The Trailblazers

Former Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Eugene Wamalwa with NDC leadership and Course 25 Participanrs on 04 July 2022

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FROM THE COMMANDANT'S DESK

LT GEN A K KENDAGOR CBS 'ndu' (USA) 'psc' (K)

COMMANDANT

Participants of Course 25-2022/23 reported to the College at the peak of the unusually prolonged cold season that was punctuated by biting cold however, they braced it with resilience. *The 'Trailblazers'* are unique in many ways; it is the first time that the College has a lady Course Coordinator (CC), it is the first Course to register the highest number of female participants (eleven in number) and the highest number of participants too (class of 70 participants). *The 'Trailblazers'* are the first National Defence College cohort of participants under the recently chartered National Defence University-Kenya. The entire NDC fraternity is privileged to host participants from diverse backgrounds across Africa and Asian continents. On reporting, the participants settled down quickly and made the National Defence College their home.

At the outset, let me congratulate the participants for producing interesting and educative Newsletter. I wish to complement the Editorial Team for coordinating the effort. This Newsletter serves to inform on the ongoing activities at the National Defence College, brings out the participants creativity, humour and issues of topical interests. It also forms part of the Colleges' historical record. This first edition has been exceptionally put together reflecting the contributor's areas of interests and I am confident that readers will find it interesting read.

To our readers, the National Defence College is a premier institution of Kenya that prepares selected senior Military Officers and equivalent Senior Civil Servants of the Republic of Kenya and their counterparts from selected friendly countries for their responsibilities in the strategic direction and management of security related policy formulation. The college is a constituent of the National Defence University, Kenya (NDU-K).

To *The 'Trailblazers'*, I wish you the very best in the remaining part of your stay at the College. I am certain that this Newsletter is just the beginning of the creative and scientific writing. Happy reading!

MESSAGE FROM THE SPONSOR SENIOR DIRECTING STAFF

BRIG T N NG'ANG'A MBS, HSC, 'ndu', 'psc' (USA)
SPONSOR

The Editorial Board of the National Defence College is pleased to launch the first edition of the Newsletter series for Course 25-2022/23. *The 'Trailblazers'* comprises of seventy (70) participants drawn from Fifteen (15) friendly countries from Africa and Asia continents; pitching together for their maiden effort. This excellent compilation is a pointer to the participants' creativity and thought process.

The Newsletter edition focuses on contemporary topical issues, personal experiences, facts, cultural thought etc which makes it an interesting read and also serves to inform. Our readers will also have a glimpse of the College activities, the NDU-K giving insights to the College life.

The purpose of encouraging participants to contribute to the Newsletter is to hone their writing skills and inculcate writing and reading habits. As future policy makers, the participants are encouraged to have a clear grasp of the contemporary issues.

I would like to thank *The 'Trailblazers'* for this Newsletter and invite the NDC Faculty, all our resource persons, eminent speakers and the alumni to connect with their *Alma Mater* by contributing to various publications. I wish to express special gratitude to the Commandant for his invaluable guidance in preparation of this publication.

Happy reading!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN EDITORIAL BOARD

COL J K MUTUA DCO 'psc' (K)
CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Editorial Board, it is a great honour that I introduce this maiden Newsletter by the '*Trailblazers*' (Course No. 25-2022/2023). The creativity demonstrated by the participants is a clear manifestation of their writing acumen. The articles are a blend of interesting reads that cut across topical, security, cultural and educational issues that readers will find worthwhile. I wish to express my gratitude to the Commandant, National Defence College for his guidance. Appreciate the sponsor SDS and the entire NDC fraternity for their enormous support.

My profound appreciation goes to the Editorial Board members for working tirelessly to deliver the mandate. I acknowledge Course Coordinator and the Seminar leaders for their leadership. To my fellow *'Trailblazers'*, your cooperation in making your contributions within the set milestones was commendable.

To all our readers, I wish you enjoyable reading. God bless you all.

SEIZING THE MOMENT THROUGH HIGHER PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

By The Editorial Board

In a historic first, the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) joins the highly competitive higher education ecosystem in Kenya. The sector already boasts of over 100 accredited universities registered in Kenya by the Commission for University Education offering thousands multi-disciplinary academic programmes in engineering, sciences, arts and business.

The celebratory award of charter catapults it as the first renowned highest defence and security institution on the African continent comparable to similar institutions in the developed and emerging global powers. NDU-K brings together the KDF colleges and schools they are: National Defence College (NDC), the Command and Staff College (CSC), the Kenya Military Academy (KMA), the Defence Forces Technical College (DEFTEC) and the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC). The National Intelligence Research University Colleges (NIRUC) is established as a constituent college of the National Defence University College. The NDU-K will strive to expand the existing capacities and partnerships with more colleges within the government eco-system to shape policy and strategy-making discourse within the region and in the global arena.

The university through top notch innovations, education, training and research is captured through its vision, mission, philosophy and objectives. This is set to rekindle strategic thoughts in the management of national defence and security issues through purposeful, practical and specialized training, education and research. Premised on senior leadership drive and vision of sharpening the arrow-head for mission readiness, the institution will be a focal point for the formation of a think-tank on security and strategy.

Indeed, this newest adventure provides artificial lenses (intelligence) to enable Kenya fully comprehend her national strengths and awaken to structural weaknesses for expedient exploitation of existing opportunities and deter extramural threats within the volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous operating environment

The NDC Course No. 25-2022/23 participants are proud to be the first cohort under the NDC-K. The *'Trailblazers'* are thankful to the University Council and the entire Management for the opportunity. Sojourn-soar high NDU-K.

President, Uhuru Kenyatta when he awarded NDU-K university charter at the National Defence College.

National Defence University-Kenya: Lanet, Nakuru County.

DISCOVERING MY PLACE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

MR G K NG'ENO

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

As I reported to the National Defence College on 23 June 2022, I reflected on my career so far and my contribution to Kenya's development history. It was an insightful reflection of my teenage years and which brought back memories of Samir, my secondary school friend. Samir and I first met on 12 February 1991 in Baringo, County as we reported to secondary school. Like Samir, and many other children at the time, I was born into a family characterised by the paradoxical trio; struggle, hope and despair. Samir's father, Hassan, ekes a living as a fisherman and his mother, Sauda compliments their family income by working as a fish monger in a small town in *Matuga,* Kwale County. As a single parent, my mother, a primary school teacher in *Ainamoi,* Kericho County, made sure that my other six siblings and I went to school and attained the highest possible levels of education she could afford.

So it is in Baringo where my story with Samir really begins, and arguably where my career goals started to take shape. Samir and I were different in many ways, yet treated each other as brothers. Samir and I came from different parts of the country; born into different ethnic groups. Our parents professed different religious beliefs. And yet we forged a strong bond. We both excelled in studies. We were both prolific members of the Science club and creative members of the Debating club, where he cheered me on

as I represented my school at the National Science Congress and I urged him on as he played the main character of the school's anchor play at the provisional drama festivals. He was a member of the Drama club and I was a member of the Home Science club. He was the entertainment prefect and I was a dormitory captain. We shared everything; water, food, cloths, pocket money, laugher, dreams, sadness and fights.

It was at secondary school, stimulated by Samir that I began to ponder about my place in society and my career goals began to nature. Cognitive development experts contend that, although, the transition from concrete thinking to formal logical operations happens over time in a child's development, it is during adolescence (between 12 and 18 years of age), where a young person gains the ability to think systematically about all logical relationships within a problem. National and regional events shaped my understanding of who we are as a people, the complex challenges we faced as a nation and formed my career ambitions. Samir and I, commenced our secondary education in 1991, just when the civil war in Somalia was beginning to tear that country apart and completed high school as the world started to come to terms with the aftermath of the1994 genocide in Rwanda.

Kenya, then a single-party state, was grappling with calls for multiparty democracy with far reaching human and socio-politico-economic consequences; albeit with less intensity and extent compared to those felt in Rwanda and Somalia. Like thunder, multiparty politics were introduced in Kenya in 1992, precipitating a series of positive and unfortunate events. My friendship with Samir took a hit. For instance, unhappily and innocently, I had to bid farewell to him and other friends who hailed from communities outside my province, due to the escalating tribal clashes in 1992. The clashes, appeared to pit my community with other communities living in the then Rift Valley Province. Concerned for the safety of their children, concerned

parents transferred their children to other schools located away from Rift Valley. Samir was one of those teenagers.

At the University, I undertook multidisciplinary studies as I started asking myself the very difficult cognitive questions in life. What was the problem with the world and in my country in particular? What was the cause of the deplorable living conditions in Kericho, Baringo and Kwale? What about political instabilities, religious conflicts, ethnic disharmony, street children and domestic violence? What caused all these conflicts and wars?

Samir, with whom we kept in touch throughout the remainder of secondary school through letter writing, was to commence his working life earlier than me. He worked as an Air Traffic Control Officer at one of the local agencies in Kenya. I joined the pharmaceutical industry as a Sales Assistant and later moved to a multinational company as a Hospital Administrator. My interaction with ordinary patients had profound effect on my interest in public policy and public affairs in general. Most of the patients were poor, illiterate, sick and hopeless. Liberal economic policies and Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) implemented in the 1990s in many developing countries including my own had worsened their hopeless and helpless state. The SAPs, as they were popularly called, negatively affected the provision of health care to the poor. Samir passed away for what the doctors called respiratory illness due to prolonged exposure to extreme weather conditions. I was beginning to experience how international political economy interacts with domestic policy to affect the lives of the local people.

The fascination with domestic and international affairs saw my career interest begin to take shape as I joined the public service thereafter. Kenya has transformed for the better over the past two decades and the need to find ways of working with others to foster peace and understanding in our ethnically diverse country is immense. I owe it to Samir and the trails our lives shared.

NEPAL AS A PIONEER IN UN PEACE KEEPING MISSIONS

Nepal is a tiny Himalayan country situated between two giant neighbours India and China. Nepal became a member of the United Nations in 1955 and since then, has been an active participant in most UN Peace Keeping Operations (UNPKO). Participation of Nepali Army in UN peace operations spans a period of over a half-century covering some 44 UN missions, in which over 1,40,000 personnel have participated. Nepali army's long association with UN peace operations began with a modest deployment of five military observers in Lebanon (United Nations Observer Group in Lebanon) in 1958. The first Nepali contingent, infantry Battalion was deployed in Egypt in 1974. Nepal has also contributed significantly some niche capabilities such as engineers, medical teams and Special Force contingents. Nepali Army (NA) has always accepted challenges and participated in some of the most difficult UN peace operations. This has had a heavy toll on its personnel, and to date, 70 personnel have made the ultimate sacrifice and another 66 have been disabled.

NA's participation in UNPKOs is not only significant in terms of numbers but also very significant in terms of image and performance. Nepali peacekeepers are

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NEPALI ARMY

among the most trusted in the missions deployed in conflict areas. Currently, NA units are deployed in some of the most challenging and difficult areas of the world such as Libya, Iraq, DRC, Mali etc. Moreover, NA has promised to deploy more peacekeepers whenever and wherever the UN requests. Nepali peacekeepers have demonstrated a high standard of professional skill and courage for the Protection of Civilians (POC) in complex field missions. Nepal Participated in 54 different UN Missions starting from UNOGIL, Lebanon to UNMHA mission in Yemen.

Leadership Positions
HoMs/FCs in various UN missions:
 a. Lt Gen Krishna Narayan Sing Thapa (1993-95)-UNOKOM,)
 b. Lt Gen Vicoty Sumsher JBR (1999-2001) UNFICYP
 c. Lt Gen Balananda Sharma (2004-2007)-UNDOF
 d. Lt Gen Pawan Jung Thapa (2008-2010)-UNMIS
 e. Gen Purna Chandra Thapa (2015-2016)-UNDOF
 f. Maj Gen Shivaram Karrel (2019)-UNDOF
 g. Lt Gen Ishor Hamal-(2021-2022)-UNDOF
 h. Maj Gen Nirmal Thapa (Deploying at UNDOF)

Current Participation
As of Aug 2022, the Nepali Army personnel are deployed across 11 missions around the world; and as a troop-contributing country, Nepal ranks second in the world. Currently, Nepali Army has some 5569 soldiers including 295 female soldiers serving in 11 different missions around the globe.

Training
Birendra Peace Operations Training Centre (BPOTC) is responsible for all kind of

UN peace operation training. The BPOTC is a renowned peace operation training institute which is dedicated to training of peacekeepers for employment in various UNPKO. It is located at Panchkhal which is 45 km East of Kathmandu and lies 942 meters above mean sea level. Initially, the BPOTC was established an ad hoc "Peace Keeping Training Camp" in 1986, which was subsequently restructured into a dedicated Training centre in the year 2001. With the motto "PEACE WITH HONOUR", this training centre was later renamed as Birendra Peace Operations Training Center.

BPOTC has made remarkable achievements in producing professional Peacekeepers. Presently, the BPOTC trains almost 6000 Peacekeepers annually prior to their deployment in various PKO. Recently, the training center has been verified by Integrated Training Services of UN DPO and awarded UN training recognition for Pre- Deployment training and United Nations Staff Officers Course conducted regularly. Center also conducts various specialized courses such as UNMO, UNSOC, UNLOG, UNCIMIC, NIO, CONTINGENT COMMANDER'S COURSE and UNPKOIC. The participants in these specialized courses include friendly foreign countries, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force. It also conducts UN related seminars, Senior Mission Leadership engagements and sends Subject Matter Experts to other countries.

Opportunity and Challenges in Peace Keeping Missions

Significant financial requirement, training, engagement of force in secondary duty etc may be challenging. At the same time there is difficulty in deploying high end enabling military units like engineers, intelligence, aviation etc. Some of the priority areas are maintaining high standard of training readiness and performance both by units and individual peacekeepers in the field. Additionally, TCC needs to enhance capability in deploying force enablers like SF units, Engineer units, helicopter units which may not be within the reach/capability of the developing countries.

Another important area where we must focus is,

increasing female participation in UNPKO. The UN has a target of 25% female among military observers and staff officers and 15% female troops by 2028.Most of the countries are still short of that target and effort can be concentrated to deploy more female peacekeepers to help meeting "The Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018–28" of the UN.

Personal Experience in UN Missions

As a peacekeeper, I participated in four different UN missions in the world. My first mission was in UNUFIL Lebanon in 1994 as a platoon commander/ operation duty officer and served in complex environment of South Lebanon. Secondly, I served in Darfur Sudan in 2007-2008, as a MA to Chief of staff and worked as part of transitional team transforming AMIS mission to UNAU Hybrid mission, where I was able to receive 3 medals from one mission those were AMIS medal, UNMISS medal and UNAMID medal which is very rare in the missions. Then, I was selected for MINUSTAH Haiti, in 2010, as an operation officer of an infantry battalion, right after the 2010 mega earthquake of Haiti, where I got huge experience of disaster management. My fourth mission was in DRC Congo, as an observer but later on I was posted as chief G5, where I was able plan and establish Tactical Operation Center to control the 2016 violation of Kinshasa.

Conclusion

UN peace operation is one of the most visible and notable activities of the present Armies which is directly contributing to foreign policy goals of the nations. At Present, participation in peacekeeping operation by developing countries are significantly increased. Recently, the UN has focused in enhancing performance of UNPKOs through various initiatives as recommended by various reports, studies and analysis. Additionally, the UNHQ has initiated new programs for evaluation and enhancement of performance of missions as a whole and individual peacekeeper. Moreover, the UNHQ has decided that future decisions for selection and deployment of military/ police units and all personnel be based on performance report obtained from field, which is expected to have positive impact in all aspects of UNPKO.

