smoothly with a short stop at 2100hrs for the troops to have their dinner. Both the Military and Civil Police personnel provided traffic control on either side of the bridge site. Intermittent lighting was provided by the bridge transport vehicles and alternating civilian cars with some interval of operating in darkness. The Bridge construction we on throughout the night. At about 0400hrs the commanding

officer of 10 Engineer Battalion, now Brig (Rtd) Murgor arrived. He was too impressed that he found himself taking over the duties of the commander for construction. He therefore literally commanded the construction party to boom the bridge across the gap. By 0500hrs the following day, last booming stage of the bridge was completed, the nose was cut off from the bridge proper and the bridge jacked down to rest under the support of end post and base plates.

Fig 1- Thange Bridge jacked down across the gap

It was not until 0730hrs that the test vehicle was able to pass over the bridge. Thereafter, a call was made to HQ Kenya Army to confirm that the Task had been completed. At 0900hrs the Commander Kenya Army arrived on the site on an Helicopter and officially opened the bridge by flagging the first vehicle across the bridge.

Fig 2 – Commander Kenya Army, Lt Gen Cheruiyot third from left opening the Thange Bridge

By this time, there was a traffic jam of about 40km long on either side of the bridge that had been building up for the three consecutive days that the road had been cut off. Under strict traffic control by both military and civil police, the traffic was brought to normal flow by 0800hrs on 4th February 1998. Initially, priority was given to vehicles going for burials, *passenger* vehicles and perishable goods.

Challenges
Weight – Most of the structural components of the Bailey bridge were heavy. They required a crane to lift, that we did not have, forcing us to do the work

Fig 3 – Heavy traffic passing over the Bridge

manually. This took a lot of time during loading and offloading which could have been quickened with availability of a crane. At one point, the convoy had to halt for about one hour so that the bridge could be fastened properly on the low-loaders using steel wire ropes.

Transportation– Carrying the bridge parts on track transporters was cumbersome as some of the parts could slide off. The truck transporters are designed to transport Tanks and plant machines. This significantly reduced the road speed delaying arrival at the site in time.

Short timeline – it is a norm that a reconnaissance is done early enough before any military engineer task is conducted. For Thange Bridge, the gap length, soil analysis and bank height were crucial components for planning but all this was done at a time when the construction was expected to be ongoing. As a result, soil analysis could not be done meaning the troop had to use their own initiative to determine whether the California Bearing Ration (CBR) of the soil could sustain the total height of the bridge.

Operating space – The road shoulders were too narrow and uneven thus negatively affecting the construction work.

Distraction – There was a lot of traffic and travelers on both sides of the gap. The onlookers were curious to know what was going on. The troops had to do police work to control the flow of travelers going to Nairobi and Mombasa because they had to cross the gap on foot on a small foot path while the construction of the Bridge was on going.

Fig 4 – Visiting staff from HQ Kenya Army visits after the construction

Heavy traffic – After completion of the construction, the heavy traffic across the bridge was wearing out the ramp very fast. The troop had to modify the ramp and cover it with some loose soil.

Lessons drawn from the operation
Despite the versatile Bailey bridge being a considerably old equipment having been first put to use over half a century ago, it can still efficiently provide temporary means of crossing gaps and provide reasonably long life, if properly maintained.

Fig 5 – Visiting staff and troops pass over the Bridge

The Kenya Army Engineers could be effectively deployed to assist in civil operation during times of disaster provided they have the necessary equipment and support.

Need for improved bridges
Though the Baileys Bridge saved the day despite being both heavy and old fashioned and not very convenient for launching over long gaps due to its excessive sag resulting from fatigue and pinhole clearance, modern vehicle launched bridges that are lighter and stronger could be considered to suitably save time and resources during movement and construction. The launching of Bailey bridge across a wet gap during disaster time proved that perseverance, ingenuity and selfless devotion can solve many intriguing problems. The versatile genius, the sappers can execute tasks which others consider impossible. They do not blow their own trumpets but instead continue to forge ahead and lead in their characteristically quiet way. Their satisfaction is in well done job. ■

MILITARY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS IN THE FIELD AND ITS CHALLENGES

Forward Repair Team also known as the FRT is the Army main support mechanism in charge of the repair and maintenance of all Army Equipment on the battlefield for a Combat Company or Squadron. This equipment includes vehicles, weapons, electrical and electronic components among many others. They bring out potency or longevity to the fight by ensuring that all equipment needed for the fight are in good working condition at all times during operations. A disabled equipment on a battlefield can put soldiers' lives in danger and jeopardize operations. Members of the FRT must assess the situation and make quick decisions on whether or not the equipment is repairable on sight or must be back-loaded to a safer working area. For example, a vehicle breaks down in a convoy, the repairs are done on location, without necessarily having specialized tools, in the middle of nowhere as an all-around defence is mounted for the safety of the technicians. If the repairs are not possible, the Recovery Vehicles will tow the equipment to the next defensive position for further diagnosis and repair. *That's the world of the battlefield anyway.*

The dynamic technological change in the world has become the biggest challenge when it comes to military equipment repairs in the field. Unlike the civilian world, where repairs of similar equipment are conducted, in the army, the much-faced challenges by the technicians are almost the same across the board. For example, most military types of equipment are prone to extreme wear and tear due to the harsh environmental conditions that they operate in. Furthermore, some equipment are operated by different operators at different times leading to frequent breakdown. This is not common with the civilian world because most of the time, equipment is assigned to one operator for most of the equipment's life. This makes it easy to detect any slight defects in the equipment operating systems. Proper diagnosis and fault finding also becomes a major challenge due to the insufficient modern diagnostic tool kits. Availability of the kits will increase the production and service delivery because the most time wasted on maintenance is never the actual repair but the time taken

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to find faults. Sometimes it could be just an issue with a sensor that would have taken less than 20 min to replace but knowing the exact sensor would take 3 hours to find when one lacks the diagnostics kit.

The current models of equipment comprise electrical and electronics components as compared to the previous models. For a technician to be able to tackle any challenges on these equipment technicians must be well conversant in both mechanical and electrical. For

this reason, a technician in the civilian world undergoes both mechanical and electrical aspects of engineering training (mechatronics) which saves both manpower and repair downtime. This a challenge in many militaries where specialization in electrical or mechanical repairs is prevalent hence must work hand in hand at all times on the battlefield. Since 2018, KDF started working with the mainstream dealers on a rotational basis to harness modern working skills by our technicians. Positive changes have already been observed and there is hope that in a few years to come we shall reach the highest levels of maintenance.

Another challenge is misuse and negligence in handling the equipment. Firstly, is the move by some unskilled/untrained personnel operating equipment without authorization. Most of the times they end up damaging the equipment and not report the damage on time. A good example is damaged night vision devices which are operated by untrained troops during the day. When operated during the day, the sunlight will damage the Image Intensifier Tube rendering the device unserviceable. This is complicated by the use of equipment for the wrong purpose despite the necessity of the task. A good

Pic1: A technician assessing the extent of the damage to determine the scale of repairs.

Pic 2: Extensively damaged vehicle awaiting repairs in the field.

example is using specialized equipment like an ambulance to ferry troops to the battlefield instead of patients. Subjecting this equipment to the constant ferrying of troops especially in harsh environment may damage the ambulance as it is not made to operate in such conditions. Another challenge is the long lead time taken to acquire spare parts for the equipment in the battlefield. To ensure that operations

do not stall due to the breakdown of equipment, technicians have found out the hard way that spare parts for one type of equipment are compatible with another piece of equipment. While this may only be used as a stop-gap measure during an emergency, the technicians may convert this into a permanent solution if no supply of spares is forthcoming. Such habits may lead to further damage to other parts of

the equipment or cause serious injuries.

Damage caused in the process of repair and maintenance also causes equipment depreciation. This normally happens during equipment recovery from the field to peacetime locations. The equipment ends up developing other issues during back-loading. The environment also has its hand in instigating damage on army equipment. Apart from hash terrain in the operation areas, higher temperatures and high altitudes also affect the smooth operation of equipment. Apart from the contamination of fuel and reducing the viscosity of the oils, high temperature affects electrical and electronic components thereby endangering the troops operating these equipment. For a very long time, this has been the biggest challenge on army equipment in deep operation. Despite all the challenges Army technicians have played a significant role in all battles as they make sure to keep all equipment in an operation in good condition to enable the Army to fight and win wars. ◾

THE FUTURE OF DIAMOND MINING IN BOTSWANA

The ideal purpose of pursing development aspirations is for countries to create an enabling environment for citizens to enjoy long, prosperous and creative lives. The notion of development is often synonymous with sustainable economic development. This therefore means that sustainable development requires the maintenance, rational use and enhancement of natural resources such as metals, industrial minerals, water, or soil, as well as a balanced consideration of ecology, economy and social justice. In order to fulfill the requirement of sustainable development, the efficiency with which resources are utilized has to be improved. A balance must be struck between the long-term commitment of developing a mineral deposit and the short-term threats of a changing commercial and social environment. Africa's development priorities identified in the African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda were

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enshrined during the reporting period in several continental and global landmark agreements, including the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The mining industries are basic to national economies and generate significant push effects on downstream industries. The extractive industries have become a major growth and economic development drivers for many countries in Africa and in particular, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region which has not been left out. The overreliance on minerals and other geo-resources makes the countries prey to the resource curse trap. This is one of the challenges that policy makers ought to address in SADC countries and AU in general. Ross-Watt postulates that mining is a significant economic activity in most Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, and mineral beneficiation has been identified and controversially discussed as one of the possibilities for industrialization. With many member countries being economically too small, to muster the human and financial resources which beneficiation usually seeks to acquire.

A diamond mining ring. Source: Ministry of Mining, Botswana (2019)

Botswana has witnessed good economic growth on the back of fiscal discipline and robust governance. The country has a strong legal framework, low prevalence of civil unrest or disorder and minimal government interference in the mining sector. Botswana boasts infrastructure that is in better condition than several of its neighbors, which has assisted in boosting interest from international companies in the mining sector. Botswana has been the world's largest producer of diamonds by value. In 2008, diamond production peaked but has yet to recover to levels seen before the international economic crisis. Diamonds and the revenue that has accrued primarily from the dividends from the joint venture between the government of Botswana and rough diamond producer De Beers, has provided the necessary condition for Botswana experiencing the highest rate of economic growth in Africa from 1970-2000. Since 2000, the growth of the economy stalled and the rate is below the sub-Saharan African average. In order to deal with the

Botswana is one of the few countries in sub-Saharan Africa that has truly benefited from its mineral wealth. Revenues from diamond mines, combined with sound economic policies, have helped build infrastructure and kept the economy stable.

stalled growth rate and a persistently high rate of unemployment, the government of Botswana has introduced a policy to diversify the economy. One of the most

successful elements has been the policy of diamond beneficiation: downstream processing of rough diamonds, which were previously exported as rough diamonds and processed elsewhere.

Botswana is one of the few countries in sub-Saharan Africa that has truly benefited from its mineral wealth. Revenues from diamond mines, combined with sound economic policies, have helped build infrastructure and kept the economy stable. With high unemployment and limited export diversification, the diamond and public sector-led development model is showing its limits. In Botswana. the government is a key interlocutor between civil society and business. It has an important function in ensuring social stakeholders benefit from private enterprise, as well as a responsibility to support training programmes for youth to provide skills that grant access to private-sector employment both in Botswana and abroad.

Developing countries are competing for mineral investment by liberalizing mining codes and conditions of investment. Designed policies are implementing them as part of the development agenda through the Beneficiation policy and Botswana excellence: A Strategy for Economic Diversification and Sustainable Growth, National Special Economic Zones. They established a diamond hub and combined by the fact that other mined minerals in the country include nickel-copper, coal, soda ash, gold, silver, semi-precious stones, and granite. Botswana also has untapped uranium, lead, and zinc reserves, which companies are seeking to exploit.

Botswana's performance has been remarkable in the half century since independence, transforming itself from

A big diamond find.
Source: The Department of Investments, Botswana (2017)

A most recent diamond find.
Source: Ministry of Mining, Botswana (2019)

The diversification of the Botswana economy beyond diamonds occurs particularly during downturns in diamond prices, but government policy to diversify during past downturns has been limited.

a severely impoverished nation to a high-middle-income country and achieving substantial reductions in poverty and rapid improvements in living standards. Its recipe for success has three main ingredients. First, it has managed its diamond revenues in a prudent and transparent manner (Botswana has been consistently ranked among the top 50 countries in terms of governance in the world), contributing to sizable savings that can be used to stabilize the economy in case of a downturn and save for investments and future generations. Second, it has allocated a good share of government spending to health, education, social assistance, and investment in public infrastructure. Third, it built a tradition of democratic values that helped maintain political and social stability. That said, the country faces two important challenges: how to reduce its unemployment rate of nearly eighteen percent and how to diversify its economic structure, considering that diamonds account for ninety percent of export receipts.

The diversification of the Botswana economy beyond diamonds occurs particularly during downturns in diamond prices, but government policy to diversify during past downturns has been limited. The beneficiation programme is a stepping-stone. There is an opportunity for Botswana to build upon beneficiation and become a continental leader on extraction and a hub of expertise on mining. The people of Botswana are an important resource to invest in and capitalize on to connect resources and society. Diamond mining industries play important roles in increasing the fiscal revenue and residents' income while resource regions face many difficulties. ■

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON WOMEN

ABSTRACT
The devastating effects of the Corona virus 2019 (COVID-19), on the health, economy, social, psychology and security of every person in the world today cannot be ignored. This has compelled states and governments to impose drastic measures including lockdowns in order to try to curb its spread. These measures resulted in overwhelming consequences with women bearing the brunt of the pandemic fallout. All the same, there has to be some very deliberate action by the concerned stakeholders to arrest the situation and alleviate the suffering of the female gender of society.

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Globally, women make up to seventy percent of the health workforce. In spite of these figures, women seldom are included in national or global round tables where COVID-19 decision-makings are done. In addition, in some jurisdictions the remuneration for women is often much lower than that of their male counterparts. They also do not hold many positions of leadership giving them a raw start right from the beginning. The onslaught of restrictions on movement and stay home as a way to contain the pandemic led to loss of employment and consequent sources of livelihoods.

The loss of jobs significantly impacted on the people's economic resources resulting in increasing cases of depression especially among adults during the early months of the pandemic. Whereas everyone faced the challenges associated with the pandemic, women and girls took the greater share of the economic, social and security fallout of COVID-19. This is because women play an integral role in all aspects of life across the world ranging from social workers, scientists, professionals, counsellors, cleaners, teachers, logistics managers, doctors, midwives and office

administrators among others. They are frontlines in the COVID-19 response.

Women around the world generally earn less, save less, and form a majority of single-parent households. They disproportionately hold more insecure jobs in the informal economy or service sector with less access to social protections. This leaves them with limited ability to absorb the economic shocks like men. In many parts of the developing world, economies and maintenance of daily lives are built on invisible and unpaid labour of women and girls. Before the crises started, women did nearly three times as much unpaid care and domestic work as men. The United Nations (UN) Women's rapid gender assessment surveys indicate that a great percentage of unpaid care work is still falling on women's shoulders. According to the European Parliament, the pandemic could render an average of 47 million women and girls below the poverty line.
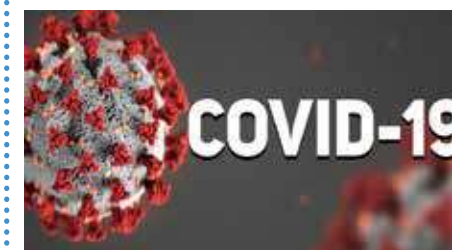
On education, statistics indicate that in March 2020 more than 1.5 billion students

Source: World Health Organization, (2020)

Source: United Nations, (2020)

had to stay and study from home due to the pandemic and with the existing gender norms, this put an increased demand for unpaid childcare and domestic work. It was observed that after this period of study from home, more girls did not continue with learning when schools were opened up again.

Food security and agriculture production has been at risk due to the declining income, reduced food production and limited market access. This further puts a strain on the women as they are the ones who take care of the family.

On matters concerning health, although the pandemic affected the physical health of both men and women, the burden of mental and psychological health hits women more. The COVID- 19 health measures of keeping social distance, economic shut downs including school closures overwhelmed health care systems and added the load on women and girls who already had the responsibilities to look after the young, the ailing and the older population of society.