THE AKAMBA TALKING DRUMS

The Akamba people are a Bantu ethnic group that is predominantly found within the East African region and live mainly in the Eastern region of Kenya. The Akamba people occupy 3 counties namely Makueni, Kitui and Machakos Counties. It is worth noting that apart from Kenya, the Akamba people are also found in some parts of Uganda, Congo, and Tanzania. Surprisingly, another group of the Akamba people is also found in Paraguay having found themselves there through the slave trade after the British took control of the Cape of Good Hope.

The Akamba are best known as skilled craftsmen with a special interest in iron, ornaments, stone carving, hunting, traditional drum making, as well as their knowledge of herbal medicine. Like any other African community, the Akamba have several cultural practices that involve the use of the drum as the main musical instrument. It is broadly taken that the Akamba hand drums are usually played to communicate, mourn, sermon, celebrate, and inspire. The drum beat is especially useful in times of peace, war, planting, harvesting, funeral, births and even deaths.

The drum as a musical instrument has been revered as far back as the beginning of time. The drum beat in particular is taken as a tool for interconnecting heaven and earth, and for maintaining the rhythm of the world order. They play a key role in every aspect of the Akamba society: the physical, emotional, community, social,

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KENYA ARMY

cultural and spiritual wellbeing.

In as much as there are many types of drums in Africa, the Akamba talking drum is an hourglass-shaped drum, whose pitch can be regulated to mimic the tone and prosody of human speech. It is made of two drumheads connected by leather tension cords that allow the players to change the pitch of the drum by squeezing the cords between their arm and body. The talking drum is clasped under the player's arm and struck with a curved beater.

The talking drum holds a special place in the Akamba community and culture, as the sound of the drum beat brings the whole village together. The drums are used to symbolize and protect royalty, which often leads to the drums being housed in sacred dwellings and receive offering such as cattle, which not only symbolize power and status but also offer supernatural protection. To the Akamba people, the drum represents the universal heartbeat of mother earth.

Some of the songs where the talking drum beat is most prominent includes, *Mbathi sya Kivalo, Myali* (general miscreants), lullabies, songs of circumcision, marriage, work and hunting. It is only in death, that the drum is not applied as elaborate as in other rites of passage.

The talking drum songs and dances are of importance in keeping the participants in the spirit of the specific event at hand. The Akamba cherish dance and songs played using the drum beat, as every drum roll is symbolic to the community.

The spiritual aspect of playing the talking drum is commonly exercised by a special drum that goes by the name *Kithembe* which provides the tempo for the spiritual dances. When the talking drums are used for healing, the herbalist doubles up as a dance leader. When the sick person hears the drum beat, they start dancing to the rhythm, and the others join in the dance. The tempo of the dancing picks up at a point during which some of spiritual manifestations kick in. It is worth noting that as the drum beat gets louder, the people in the dance begin to utter oracles, following the beat of the drum, to prescribe healing, blessing, direction or demand for favours from the ancestors, thought to be summoned by the loud drum beat. During such occasions the sound from the talking drum should ideally have both a low and high base tone.

Additionally, the love season function of the talking drum is observed where the drum is used to express love for the community. In this season the drum's ability to adapt to the tone of any musical instrument makes it a very versatile drum. Further, the Akamba display their prowess in dancing to the talking drum beat, as they perform acrobatics and remarkable body movements. One of the known manifestations of the traditional Akamba culture is the dancing

Drums. Source: Kenya Museum Society (2017)

Source: Kenya Museum Society (2019/20)

performed to the throbbing polyrhythmic drum beat. It is characterized by acrobatic leaps and sometimes somersaults that fling dancers into the air, to the traditional drum beat that sounds melodious. The Akamba community views the traditional drum beat as important as it presents an opportunity for people to share, embrace, learn and foster oneness.

As I reflect on how rich our African cultures are, I am persuaded to conclude that the mental health issues; deteriorating social bonds and eroded morals we see today could be remedied by embracing some of our cultural practices. The Akamba talking drums is one such practice. As we go about our busy lives, we need to get engaged in activities that boost the production of the feel-good hormones. These hormones as the doctor's advice, help lower our chances of getting stress related diseases. Could the talking drums be the reason the Akamba people were known to live for many years? May be its time we brought back some of these cultural activities that have since been forgotten for the well-being of the society.

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THE EUROCENTRIC VIEWS: A PLETHORA OF POTENTIALLY SUBVERSIVE GAME FOR AFRICA

COL J E ADU
KENYA ARMY

My discourse is intended to add valuable content in to the historical gap created by the proponents of Eurocentric views. The African history has been muted due to either deliberate efforts, ignorance or both by early western writers. Many African scholars supported by a number of western scholars who share similar voice of truth continue to air their voices with a view of unbundling the silence in respect of true reflection of African history. Euro centrism assumes the status of a Euro-North American theory of human history which privileges the Greek-Roman classical world as the cradle of human civilization, in the process, overshadowing the reality of Africa as the certified cradle of human kind.

It is easier to understand euro centrism by seeking to erudite on the European view of Africa; Europeans created an image of Africa that was the perverse opposite of Europe's mirror image. Simply put, they believed that anything that was different from them or their civilization must be backward and meaningless. However, they forgot that there will always be a different way of perceiving and doing things. It is important to note that civilizations differ in kind and not in degree, for example, one cannot rightfully argue that the European way of life is better than the African way of life by say 30%, it is not possible to do so because these two civilizations differ in kind and not in degrees.

If one was to administer a test entailing climbing trees with the candidates being monkeys and elephants, it would be unobjective to argue that because elephants scored zero in the test, monkeys are more civilized and more intelligent than elephants. The Eurocentric views compared Africans with the same yardstick used in Europe, for example, when they found Africans wearing scanty clothing and walking semi-nude due to the scotching African heat, living in grass thatched houses, the Eurocentric individuals would jump in to judgement 'why aren't they wearing greatcoats made of fur, is it due to poverty?' Or 'why aren't they living in tin roofed houses?' 'Isn't beating the drum and dancing all night long a sign of idleness?' 'Why are they carrying their babies on their backs'…little did they know that carrying babies on momsback facilitated the so-called mother-child bonding.

Africa was baptized "Dark Continent" because it remained unexplored for a fairly long period of time. Factors that made it

Africans doing business in the East Coast of Africa: Africans had rich history, wore clothes and had access to goods from overseas before coming in contact with Europeans

difficult for the explorer to venture in to the continent of Africa were: The largest desert in the world, the Sahara Desert acted as a natural barrier for the European explorers. God in his divine wisdom, created the Sahara Desert to protect black Africa from malicious invading civilizations. Eventually when they accessed Africa, economic policies were adopted by Europeans to destroy rather than help Africans. Consequently, Africa was damaged economically, politically, and culturally.

Africa had history before European colonization; art, trade, small-scale manufacturing, medical knowledge, religion, state systems, history and legend all flourished before the formal political take-over of the continent by European powers in the late nineteenth century and continue to have a decisive impact on African societies today.

> According to Sydella Blatch, Africans had realized Great achievements in science and technology in ancient Africa. As far as Math is concerned, many modern high-school-level Concepts in mathematics were developed in Africa, as was the first method of counting.

Africans' societies had well established governance systems, better than those in Europe which were characterized by greed, conflict and racism. The Pokomo nation of Kenya's Tana River had elaborate governance system, the Haju (Ruler) presided over the affairs of the nation helped by a council of elders known as the Gasa whose work was to guide on security, conflict resolution, Agriculture, fishing, hunting, marriage, rituals, and war tactics among other. Every region had its own Gasa and a Haju. There was a Daido (the Central Gasa) which was responsible for running affairs of villages within the Pokomo nation stretched over six hundred kilometers from Jilib Somalia to Kipini Kenya.

According to Sydella Blatch, Africans had realized Great achievements in science and technology in ancient Africa. As far as Math is concerned, many modern high-school-level Concepts in mathematics were developed in Africa, as was the first method of counting. The Pokomo people of Kenya had their system of calculation and estimation using mathematical formulae for addition, subtraction and division. The game of Bao commonly known as Mbodhe entailed complex mathematics.

Africans in many parts of Africa practiced astrology. Sydella Blatch argued that Egyptians studied and recorded the rotation of the earth in relation to the sun and the rotation of the moon. They segmented the year into 12 periods formulated a calendar which factored 365 ¼ days. Lynch, B. M. & Robbins, L. H. in his work "Namoratunga: The First Archeo astronomical Evidence in Sub-Saharan Africa." (1978), narrates of a calendar structure known as the African Stonehenge in present-day Kenya constructed around 300 B.C. which was a remarkably accurate calendar.

Shore, D. in his work "Steel-Making in Ancient Africa." Blacks in Science: Ancient and Modern (1983) discovered that many advances in metallurgy and tool making were made across the entirety of ancient Africa. These include steam engines, metal chisels and saws, copper and iron tools and weapons, nails, glue, carbon steel and bronze weapons and art. Advances in Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda between 1,500 and 2,000 years ago surpassed those of Europeans then and were astonishing to Europeans when they learned of them. Ancient Tanzanian furnaces could reach 1,800°C-200 to 400°C warmer than those of the Romans. Africans are the originators of Civil Engineering, the largest of the pyramids covers 13 acres and were made of 2.25 million blocks of stone. In addition, African cultures preformed surgeries under antiseptic conditions universally when this concept was only emerging in Europe.

History is sweet because it orients us to our beginning, it feeds us with sweet nostalgic past events and memories, it makes us proud of our past and keep us focused towards a proud and blissful future. However, when scholars such as the Eurocentric historians reduce themselves to emotional and subjective writers, history is reduced to a sad and bitter phenomena.

Even before colonization, Africans had vibrant Art, wore cloths, they had established international relations and international trade which enabled them to acquire requisite goods from overseas

MY MORAL PHILOSOPHY AS A MILITARY LEADER

Thirty years ago, I was a cadet in Bangladesh Military Academy. One day I was carefully listening to the Battalion Commander describing Army ethos and values. I was greatly impressed and from then on, I have been striving hard to instill those within me to become a leader of character, who would be able to do the right things, remaining within the rules and regulations of Army. My aim was to develop myself in a manner, so that spontaneously I can do the right things based on universally valid moral principles. To pursue that goal, I have chosen a moral philosophical approach based on ethics; and I am making this write-up from that point of view.

My moral philosophy is mainly based on universality, rationality, impartiality and ethics. I believe that even though different societies hold different moral codes; an objective core morality exists, made up of universally valid moral principles. I therefore feel that it is my responsibility to uphold the universal standard at all times. My feeling of morality is based on my knowledge, judgment and experience. I ask myself about righteousness of the things, and in most cases, I get the answer right. In my lifetime, I have come across different societal cultures with diverse viewpoints. I have accepted the fact that different societies may have different moral practices. This helps me to remain firm in my standpoint. This sense acts as a reminder and helps me to refrain from doing things which are universally wrong.

I believe in my philosophy because of several reasons. First and foremost is the religious obligation. I am aware that, I have to answer to the creator for each of my action and behavior. He has clearly given the universal definition of the terms moral, immoral, good and bad; and ordered to follow the right path irrespective of situation. I am a firm believer of the Day of Judgment, where I will be either rewarded or punished depending on my good and bad deeds respectively. My philosophy helps me to do the right things and guard against the wrong doings. Second is about the universal social considerations. I consider myself to be treated by others in a manner I

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BANGLADESH ARMY

have treated them, except when individuals deserve particular responses as a result of their own past behavior. This consciously helps me to treat people as they deserve to be treated. It also reminds me to give equal considerations to the interests of everyone as to how my actions and behaviors may affect others. This approach helps me to develop a natural inclination to care about others.

Now I wish to explain how I try to apply it in my personal and professional lives. In my personal life, though I do not always get along with all of my family members, I love them with the expectation that they will also love me. I try to perform the responsibility to my parents in the best possible manner. I always uphold their orders and instructions above my personal interests. Often I share my beliefs and understanding with them on different family matters. For example, whenever there is any issue concerning different opinions, I try to convince them with my belief that there exists some universally valid moral principles, and we all should accept that. I also try to influence my wife and children with this understanding. Additionally, I try to perform my responsibilities to my relatives and friends, and inspire them with my philosophical approach whenever I come across them. In my personal life, I measure my success as the degree of adherence to the orders and instructions of the creator on a regular basis.

I do also have a plan to apply this philosophy in my professional life. My aim is to develop my organization as a professional and ethical blend so that it is capable of performing efficiently and ethically under all situations. For that, I follow a few steps which focus on developing my subordinates in a manner that they can instinctively follow the universally accepted moral principles under all circumstances. First, through my deeds and actions I endure to build trust and confidence amongst the subordinates and establish myself as an acceptable and reliable leader whom they will be inspired to follow. Second, through my day-to-day dealings, I try to uphold everyone's dignity by giving due consideration to their human aspects, so that everyone feels the importance of individual actions and behaviors in the unit. Third, I try to include enough packages of ethical lessons within routine military training program to develop their moral attributes like honesty, integrity, courage, and loyalty. Fourth, I try to establish regular religious practices within the unit, so that everyone is aware of the religious obligations to abide by the orders and instructions of the creator, and do the right things. Not only that, I also often try to set personal examples to promote ethical behavior and grow an ethical culture in the unit.

The fact is, I really do not know up to what time I will be there, here in this earth. Therefore, my expectations are also very limited. But I do care for everything around me because I have to answer to the creator for every deed of mine. Since my present livelihood is generated from my service in the Army, I try to put my sincerest efforts to every sphere of my service regardless of time and space. I try to do justice to my job in order to ensure that my earnings are flawless. I also try to perform the social responsibilities to my family, relatives and friends because of religious and social obligations. To make my life easy, I try to follow a moderate approach to everything I come across. Above all, considerations for living up to the expectations of the creator and abiding by His orders and instructions are the cornerstone of success in my life.

THE LAUGHTER PRESCRIPTION: IS IT THE FORGOTTEN CURE?

We've all heard the popular saying, "Laughter is the best medicine." But does that type of thinking apply to something as serious as a global pandemic and other diseases? Most psychologists would say yes.

Amusement and pleasant surprises – and the laughter they can trigger – add texture to the fabric of daily life. World Laughter Day is celebrated every year on the first Sunday of May.

Laughter is a normal and natural physiological response to certain stimuli with widely acknowledged psychological benefits. However, current research is beginning to show that laughter may also have massive positive physiological effects for those who engage in it on a regular basis. Providers who prescribe laughter to their patients in a structured way may be able to use these natural, free, and easily distributable positive benefits. This article reviews the current understanding of laughter's physiologic effects and makes a recommendation for how best to harness laughter for social and curative benefits.

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An Emperor who Decreed a National Day of Laughing.

During the post-colonial period, there lived an emperor by the name Yeke of the Bantu Kingdom. Emperor Yeke fancied wearing expensive designer clothes every day. The King was a perfectionist as he changed his outfits many times a day and paid utmost attention to his grooming. The king had over seventy wives and several concubines.

One day, two conmen visited the emperor posing as weavers. They convinced emperor Yeke that they had a fine fabric, visible only to wise and honest men. They pretended to show the fabric, and the emperor was forced to act as if he sees the fabric lest he is called a fool and dishonest. The emperor hired the two conmen to make special robes for him.

They kept pretending to weave clothes, and everybody in the king's court was forced to act as if they are seeing the beautiful dress being woven for the emperor. One day, the conmen announced that the robe was ready, and asked the king to wear it for the upcoming procession.

Though the King couldn't see the robes, he obliged. He pretended to wear the robe and went on the procession naked. No one wants to be called foolish or dishonest; hence, all the people remained silent about the emperor being naked. However, a child, innocent as they all are, could not contain himself and blurts out, *"The emperor is naked."* Then another child joined in laughing, and the laughter spreads across. The emperor was baffled, but having no choice he continued to walk the procession.

The emperor noticed how excited his subjects were and issued a decree declaring the day a public holiday and a National Day of Laughing. From then on, the Bantu Kingdom was declared the happiest kingdom in the world.

Medical Benefits of Laughter

Giggles and guffaws can seem like just silly throw-aways. But they have a strong medicinal value. It draws people together in ways that trigger healthy physical and emotional changes in the body. It strengthens your immune system, boosts your mood, diminishes pain, and protects you from the damaging effects of stress. Further,

Laughing is good for your mind and your body: https://theconversation.com/laughing-is-good-for-your-mind-and-your-body-heres-what-the-research-shows-145984

Laughter strengthens teamwork: https://www.bigstockphoto.com/image-237698074/stock-photo-successful-africans-business-team-talking-about-strategy-at-office

laughter instantaneously increases blood flow to the heart and helps your blood vessels to function better while increasing immune cells and infection-fighting antibodies, boosting overall infection resistance.

A study published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, suggested that people who laugh often show a decrease of stress-related hormones and boost their immune system. Another study published in the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine in 2015 suggested that a good laughter is good for your waistline as 10 to 15 minutes of genuine laughter a day may burn up to 40 calories.

Social Benefits of Laughter

Playful communication and humour strengthen relationships by fostering emotional connection and triggering positive feelings. Laughter is the key to keeping your relationships exciting and fresh. Sharing other emotions only builds strong and lasting bonds, but laughter also adds to the joy, resilience, and vitality of life.

Shared laughter, especially that comes from spending time with family and friends helps you connect with them and leaves you happier and relaxed. It resolves conflicts and disagreements whether with your partners, family, friends, or co-workers. Incorporating more play and humour into daily interactions can improve the quality of your relationship with your partner, as well as your communication with friends, family, and co-workers.

Bringing Laughter into Your Life:

Laughter is your birthright, a natural part of life that is innate and inborn. Infants begin smiling during the first weeks of life and laugh out loud within months of being born. Even if you did not grow up in a household where laughter was a common sound, you can learn to laugh at any stage of life. When you hear laughter, move towards it!

Begin by setting aside special times to seek out humor and laughter, as you might with exercising, and build from there. Eventually, you'll want to incorporate humor and laughter into the fabric of your life, finding it naturally in everything.

Play with a child: https://www.nm.org/healthbeat/healthy-tips/emotional-health/healing-through-humor

Instead of being lost on your phone, look up, smile at the people you pass on the streets, the person serving you your coffee or a co-worker you meet in the elevator.

The Strange Risks of Laughter

When you hear someone laugh behind you, you probably picture them on the phone or with a friend – smiling and experiencing a warm, fuzzy feeling inside. Chances are just the sound of the laughter could make you smile or even laugh along. But imagine that the person laughing is just walking around alone in the street or sitting behind you at a funeral. Suddenly, it doesn't seem so inviting. The truth is that laughter isn't always positive or healthy.

Laughter keeps relationships exciting and fresh: https://theconversation.com/laughing-is-good-for-your-mind-and-your-body-heres-what-the-research-shows-145985

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PERSPECTIVES OF TIME MANAGEMENT

Time is the most elastic element in the world. One's time perspective is the kind of glasses one habitually put's on when looking at the world around and at oneself in it. These glasses have three main types of lenses: past, present and future. Time increases the minutes when we are waiting and decreases the hours when we are enjoying. Place one clock at the top of a mountain. Place another on the beach, eventually; you'll see that each clock tells a different time. Why? Time moves slower as you get closer to Earth, because, as Einstein posited in his theory of general relativity, the gravity of a large mass, like Earth, warps the space and time around it.

Time management is the process of organizing and planning the use of time in any given tasks. Good time management ensures that work is done smartly not harder so that more is done in less time, even when time is tight and pressures are high. Failing to manage time properly damages effectiveness and causes stress. High achievers manage their time exceptionally well. Good time management requires an important shift in focus from activities to results: being busy isn't the same as being effective. The benefits of time management are enormous: They include: greater productivity and efficiency, better professional reputation, less stress, increased opportunities for advancement, greater opportunities to achieve important life and career goals while failing to manage time effectively may bring about undesirable consequences which include: missed deadlines, inefficient work flow, poor work quality, poor professional reputation, stalled career and higher stress levels

Each and every person in an organization must manage their time effectively to achieve efficiency. Efficiency and effectiveness are not synonymous. Efficiency is defined as the ability to accomplish something with the least amount of wasted time, money, and effort or competency in performance. Effectiveness is defined as the degree to which something is successful in producing a desired result or success. Failure to manage time effectively for any project will result to forfeited opportunities and delayed decision making, which has a negative effect on the entire project implementation. Effective time management is a virtue that must be inculcated in every member of a team in order to deliver the desired results for the institution.

Time perspective means many things to different people. In the military, time is crucial in planning operations. To deliver success in any military operation, all activities must be time synchronized so that each participating unit or regiment knows what to do at whatever time with precision. This not only ensures delivery of assigned missions but also saves. Failure to observe

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time can be disastrous as it not only leads to missed opportunities but in more serious engagements can lead to fratricide. Time devours all things, it kills all that are born, it is awake while everything else sleeps, it is insurmountable and many more. Time management requires self-discipline as it brings along the ability to motivate oneself through; firstly, planning out your day in advance, it serves so much better to plan in advance. Secondly, schedule the lighter tasks for when you're less active, and the important ones when your productivity is at its peak. Thirdly, prioritize/categorize tasks based on their order of priority. For example, "important and urgent", "important but not urgent", "urgent but not important", and "not urgent and not important". These distinctions will help one get priorities right. Fourthly, eliminate distractions. This may require a lot of will power to prevent the addictive habits from causing you to waste your time instead of finishing your work. Delegation time, and lets one focus on the tasks that need special attention and expertise. Avoid Procrastination.

"If you want to enjoy one of the greatest luxuries in life, the luxury of having enough time, time to rest, time to think things through, time to get things done and know you have done them to the best of your ability, remember there is only one way. Take enough time to think and plan things in the order of their importance. Your life will take on a new zest, you will add years to your life and, more life to your years. Let all your things have their places. Let each part of your business have its time." ***Benjamin Franklin***

Time is our most precious treasure because it is limited. We can produce more wealth, but we cannot produce more time. When we give someone our time, we actually give a portion of our life that we will never take back. Our time is our life! *The best present you can give to your family and friends is your time, may we all have the wisdom to give.*

STRESS MANAGEMENT DURING MILITARY OPERATIONS

It is always interesting seeing Officers and Soldiers preparing to be launched into operations either locally or abroad. A lot of logistical requirements are put in place whilst preparing the body of men being deployed to undertake this noble duty. As they undergo pre-deployment training, it calls for a lot of concentration from both the officers and soldiers. Troops are taken through battle drills, survival skills, combat life saving and stress management during the tour of duty; which later culminates in the final exercise to test them on whatever they could have learnt including endurance. Therefore, stress may be defined as a response of the body and mind to different demands to the environment. Many demands may lead to an individual being stressed. Some of the demands may include threats, illness, lack of time to rest and family problems among other things. It is therefore, important for trainers to introduce lessons to cover stress management during pre-deployment training so that troops are well prepared for the task ahead of them.

Sometimes, it is good to be stressed because the mind remains more alert and ready to respond in time of crisis; though sometimes it may prove to be a danger in some cases because individual soldiers may become switched off. It is therefore, important for commanders at all levels to remain alert and engage all the troops at all times. Troops, who may not be on either patrol or on duty within the camp, must be kept busy through physical training exercises and other sporting activities. All troops must be able to take part in whatever sporting activities available within camp. Sports such as football, volleyball, aerobics, chess and even singing or dancing among others need to be made readily available. It is always a danger to leave troops inactive for a long time. Some may develop insomnia, heavy smoking, restless and lack of appetite which may lead to having a high number of psychiatric battle casualties. This is what commanders all levels should avoid at all costs.

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If troops are either deployed on local or UN operations, they must be given time off to proceed on local passes, leave or CTO for them to get rejuvenated. If time allows, they can be allowed to visit their families. It has proved to be a cure for stress once troops mingle with their families. It gives them the impetus to continue working effectively and at their personal best. Commanders at all levels must regularly conduct inspections to ensure that their troops are in good health, at all times. They should also ensure that regular medical checkups are conducted to quickly identify those would be casualties. Regular personal interviews could be one way of avoiding troops being stressed. However, if conditions do not allow, the postal service's play a major role in alleviating stress within the troops. This has proved effective on various UN operations where troops are able to communicate with their families through letter writing. It normally builds morale within a soldier when he or she receives mail from home. Some would keep their letters in their pockets for some time. Whenever they are on duty or feel bored, they would re-read the mail. More still if they received pictures of their loved ones. They would improvise by making a picture frame where to hang the pictures. Whenever they had a glimpse at the picture, they would get motivated. It

is also important that various commanders provide such facilities like internet within their respective camps to help troops remain in touch with their families as a way of helping to combat stress and maintain a well-motivated force. With the advent of social media, troops rarely miss home since they would be in constant touch with their families through video chats either on whatsapp, imo or wechat.

Chaplaincy hour also plays a pivotal role before and during deployment. It is important that the Chaplain take it upon himself to visit and encourage troops those going out on patrol and within the camp. Some troops would feel relieved once engaged. Apart from that, commanders must make it a habit to tour and visit their troops especially if they are operating in temporal operating bases. Those coming back from patrol must be welcomed, debriefed and given words of encouragement to keep them moving.

In conclusion, stress is experienced at all levels in an organization especially the military community at large. Adaptation to stress is a basic necessity to enhance readiness and operational effectiveness of troops. Therefore, training troops on how to cope successfully with high levels of stress that they may have to deal with in wartime is crucial. This training should aim at building confidence in all the troops. Ultimately, combat readiness and effectiveness would be enhanced.

There are many means of coping and managing stress. These means are beneficial especially when troops are well motivated and involved in extracurricular activities. It is important to note that battle fatigue is inevitable especially after long hours of being engaged in combat. Commanders must take it upon themselves to reduce the numbers of psychiatric battle casualties by being at their disposal at all times. Commanders should also ensure that internet or postal facilities must be availed in all the camps to enable and enhance morale within the troops.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS AFTER EXPERIENCING TERROR ATTACKS

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The 21st century has seen massive and destructive terrorist attacks. Since the twin tower attack on what is commonly known as the September 11 attack, the world has seen more vicious attacks from armed terror groups including the one in Bali, India Bombay. Such events have inadvertently impacted the world view on religion or national community terror attacks perpetuated in towns and cities causing a sense of loss in world communities', loss of human lives, safety of personal freedom and properties.

Individual Reactions After an Attack

It usually brings apprehension and helplessness\ forwards the future it could even happen to me, when will it happen again)together with anxiety symptoms nervousness fatigue lack of concentration, insomnia muscular tension, and general irritabilities

For weeks, months even years victims and the affected people may suffer the terrible symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, flashback images of the Traumatic event, nightmares, starting re-action, and an attitude of paranoia. In some instances, it may lead to depression by exhibiting intense sad feelings where there is no sense of motivation to do anything, including what one enjoyed doing or even being in one's favorite companies. One may exhibit high or low appetite, lack of sleep, or even excessive sleeping. Some may become sloppy and lack interest in self-grooming, laziness, and fatigue.to some, they may start having suicidal thoughts or even attempts. Research done by the World Health Organisation has shown that at least one person dies every 40 seconds and one attempt per second.

As a society, we should look out for such signs in people that are close to us, be it, family, colleagues at work, fellow religious community members, or any other persons in our social cycles so that we can identify with the right time. Where one is a victim its recommended, to seek strong social support and be willing to share any concerns we seek assistance from close friends, relatives, and appropriate professional assistance.

Coping Mechanism

Whereas there is nothing positive about losing innocent life, when the evil is over, there is a need to remain sober and resilient to get something positive out of any disaster, sickness, or even bereavement. Some of the following may assist in coping with the situation

Sadness, where death or physical / psychological injuries are inflicted by the terrorist caused deep pain in other people, especially living close to the victims

Trauma. Survivors, witnesses, and even those simply receiving the news of a terror attack often display post-traumatic stress symptoms

Rage. Anger and desire to take revenge are natural reactions toward the attackers

Anxiety. Those living in an environment of ongoing terrorism or among the threatened groups experience typical anxiety symptoms

Guilt. Terrorists attack survivors tend to feel guilty for having survived or for not having done anything to save those possibly killed in the terror attacks they survived.

Some of the positive reactions may be among the following:

Immediate Altruism. After a terror attack, many offer benevolent and unlimited support in terms of money, professional support, and blood donation to provide some relief to the victims

Reorganization. To live near the scene of a terrorist attack makes one question their values and life habits. Generally, in moments of crisis, people adopt safe and traditional values, family, and faith.

Adaptation of new ways of being. After terrorist attacks, people adopt unselfish lifestyles filled with more clarity and empathy

Community revival. Terrorism and violent attacks bring life to communities' approaches and protect people from individualism

Making Lemonade out of a Lemon

Acts of terrorist attacks can radically and unfairly awaken the rage of even the most peaceful amiable person. This is why it is extremely important to prepare oneself to act in the most civilized form possible to avoid acting like those who perpetrated the attack. It's often said Violence begets violence and that in a state of war the most unthinkable brutalities are committed, in or off the battlefield. It is important to note that the terrorists are always and prepared for revenge and violence hence care must be taken not to be drawn into doing the same. Terrorists that belong to a particular cultural group or ethnicity may claim to represent the specific group even when the case might not be true. Negative ethnicity and discriminationare often perpetrated by the group that could be victims of the formers side of the group which usually aggravates the feeling of hatred toward those for the communities or religion of the perceived aggressors. Many terrorists embrace the banners of the religions that support and kill in the name of god. This is often a misconception of God and religion that has happened throughout history. However, this wrong notion should never be used to blame God, religion, or believers of the perceived opposing religion or community. Often people from diverse religionscarefullyfollow a lifestyle of goodwill, good citizenship, and pacifism. Terrorists are capable of introducing some subtle ideologies and disagreementsthat may lead to hatred among various ethnic or religious communities and ideological backgrounds. In the middle of acts that may produce negative energy and hatred towards each other.

LAND OF HIDDEN TREASURE

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West Pokot County is created as County number twenty four (024) according to the First Schedule {Article 6(1)} of the Constitution of Kenya. Its Motto is the *'Land of Hidden Treasure'.* To those who have not been to this North Rift County, this motto sounds as just a political rhetoric going by its negative publicity for insecurity. The insecurity is in the form of cattle rustling, highway banditry, and inter-ethnic conflicts. Security officers working in the County have alongside peaceful civilians not been spared from the scourge of insecurity hence christening the area in colloquial terms as either 'volatile area", "forward area", or "operational area". Many government officers fear working in the area and this has undermined service delivery and development. Other factors exacerbating the negative perception of this county include; frequent annual droughts and hunger, proliferation of illegal arms and ammunition, high illiteracy rates, retrogressive cultural practices such as female genital mutilation, high teenage pregnancy and early marriages; environmental degradation resulting to among other effects recent mudslides in highlands and flooding in lowlands both of which had high fatality rates.

On the positive side, West Pokot County is a *land of hidden treasure.* The beautiful landscape, natural resources and rich culture are attractive to visitors. The County is located in the Rift Valley Region of Kenya and borders Turkana County to the North, Baringo County to the East, Elgeyo Marakwet County and Trans Nzoia County to the South and Uganda to the West. The inhabitants are mainly the Pokot ethnic group although people of other ethnicities can be found especially in urban centers. The locals are very hospitable people.