The outbreak of COVID-19 necessitated that most employees work at home as a measure to decongest the offices and maintain the social distance in the places of work. The confinement and isolation during the lockdowns resulted in an increase in cases of depression reported among adults during the first months of

the pandemic. With little or no source of livelihood added to stresses, tension and financial insecurity in most families. As a result, an escalation of violence against women who are the weaker sex across the world was evidenced by the increase in domestic violence during the COVID-19 period. Many women were left trapped with their abusers physical, sexual and psychological making it hard for victims to get help from other support networks leaving them prone to mental trauma, disease and unwanted pregnancies. The situation was made worse in the lower social level ghetto settlements where people lived in crowded areas and those living in poverty or in rural, isolated locations. The security for the women and girls as they went to fetch amenities such as water, firewood to fend for the family was not assured. They were likely to fall victim to the idle men who were just hanging around with nothing constructive to preoccupy themselves with. Disputes and civil unrests hinder women and girls from progressing and deny them from accessing basic necessities of food, shelter, infrastructure and social amenities including health care.

In line with the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), there is need for broad promotion of short-term and long-term gender equality measures and women's empowerment at work, market place or community. These include; prevention, risk assessment and safety planning at places of work. It is crucial to recognize early warning pointers of violence against women and offer support, search as counselling and conducive work place environment where employees feel safe. The principles emphasize the business case for corporate action to promote gender equality and women empowerment. Many women experience physical and sexual abuse from close family members and relatives. Domestic

In line with the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), there is need for broad promotion of short-term and long-term gender equality measures and women's empowerment at work, market place or community. These include; prevention, risk assessment and safety planning at places of work.

violence and abuse are often invisible, and if it is left too long before detection, it may be too late. Therefore, it is necessary to prevent the actions beforehand. The United Nations' Secretary-General António Guterres in his COVID-19 briefings called on governments to intervene and end all forms of violence including domestic violence through prevention and redress measures in their national response plans. The unprecedented increase in domestic violence on women and girls since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic marks an urgent call for action for the private sector to leverage their existing resources and influence to keep women safe at home and safe at work.The COVID -19 situation is therefore, a 'double-edged sword' for most women, whether they stay at home or go to work, they still face the risk of COVID-19, poverty and gender, based violence. It is noted that in any aftermaths of conflicts or epidemics, it is the female gender of society that faces greatest difficulties arising from the imbalances which is exacerbated due to the shifts in gender roles and relations.

In the East Africa Community (EAC) partner states, they have engaged actively in measures to curb the COVID -19 pandemic infections. In addition to enforcing the health protocols recommended by WHO to curb the spread of the disease, partner states have employed various measures which include fiscal and monetary measures to cushion the vulnerable groups including

cash transfers, food distributions, and tax relief among others. The European Union resolved to have women involved in decision making in COVID-19 in order to have a gendered response to the current pandemic.

In Kenya, the first case of COVID-19 was detected on 13th March, 2020 resulting in the government directing that schools close down immediately. Statistics indicate that in the nine months period that schools were shut down, about 4000 school going girls had been impregnated. Some of the pregnancy was committed by close family members and relatives. Unfortunately, this did not come as a surprise because evidence from past epidemics shows that adolescent girls are at particular risk of dropping out and not returning to school even after the crisis is over which has also been evidenced during COVID-19 pandemic.

In the informal settlements within Nairobi County, the Corona virus pandemic has come with heavy social and economic toll on women, most of whom are highly vulnerable during crisis. Some women have suffered gender violence, rape and even teenage pregnancies as a result of the COVID-19. The pandemic has made women face additional external challenges due to gender inequality and discrimination that existed before and has been exacerbated due to sudden shift in gender roles and relations. For instance, in *Kibra* constituency, the media reports indicate that women are more likely than men to face increased insecurity, restricted mobility and other major challenges. Another example has been witnessed in the *Mukura* ward and the whole informal settlement locality, the media reported that during Covid-19, women disproportionately lost their jobs compared with men and the related economic disruptions impacted many girls' educations, with many more girls being pressured to drop out due to economic constraints. Finally, in view of the above, we can deduce that the effect of COVID-19 on women and girls has had a negative impact against them. That is why many governments, international organizations like the UN, European Union, East Africa Community, World Health Organization, the Republic of Kenya and all stakeholders are bringing to the fore information and up-to-date analysis on how and why gender matters are paramount in COVID-19 response. ∎

HARNESSING INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

One of the greatest strength that a country can have is the capacity to innovate. Innovation has become a key driver of economic, technological, social, cultural progress and is also a key determinant of a nation's ability to defend itself against external threats. It's for this reason that in the contemporary practice of Foreign Affairs, Innovation Diplomacy is a necessity and not a choice.

Innovation entails coming up with new ideas that improve and develop services, products and systems making them more efficient, competitive and valuable. Concerning innovation diplomacy, it involves the creative use of resources and tools of the state to pursue and achieve national innovation interests and foreign policy goals in the global geo-political arena. This assists a nation to protect and promote its economic, political, social, cultural and technological interests.

Innovation diplomacy also consists of purposively exploring and informing about identified opportunities, influencing and promoting partnerships, cultivating valuable relationships, scaling up collaborations and diffusion of innovations. Some authorities have contended that innovation diplomacy evolved from science diplomacy which was aimed at supporting partnerships in international scientific research and influencing foreign policy using scientific advice and evidence. Behind the facade of

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courtesies and pleasantries in the practice of diplomacy between nations, there exists protracted and intense competition for available opportunities and this trend is bound to continue fueled by threats of climate change, rising population, insecurity and fast-changing technology. Using innovative diplomacy a country can secure strategic trade deals, attract foreign direct investments, access social-cultural opportunities and harness best practices. This in turn leads to improved product and service competitiveness, enhanced prestige and prosperity. Presently, innovation is at the center of sustainable development cutting across all sectors from agriculture, tourism, culture, finance, education, transport, health

Many nations, scarce resources, intense competition

COVID-19 BRIEF: IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

Source: World Health Organization, (2020)

Shaken world

among others. Countries are relying on innovation to align their economies and productive systems to sustainable development goals as well as provide solutions to global challenges like climate change, poverty, insecurity and pervasive diseases.

The debilitating onslaught visited on the world community by the Covid-19 pandemic has in many ways strengthened global health diplomacy as nations and non-state actors sought newer and creative ways of collaborating to tackle the faceless assailant. This ongoing situation requires diplomats and health practitioners to re-examine their skills, resources, arrangements and enhance collaboration to safeguard populations. The pandemic has in many ways led to many ingenious, creative and innovative responses targeting response, communication, commerce, a work-related practice that will benefit humanity.

Digital Diplomacy
To keep track of the fast-growing technological innovations, many countries are harnessing emerging opportunities; for instance use of digital media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, Wechat, Google, Facebook, Flickr and Tik Tok, YouTube among others to pursue their foreign policy goals and interests. Most of these platforms are fast, accessible, affordable and they enhance information sharing and accountability. Many departments of the Government of Kenya actively use several of these interactive platforms to communicate with their diverse audiences and gather feedback on various issues.

Obama once observed that innovation was responsible for nearly two-thirds of the country's economic growth and it had tremendously contributed to improvement in the quality of life of Americans. He added that innovation was the bedrock of the United States of America's economic and technological growth.

At the center of innovation is an insatiable curiosity and interest which determines to a great extent one's ability to spot, pursue and seize opportunities for innovation. Some authorities have asserted that there is a need to train employees, policymakers and implementers on curiosity, tact and courage. An important question to pose here is; how curious are we on work-related processes, improvements, seeking solutions to existing challenges, following up on some leads, researching and enhancing our problem-solving skills?

Innovative diplomacy is a tool that can be used to facilitate innovation and the use of innovation to promote, pursue and protect national interests as well as improve relations between countries. As the resources continue to dwindle from the pressure exerted by a growing population, climate change, consumerism and other emerging issues, innovative diplomacy will be a critical factor in enhancing competitiveness at organizational and national levels. Policymakers and strategists should actively play their role as innovation catalysts for the attainment of sustainable development. ∎

Interconnected World

Today's statecraft demands the use of new technological tools to augment traditional diplomatic practice and meet the demands of the 21st Century. It's worth noting that the US State Department was the first to start an e-Diplomacy unit at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Today's statecraft demands the use of new technological tools to augment traditional diplomatic practice and meet the demands of the 21st Century. It's worth noting that the US State Department was the first to start an e-Diplomacy unit at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Former United States of America President, Barrack

STAR WARS BECOMES REALITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The increasing weaponisation of outer space is increasingly threatening the lives of modern societies, which are making more and more use of space-based services. The Outer Space Treaty, which entered into force on 10 October 1967, provides the foundation for future arrangements regarding the peaceful use of outer space. However, in the face of new actors, programmes and technologies, the Treaty needs to be amended so as to include arms control.