The key geographical feature is Mt. Mtelo in the expansive Sekerr ridges. The mountain's highest point is 3336M above Sea Level making it the fifth highest point in Kenya and the first within the geographical boundaries of a single county. It has beautiful tourist sceneries and viewpoints. From here one can view the landscapes of East Uganda, entire Turkana County and the whole of Kerio/Suguta Valley basin. Locals also claim that in clear early mornings they can site Mt. Kenya which is approximately 500km away from Mtelo viewpoint. Traditionally, Pokot people believed that their god *"the Tororot"* abode in Mt, Mtelo. This feature can be marketed as a tourist attraction.

There is also the Kapenguria Museum where during the Kenya's struggle for independence, political detainees famously known as the *Kapenguria Six* were held while facing trial between the years 1952 and 1953. The Court of Trial was a non-gazetted old building located within the current Chewoyet National School. Five of these freedom fighters were later on convicted and incarcerated in Lodwar Prisons. The Museum also has a rich heritage of Pokot and Sengwer culture.

Dini ya Roho Mafuta Pole Africa also dubbed *"Pokot Religion"* is domiciled in West Pokot County. A very magnificent building of the church which is also the headquarters is located in Sook within Pokot West Sub County. The high and the mighty in Kenya and Uganda visit the church occasionally to receive blessings from the Apostle. The church is centrally placed in the lowlands and members belief that it's fortified by four mountains from all sides thus likening it to the biblical Jerusalem.

The magnificent Turkwel Hydro Electric Dam is built on River Suam in West Pokot County. It is managed by Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KENGEN) and Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) and has the capacity to produce 106MW which is connected to the National Grid at Lessos Sub Station in Uasin Gishu County. It is thus a very important energy infrastructure nationally. The large lake formed by the dam at Turkwel Gorge has a diverse number of fish species and fishing is a key economic mainstay for the surrounding community. The lake also provides recreational activities such as swimming, boat riding and canoeing. This has however not been fully exploited due to insecurity in the area.

West Pokot is also home to the largest species of black elephant. These are found in Nasolot National Reserve which is a key tourist attraction site and income earner for the county. With the assistance of Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), locals have appreciated the purpose of Wildlife conservation hence reducing cases of poaching. Elephants can be seen roaming freely, ambling their trumpets with a lot of tranquillity.

The County's highlands in the South are also home to among others two rare but precious indigenous tree species namely Cedar *(Cedrus spp)* valued for termite resistant fencing posts and the Rosewood *(Dalbergia spp)* known for very high quality building materials and furniture. The two tree types are endangered species and conservationists must put all effort to conserve the limited reserves of these trees possibly remaining only in Cherengany Water Tower.

Indeed West Pokot County is a *"Land of Hidden Treasure"* and Kenyans are encouraged to visit the area and discover for themselves, against the largely believed false narrative.

THE EGYPTIAN NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

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Climate Change is now considered as one of the most important issues on the international arena. Australian Academy of Science (2018) defines climate change as the long-term change in weather patterns that causes several events such as the melting of polar ice, raising sea level, and increasing the intensity of natural disasters. A report from United Nations predicted that the average global temperature could increase by 6° Celsius at the end of the century. Consequently, this increasing could lead to changes in weather and rainfall pattern, threatening both urban and rural populations.

Impacts of Climate Change on Human Life.

Climate change is a very serious threat, and its consequences impact many different aspects of our lives.

Firstly, the sea level has risen due to increasing global temperature and melting of polar ice. A report from the Union of Concerned Scientists (2018) points out that the average global sea level has increased by 8 inches since the last century. This increases the risk of flooding for low-laying areas and threatens coastal properties. Nowadays, 65% of major cities are located in low-laying coastal zones.

Secondly, climate change may also affect energy demand. European Environmental Agency claims that there has been an increasing trend in cooling demand during the summer season and predicts a 30% increase in the use of energy by 2080 due to air conditioning.

Thirdly, climate change affects human health. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report points out that climate change affects human health due to decreasing quality of fresh air caused by air pollution and disruption of food supplies (WHO 2007).

These three impacts are worsened by the rapid growth of urbanization and population and without systematic and organized action; these effects of climate change will become worse. In this regard, Egypt government has unveiled its National strategy for Climate Change 2050, to combat the impacts of climate change on human life. The Egypt National Strategy for Climate Change 2015 has planned investments of US$211bn for mitigation and US$112bn for adaptation. The country aims at increasing the share of renewables in its power mix to 42% by 2035, intends to invest US$10bn to develop 10 GW of renewables and upgrade its thermal power plants.

What does the 2050 Strategy Comprise?

The strategy is based on five main pillars, each one containing several sub-goals. It aims to address the repercussions of climate change in a way that contributes to improving the quality of life for Egyptians, achieving sustainable development, sustainable economic growth, and preserving natural resources and ecosystems. It also aims to enhance Egypt's climate change leadership internationally.

The strategy's first pillar is to achieve sustainable economic growth and low-emissions development in various sectors. This goal can be achieved by expanding reliance on renewable energy sources, reducing fossil fuel emissions, and adopting sustainable consumption and production models to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from other non-energy-based activities.

The second pillar aims to build resilience and adaptability to climate change, focusing on mitigating the global phenomenon's negative effects. This goal aims to protect citizens from the negative health effects posed by climate change and preserve the country's ecosystems and green spaces.

The third pillar aims to improve

Egypt launches National Strategy for Climate Change 2050

governance and management in climate change fields, to achieve the country's strategic goals and luring more investments and opportunities for climate finance.

The fourth pillar aims to improve infrastructure for financing climate activities, promoting domestic green banking and green credit lines. It also aims to foster innovative financing mechanisms that prioritize adaptation measures, such as green bonds, and enhancing private sector participation in climate finance and promoting green jobs.

The fifth pillar focuses on enhancing scientific research, technology transfer, knowledge management, and awareness to combat, alleviate and adapt to climate change. It also targets facilitating the dissemination of climate information and knowledge management between government and citizens, and raising awareness about climate change among policy and decision makers, citizens, and students.

Financing the Strategy

Potential sources of funding for the issued strategy include both international and local sources. The international sources of fund comprise of the Green Climate Fund, banks, and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the French Development Agency. Local sources include the country's budget and private sector investments in the respective fields.

Acute fluctuations of the weather in Egypt has resulted in torrents, storms, high temperatures, and high levels of the sea have made Egypt face the realities of climate change and its effects. The National strategy for Climate Change 2050; therefore enables Egypt to plan and manage climate change issues at various levels in a way that

supports the achievement of the country's desired economic and development goals.

To sum up, climate change has negative impacts on human life. There are many problems that are caused by climate change, including increasing sea levels, rising demand for energy, and threatening human health.

The five-point Egyptian National Strategy for Climate Change 2050 tackles achieving sustainable economic growth by reducing CO_2 emissions; adapting to climate changes with the country's ability to address this issue; governance framework of the state and society; improving the financial infrastructure; and improving scientific research and technology management.

The United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP 27) that Egypt hosted from 7 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm El-Sheik represents an opportunity for African countries to deliver their main message, which is that poorer countries bear the consequences of climate change despite their limited contribution to global emissions. Moreover, they need more serious assistance to mitigate risks and damages and achieve zero emissions targets that are "ambitious."

RETHINKING INDUSTRIALIZATION STRATEGY IN THE EAST AFRICAN REGION

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The East African Community (EAC) is composed of seven member states, namely Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Most of these countries have prioritized industrialization, which is at varying stages from country to country. However, a quick look at the industries that are cropping up, especially the electronics, machinery and automobile industries, these are mainly assembling plants for the highly industrialized countries and multi-national companies.

Taking the case of automobiles, in order to have a vibrant automobile industry, there ought to be a well-developed component spare parts production chain, specializing in the manufacture of automobile spare parts that would eventually be supplied to the main automobile plant for assembly of the final product. In this way, the automobile production chain would provide a lot of job opportunities and income to the components' manufacturers. In addition, this would save the foreign exchange if the production of the components parts is based on locally available materials.

However, what is currently observed on the ground in the automobile industry is the importation of all component parts for assembling of the automobiles, in the guise as raw materials. The same scenario is replicated in electronics industries such as mobile phones, television sets and other industries. For instance, the vibrant iron sheets and steel industries in the region import all the sheets, iron steel rolls, etc. and the only value added is just to size and shape to different designs. Even when you consider the small industries such as toilet paper, all the raw materials are imported and what the industrialists do here is just to size and package. The same applies to the plastics, paper industries and the rest. The negative effect of this kind of scenario is that governments are losing the would be import duties on these items, yet a lot of foreign exchange is used to import these components items, disguised as raw materials.

This kind of industrialization may not make the countries in the region prosperous since this kind of scenario does not promote specialization and innovativeness. Instead, the highly industrialized countries and multinational companies are creating a monopoly market for their finished products in the disguise of industrialization.

There is a need for the countries in the region to rethink their industrialization strategy afresh. The potential for these countries to become highly industrialized is enormous if a proper industrialization strategy could be adopted. The region is endowed with a lot of natural resources which, however, are all exploited and exported in raw form, such as copper, tin, wolfram, rare earth minerals, gold, oil, timber, coffee, tea, just to mention. These minerals and agricultural products if processed locally would form a strong basis for the provision of raw materials for the industries thereby saving the limited foreign exchange that is currently being spent on importing component parts for the current industries.

Considering the enormous amount of capital required to put up heavy industries, for instance the automobile industry, it may not be economically viable for each of the countries in the region to set up its own automobile assembling plant. Rather, each of the countries would be encouraged to specialize in the manufacture of components parts based on the available raw materials in that specific country and where it has a comparative advantage. The components parts would then be supplied to the main automobile plant that would eventually assemble the automobiles. A similar system is applicable in all other production systems in order to reap from the advantages of economies of scale so as to lower the cost of production for profit maximization.

To note, however, is that exploiting some raw materials and processing them into a final product that can be used as a raw material for industrial production is an expensive venture that requires huge amounts of capital. The industrial strategy ought to factor this into consideration, and where necessary, resources be pooled to kick-start such expensive ventures. The continued importation of steel, iron products, plastic products, paper products, and other products while exporting iron ore, copper, crude oil and timber will not create conducive conditions for industrial growth in the region.

If as many as possible components manufacturers can be integrated in the industrial value chain, the local employees would be able to become specialists and enhance their innovativeness and be able to come up with new products to strengthen the industrialization drive. More people would be employed in the production chain and hence increased job opportunities and household incomes. The countries in the region would be able to balance their terms of trade since much of the production chain would be based on locally available raw materials that save on foreign exchange that is currently being used to import raw materials for the current industries.

There is therefore a need to revisit the industrial strategy in the EAC region so as to identify leakages in the system and re-strategize for better returns. If the current industrialization trend is not checked, it may serve only one purpose, aiding the industrialized countries and multi-national companies to monopolize the marketing of their products in the region, while killing the region's industrial innovativeness thereby perpetuating the existing balance of trade deficits.

DEFENCE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change in Kenya is increasingly impacting the lives of many Kenyans and the environment. According to World Economic Forum, 2019, the five top risks in terms of impact are weapons of mass destruction, failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation, extreme weather events, water crisis and natural disasters. These risks are a threat to livelihoods and the wellbeing of the whole society. Climate change has led to frequent extreme weather conditions like drought which lasts longer than usual, irregular and unpredictable rainfall, flooding and increased temperatures. The effects of these climatic changes have made the already existing challenges of water security, food security and economic growth even more difficult. Crop harvests and agricultural production which account for about 33% of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are also at risk.

Kenya's forests produce a range of ecosystem goods (raw materials) and services (Ecological support functions) that are beneficial to humankind. These goods and services are exploited for economic activities. When the forests are not managed sustainably, the forests are depleted resulting in deforestation and degradation. Environmental degradation in Kenya includes deforestation, soil erosion, desertification, water shortage and degraded water quality, flooding, poaching and domestic and industrial pollution. Change of land use results in land degradation especially when indigenous forests are encroached. Water resources in Kenya are under pressure from agricultural chemicals, urban and industrial wastes, as well as from use of hydroelectric power. Environmental degradation has contributed greatly to climate change as evidenced by rising cost of water treatment, food imports and health services thereby undermining development. While enforcing conservation is challenging due to population pressure, raising public awareness of environmental issues could elicit support for conservation

COL A M NTEERE
KENYA ARMY

measures.

Through Vision 2030, Kenya set a target of achieving 10% tree cover by 2030. This target was pushed forward to December 2022. According to the National Forest Assessment report (2021). Kenya has surpassed the 2022 minimum target of 10 per cent tree cover to achieve 12.13 per cent. It has also achieved an 8.83 per cent forest cover.

To ensure that tree growing continues, new initiatives have been put in place by both the public and private sectors. Campaigns have been ongoing encouraging different stakeholders to step up in forest conservation and planting of trees.

It is against the backdrop and the threat to human security that Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) formulated a Defence Environmental and Sustainability Policy aimed at linking defence with broader Kenya Government policies on environmental protection. The policy looks into the following focal areas: Pollution control: This will involve KDF adoption of an integrated approach to solid waste disposal; climate change mitigation and Adaptation where climate change issues will be cascaded from defence Headquarters (Green building) to units through green representatives; Ecological Restoration where forest restoration is being implemented through

setting up tree nurseries at unit level and seedlings distribution centers; Education Training and Awareness through empowering commandants with training thereby allowing the same to be cascaded down to the troops. Training on environmental conservation will be inculcated in other military training programs, Unit Baraza's and partnerships with all stakeholders especially in afforestation. At the beginning of the year, the Government of Kenya partnered with KDF and others to initiate an exercise targeted at planting 50million seedlings within the MAU complex.

The Ministry of State for Defence aims to attain a minimum of 50% reduction in Green House Gases in the next 10 years through 'Total National Defence'. The Defence Environmental Security initiative through Environmental Soldier Program has spearheaded planting of many trees across the country. This programme has been in effect since 2003, overseeing planting of over 10 million tree seedlings. Environmental Soldier Program has been adopted as part of command continuum and is part of the appraisal for performance contracting. This further emphasizes the seriousness

with which KDF regards environmental protection.

Through the Environmental Soldier Program, the KDF has planted trees in various forests across several counties. The forests include Dundori, Eburu, Embeut, Maji Mazuri and Makutano forests, Mount Kenya, Laikipia, Marmanet, Ngorika Kibiku forest and Ngong Hills forest to name just a few. KDF is complementing Kenya Forest Service efforts in rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forests through the Adopt a Forest Framework. KDF has so far adopted five (5) forest blocks which includes Ololua, Kibiko, Thogoto, Ngong' Hills, and Maleba wetlands in Uasin Gishu County.

In addition, the Environmental Soldier Program has also enabled the Forces to dedicate part of their vast land towards afforestation by growing trees in military camps such as Modika (Garissa County),

Embakasi and Wajir camp. In order to maintain the momentum of the programme, KDF has partnered with other government agencies and other stake holders like green belt movement in tree planting exercises and provision of seedlings. In commemoration of World important days like Wangari Mathai day, International Day of Forests and World Environment Day, KDF has committed to continuously plant and grow trees through the theme " Security is Green''.

Through the Environment Soldier Program it is hoped that eventually, ecological restoration will be achieved with the potential to improve air quality, reverse forest degradation and desertification, slow biodiversity loss, enhance urban and peri urban environments and finally improve human livelihoods and humanity's relationships within nature.

> KDF is complementing Kenya Forest Service efforts in rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forests through the Adopt a Forest Framework. KDF has so far adopted five (5) forest blocks which includes Ololua, Kibiko, Thogoto, Ngong' Hills, and Maleba wetlands in Uasin Gishu County.

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Security dynamics are changing and the concept of security has acquired a broader dimension to include environmental security among others. Environmental security deals with the existence of ecology and natural resources, essential for human survival and can also be catalysts for conflict. Environmental issues not only jeopardize the security of the country where they occur, but their effects also transgress national boundaries. Environmental security is the process of reducing human vulnerabilities by identifying and resolving the causes of environmental degradation. A broader conception of the environmental security is that human security is assured when there is ecological balance, supplies of resources are ensured, and when environmental resources are protected.

The Maslow's hierarchy of needs accessibility is dependent on environmental sustainability and preservation. Thus, the protection of the environment is imperative to ensure that these needs are met. Environmental protection and conservation

COL C K ARITHO
KENYA AIR FORCE

have gained lots of prominence in global socio-economic discussions with the focus on promoting an environmentally sound world. Therefore, environmental security has become a key component in the sustainable development agenda and now promulgated in several global initiatives and plans, such as Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) goal 15. Concerted Government efforts of

developing and implementing strategies to safeguard the environment should include utilizing additional resources including the military to allay the continued concern about the widespread prevalence of various factors that threaten environmental security, and so are threats to national security.

THREATS TO ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

Population Growth
Unprecedented population growth is one of the biggest threats to environmental security. People are a significant part of the ecosystem, and so it is impossible to address matters of environmental security without looking into the aspect of the human population. An increasing population demands more for more of renewable and non-renewable resources. As the population grows, the extraction of resources such as water, minerals, trees, and others from the environment hence pressure and significant adverse effects on the environment. Forests and other habitats have been destroyed to

accommodate the ever-expanding urban areas, which has resulted in decreasing biodiversity, declining species population, and altered organisms' interactions. More agricultural land is being converted into residential areas and roads because of the burgeoning human population. The World Bank 2019 report, Kenya Country Environmental Analysis, it reported that the core of Kenya's environmental challenges is its population growth. Its rapidly rising population dependency on natural resource-based income has placed pressure on its already fragile ecosystem, and as a result accelerated environmental shocks such as droughts, floods, and heat waves. This shows that the growing population is damaging the natural environment and creating heightened human security concerns.

Urbanization

The high population density in urban areas, due to rural urban migration in developing countries is responsible for the environmental degradation in the cities and other urban areas. Urban populations are confronting environmental challenges, such as poor air quality, waste disposal problems, and others. These are security concerns because they threaten the health and quality of life of the urban populations. Exposure to respiratory related diseases is more prevalent owing to stressful environment. Definitely, the developing world needs solutions on how to support the growing urban population while preserving the environment.

Water Resource Scarcity

Water is vital for human survival as it is used for consumption and industrial purposes. As the world population increases, so does the demand for water, which has led to overexploitation of ground and surface water. The overexploitation of water sources is a major cause of water scarcity. Water is an essential resource for human survival, and so changes in the availability of this vital resource create competition among the users, which can escalate into a conflict like the case of Ethiopia versus Sudan and Egypt over Nile. Water scarcity has been a source of contention and instability in various communities in Africa. Surface water sources, such as rivers and oceans have also come under threat of pollution from municipal and industrial wastes, as is the case of river Athi. Contaminated water is a cause of various health issues affecting animals and marine life and even people around the globe.

Climate Change

Climate change threatens environmental safety and consequently survival of the human population. This phenomenon causes a cascade of environmental effects like rising temperature of the earth's surface. The human temperature ranges between 33.2°C and 38.2°C however because of climate change and as a result there is increases in temperatures hence risk of morbidity or even death. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), between 1998 and 2017, there were more than 166,000 deaths globally due to high temperatures.

High temperatures reduce the surface water because of enhanced evaporation. This causes the soil and vegetation to dry out. Droughts are the most destructive climate hazards because of their impact on flora and fauna. Droughts also cause food insecurity, which results in malnutrition. Food insecurity as a result of drought conditions is a growing issue in Kenya. Climate change has severely affected food production in this country, especially in the arid and semi-arid (ASALs) areas hence crop failure. The World Food Program statistics show that about 942,000 children in Kenya's ASALs are acutely malnourished. Food security is an element of national security; hence climate change mitigation is a matter of national interest.

Conclusion

Environmental challenges affect human security; it is clear that environmental security is a critical national security matter. Environmental protection and conservation safeguards livelihoods within a nation and the world at large. It is also vital to acknowledge that threats to environmental security are transnational, and so their resolution requires cooperation and commitment from a wide range of actors. For instance, regional security and stability call for the states within that region to make cooperation on environmental issues a priority. Resolution of the threats to environment will eradicate the environmental challenges and also build the confidence of states toward peace building.

AVOCADO FARMING IN KENYA

COL A N KIRAGURI
KENYA ARMY

Avocado farming in Kenya and around the globe is gaining prominence due to the annual global demand, which is increasing at a higher rate than production resulting in higher market prices in the world market. Kenya is the 6th largest producer of avocado in the world and has a domestic market due to its popularity and consumption. Avocado is native to the Americas but grows well in Kenya. Due to its nutritional value (high protein and oil contents) it has become important as an export crop. It is also rich in potassium dietary fibre and vitamins B6, C, D and E. Avocados grown in the country are for domestic consumption and export to Europe and countries in the Middle East. Avocados mainly flourish in tropical and sub-tropical climates, conditions that really favours Kenya for large scale avocado production. The major avocado growing areas include Central Kenya, Eastern, Rift Valley, Lower Nyanza and the Western region.

There are a variety of the avocado plants i.e. Fuerte, Hass, Nabal and Puebla. Fuerte bears thin skinned green-pebbled fruit of great flavour. The pear-shaped fruit is preferred for export. Hass nears medium sized, rounded, rough skinned fruits. Hass and Fuerte are the main variety grown in Kenya although Hass is developing strongly especially among small growers, as it's grown majorly for export market. Avocado farming is a very profitable agribusiness venture. For an acre, you can plant about 100-130 trees that translate to about 300-400 kg per acre. In the local market, avocado retails approximately Kshs 176 per kg.

Avocado grows well from 0-2500m above sea level. Soils with good water holding capacity and free draining are best suited for avocado farming with a PH of between 5.5 - 6.5. The best temperature to grow the avocado fruit is between 16 - 24 centigrade. Higher temperatures affect the fruits with sun burn damage. Further, avocado trees are not tolerant to frost especially those adopted to humid tropics. A well distributed rainfall of up to 1600mm annually is optimal for good production. Too much rainfall during flowering may cause flowers abortion thus reducing production. It thus requires relatively high humidity at flowering about 70-80% hence a dry weather of about 2 months during flowering.

The planting of avocado is either seedlings or seeds. However, through grafting farmers are able to improve variety by increasing its resistance to diseases and increasing its adaptability to different types of soils. This then means that proper land preparation should be done to ensure the seedlings are planted in the most favourable condition. This would include tilling of lands and ensuring there are wind breakers such as hedges if there are strong winds in the area. The planting of the avocado tree is advised should be straight line to ease harvesting and crop husbandly. This will include easing on pruning, thinning and inspection of the trees. While planting the top soil is mixed with manure, Fertilizer (superphosphate) and certified insecticide to fill the planting holes. The planting again should be done after the start of rains when rain water has penetrated the soil properly. However, without the rainwater, irrigation would be an option. Pruning is usually done before the plants begin to flower as this benefit's the trees to yield and provide superior structure.

Weed and pest control in the area planted with the avocados is most important to ensure higher production. This may thus need chemical application for control. Some of the major pest which attack the avocado plants/fruits include Night flying moth, scale insects and Thrips. Root rot is a disease which is mostly found in areas where soils are poorly drained and areas prone to floods.

The avocado fruits usually flowers in October and are ready for harvesting between June and September. It is important for the farmers to identify the best harvesting period because they are picked when raw and ripen off the trees. Field experts are important during this time to advice the farmers on the best time to harvest the fruits to avoid wastage. Lack of understanding by farmers can greatly contribute to loss of harvest or make their produce to be

Avocado: 7 Gallon
Example Size/Look in Spring/Summer
Heights & look vary based on Variety/Season/Pruning

rejected by the Abroad markets/exporting companies. Avocados are harvested from the trees by cutting while leaving a 3cm stalk and then graded according to weight, size, and skin texture.

There are reasons why farmers are shifting from coffee and tea farming to avocado farming. One of the reasons is the favourable climate. The effects of climate change such as unpredictable weather patterns and cold and dry spells have affected coffee and tea farming and increased the cost of production. Farmers are finding avocado a better alternative to coffee and tea farming. Increased demand for the avocado fruits in the local and international market has mainly been fueled by its nutritional health benefits considering that most Kenyan avocados are produced organically and chemical use is limited. In Asia, the consumption of Kenyan Hass avocados has increased tremendously especially in China. Other countries that are interested in Kenyan avocados include Belgium, Russia, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, France, Singapore, UK, Egypt, Libya, Hong Kong, and Iran.

The Higher prices the farmers are fetching through the sale of avocados have also contributed to the increased production in the international market with a carton with 10 avocado fruits selling for KES 240 or even more. For this reason, farmers are shifting to this crop since it has more yield and higher prices in the local and international markets. Further, the crop can grow alongside other crops, especially in terraced orchards hence more income to the farmer. Avocado trees require little maintenance but produce more yields per tree and hence a good earner crop, unlike most crops. Avocado trees can only be pruned once in a while to promote light penetration and to reduce instances of fungal diseases and hence labour involved is low compared with other cash crops like tea and coffee. Unlike coffee and tea where farmers have to supply coffee berries and tea leaves and wait for months before they get paid; payments are prompt for avocado farmers. Buyers compete for avocado fruits on the farm and make prompt payments immediately they get the produce.

The NDC-K Administration Block &Serene academic environs.

MY APPREHENSIVENESS IN JOINING THE NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE WAS JUST BUT A CLAPTRAP

The day I was notified of my nomination to study at the National Defence College (NDC), I honestly did not fully comprehend what the character and the conduct of the training would entail. I was completely mesmerized by the anxieties of the rigorous Military culture and traditions. Fresh in my mind were the torments of the episodic paramilitary training I underwent several decades ago.

Albeit that the training ingrained me with the fundamental ethos of a disciplined Officer of a Security formation, the reflections of spontaneous theatrics at the 'black office' bothered not to remind me of my alumni allegiances to that wonderful training college of disciplined men and women.

The NDC's joining instructions however sounded a little friendlier at a glance. The mention of the Military attire and the dress code epitomes pessimistically reminded me of the theatrics in the military autocracies. However after considerable contemplation, I earnestly engaged myself into rehearsals ready for the duty. Right on the cards of the thoughts were the military norms, salutations and the rigorous 3 o'clock dawn time run hymned One-Two-Left –Right and cadences in my previous episode. The

MR A G OMOLO
KENYA FOREST SERVICE

reporting day was such a bright day

At the NDC Gates were two (2) officers ushering us in with stylist military salutations and compliments. The compound was very serene and smartly kempt, no signs of the black office but academics. On-duty was a battery of very warm military orderlies assisting the arriving participants with the admission processes and check-ins into the rooms of residence. A little brief on the rules on rooms of residence and mess services was also given.

The course curriculum constructs appeared superb, consisting of the amendable yellow pieces and the blue that is

executable with the astuteness of a military precision. Notably, the college pursues the modelling of the top cream military commanders and top cream non-military participants drawn the African continent and beyond, on matters national security and strategy to be modelled to perform the global duty on the respective allied country's national interests and the critical aspects of state survival

The Day one of the College orientation was a ray of civilian and the military-mixture customs. In the tow of the College Commandant, was a battery of smartly groomed civilian and military orderlies ready for the College initiation ceremony at the Ultra-Modern Central Lecture Hall one of its kind in the Eastern part of Africa and named after one of the Kenya's finest General (Rt) Daudi Tonje.

At the colourful Introductory Ceremony, the Course 25-2022/23 Cohort was a sure revelation of wide military-ranks and non-military bureaucrats from across African and Asian continents. The Commandant's reception cocktail ceremony, very rare in many Academic set up, was a hallmark of the hospitality by its extension for according the Participant's and the College Staff an opportunity for in-depth and interactive

acquaintances.

A spectacular Course curriculum and its contents as well as state - of - the art teaching technology, networked to the Seminar cohorts and the online connection capabilities. The capabilities enable officers and participants with any form of inconveniences and or indispositions; seamlessly follow Course proceedings at the comfort of their locations.

The college Faculty's teaching capability is out rightly blended with the imports of the high ranking Kenya Universities and the School of Government. The two institutions are renowned for the processional development on competencies, public service values and capabilities for research-based policy making. The course deliverables are under the supervision of very knowledgeable, experienced and committed Senior Directing Staffs and the watchful eye of the College Commandant and his Military and Civil Deputies.

The participants' well-being at the

The NDC- K official Gate

The NDC-K Ultra-Modern Gen (RT) D Tonje Central Lecture Hall

college is quite full filling with all matters of welfare hierarchically articulated through the Course Coordination and the established Committees. The College academics and the extra-curriculum functionalities are militarily precise, flawlessly accurate and religiously perfect, just to say the least.

I NOW know for sure that, I have a serious date with the NDC –K course 25/2022-2023 to slingshot from my previous

overt paramilitary call, to a National Security expert and Strategist, of course from this magnificent centre of excellence accredited for training and educating quality Researchers in National Security and Strategy for the advancement of human intellectual capacity and management of national security globally, the NDC-K, Kudos!

CAN TECHNOLOGY SAVE OUR WORLD FROM POLLUTION?

Pollution is the introduction of harmful materials into the environment. These harmful materials are called pollutants. Pollutants can be natural, such as volcanic ash or those created by human activity, for example trash, effluent produced by factories, increased fossil fuel combustion from motor vehicles and deforestation among others. Pollutants damage the quality of air, water and land. Other pollutants like noise, light and plastic pollution are also a major concern to the modern society. According to world economic forum report 2019, pollution is responsible for at least nine million premature deaths worldwide and majority of pollution-related deaths are due to air pollution, accounting for 6.5 million deaths each year. Still, air pollution impacts the health of many more people than this, with the World Health Organization estimating that 99% of the global population breathes contaminated air that exceeds safe limits.

The amount of pollution worldwide increases everyday despite all the efforts to reduce or mitigate its effects. The effects are so dire that if no drastic measures are instituted in an emergency type of intervention, the world will never be the same again. Pollution

COL C T BOIT
KENYA ARMY

has contributed to climate change, resulting in changing weather patterns all over the world and food security challenges. We have witnessed changes to our normal rainfall pattern. Gone are the days when our people used to plant their farms in March, knowing that it would rain latest by April. There was no reason to think the rains would delay beyond early April. Comparatively, the current rainfall pattern is so erratic and unpredictable, affecting food security in a magnitude that can be disastrous.

Vehicles' Contribution to Pollution
Transport is a key economic sector all over the world. It exerts pressure on the environment and climate but is critical in achieving the long-term goals. According to Notter and Weber in their paper on Baseline emissions, the total mileage of road transport vehicles was approximately 29,000 million kilometers in 2015, with a corresponding 6.9 Mt CO_2 emissions. By 2050, there could be an increase in total road transport emissions by 380% compared to 2015. Vehicular exhaust pollution has been known to cause acute respiratory diseases, eye irritation and visual intrusion to receptors.

As the number of vehicles on our roads increase, emissions will rise too, enhanced by more people wanting to own cars for various reasons. It has been reported that major towns like Nairobi experiences above the required emission levels due to the number of vehicles on the roads. The emission levels are dangerously high at 8 am and 8 pm during weekdays. This could be the case in other towns in Africa and worldwide. Minimizing vehicle emissions by controlling the importation of old cars can help, but with those vehicles aging over time, resultant vehicle pollutant emissions will be eminent. Factories and industries are also not left behind in polluting the environment. Hence, we must explore the use of technology to reduce emissions and make our cities habitable with a healthy environment.