Near-Earth space is becoming increasingly important in regards to peace and security policies. There is often talk of a new age, "New Space". Several trends determine future space security. In addition to states and communities of states, commercial companies are additionally providing easy access to space, new services in communications and satellites and the exploitation of raw materials on other celestial bodies. Access to space has become easier. The ability to project power ("power through space") now seems possible for smaller states, while the leading space powers accuse each other of weaponising space and are therefore testing anti-satellite capabilities.

Multilateral efforts to develop sustainable space norms for responsible behaviour by spacefaring nations are long overdue. Since the beginning of spaceflight, there have always been international cooperations, such as the International Space Station (ISS) or joint planetary missions. This internationalist approach is in danger of fading away. More national security in space and the protection of critical infrastructures are the order of the day. The establishment of a Space Force in the USA and Russia (since 2015), increased Russian-Chinese cooperation and the testing of counterspace activities by the three leading space powers are evidence of the preparation for a weaponisation of space that could be used in the event of war or even trigger a war.

Legacy of the Cold War
Today, there is a mad rush for states to operate satellites. There are currently almost 2,000 satellites that also

COMMANDER HOLGER GROSSMANN
GERMANY

enable commercial services such as communication (TV, telephone, internet), navigation (GPS) or earth observation (weather). By means of powerful launchers, many small satellites are placed in space in just one launch hence reducing launch costs. Private companies like SpaceX, OneWeb or Amazon are planning "mega-constellations" (Starlink 12,000 satellites), which will also provide remote regions on Earth with internet services.

During the Cold War, the military use of space was a strategic driving force for the superpowers' space programmes. Many developments, such as in launch vehicles and satellite technology, illustrate the dual-use nature of space technology.

As early as the late 1950s, the USA and the USSR began developing and testing kinetic anti-satellite (ASAT) technologies. In principle, there are different ways to render satellites inoperable, either by collision or by electromagnetic interference (lasers, cyber attacks). However, from Earth, missiles can destroy satellites kinetically by direct attacks. Another method is to put satellites into orbit, manoeuvre them towards enemy satellites and then destroy them, a process that is slower and more predictable, but also achieves higher accuracy. Such "orbital ASAT tests" were conducted by the USSR in the 1970s. With Reagan's SDI speech in 1983 and an assumed Soviet ASAT threat, US ASAT developments intensified. Progressively, developments were pushed

by both superpowers, such as armed space stations or laser weapons though they were not permanently stationed. Owing to the cost of maintenance, inefficiency and too dangerous in the event of a crisis. The verification of arms control agreements, reconnaissance and early warning from space also had a de-escalating effect. However, the legacy of reduced the risk of misperceptions and unwanted escalation in a crisis is at stake today.

New anti-satellite tests
The international wake-up call for a new push for space weapons was the Chinese satellite test in January 2007, when it succeeded in destroying its own Fengyun-1C weather satellite with a ground-based interceptor missile. In 2008, the USA used its SM-3 ship-based interceptor missile to hit a US satellite, demonstrating operational capabilities to China and Russia. The development of counter-space technologies (ASAT, laser, electronic warfare) has intensified. Thus, satellite experiments for rendezvous purposes have been observed by the US, China and Russia. These Rendezvous and Proximity Operations (RPO) can be well disguised, as they can have civilian "service" purposes, such as refuelling or repairing other satellites. While it was believed not long ago that satellites in high geostationary orbits (36,000 kilometres) were inaccessible and therefore safe, there are increasing voices that all space powers are also testing space weapons for high orbits. While the USA had already been trying out unmanned rendezvous technologies since 2003, China tested the Aalong-1 satellite in 2016, which can collect space debris using a robotic arm. Russia used the Luch satellite to approach satellites parked in geostationary orbit.

In 2020, the US Space Command accused Russia of releasing a Cosmos 2543 sub-satellite to spy on a US spy satellite. In July 2020, Russia was accused that this sub-satellite ejected a projectile and used it to conduct an ASAT test. India has also entered counterspace development. On 27 March 2019, the Indian Prime Minister announced India's first successful ASAT test ('Mission Shakti'). In the test, an ASAT interceptor destroyed India's Microsat

R test satellite approximately three minutes after launch by a ground-based rocket at an altitude of 300 kilometres. Elsewhere, Russia tested the ground and air-based interceptors "Nudol" and "Kontakt" for interception in a low orbit. China conducted its own interceptor tests between 2010 and 2018. Operational missile defence which was first deployed by the US, also provides a regional ASAT capability while remaining a threat to low-orbit satellites in the event of war.

"Space" in the Strategies
The increasing importance of space for military purposes is also underlined by relevant documents and programmes of the leading space powers. In June 2018, for example, former US President Trump declared that the US had dominance power in space followed by a proclamation in June, 2020 by the New 6th Space Force. "Humanity has changed, and the actions of our potential adversaries have significantly increased the likelihood of warfare in space". Space and the related cyberspace are listed as new "warfighting domains" in the National Space Strategy published in March 2018; justifying new military space developments and raising the prospect of a "considered response" if attacked. In 2020, the Pentagon has drafted its own Defence Space Strategy for maintaining "superiority in space". This may be a reaction to Russia's and China's programmes that are seen as a strategic threat. At the same time, space warfighting operations are to be integrated into US operational command.

Although China's and Russia's test of their ASAT worries the US, the latter's unmanned mini-space shuttle X-37B has already carried out six long-term missions with unknown purpose. Elsewhere, in its report "Challenges to Security in Space 2019", the US Defense Intelligence Agency also lists Iran and North Korea as challengers to US superiority in space. In its last summit communiqué of June 2021, NATO devoted a separate section (paragraph 33) to space. On the one hand, it wants to strive for responsible behaviour in space while on the other hand, an attack in space can now also be considered an Alliance case. A NATO Space Centre is under construction in Ramstein, which is intended to coordinate the space activities of NATO members. Russia has been developing various programmes since 2010 whose purposes are often unclear, although they are suspected to be for military operations.

Air and space defence has also been reorganized since 2015 where cooperation between Russia and China in both the civilian and military sectors has been ongoing. Beijing has decided that China should become a space power "in all respects". The space programme is part of President Xi's "China Dream" and includes three launch centres and its own space station. Lunar and Mars missions underline China's ambitious goals. In July 2019, China published its first defence white paper since 2015, in which "space, electromagnetic space and cyberspace" are considered a domain for national defence. While no direct ASAT tests by China have been observed since 2018, there are claims of more non-kinetic tests (lasers) taking place.

There is no transparency in the military domain between these space powers. In July 2020, a bilateral round of talks on "regulating the militarisation of space" between the US and Russia took place in Vienna for the first time since 2013. After New START was extended for five years earlier this year, Biden and Putin agreed to a "robust and well-balanced" dialogue on Strategic Stability at their June 2021 meeting. The agenda also includes space and missile defence issues. The space-based early warning component for missile attacks or Earth observation and radar satellites for verification are key space assets that must not be attacked even in the event of a crisis. The creation of "keep out zones" or a non-attack commitment of strategically important satellites would be first stabilising steps. An agreement to ban ASAT tests would be equally important. A war in space cannot be won and must never be fought. The leading nations in space, first and foremost the USA, Russia and China, must move forward with binding risk-reducing measures and thus strengthen security for all objects in space. ∎

TANZANIA NATIONAL SERVICE: A SOLUTION FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

Introduction
The history of Tanzania National Service (NS) can be traced back in 1963 when the father of the Nation the late President Julius Kambarage Nyerere came with the idea by the statement "National Service is the demand made by the nation on youth and youth response in fulfilling their duty in building the nation". The Tanzania National Service was therefore established on 10th July 1963, with the aim of preparing youth to contribute in national building by engaging in various socio-economic activities. The Tanzania National Service, is currently part of Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) and is equipped with personnel with professional diversity, to meet for the needs of the society.

COL PHILIP MAHENDE
TANZANIA

These includes; agriculture (farming and livestock rearing), fishing, industries, construction, sports and culture, environment and service industry. Apart from undertaking basic military training at first stage as the youth joining National Service, after pass out they proceed to these disciplines to be involved in learning and production.