The question we should be asking ourselves is; what should we do to reverse the pollution and make the world friendly for our living? Can technology be the way out? To some extent, yes - technology can be explored to reduce emissions that cause enormous pollution within the world. Several non-technological measures have been undertaken to reduce pollution; for example, efficient waste disposal and minimizing vehicles into our towns by improving rail transport, using electric vehicles, amongst other measures. However, these measures most often than not have borne little success because of increased waste due to high population in urban areas, weak regulations, and non-implementation of the measures. Therefore, use of technology could be the way to go to save our world from pollution.

An example of a technological innovation that can be used to deal with vehicles' pollutants is Supertech Combustion Optimizer. This device functions inside the fuel tank of vehicles, power generators, boats/vessels/ships and motorbikes with hydrocarbon-driven engines (petrol or diesel). The device works in all types of vehicles/vessels hydrocarbon engines, whether old or new. It emits infrared electromagnetic waves that weaken the inter-molecular bonds of fuel to increase surface friction reaction, which optimizes the process of combustion. The installation is simple and requires no engine modification and acts at the root level to control and increase efficiency whilst not affecting the engine power at all. The Supertech combustion optimizer achieves the following positive effects:

- Gas emission reduction by up to 80% (acceptable standards).
- Fuel saving between 8 to 13% or even higher.
- Resultant smooth, efficient running engine with less noise.
- Longer life to the engine.

This implies that Supertech is cost-effective and turns vehicles and other machines into environmentally friendly vehicles and machines therefore drastically reducing exhaust emissions, and thus, protecting people and the environment. It is currently used in over forty countries globally. It is also reported that one Supertech installed is equivalent to twenty-three (23) mature trees and this is quite

> The question we should be asking ourselves is; what should we do to reverse the pollution and make the world friendly for our living? Can technology be the way out?

encouraging.

The vehicles in Kenya and those transiting are approximately 3.4 million. If all are installed with Supertech gadgets, it translates to an equivalent of about 7.82 million trees and enormous saving on fuel too. But more importantly, with emissions per vehicle reduced by 80% per every installed vehicle, pollution will drastically reduce; hence clean air in our towns. Supertech combustion optimizer can be effectively used to deal with vehicles' pollutants.

Other technological innovations that have been used to deal with different types of pollution include incinerators, smog free towers, cloud seeding, cyclone separations and river cycle among many others. All these technologies can help to rectify the damage done to the planet and hopefully, help to reverse global warming and bring back the clean air and green planet that all are entitled to. *Technology is the way to go!!!*

FEMALE SOLDIERS IN COMBAT

COL G M KIMONGE

KENYA ARMY

Traditionally women were not considered for some professions, which were considered a preserve for men. The military was one of the professions that were considered a preserve of men, a myth that has slowly been overtaken by events as many women have been enlisted in the Defence Forces of various countries across the globe.

Scholars on peace and foreign relations have conducted studies that indicate the engagement of women in peace initiatives results in the formulation and adoption of high-quality and long-lasting peace agreements. The findings of these studies are supported by Indian Peace Ambassador Sri Ravi Shankar who once said, ''A woman has the capacity to be an excellent peacemaker because it is quite natural for her to relate from the level of the heart''.

In harnessing the power that women possess in resolving conflicts in unstable and war-stricken areas, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) ensured female soldiers were deployed in Somalia under the African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) formerly African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The female soldiers upon deployment at the ATMIS Sector II Headquarters in Dhobley re-grouped and formed Female Engagement Teams (FET) to support the ongoing war against terror in Somalia. The FET's main objective is to reach out to women and empower them socially and economically to support their families and meet basic needs. The FET members play the roles of soldiers and diplomats in the fight against terrorism.

Women have a substantial influence on their families and the overall community due to their nurturing capabilities. In using this potential, the FET engages the women to influence the men and youth to disregard terror activities and focus on community-building activities. The FET further projects the image of a caring force whose presence is meant to give the populations in their areas of deployment surety of security. This is the image consistently expected to be projected by any Force in a similar scenario. Further, the FET had an upper hand in reaching out to women easily as compared to the male soldiers given the fact that the Somali community is bound by strict cultural practices that touch on how men and women interact.

Key Leader Engagement (KLE) forums have been an integral component of the FET since its inception in 2019. In the forums, women are empowered with knowledge and resources to start community development initiatives and take up various leadership roles, which are crucial in championing peace in society. Further, the KLE forums are used as platforms to help identify key areas that the communities that need support from the ATMIS forces. Other areas explored in the KLE forums are economic empowerment, human rights awareness, and countering violent extremism.

The KDF troops under ATMIS in Sector II have supported and empowered women immensely, support that has helped reduce terror activities significantly in their area of operation. Various women groups in Dhobley have been provided with milk dispensers by the KDF troops under ATMIS in support of their milk business. The support has been critical in supporting the women to create a revolving fund kitty that will boost their financial power. Training of midwives by the KDF ATMIS forces has been conducted at the ATMIS Level II Hospital, Dhobley. The midwives are now supporting maternal health services thereby improving health services provision.

The Dhobley Smart Farm established by the KDF troops has been a critical tool for offering agricultural extension lessons to women and youth on modern farming methods. Women within Dhobley have made several visits to the farm where the FET has imparted knowledge on best practices of farming. Environment conservation lessons are also offered, and the women groups issued indigenous tree seedlings to plant in their homes in a bid to improve tree cover on their farms.

The FET engagements have many merits as they ensure they incorporate the youth who are easy prey to Al Shabaab for recruitment to propagate their terror philosophies. At this point, women help the youth not to be radicalized by the Al-Shabaab given the counter-violent extremism knowledge they possess. FET is a peace-building initiative borrowed from the US Marine Corps that was implemented in Afghanistan. It comprised volunteer female soldiers whose main objective was to develop trust-based and enduring relationships with local women. The team aids in reaching out to the local population and conducting gender-suited tasks.

Kenyan women soldiers at the warfront: https://mod.go.ke/news/female-kdf-soldiers-and-somalia-security-forces-mark-international-womens-day

CAR FREE DAY IN KIGALI

Minister of Sport Hon. Aurore Mimosa in black truck suite during a session of car free day.

COL L KANOBAYIRE
RWANDA DEFENCE FORCE

Pollution is beyond doubt, a raging issue that has tremendous impact not only on human health and well-being, but also on the planet and the environment. According to Thomson Reuters Foundation News, the article by Megan Rowling of Wednesday, 5 June 2019 00:01 GMT, pollution kills 800 people every hour or 13 every minute, accounting for more than three times the amount of people who die from malaria, tuberculosis, and AIDS combined each year.

Numerous steps are being taken by governments across the world to combat pollution. Car free day is one such initiative which is exercised in most countries to combat greenhouse gases. While some believe this is an effective approach, others argue there are better alternatives. While it's not enough to solve the cities' pollution problems, citizens see this initiative as a good starting point and a day to be enjoyed.

World Car Free Day is celebrated annually on 22 September. Around the world, car-free days encourage people to park their vehicles and use non-motorized transport, like biking, skating or walking. African countries such as Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda have adopted monthly car-free days, an initiative launched by their governments to encourage non-motorized transportation and fight air pollution. Car-free days are also an opportunity to promote healthy living through collective exercises such as soccer, roller skating, street music and dancing.

Conduct of Car Free Day

Kigali city is among the rapidly growing cities in the East Africa from infrastructure to population growth which undoubtedly leads to greater demand for urban mobility hence a probable increase in carbon emissions leading to air pollution. To deal with issues of the city growth and increase in urban mobility, Rwanda introduced the concept of car free day within the city of Kigali in 2016 as a monthly event, but a year later in 2017, H.E President Paul Kagame recommended that this event be conducted every 14 days. Since then, participants to the car free day in Kigali have considerably increased.

Twice a month in Kigali, from 07:00 to 10:00 Hrs, children, and adults of all walks of life are usually seen in sporting gear jogging, cycling, strolling, and exercising in areas designated for the sporting event. No motor engines are allowed to move for at least four hours. During this time, some roads are closed for motorized vehicles and instead are used for walking, jogging and cycling. The closed roads include roads from Centenary House in the city centre all the way to Amahoro National Stadium, with the group exercise and testing activities taking place at the Rwanda Revenue Authorities headquarters parking area.

The concept of car free day provides an opportunity for exercising and socializing among the urban population through collective sports. Not only that, during car-free days, the participants get an opportunity to be screened for non-communicable diseases including heart diseases, high blood pressure, cancer and diabetes.

Impact of Covid-19 Prevention Measures on Car Free Days

The motivation to stay active during quarantine can be quite difficult, especially with many opting to use bedrooms as a personal gym without any equipment or legroom available. Even as gyms reopen, understanding what your body needs to become stronger, leaner, & fitter can be a difficult challenge to tackle.

During the lock down, Kigalians were advised to continue exercising from their homes. People of all ages ushered into streets across Kigali as the Car Free day activities were allowed on 20 September 2020. However, mass gatherings, which used to bring people together at each of the designated sites in Kigali, and voluntary medical testing sessions, were both prohibited to avoid violating guidelines set to prevent the spread of the Covid -19 pandemic.

The Car free day culture in Kigali

contributes to a more cohesive Rwanda by keeping strong ties between the participants in terms of exercising together and discussing issues pertaining to their daily life from their respective place of living.

Road Skating During Car Free Day

The road skating sport is becoming popular in Rwanda, thanks to the introduction of the Car free day. Many people especially the youth have now started using the skate shoes to practice this sport during car free day.

The road skating sport is important for several reasons including; Firstly, roller skating improves balancing and coordination as it involves use of lower-back and abdominal muscles to roll forwards and backward. Skating requires one to maintain a steady core to stay upright, which is the perfect method for a better balance.

Secondly, it keeps the heart healthy since it involves inline skating, and rollerblading that help strengthen the heart.

Thirdly, it helps in diabetes management. Road skating is an excellent example of aerobic exercise, which helps your body use and manage insulin better. Road skating strengthens the heart and bones, decreases blood glucose levels, relieves stress, and improves cholesterol levels.

Lastly, roller-skating is a social activity that can be done with friends. Being social

is an important part of health – so next time your friends want to meet up for dinner or drinks, suggest a skating trip instead.

Conclusion

Pollution is beyond doubt, a raging issue that has tremendous impact not only on human health and well-being, but also on the planet and the environment. An initiative such as car free day is being followed in Rwanda to curb the impact of pollution.

The concept of car free day provides an opportunity for exercising and socializing among the urban population through collective sports. Some new sports discipline such as the road skating sport is becoming popular in Rwanda, thanks to the introduction of the car free day.

LEADERSHIP TIPS - INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

COL E K CHIRCHIR
KENYA ARMY

In the contemporary world, organizations are faced with a multifaceted operating environment. Critical in delivering that sharp edge of any institution is integrating innovation and creativity in our operating culture. The operating environment is however experiencing two fundamental shifts. One, the world is increasingly shifting to drawing dependency on artificial intelligence, design thinking, Internet of Things and Big data best defined as Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). Secondly, working with the overzealous 'Generation Z, also known as "Gen Z" or "Gen I". This generation include people born in the early 1990s and beyond. It is argued that members of this group are smarter, more self-driven and quicker in information processing, however, negatively; they are not the best of team player. The current leadership must focus on moulding future leadership without which the future is blurry. These two dynamics are the concerns of leaders today. In fact, most people in positions of leadership today, I will argue, are those that stifle the environment, prohibit new thinking and supress creativity. It is therefore very important that leaders find a balance to improve productivity and embrace new ideas as we work with this generation. Reflecting on this concern, a large population agree that the answer to this problem lies in reorientation of ingrained behaviour that stifles the creative culture. You will all agree, arguably, that the crop of junior members of our institutions lean towards speed in processing problems and offering solutions whereas the senior leadership take time to consider wide range of factors before a making a call. How do we treat this management concern? The answer lies in the discussion below.

Innovation and Creativity Synergy

Scholars have published extensively on these two core functions; Creativity and Innovation. Harvard Business Review notes that creativity and innovation are two related but separate notions, and each is required for organization success however, what is creativity as the basis of innovation? Creativity, as the basis for innovation, is not simply a matter of generating new ideas. Instead, creativity refers to the production of original, high quality, and elegant solutions to novel, complex, ill-defined problems. Creativity doesn't lead to company inventions and growth, innovation does. Nonetheless, innovation doesn't happen without creative people. Equally, if you let bureaucracy stop creativity, innovation will be the victim in your institution. Creativity is the novel step of being the first to identify the art of the possible while innovation is the action plan to reality. Harnessing the two concepts is a great challenge that leaders must deliberately rethink in order to deliver solutions for tomorrow. The military is repository of a diverse expertise and knowledge and such a fertile institution for innovation. In fact, Frans Johansson, the author of *The Medici Effect,* described his finding based on interviews with people doing highly creative work in many fields that innovation is more likely when people of different disciplines, backgrounds, and areas of expertise share their thinking. Sometimes the complexity of a problem demands diversity. How do we do it then?

First, develop a strategy. An innovation strategy that sets out a coherent, mutually reinforcing policies and behaviours aimed at achieving a specific competitive advantage. Good strategies promote alignment among diverse groups within an organization; clarify objectives and priorities, and help focus efforts around them. Without a strategy, we are likely to turn our innovations as grab bag for Research and Development (R&D). To cure this problem, Harvard readings suggest that organizations must have a functional system or structure. A structure will provide for more coherent set of interdependent processes that dictates how an institution searches for novel problems and solutions, synthesizes ideas into concepts and capabilities designs. This approach will allows for careful selection of projects and its funding while curing the different parts of an organization pursuing conflicting priorities. Innovation strategies must seek to answer the questions, offer solutions and not broad statements.

Secondly, several reviews identify that creativity has always been at the heart of business; however it hasn't been at the top of the management agenda. Perhaps because creativity was considered unmanageable or because concentrating on it produced a less immediate payoff than improving execution or perhaps it's our culture that sees creativity as works of art. In fact, in a recent colloquium, creative scholars and business leaders came to a common understanding: One doesn't manage creativity. One manages for creativity. The question therefore for leaders is how do we manage creativity for innovation? To start, as leaders we must enlist the right minds that must be engaged continuously. Two, we must recast our roles and find ways of receiving or collecting our universal contribution pool of the institution imagination. Better said, we must distribute creative responsibilities to the lower level of an organization.

Conclusion

It is important to discuss key elements that bind the creative's, innovators and leadership. First, appreciation; Leaders must challenge and inspire creative work in progress. The human capital is highly attuned to management's engagement with and attitude toward a project. Secondly, as leaders we set the tone and pace to invigorate creativity and maintain morale on new thinking. If this is executed with the right precision, then we avoid impress culture in our organizations. Finally, embrace; it is argued, that managerial reactions that speak loudest to creative workers are only but reactions to failure. Leaders must decrease fear of failure and that the goal should be to fail early and often, and learn as much as possible in the process. Leaders must create an environment of psychological safety that protects humiliation if they speak up with ideas, questions, or concerns, or make mistakes. We need to think about failure in a more fine-grained way. Remember creativity and innovation is about trials which some will succeed and, others will breakdown and others deviate. Most important is that the winning involves overcoming deeply ingrained norms that stigmatize failure and thereby inhibit experimentation.

DANGERS OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS

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Single use plastics are often known as disposable plastics that are used for packaging. They are made mainly from fossil fuel-based chemicals (petrochemicals) and are used only once and then thrown out or recycled. They include food packaging bags, bottles, containers, straws, cups, food and sweet wrappers, plastic lids, cutlery, cigarette butts, balloons and grocery bags among other polymers which are harmful to the environment when they are not disposed of in a proper manner.

Most single use plastic items usually go into a landfill or end up as unregulated waste which may end up in the ocean. Though the plastics are broken down into small particles, they do not decompose; rather they remain in the soil and water for more than hundred years and release toxic chemicals which damage our beautiful planet and environment. This is a widespread challenge that requires national, regional and global cooperation to manage.

Single use plastics cause major damage to the terrestrial and marine environment as well as human health through their production, distribution and litter. Many marine animals including fishes, sea birds and turtles are found to have plastics in their stomach resulting in serious health problems and sometimes death.

Most African countries do not recycle their plastic wastes but they are dumped after use. As a result, tons of discarded plastic bags are so ubiquitous in Africa that they have been jokingly referred to as the continent's 'national flower'. Plastics however do not just harm animals, beaches and parks but also litter the environment which is an eyesore .They also clog drains and form stagnant pools that provide a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Bans and Penalties

Reports indicate that Bangladesh was the first nation to introduce the ban on thin plastic bags in 2002 and other countries around the world have adopted a similar approach. As of June 2021, over 80 countries around the world had done a full or partial ban on single-use plastics.

Many African countries including Kenya are leading the world in finding solutions to single use plastics through the legislative mechanisms. About 34 African nations have come up with bans barring production and the use of single-use plastics and materials. Eritrea was the first nation in Africa to implement the ban in 2005. Rwanda banned the use of plastic bags in 2008 with strict policies that included luggage searches at the borders where any plastic bags found are confiscated and anyone found violating the plastic ban may receive a fine or a prison sentence.

Kenya leads the way with the strictest ban on single-use plastics in the world. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources through a gazette notice No. 2536 banned the use, manufacture and importation of plastic carrier bags with effect from 28th August, 2017. The legislation imposed a fine of USD 40,000 or a maximum of four years in prison for anyone found guilty of breaking the law. The country's decision to ban single use plastic products in all beaches, national parks, conservation areas and forests took effect on June 5, 2020.

Before the 2017 ban, the plastics industry in Kenya, distributed approximately 100 million plastic shopping bags every month to supermarkets and this hugely contributed to the pollution of land and water sources. These plastic bags became a menace as they could be seen everywhere, from trees, in the air, landfills, on farms and the drainage systems. Since the ban in 2017, there has been a decrease in these challenges, even though not 100 percent since the single use plastics are still being sourced and sold clandestinely and are used in certain quarters.

Enforcing the Bans

Despite these bans, plastic production has continued to surge over the decades from 15 million tons in 1964 to 349 tons in 2018 and is expected to double over the next 20 years. Governments around the world are fighting in struggle to balance between protecting the environment and creating jobs for their citizenry. Anti-plastic legislation is struggling against strong push back from a polythene industry worth millions of dollars and the cost of actually enforcing the regulations.

Where the law is enforced, it is undermined by illegal smuggling of the commodity from places where it is legal to manufacture and use, to places where it is banned. On a continent like Africa, with growing internal trade and porous borders, as long as there is demand for plastic bags it will be supplied by the black market. Against this reality, frustrated officials have swung between tolerating the plastic trade and draconian crackdowns on poor vendors. Plastic bans to date have been ineffective for three reasons: lack of enforcement, cultural resistance, and the hotchpotch application that differs across borders. Where the ban has been successful, for example Kenya's protected areas including national parks, national reserves and forests, the environment is much cleaner.

In conclusion, there is need for local, national, regional and global actions to be able to effectively eliminate the unnecessary plastics and protect the future from the challenges presented by the plastic pollution on the environment and livelihoods. Global solidarity is required to support efforts by countries such as Kenya and other African nations to sustainably safeguard the future from the single use plastics crisis. Locally, prioritizing reusable products is not only critical for the environmental health, but it can also be cost effective.

THE NEGLECTED BOY CHILD

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It is unfortunate that an affirmative action policy that was meant to streamline gender imbalances ended up leaving the Kenyan boy-child neglected and disoriented. The Constitution of Kenya, as well as local statutes, provide for the protection of Children's rights. Article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya provides for the rights of children to free and compulsory primary education, essential nutrition, shelter, health care, protection from harmful cultural practices, abuse, neglect, and all forms of violence, inhumane treatment, punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour. These include equal responsibility of parents to provide for the child, whether they are married or not. It prohibits detention of children except as a measure of last resort and provides that should it happen, they should be held for the shortest period, separate from adults, and in conditions that take account of the child's sex and age.

The Children's Act provides a legal framework for promoting and protecting children's rights and welfare in Kenya. It covers the child's rights, especially survival, protection, development, and participation. It makes provision for parental responsibility, fostering, adoption, custody, maintenance, guardianship, care, and protection of children. Additionally, it envisages no discrimination against any child based on origin, sex, religion, creed, custom, language, opinion, conscience, colour, birth, social, political, economic status, race, disability, tribe, residence, or local connection. In as much as all this has been equally applied for the welfare of both the boy and girl-child, the society in my opinion did not predict where the stone would fall after the girl-child is empowered.

Surprising, with such detailed legal framework on child protection and additional efforts to pull the girl-child on board, there is a widespread cry for the neglect of the boy child in Kenya. The boy-child is now lagging in several aspects of life, education, job opportunities and social growth. Out of a total of 3.5 million children enrolled in secondary schools in 2020, 1.77 million were girls while boys were 1.75 million.

The same situation replicates in workplaces where there are more female working staff than men. Women, are by statistics holding higher managerial positions than men. In addition, they are extremely empowered and own most small-scale businesses throughout the country.

Affirmative action thus favours the girl-child at the expense of the boy-child, even though it refers to equal opportunities for race, and gender. If the focus of inclusivity and affirmative action is to range from employment, education, public contracting, and health programs, then the impetus must be two-fold; to maximize diversity in all levels of society along with its presumed benefits for both boy and girl-child. Affirmative action left the boy-child out in every development discussion forum. Even in addressing public gatherings, society and political leaders emphasize education for the girl child.

The boy child is excluded from the gender equality agendas while patriarchal society places a high premium on him. Over-focus on the girl child through selective programs and interventions has made the boy to lose confidence, have low self-esteem, get addicted to drugs, alcohol, and other harmful indulgences. *Truly, 'the society has concentrated on the girl child to the extent that the boy child has completely lost self-esteem.' In all the sectors, considerable efforts have been made to address regional, special needs, and gender disparity. Statistics from various parts of the country show that the girl child has been foregrounded at the expense of the boy child.*

The boy-child's traditional strength, such as the power to handle challenges and hardship of life and the strength to face all menace of humanity, has shifted to the girl-child through empowerment. The boy-child is now in danger of losing value in the contemporary society. From government support to society focus, the boy-child is out of the picture.

The neglect of the boy child is reflected

also in their upbringing. Fathers are no longer at home, boys lack role models and parental guidance, which affects their development and behaviour. Without the much-needed father figures in their lives, coupled with pressure to perform, the boy-child is a vulnerable character more than ever. Many have dropped out of school, engaged in drug abuse and undesirable practices because of peer pressure. The irony of it all is that one of the critical role modeling platforms for the girl-child "the kitchen" has not changed as the boy-child struggled to go out there looking for outdoor playgrounds.

Young boys are literally 'on their own'. They manoeuvre their way in life with little or no mentorship. The right mentors give young men platforms to learn from the most experienced and exposed members of the community who will assist them develop themselves holistically. Indeed, the world has been under a patriarchal system that put men and the boy-child first for centuries, this historical development must have guided the wisdom behind creating an affirmative action focused on women's empowerment. But the manifestation of it reveals an example of a wonderful policy poorly implemented. Society should continue empowering both the girl-child and the boy-child alike.

The tilt of all efforts towards girl-child empowerment has increased the number of boys dropping out of school. Blanket condemnation of patriarchy and masculinity ignores that masculinity and femininity are two sides of the same coin. Any attempts at playing one against the other will be catastrophic. We are on the brink of a crisis if the society doesn't try to mitigate this ticking time bomb. Society here include the family unit, religious/ learning institutions, public institutions, policymakers, mentors, and the nation.

The National Government should rethink and reorient a paradigm shift on this policy of affirmative action in order the save the boy-child, create awareness of the child's rights at the grass-root level. The civil society should also enhance societal understanding of the concept of gender equality and effective gender mainstreaming to ensure that both male and female enjoy equal opportunities in all spheres of economic, political, and social.

INDUSTRIALIZATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Industrialization is a practical approach to facilitate growth in developing countries and has been one of the top concerns of policy-makers and economists for some time. Inspired by the desire to align their countries' economic performance with that of the advanced countries, and given the apparent success of industrialization, many developing country leaders in the 1950's and 1960's instituted development strategies built on structuralism. At that time, structuralism was the prevailing economic development framework. Essentially, it was contended that developing countries could overcome their under development rapidly by developing advanced industries as those in the high-income industrialized countries.

The rationale behind this strategy was often noble, as leaders of developing countries wanted the economies of their countries to compete on the global technological frontier as quickly as possible. However, this turned out to be a fatal mistake. Rather than facilitating economic growth, the structuralist paradigm actually hindered development

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because it was a strategy that defied the concept of comparative advantage and advised countries to give priority to capital-intensive heavy industries, even though capital was scarce in those economies. To derive the principal tenets of successful industrial policy, a review of successes in implementing industrial policy is necessary. There is considerable historical evidence that today's most advanced economies have relied heavily on government intervention to ignite and facilitate their economic take-off, which allowed them to build strong industrial bases and sustain the momentum of growth over long periods.

Industrialization is frequently essential for economic growth, and in the long-run poverty reduction. The pattern of industrialization, however, impacts remarkably on how the poor benefit from growth. Pro-poor economic and industrial policies focus on increasing the economic returns to the productive factors that the poor possess, e.g., raising returns to unskilled labour, whereas policies promoting higher returns to capital and land tend to increase inequality, unless they also include changes in existing patterns of concentration of physical and human capital and of land ownership. Use of capital-intensive methods instead of labour-intensive ones tends to increase income disparities, as does the employment of skill-biased technologies, especially where the level of education is low and human capital concentrated. Also, the location of industrial

facilities has an impact on overall poverty reduction and inequality. As enterprises are often concentrated in urban areas because of ready access to skilled labour force, better infrastructure, larger markets and technological spillovers, industrialization may increase inequality between urban and rural areas.

In promoting development of rural non-agricultural activities, like production in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), may decrease this disparity. The degree of economic openness of a country can have an important influence on its pattern of specialization and industrialization. If countries are open to trade, they should, according to Heckscher-Ohlin theory, specialize in the production of commodities in which they have a comparative advantage.

The extent to which industrial development effectively decreases poverty and inequality depends on the pattern of industrialization. Industries which employ a high proportion of unskilled workers and/ or use domestic inputs and raw materials produced with labour-intensive technologies can have positive effects on incomes of the poor.

Initial conditions significantly impact on whether major industrial development occurs, and whether industrialization accelerates economic growth and reduces poverty. Fundamental conditions for sustainable economic growth and industrial development include political, social and macroeconomic stability, well-functioning institutions and rule of law. The role of government is essential in creating these conditions. If these basis conditions are lacking, investments whether foreign or domestic are likely to be few and growth limited and fluctuating. Economic instability is likely to impact especially the poor, as has happened e.g. in Mexico in the mid-1990's and in Indonesia in the late 1990's. According to new economic geography models, economic development is not a smooth process of many developing countries catching up with the industrialized countries. Rather, starting from a situation where a rich and a poor group of countries coexist, the models outline mechanisms that make industrialization spread in waves from country to country causing a few

countries to make a rapid transition from the poor to the rich club. Through contrast, there is no indication of a significant spread of industry in sectors that would strongly rely on forward and backward linkages in developing countries. This is exemplified best by the electrical and non-electrical machinery sectors that continue to be among those for which accumulation is strongest. Hence, the recent wave of international production fragmentation in these sectors has not been associated with a strengthening of either forward or backward linkages in developing countries.

However, governments still have a primary role in promoting sustainable economic growth and especially poverty-reducing growth. In addition to ensuring stability, well-functioning institutions and appropriate legislation (e.g., labour laws); other essential government actions are related to skills formation, technology support, innovation financing, infrastructure development, and provision of a variety of public goods. All these have an impact on the growth and trade performance of a country. Rapid economic growth as

such tends to decrease poverty. Rapid growth may increase income inequality, but this is not inevitable. Whether or not it does, depends not only on the skill bias of technical change in an economy but on human capital formation measures and on the nature of taxation and expenditure policies. In addition to promotion of job creating industries and SMEs and supporting the creation of domestic linkages, inequality can be decreased by subsidized access to education, subsidized housing, progressive taxation or economic asset redistribution like land reforms.

In conclusion industrialization is a gift to developing countries. It stimulates unparalleled development and could even affect other sectors of developing economies. Industrialization promotes foreign competitions that are favourable to industries. Despite various obstruction posed, such as corruption, physical infrastructure, electricity, water among others, industrialization, remains a major prospect for development in developing countries.

PHYSICAL FITNESS FOR HEALTH

A Covid-19 missed opportunity

DR. G N GITHUKA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

I have worked for the Ministry of Health since 2005 during which I have been posted at various stations outside Nairobi. In 2012, I was posted to the Ministry of Health headquarters in Nairobi where I have worked since. Once posted to the headquarter I moved residence to Kiambu County, about 20 kilometers from downtown Nairobi. One of the earliest observations that I made was that, unlike in my prior postings outside Nairobi, to be at my workplace at 8:00AM, I had to leave my house not later than 6:30AM. This was due to the traffic in Nairobi that was always heavy and unpredictable. There are times it would take me almost 2 hours to get to work. Spending so much time in traffic in the morning got me tired and stressed. To avoid this, I decided to be leaving home by 5:30AM. This avoided the morning rush hour traffic and I was able to be at my workplace by 6:00AM. I then had to find work to do before the official working hours and I'd often be interrupted by the staff cleaning the office in the morning. I then realized that the two hours I was arriving before the official working hours were not as productive as expected.

In the evenings after work, to avoid the evening rush hour, I often would go to a hotel-based restaurant near my office to interact with my friends. On leaving the restaurant at 7:00PM, I'd be home within 30 minutes. One day as I was sharing my new morning routine to one of my friends, he empathized with and informed me a about a fitness centre that I could join and spend an hour or so in the morning before reporting to work at 8:00AM. I was very excited by the idea, in fact we went to see the gym immediately and after a quick tour of the facility and information about joining, I enrolled on that very same day.

The following day at 6:00AM, I reported to the gym. I was surprised by the large number of people I found training at the facility and I realized that majority of them were for the same reason I was; to avoid the morning traffic. A few months down the line, the routine of working out in the mornings before work had become part of my life. This changed and bettered my life beyond the initial intentions. Exercising in the morning improved the following areas of my life:

- **Sleep:** The gym helped me be able to sleep better and I always wake up rested and refreshed
- **Appetite:** Since joining the gym, my appetite improved and I would comfortably unlike before eat my three meals a day.
- **Weight:** Despite my appetite improving, my weight did not increase, I guess I was just keeping up with my increased energy outputs.
- **Energy:** Since I joined the gym my overall energy levels improved, especially in the morning hours.

Indeed, my entire quality of life improved.

In March 2020, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Health confirmed the first COVID-19 case in Kenya. This announcement came along with the numerous COVID-19 containment measures meant to slow down the transmission of the disease to safeguard the health and life of Kenyans. As part of banning all public gatherings, all fitness and activity centres were closed. For the first time in almost eight years, my morning routine and overall training schedule was interrupted. Part of the containment measures were that unless providing essential services, we were all advised to work from home. Being a health worker, I had to continue working from the office as we were providing essential services

Early in the pandemic, it was determined that physical inactivity, unhealth diet, obesity and other comorbid health illnesses were risk factors for COVID-19 infection, development of severesymptoms, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19.