Vision, Mission and Objectives
Vision *Through National Service, Tanzania is envisaged to be a country whose youth are well nurtured so as to constitute a productive part of the society which has a high sense of: Confidence, Self-discipline, Patriotism, Brotherhood, Cooperation and Responsibility.*

Tanzania National Service Headquarters Dodoma-Tanzania

Mission *To equip Tanzanian youth with the requisite knowledge, skills and cultural values which will enable them to contribute positively to socio-economic development, defence and security of the nation.*

Objectives
a. *To build the nation.*
b. *To defend the nation.*
c. *To carry out economic activities in a sustainable manner.*

By looking at the vision, mission and objectives of the Tanzania National Service, it is clear that Tanzania's youth have been given a room to be nurtured and be able to earn a living when not employed in the formal sector. Unemployment is a challenge all over the world, the youth being the age group mostly affected, there was a need to look for the means to curb this situation by establishing an institute, the National Service that will accommodate all idle youth to be engaged in various socio-economic activities.

How and from where the youth are collected
In order to attain the intended objectives and targeted group of youth, the letters for call of the youth from the Chief of National Service (CNS) are sent to all Regional Commissioners (RCs) with basic requirements for eligible youth to join National Service. These includes, among others the citizenship, health, gender and education level. Gender and education level seeks to ensure all youth are included regardless to sex or education background. Youth join National Service on voluntary basis with a contract of two years whereby they undergo basic military training for six months and vocational training for eighteen months and are supposed to go back to villages to utilize knowledge, skills and techniques obtained in National Service. On the other hand there are the youth who join National Service on compulsory basis after one year or more post O-Level studies, mostly being Form Six leavers who spend three months. In this discussion only those joining National Service on voluntary basis will be considered as the compulsory service spent shorter time to be equipped with intended skills and knowledge.

How National Service is the Solution to Youth Unemployment
In National Service, youth do get opportunities to go through a wide range of fields that constitutes to employment to any population, which includes agriculture, fishing, industries, construction, vocational training and service industries. Training in National Service is provided to the youth in more practical form in such a way after the expiration of contract of two years, youth are able to deliver fullest possible. For seasonal agricultural crop as well as animal reproduction cycle, youth are enabled to monitor the entire process of dealing with the respective product to an end as all product process require less than a year to mature.

In line with this, at local government authorities; that is city councils, municipal councils, town councils and district councils, it is by law to allocate 10% of their internal collections for underprivileged groups (4% women, 4% youth and 2% disabled). Youth from NS who did not chance to be employed or enlisted in the Armed Forces while were still in NS and go back to their homes, are required to organize themselves in groups (minimum five) and with guidance of the local authorities officials, to have Business Plan write-up on their area of interest. After the approval of the plan, the group is being given training on how to undertake the project in more profitable way including; storage, packaging, banking, transportation and marketing. The local authorities are supposed to provide land for a particular project and keeping on assisting on other areas to ensure sustainability of the project. These benefits do not end only with those went through NS as its spillover effects spread back to those who did not gone to NS both at rural and urban areas.

The following are the ways other stakeholders are going to be benefited in terms of employment opportunities:
a. The projects will incorporate other youth who did not go through NS to deal with subsidiary, those who went to NS will be leaders, however as the projects will be expanded will require more youth to be included.
b. Other people in the supply chain of the projects will be involved in line with the projects. These includes petty traders, transport, marketing, food vendors, cleaners and alike.
c. Availability of more commodities will facilitate money circulation which in turns promote more economic activities and hence more employment. This also will reduce prices of goods

Mirererani Tanzanite mines wall construction by National Service youth

Poultry Project Undertaken by National Service Youth

and services and there encourage more spending.

d. Social evils are expected be reduced at a great extent or taken away as the legal activities will be available. Social evils tends to hamper smooth operation of economic activities including working timings, which later restrain the activities. ■

STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE CATTLE RUSTLING IN SAMBURU NORTH SUBCOUNTY

Historical Background

Cattle rustling is an activity that is forceful livestock raiding from one community to another through the use of small arms and light weapons that cause destruction of animals, property and the human lives. Cattle rustling is no longer a cultural practice, but a form of organized commercialized activity driven by criminal networks across north rift counties of Samburu, Turkana and Baringo. The situation is made worst by an increasing proliferation of small arms and light weapons, according to *a study* by ENACT transnational organized crime researchers at the Institute for Security Studies, South Africa. The availability of these arms has prolonged and sustained the conflict. Traditionally, small-scale stock theft was a way of balancing community wealth and power, but crime and capitalism have commercialized this practice, making it a significant economic threat,' the researchers says.

Samburu North, Baragoi area in particular, has been a no-go zone for many organizations as a result of the ongoing conflict between the Samburu and Turkana communities. Several mediators have in many occasions tried to reconcile the two communities without any meaningful success, i.e. the National and County governments, local leadership, several local NGOs amongst others. The terrain and environment is general harsh

TERESIA LENGEES
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

for habitation and security operations. The government internal security organs have done several operations in the area but without much success due to the reluctance of the communities to end the menace and hostile terrain.

The Turkana and Samburu Community have lived adjacent to one another in Baragoi region for hundreds of years, but not always peacefully. Both groups have a longstanding tradition of cattle raids, but the violence has over the years aggravated and is threatening to reach fever pitch if nothing is done to pacify the situation.

The Turkana are the second largest ethnic group in Samburu north sub county (Baragoi) and have persistently complained of non-political representation in the area of leadership structures, and this has been a bone of contention over time and again. The Samburu on the other hand, have publicly accused the Government of selectively protecting Turkana while allowing their kinsmen to be killed by marauding Turkana militias. A case in point is an earlier allegation that all Security camps including; The AP, RDU, ASTU, GSU and the KDF camps are all located on the Turkana side of the boundary conveniently providing a shield to their adversaries. This is verifiably incorrect and, on many occasions, jeopardized operations due to lack of cooperation from one of the warring sides. The Samburu terrain is relatively regular enabling easy movement of security personnel in pursuit of stolen animals while movement in the Turkana landscape is a bit harsh and unfavorable for operations.

Mitigating Strategies

The effectiveness of cattle rustling mitigation and prevention strategies among the two pastoral communities in Samburu North calls for a wide multi-sectoral approach. The role of the National and County governments, local political leadership, community and non-governmental organizations should be

enhanced and supported in the short and long terms efforts. This paper will attempt to point out a multi-sectoral mitigating strategy that main be employed by the National and County governments, the political and local leadership and local NGOs.

National/County Governments:
Over the years, the Government attempted to bring together the warring communities, by building common water points (boreholes, dams), schools and health centers, but inadequacy of the meagre resources, competing political interests, cultural practices and easy accessibility of illicit firearms have continued to ruin the gains. While the Government's intention of shared resources remains genuine, most of the elected leaders bring in conflict-ridden policies of division that make competition of the resources between the two ethnic communities escalate.

These retrogressive policies over time have been the major source of conflict among these communities.

i) **Short Term**
▪ The Government may consider appointing a non-partisan committee to investigate the root causes of the conflicts as well as other underlying factors and possibly draw a framework for a permanent solution to end the perennial deadly conflict in Samburu North Sub-County.
▪ Regular Peace Caravans that have gone round from time to time have not bone major fruit due their short-lived engagement and little resources.
▪ Education is key in transforming the minds of the people living in these areas to appreciate the benefits of being in a secure environment and vice versa. The governments should reopen schools that were closed due to insecurity in villages such as Kawap,

Charda and Mbukoi. These small villages were completely destroyed for over a decade.
▪ Peacebuilding efforts of opening roads, renovation of schools, health centers, and rehabilitation of water pans/dams are urgently needed for these two pastoralist communities. Youth should be engaged to undertake these projects.
▪ Youth and women should be given resources/funding to undertake small businesses in order to improve their lives.
▪ The government must come up with a Security Policy that provides guidelines and boundaries of duties of various security agencies and even outlining the role of citizens in the management of crime in their areas and within the cattle-rustling ravaged counties of Northern Kenya.

ii) **Mid/Long Term**
▪ Despite the cost element and apparent concerns from human rights organizations, the Government may consider turning the sprawling villages into structured settlements for provision of common water points, schools, infrastructure(roads) , police

The effectiveness of cattle rustling mitigation and prevention strategies among the two pastoral communities in Samburu North calls for a wide multi-sectoral approach.

stations/posts, better communication networks, health facilities and other services.
▪ Instead of disarming the communities in this area, the Government may need to identify all those who are officially armed and who own firearms illegally and register them under the owner's name, educate or train the people on the use, danger and consequences of misuse of the firearms.
▪ The use of Police Reservists was left unorganized for long and need to employ their use as government eye in this area but can be more effective if they are remunerated monthly.
▪ The Government ought to take a strategic approach of ensuring that Infrastructure and Education are comprehensively initiated in these presumed marginalized areas, so that they are opened up in order for the people to get other alternative forms of living.

2. Political/Local Leadership
▪ It is also prudent for the Government to work through the local leaders (both elected and community elders) of both Samburu and Turkana living in Samburu North. The leaders, more so the elected have resources and means to travel freely and talk to communities against this bad practice of killings and livestock theft.
▪ There have been efforts by Council of Elders to be part of the peacemaking process by their political leadership but lack of resources has been their major obstacles. The use of prominent elders from both communities identified by them can have unhindered access to the communities and freely talk to them.
▪ The elite and more so the unemployed youth of these communities can be used to sensitize their Communities on

the importance of changing their way of life from nomadic to mix farming by engaging in small businesses such sale/trading in livestock, own shops/dukas and practice small agricultural activities in fertile areas.

3. **International and Local NGOs/CBOs**
- There are number of local international and local NGOs and Community Based Organizations who have been part of the peacemaking efforts in Samburu North. Namely; Mercy Corps, Caritas, Kenya Red Cross, Peace Net, amongst others. In general, they haven't achieved much as their business has been driven by relevance to their donors and to continue drawing funding but nothing to show on the ground.
- Revitalization of these organizations to enhance their assistance can lead to fruitful outcome in the short term. Their resourcefulness is important in facilitating wider efforts in terms where community's leaders are involved. They can supplement government efforts small water projects, roads, food for work and even transport, accommodate, pay stipend to community elders as they traverse the area.
- Through the creation of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that are home grown, the Government can use the elite from the indigenous communities to transform the minds of their people by educating them on the importance of ending cattle rustling and the importance of coexistence in Samburu North by the communities living there

Conclusion and Recommendations
Though much needs to be done to reverse the damage caused by decades of cattle rustling in Samburu North, a sound approach by all the stakeholders involved led by the government can achieve much in the short- and long-term strategy. Stakeholders can play the mediation and facilitation role and bring the two warring communities to successfully dialogue together. However, the use of military/armed operation to recover stolen animals on both sides or flash out criminals should be the last option when other efforts have been exhausted. ∎

UNMASKING THE MODUS OPERANDI OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

The seizure of illegally trafficked wildlife and wildlife products raises pertinent questions as to what enabled the trafficking to pass through the highly secured roads, airports, border posts and seaports. Illegal wildlife trade is a global multibillion-dollar business involving the unlawful taking of and trading in live fauna and flora or parts and products derived from them. Wildlife is traded in parts as horns, skins, tusks, bones, leather goods or souvenirs, as food or traditional medicine, as pets, and in many other forms. Illegal wildlife trade affects both animals and plant species and spans terrestrial and marine regions. It is a discrete, secretive and organized crime that takes place at local, regional and international levels. Two key factors facilitate illegal wildlife trade namely the transnational nature of the crime that involves operations beyond territorial boundaries and the organization that revolves around structures and actors that coordinate acquisition, financing, transportation and disposal of the illegally acquired contraband.

The main role of organized criminals is to move illegally acquired wildlife and its products from source to consumers. Various tricks and tactics are employed by the traffickers in attempts to overcome or bypass law enforcement scrutiny and detection thereby moving the illegal items across roadblocks and international borders and beyond continents. Some elements of national power such as geography may predispose a country to wildlife trafficking. Kenya is strategically located between Africa and Asia serving as a regional transportation hub. Africa is a source while Asia is a market for illegally trafficked wildlife and its products. The availability of key transport infrastructure such as ports, airports and transnational roads make a country vulnerable to be used as a transit route. The East African region is endowed with diverse wildlife resources that the traffickers seek to illegally exploit. Kenya's vulnerability in transnational organized crime is compounded by virtue of being a gateway for her landlocked neighbors and region. Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and the Kilindini Port are regional frontiers

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and are therefore more exposed to regional illegal wildlife trade because of the large hinterland served. This therefore makes Kenya both a source and transit country for illegally trafficked wildlife.

The largely secretive, highly guarded and well-concealed crime is undertaken using routine and non-routine crossing points, ports of entry/exit and vehicles. It involves live, raw or processed specimens. The concealment methods are dynamic, changed or abandoned once known by law enforcement fraternity. It is critical for law enforcement officers to acquaint themselves with the most common concealment methods as a tool to detect and deter wildlife trafficking. There is also need to know the most commonly trafficked wildlife species, which are detailed as below:

African elephant: The African elephant that is categorized as critically endangered is targeted mainly for its ivory that is traded in both raw and processed forms. Simply stated, elephant tusks are oversize teeth that extend out of elephant mouth. A paltry 350,000 elephants are left in the world with the Kenyan population estimated to be just over 35,000. Kenya is the 4th largest host of elephant population in Africa after Botswana, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. Elephants are poached predominantly by use of firearms to obtain the ivory and the search for firearms for poaching purposes has contributed to the proliferation of light weapons in our communities. It is estimated that approximately 30,000 elephants are poached every year globally. The ivory is mainly used for making souvenirs and ornaments. In 2013, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) castigated eight countries that bore the highest responsibility for the increase in elephant poaching and the booming illegal ivory trade. The eight, vilified by the media as the "gang of eight" were categorized as ivory source, transit and destination countries and were tasked to take immediate remedial actions lest they face trade sanctions.

Rhino: The rhino is targeted for its horns which are in high demand in Asia, mainly China and Vietnam. Its horns are primarily used in Traditional Chinese Medicine as well as status symbol for wealth and success. Kenya has the third largest rhino population in the world. The rhino horn is trafficked in raw and processed forms. There is no scientific evidence to proof that rhino horn has medicinal or any other power. The rhinos' horn is mainly a weapon deployed for self-defense and is made of keratin, the same material you find in human finger, toe nails, hair, animal horns and hooves.

Pangolin: The Pangolin is one of the most trafficked animals in the world. It is targeted for its scales and meat, which are believed to have medicinal value. Unfortunately, its plight remains unknown to most law enforcement officers. Over 2.7 million pangolins are poached for their scales globally every year. In 2020, the pangolin grabbed global headlines after it was suspected to be a probable origin of the Corona virus. Researchers at South China Agricultural University said that the pangolin could be an intermediary host for the novel coronavirus. They have not published their findings, and the pangolin has not been confirmed as the animal from which the virus jumped to humans.

East African Sandalwood: African sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolate*), is used for its scented wood and to extract essential oil. It entered the international market as a substitute of the traditional sandalwood oil originally sourced from Asia and Australia. Sandalwood has over centuries been traded for its fragrance, medicinal value, religious value and wood carving potential. The limited supply, coupled with high demand and escalating prices of sandalwood oil from the traditional source countries have led to exploitation of the East African sandalwood as a preferred alternative. It is trafficked as raw wood or powder.

Illegal wildlife trafficking concealment methods
Few cases whose concealment was unique and puzzling have been highlighted.

False declaration of live wild animals: In 2006, a consignment of nine metallic boxes said to contain tortoise shells was as a routine, subjected to quarantine at the JKIA Veterinary Unit. There was no suspicion since the consignment, casually packed in plain sheet metal boxes had all the requisite documentation. It was destined for Asia from a neighboring country. As the Veterinary Doctor worked at his desk he heard some sound of movements in the boxes. He became curious as to how dead tortoise shells could move inside the boxes. Out of curiosity, he decided to check only to discover that the contents were actually live tortoises, which were moving inside the boxes. As the scaly tortoises moved on the floor of the metallic boxes, a sound was produced and it is the one that drew the attention of the veterinarian. This case was handed over to the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, a regional intergovernmental body tackling wildlife crime within eastern and southern Africa for further investigations.

Another case involved the interception of a postal parcel that was destined for one of the European countries. In this case the hawk eyed postal officials noted some dampness on one of the edges of the parcel, which was wrapped as a gift. The dampness raised suspicion of a biological process thus prompting the opening of the parcel only to be amazed that the contents were live pancake tortoises. The pancake tortoise is a species of flat-shelled tortoise in the family *Testudinidae*. The species is native to Tanzania and Kenya. Its common name refers to the flat shape of its shell. In this case, it is the natural act of the animals

excreting urine hence the observatory skills of the postal corporation workers saved the animals from being trafficked. How many animals are trafficked as parcels and how many reach their destinations alive? Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) officers took these animals back to the wild after undergoing quarantine and tests.

Concealing in Vehicles: The use of top range sport utility vehicles, which are rarely stopped at roadblocks, is a common trafficking method. Traffickers believe that such vehicles are associated with VIPs and will therefore not be subjected to thorough checks and searches. Vehicles with false compartments specifically used to conceal the contraband have been seized several times and this concealment method is common globally and used in other crimes. In another interesting case, a team of KWS officers intercepted an empty oil tanker transporting elephant ivory tusks. Another interesting one involved a hearse, which was found to be carrying a big piece of elephant tusk, which was concealed by being tied to the underneath of the vehicle below the fuel tank. The use of hired vehicles is also common with the aim being to avoid forfeiture of personal vehicles.

Concealment in logs: This method is common for trafficking of ivory from Central Africa Region. In December 2012, a container was scanned and subjected to a multi-agency verification at the Kilindini Port, Mombasa. Eleven pieces of elephant tusks were recovered from one of the wooden crates sandwiched between wooden logs. It is the port's scanning X-ray machines that aided the discovery of this concealment that also involved tactful arrangement of heavy logs in the container. The exporter and importer were from East Africa and Asia respectively. The case was taken over by Kilindini Police Station for further investigations. In another almost similar tactic, semi processed logs were

Photos of pancake tortoises being smuggled as postal parcel in 2006

Photos showing pieces of elephant tusks concealed in wooden beams in a container at Mombasa

used to conceal pieces of elephant ivory. This time the concealment thought had gone a notch higher. A container that had originated from within the region was subjected to verification at the Kilindini Port. It was found to have been stuffed with wooden beams, which had been semi processed, hollowed-out, and wax was used to stick cut pieces of elephant ivory onto the hollowed sections of the beams. Then the outer layer of the beam was laid on top and nailed to cover the tusks. The edges of the beams were again trimmed using a saw in order to give the "loaded" beams a uniform appearance. This case

puzzled the law enforcement fraternity since it beat the x-ray and canine detection powers. Nevertheless, the illegal wildlife trade was detected despite the concealment.

The fight against wildlife trafficking in Kenya has paid dividends through significant reductions in rhino and elephant poaching and reduced use of our entry and exit points to traffic wildlife. In 2018, the 70th meeting of the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Standing Committee in Sochi, Russia removed

Kenya from the list of the eight countries that bore highest responsibility for rhino and elephant poaching and subsequent trade in rhino horns and elephant ivory. Moreover, Kenya recorded zero rhino poaching in 2020 and the Kenya Wildlife Service Director General Brigadier (Rtd) John Waweru noted that "the achievement came at a time when the country has made significant steps in managing rhino poaching with no case reported in 2020, a feat last achieved over two decades ago".

Conclusion
Concealment plays a major facilitating role to assist traffickers to move wildlife products and derivatives from one place or country to the other. It however takes a combination of intelligence, technology and keen observations to dismantle the trafficking. It is beneficial for the law enforcement community to share the concealment methods as and when detected. Creation of platforms for such information sharing will be of great help. ∎

HOW UNTARGETED SURVEILLANCE IS INVADING OUR PRIVACY

Introduction
Technology advancements have developed faster than laws. As we approach the fifth industrial revolution some tech-companies have developed latest innovations way beyond time. However, these advancements require to be harnessed for the good of humanity and not for breaking the basic human rights of privacy. Terrorism acts have caused fear and apprehension all over the world and thus more research has gone into surveillance. The ability of a government or multinational corporations to spy on your privacy for the purposes of gaining a business edge or for the purposes of containing and monitoring acts of terrorism is a major debatable topic that arises due to the latest advancements in technology.

Definitions
Targeted surveillance is a form of surveillance that is directed towards specific persons of interest and is distinguishable from mass surveillance. Mass surveillance on the other hand is a

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form of passive surveillance also known as bulk interception that is undetected. Unlike targeted surveillance, which typically intrudes quite seriously on the privacy of few, selected targets, untargeted surveillance is often unavoidably intrusive to large numbers of individuals.
Untargeted surveillance can be defined

as the surveillance of all individuals in a particular place or engaged in a specific activity. It is used for a wide range of purposes: to improve productivity in the workplace by monitoring employee computers or lavatory usage, to ensure fairness in sports competitions by conducting drug tests, to enforce speeding laws on roads, and to enforce the rules of gambling in casinos[1]. Untargeted surveillance is primarily a preventive approach to reducing security threats and rule-breaking in general. Examples include Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), traffic networks surveillance and satellite surveillance. The concern about CCTV is because open street CCTV is often used in both a targeted and untargeted ways.

There are two stages to the use of open street CCTV, at least as it is currently used in the UK. The first is untargeted:

1   Katerina Hadjimatheou, "The Relative Moral Risks of Untargeted and Targeted Surveillance Author (s): Katerina Hadjimatheou Source : Ethical Theory and Moral Practice , Vol . 17 , No . 2 (April 2014), Pp . 187–207 Published by : Springer Stable URL : Https://Www.Jstor.Org/Sta" 17, no. 2 (2019): 187–207.

open street CCTV affects all people who pass through its range by recording them. The purpose of this stage of CCTV is to keep a record of events that can be accessed if an incident of rule-breaking occurs. The second stage of CCTV use is highly targeted: once an incident occurs, state agents watch only those recordings that independent information suggests may hold evidence that will help them to establish the facts of a case.[2].
Thus privacy is a condition of both personal happiness and individual freedom (Sorell 2011) Privacy is also a condition of a functioning liberal democracy. Without a private space in which to express and exchange political ideas and opinions, explore and practice religious beliefs, teach one's children one's own values and vote anonymously, amongst other things, people's ability to engage in activities of democratic citizenship with genuine autonomy, that is, free of exploitation or oppression, would be weakened (Lever 2011; Solove 2008; Allen 2011).
Mission Creep can be defined a situation where data collected through surveillance is used for a purpose other than what was originally approved.[3].

Privacy Vs Security
Civil liberties and human rights have been eroded as a technology advances in the pretext of fighting terrorism. Our Governments have increased their funding in combating terrorism. The United States of America for example is alleged to be collecting data from the large corporations that include Facebook, WhatsApp, Gmail and yahoo through the terrorism surveillance program. These efforts in combating terrorism are good as in their view this keeps us safe. However, if this data gets to the wrong hands of the terrorists you can imagine the damage this will cause.

Some governments have insisted on crippling encryption on mobile devices including laptops and i-pads. The apple devices that were the most encrypted now can be decrypted and all the information in the device taken without your knowledge. Laptops can be opened and closed without your login credentials. It is also alleged that the apple corporation was requested to assist investigative agencies by inserting a back door to the apple phones of terror suspects. This request was declined as the Apple Corporation stated that it would be a fundamental intrusion into privacy

2   Hadjimatheou.
3   Hadjimatheou.

of individuals. However, some days later the phones were decrypted meaning that powerful decrypting software had been innovated developed and used.

Is technology affecting elections?
One world leader stated that **"the facade of democracy is over"**. What does this mean? This implies that the principles of democracy and fairness are also under threat due to technology advancements. With election rigging claims in the United States what does this hold for developing countries that do not have control of these new technology advancements. Huawei a multinational corporation was also accused of manufacturing and selling mobile phones that have firmware implanted for the purposes of surveillance and spying.

Should we go back to the manual way of voting in order to avoid a hacker or interested party manipulating our fundamental rights of electing our leaders? Journalists are resorting to old methods of collecting and disseminating news to their newsrooms. Due to the untargeted surveillance their news is intercepted and sometimes they are arrested before the information reaches the newsrooms. Now they have resorted to manual and physical means of delivering the news to the newsrooms in order to avoid untargeted surveillance software. The software is unrecognisable, undetected and is intrusive and works incognito.

Are we safe from spying?
Are we safe? Well your guess is as good as mine. Is WhatsApp and Facebook secure and encrypted as is indicated in their terms and conditions? Well now you know that they are also under the watchful eyes of the untargeted surveillance software. Did you know that every time you send a message via yahoo or Gmail the message is first delivered to the yahoo or Gmail database in the United States, then it is sent to your recipient? Do you know the value of the big data that is transmitted and stored with this multinational corporation's?

If you have nothing to hide then you have nothing to fear?
This is the motto being peddled to circumvent and bend the laws to invade the privacy yet the data and cyber laws will not protect the privacy of individuals or multinational corporations from this untargeted surveillance. One such intelligent surveillance software is allegedly called Pegasus. According to an

investigative report from the Guardian "*Pegasus is a hacking software or spyware that is developed, marketed and licensed to governments around the world. It has the capability to infect billions of phones running in either iOS or Android operating systems software. Once it has wormed its way on to your phone, without you noticing, it can turn it into a 24-hour surveillance device. It can copy messages you send or receive, harvest your photos and record your calls. It might secretly film you through your phone's camera, or activate the microphone to record your conversations. It can potentially pinpoint where you are, where you've been, and who you've met*"[4].

Hacking software can be sold to anyone.
The main concern is that this software can be purchased by anyone with money. Governments can purchase it, multinational corporations can purchase it too and even private individuals can purchase it or is there any law prohibiting purchase by individual? This means that terrorists or their sympathisers can easily purchase it. The new technology advancements have made it easier and cheaper to implement. Earlier ones had to physically insert spying software of hardware in order to get data from a host. Nowadays you don't need to get to the host but can get through by advanced targeted surveillance software. The danger with the wrong persons acquiring this software is that crimes will increase tenfold. Banks are loosing billions of dollars to cyber thieves who steal remotely and undetected.

How can you tell that you are under surveillance?
To answer this question, you need to tabulate all electronic gadgets you own

4   The Guardian, "What Is Pegasus Spyware and How Does It Hack Phones? | Surveillance | The Guardian," The Guardian online, 2021, https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/jul/18/what-is-pegasus-spyware-and-how-does-it-hack-phones.

and the software installed on them. You will require to make a list of the different software's that you have downloaded and installed in your electronic gadgets. Then you will require to monitor your gadgets or phones airtime usage and the daily battery life for at least a week. You will also monitor the speed by which it shuts down. If you notice any unwanted software popping up irregularly, just note its activities and timings. With this simple information and trend of usage of your gadgets, phones and laptops you can then visit an expert cyber forensic analyst who will investigate and further advice you.

Older surveillance software required that the hacker or intruder gets access to your television, CCTV, phone, laptop or iPad. They would then install a backdoor software or hardware and start their surveillance. The current advanced technology does not require anything from you. All they require is that your electronic gadget is switched on and they are live.

Conclusion

The technology is way ahead of the government's ability to enforce the data and cyber protection laws. The challenge being that secret information of big multinational giants and even governments is also at risk and not safe anymore. Intellectual property rights and patents have also not been spared as the untargeted surveillance software has capabilities of decrypting passwords and they can easily steal corporation secrets. Multinational giants have resorted to hiring software geniuses to counter such onslaughts on their patents.

In conclusion, Governments in developing countries should develop policy guidelines, and provide funding for research in order to nurture jobless youth into acquiring technology skills and enhancing innovation. The public should get appraised on their legal rights as far as surveillance, hacking and big data is concerned. Beware, Big Brother is watching you! ∎

KENYA'S PRIORITIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

On January 2021, Kenya was elected a non-permanent member of UNSC for the 2021-2022 period after a protracted campaign with other worthy competitors. With a strong partnership with the African Union, sub-regional organizations and other like-minded institutions from other parts of the world, Kenya is focused on an agenda premised on four key priorities.

One of these is regional peace and security where Kenya will seek to leverage its experience as peace mediator and guarantor of peace processes to advance an agenda for sustainable regional peace and security. It should be noted that over 70% of the Security Council agenda items focus on Africa. As the Chair of the Security Council Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, Kenya will be informed by its theme Listening Better to African Country Perspectives and Learning Lessons from Success in Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Transition.

This will help advance African perspectives on conflict resolution and management, particularly the imperative for Africa-led processes with the support of the International Community. Kenya will also pursue enhanced cooperation between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) in addressing peace and security challenges on the continent.

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The second priority concerns countering terrorism and violent extremism informed by the fact that Africa is rapidly becoming an important arena for terrorist operatives fleeing other regions. This has led to increased terrorist activities in the Sahel, West Africa, Horn of Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa. Being a frontline state, Kenya is leveraging its membership of the Security Council to strengthen international partnerships in responding to threats of terrorism and violent extremism around the world.

Kenya will continue to advocate for comprehensive listing of terrorist groups and their affiliated entities for accountability; and the continuous upgrading of skills and capabilities that is informed by south-to-south cooperation. Kenya is particularly interested in rallying efforts that defeat the ideological and propaganda aims of terrorist groups and their information infrastructure.

Kenya further believes that longer-term peace and political stability are made extremely fragile by the presence of active terrorist groups and therefore regards strong counter terrorism as key to achieving and protecting peace. It will also advance the crucial importance of building more Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration into conflict resolution and making it DDR+ with the + representing a disengagement process that uses psycho-social and counter narrative tools, and family trust building, and robust vetting to minimize risk to disengage combatants who have fought for ideologically driven groups.

Peace support operations and peace-building is the third priority of Kenya as the continent hosts most of the UN peacekeeping and peace support operations. As a troop contributing country, Kenya recognizes the crucial role of peacekeepers in fragile and conflict-affected situations. Considering that the current United Nations peacekeeping operations are faced with complex and multifaceted challenges due to the evolving nature of conflicts and crises, Kenya will focus on ensuring responsive mission mandates; safety of peacekeepers; and enhanced role of women in peace operations. The country will seek to better align peacekeeping and humanitarian operations with national economic recovery and development in conflict-affected countries.

Kenya considers peace building as critical at all conflict stages to ensure prevention, recovery, and resilience against relapse. As the informal coordinator of the work between the Security Council and the UN Peace building Commission (PBC), Kenya will enhance impactful collaboration between the two institutions and incorporate peace-building aspects into peacekeeping mandates. Kenya will also advance the Women Peace and Security and Youth Peace and Security agenda within the context of peace-building.

Amb. Martin Kimani of Kenya, Chairs UNSC. On his right is the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

The fourth and the last priority Kenya will be pursuing concerns climate and security for the country is well renowned for environmental leadership and it host the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and UN HABITAT in Nairobi. Climate change has emerged as both an underlying root cause and multiplier of conflicts and insecurity in many parts of the world. In the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, climate change and environmental degradation have exacerbated incidence of conflict.

As part of a growing group of concerned UN member states, including the Small Island States, Kenya will seek to galvanize consensus on the climate change security nexus and in this regard, push for a more active role by the Security Council. In this early period of the debate on climate change and security, Kenya believes that its development into an action agenda should reflect the following characteristics:

That the most important defense against climate change and its attendant security risks is development. The development agenda is therefore critical in making an argument for action in the climate-security nexus.

Problems are best solved with the insights and interests of those suffering most from them. The negative impacts of the climate-security nexus are being felt most keenly in Africa. Its research agenda, policy shaping and implementation should have African governments, experts and institutions in Africa at the center.

Technologies that are in use for long periods of time and are used by millions of people are often resilient because they work. We need to start by building on local knowledge and practices that are proven to work.

The National Defence College, Kenya, proudly has three members of Kenya's delegation to the Security Council as its alumni. Amb. Michael Kiboino, Deputy Permanent Representative, Mrs. Catherine Nyakoe and Col. Njoroge Gitogo as graduates of NDC Course while Amb. Martin Kimani, Kenya's Permanent Representative is also a close friend of the College and a frequent resource person. In honour of the College's role in moulding the strategic community in Kenya and beyond, Amb. Kimani donned the NDC tie at the start of Kenya's chairmanship of the Security Council for the month of October, 2021.

During its chairmanship of the Security Council, Kenya held several high level and signature events inspired by its priority areas. These events included a Heads of State and Government level open debate on Peace Building and Sustainable Peace, a Head of State and Government level open debate on Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional and Sub Regional Organizations, a Ministerial level briefing on the Great Lakes region, a Ministerial level briefing on Women, Peace and Security and a briefing on Small Arms and Light Weapons by the Permanent Representative. ∎

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