For the first time in many years I went back to my old routine of leaving home for work without training in the morning. After a few days, this did not feel right. I therefore decided to start a new routine where I would wake up, jog around the estate and then leave for work. This is when I found out how unfriendly our streets and roads were to walking let alone running. There was poor lighting, the two feet paths were uneven, narrow and not consistent. Some of the paths would end abruptly and I had to run on the road while dodging traffic and in some cases I would find uncovered manholes. This made the risk of injury and accidents high. Running on Kenyan streets and roads is not for the faint hearted. I remember one day I stumbled and fell while running, suffering bruises and soft tissue injuries to my right knee. These injuries led to me suspend my runs for one month as I recovered.

The Covid-19 pandemic presented us an opportunity to bringing to fore the secondary health issues brought about by sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy diet to the fore. It is unfortunate that this moment was not seized, on the contrary the containment measures led to worsening of this situation. More people became sedentary, gained weight with some becoming obese during this period of the containment measures.

I believe that all is not lost, with the continued rising of lifestyle diseases, we still have chance of promoting physical fitness and health eating. We should advocate for other concerned Government Agencies to ensure that estates have physical recreational areas and that our streets and roads are designed to enable pedestrians use them safely. Walking on our roads should not be a high risk for injury or death. Indeed, "A physically fit population is a resilient population."

BURUNDI NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION INITIATIVES

In the past, the function of the military forces had been limited to the primary role of defending the state against external aggressions. In peacetime, soldiers were in barracks separate from civilians; it is after the Cold War that the military began to support other security actors in handling of the internal affairs. Therefore, this essay examines the history, development, and Burundi National Defense Force's involvement in civil-military (CIMIC) activities.

Burundi National Defense Force Training

Firstly, Belgium established the Burundi Armed Forces in early 1961 as a territory guard force, but they grew over time. In order to improve the officers' training, the Burundi Military Academy (BMA) was established in 1975 by Presidential Decision No 100/218 dated November, 1975; and wide range of options, including economics, sciences, medicine, and literature, were later made available to officers at BMA and Burundi University.

BMA brief description

Burundi Military Academy (BMA) is a training institute for officer cadets, established in 1975 and is located in Bujumbura; it combines military and academic training and trains Burundi officer cadets and selected candidates from East Africa Community (EAC) Partner States. Vocational schools were also opened to NCOs for specialization while the school of Works was established in 1987. Around 1990s, Burundi armed forces had enough qualified and specialized personnel in different fields; but like other armies, their knowledge and skills were not utilized because these forces remained disconnected from the population

Support to Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

In 1993, Burundi got into a long civil war that lasted for a decade, and most of the

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BURUNDI NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE

intellectual Burundians fled the country to neighbouring countries; militaries were then deployed to the ground to protect IDPs and deal with the arising insurgencies. The most significant areas where there was a shortage of technical employees were the health and education sectors. Officers who were stationed on the field supported secondary schools as teachers whereas NCOs were being used as nurses to help health centers in rural regions. That was the first experience for that army to be involved in civil-military

activities.

In 2005, Burundi Armed Forces were reconfigured following the Arusha peace agreement and became the Burundi National Defense Force (BNDF). It was then deployed in AMISOM Peace Support Operations (PSOs) in 2007 where it has been conducting CIMIC operations in support of the local population.

Healthcare Infrastructure

Back home, the military hospital has been renovated and it is now among the few Referral hospitals in Burundi. This facility is open to all people including civilians.

Environmental Program "Ewe Burundi Urambaye"

BNDF's presence in civil-military activities remains high through public development works organized jointly with the local administration. Burundi being mountainous and highly populated country, Burundi has been a victim of deforestation, soil degradation by erosion, natural disasters like floods, and landslides. Mindful of the role of the environment in achieving sustainable development, BNDF started an

Burundi Army.

environmental project codenamed "Ewe Burundi Urambaye".

The project was welcomed by Burundi government and became a national program aimed to cover the country's hills, rivers 'banks, existing forests, and other empty spaces throughout the country. The project was also targeting to stop the climate change phenomenon. The program involves the security and defense forces, the administration, and the local population. The ownership of the project by locals was recommended for it to last and support the future generations. In 2018, 400 million plants were already planted throughout the country. The project also became a source of income for the population who prepares seedlings for plants. The project success will rely on the level of the population ownership.

Agro Pastoral Programs

Burundi National Defense force has now embarked on agricultural production programs as a new milestone on its roadmap to contribute to national development. Up to 1980s, Arabica coffee was the most prominent crop for export giving foreign income to Burundi. Unfortunately, its production declined during the long civil war period, and that caused a lot of lose to the country. BNDF has now started to invest in this field and has a lot of plantations throughout the country.

Livestock Program

BNDF has started to develop farms for cows and small animals like pigs, sheep, and goats. Pigs are now being distributed to the youth grouped in associations by the Government in its effort to reduce the unemployment rate. Other options are still under analysis like the prospecting and sinking of boreholes in arid areas to promote farming activities and the making of bricks as a source of energy, thus reducing deforestation phenomenon.

Military Microfinance "CECADEM"

BNDF has put in place military microfinance codenamed "CECADEM". It is aimed to support BNDF members in their socio-development projects. CECADEM is planning to offer long-term loans to its members for house construction, agricultural projects, children's education, etc. This military microfinance started

in 2007 in Bujumbura using military infrastructure. It has grown very fast and is currently among the most vibrant finance organizations in the country. Progressively, it has built its own infrastructure including its main Headquarters in Bujumbura. By 2018, the organization had already amassed 69 Billion IBF as capital.

Conclusion

It is unfortunate that military forces have been kept for a long time in their barracks away from the population. Yet, they have a lot of knowledge and skills in terms of science and technology. They are also known for their discipline and physical fitness. Currently, Governments need disciplined people at the forefront to fight against corruption and poverty.

BNDF as a nation's arm of power has embarked in civil-military activities in support of the local population. The areas of intervention are mainly health care, support to IDPS, agricultural sector, environment programs, and other options under analysis. BNDF is looking to deploy all resources available and take the lead to support the country on its long journey toward sustainable development

Time has come for armed forces to be employed in full capacity for the advancement of their respective nations. Governments should take advantage of their huge resources and knowledge to plan projects for development, and uniform corps should be used to set the standard for the rest of the public service to follow.

> It is unfortunate that military forces have been kept for a long time in their barracks away from the population. Yet, they have a lot of knowledge and skills in terms of science and technology.

TRAVEL UNTIL YOU RETIRE!

Travel is viewed as a luxury. Most people travel on special occasions such as weddings, annual family vacations, anniversaries, or graduations. There are people who shelve travelling until the 'Golden Years' during retirement. I firmly believe that you should travel while young.

Why Travel?

To avoid the negative effects of chronic stress and burnout, we need time to replenish and return to our pre-stress level of functioning. A vacation improves work-life balance and reduces stress and burn out.

Leslie A. Perlow and Jessica L. Porter 2009 observe that when people have predictable and consistent time off, it increases motivation, productivity and work enjoyment. Long periods of work without break leads to irritability, poor decision making, poor communication, and more days off due to ill health. Planning a vacation can boost your happiness and elevate your mood up to eight weeks before the trip. Travelling exposes you to new environments, different human behaviours, cultures and diverse ways of doing business.

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KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY

Types of holidays

Staycation

Staycation involves holidaying anywhere within your home country. Staycations are affordable and you don't have to board a plane.

Weekend Getaways

There are countless wallet-friendly Kenya weekend getaways. You can visit Nairobi Animal Orphanage situated inside Nairobi National Park and enjoy watching all kinds of animals with less than $100. You could also opt to trek to the high of Mount Kenya, the second tallest mountain in Africa.

You can also spend a week sunning yourself on the white sand shores of Kenya's idyllic central coast or enjoy upmarket resorts, eateries and bars as you relish breath taking oceanic sites in Malindi and Watamu. If you are a lover of rural settings like me, you could travel all the way to Lake Turkana and enjoy magnificent bare shores and saline waters where the world's largest Nile crocodile lives.

Baecation

Hang out with your bae or partner at a location far away from home for an extended period of time. The uninterrupted time with your bae could help you see their true colours and decide whether you want to spend the rest of your time with them.

Bush Safaris/Bush camp safaris

Bush camp safaris combine going on safari with camping in the bush, for all or part of the holiday. The average cost of a safari in Kenya is USD $3000 for a 10-day safari. Budget safaris cost around $1700 while luxury safaris would cost as much as $10,000. These amounts do not include international flights, visa fees, and medical insurance. You can go to Masai Mara, Tsavo, Samburu, Buffalo

Former CS, Tourism: N. Balala.

Lucy Ng'ang'a.

Springs and Shaba, Meru National Park and Laikipia. Visit between January and March and enjoy the favourable climate.

Beach Holiday Safaris

For calming sparkling waters, coral reefs and eye-catching white-sands shorelines, visit Malindi. While in Malindi, explore the Sawa Sawa Dhow excursions and enjoy a full-day of intimate seafood, snorkeling, and, drum rolls lease and sundowner. You can also visit Watamu and enjoy swimming, beach walks, surfing and water sports. Watamu also houses the Gede Ruins which has indigenous forests, monkeys, shrews and distinct architecture. Alternatively, visit Wasini Island and savour tranquillity, towering palm trees and clear blue skies.

Group Tours

If you are on a budget, a group safari is ideal. Some of the costs on safari are shared, for example the guide fees and the vehicle. Travel in a group of up to seven people in a convoy of two or three vehicles. Most safari packages in Kenya are conducted in 4×4 minivans with a pop-up roof. Most of the operators allow children, with a minimum age limit of three years. A seven-day shared camping tour starts at about US $700 per person. Going up to mid-range prices are around US $1700 per person for one week and luxury tours start at around US $ 2300 per person.

Early in the year, my friends and I decided to travel to Mombasa for a 3-day tour. We used the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and Bonfire Adventures did the booking for us. The inside of the train was fresh, cool and clean with plenty of luggage room overhead and underneath the seats.

Just after the Voi station, one of our friends shouted, 'elephants!'" it was a breathtaking view as we enjoyed the Tsavo wildlife. We boarded our tour vans in Mombasa to Sarova White Sands hotel where we spent the night. Sarova is an expensive hotel, but because we had booked as a group, it was relatively cheaper. The following day we drove to South Coast, crossing the Likoni Ferry enroute to South Coast. In Shimoni, we boarded a tradition Arabic dhow to Wasini Island. We spent a good number of hours searching for dolphins, and then headed to Kisite-Mpunguti Marine National Park. We saw different types of animals and marine fishes. We ate sea and Swahili foods and swam. On the last day of our stay, we went to Malindi where we visited the Gede Ruins. We learnt the history of this Swahili village which was deserted in early 16th century without any possible explanation. We left Mombasa via flight and came back to Nairobi rejuvenated.

Tour Companies Kenya

You don't have to struggle planning a trip. There are more than 300 tour operators in Kenya. Here are some of the most outstanding companies you can contact:

- Bonfire Adventures
- Bountiful Safaris & Tours
- Expeditions Maasai Safaris
- Pollman's Tour & Safaris Ltd
- Expeditions Maasai Safaris
- TrippyGO Tours & Travel
- Express Travel Group

I leave you with a quote from Robert J. Hastings poem, 'The Station' "So, stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefoot oftener, swim more

rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more and cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough".

'The Station' "So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefoot oftener, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more and cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough"
Robert J. Hastings

ADMISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO TO THE EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY

COL J B J RWEYEMAMU
TANZANIA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCE

This article highlights the socio-economic and political dividends (prospects) and challenges accrued to Democratic Republic of Congo upon admission to the East Africa Community in 8th April, 2022.The benefits are derived from economic integration while the challenges are attributed with ceding of State sovereignty to a supra-national entity, the EAC. First, the paper offers a brief background explanation for understanding of the fastest-growing integrated regional bloc.

Background

According to a political science concept of regionalism provided by Joseph Nye, regionalism describes a number of states linked together by a geographical relationship and by a degree of mutual interdependence. Among the notable regional arrangements in the world include; the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Community of West African states, the North American Free Trade Agreement, the South African Development Community, the Southern Common Market and the Union of South American Nations.

Historical development of the EAC is closely associated with the economic and cultural interdependence among the three foundational States, namely; Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The formal establishment of the EAC was achieved in 1967 when the three heads of government in the respective States adopted the Arusha Declaration pronouncing its establishment. The three States utilized the opportunity presented by their attainment of their independence to initiate regional cooperation in trade and other areas of cooperation, presented to them during their pre-colonial period. Whereas, notable economic convergence was achieved, the regional cooperation collapsed on reasons attributed to differences in economic ideological orientation, pursed by the founder States; (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania). The 1977 disintegration (dissolution) of the first EAC regional bloc presents a notable retrogressive account of its historical development since its inception.

The Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community was signed on 30th November 1999 and entered into force on 7 July 2000 following ratification by the initial partner states comprising of the republics of; Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania which was signed in Arusha Tanzania. Therefore, as currently constituted, the EAC is an intergovernmental organization comprising of the seven countries namely; the Democratic republic of Congo, the republics of Kenya, Uganda, the united republic of Tanzania, the republic of Rwanda and that of Burundi ratified the treaty on a later date 18th June 2007. The republic of South Sudan acceded to the EAC treaty on 15th April 2016. The Democratic Republic of Congo is the newest partner State to enter EAC, following its admission to the expanding regional bloc.

Fundamentally, regional integration among the EAC partner States is aimed at deepening and widening mutual cooperation in their political, economic and social-cultural spheres. The EAC partner states established a customs union in 2005 followed by a common market, which entered into force in2010. The regional trading bloc is pursuing adoption of a monetary and fiscal harmonization protocol aimed at achieving a monetary union.

The regional bloc comprises a combined population is about 283.7(2021) million people and a land area of 4.8 million square kilometers with a combined

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
- Burundi
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- South Sudan
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Uganda
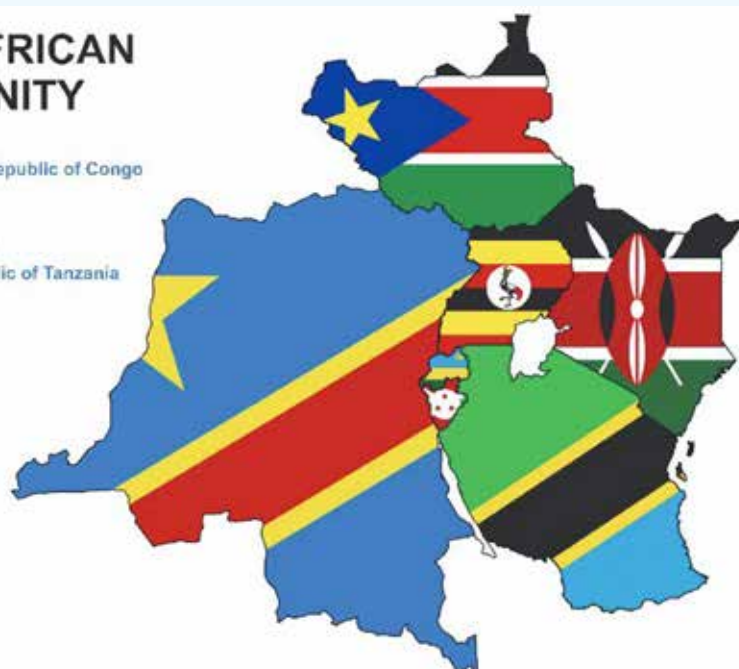
GDP of US$ 305.3 billion (2021). The regional community has achieved the second milestone of integration which is common market where partner states have liberalized their economies in a liberal stance geared towards the attainment of free movement of goods and services as well as free movement of factors of production. Currently, the EAC is implementing a common market protocol while fast-tracking the regional political federation.

Admission of the DRC to EAC

The Democratic Republic of Congo formerly known as Zaire became the seventh member of the East Africa Community after it was admitted to the trading bloc on March 22nd, 2022 at a function held in Kenya's capital city, Nairobi. According the official press communication issued by the government of Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo was formally admitted into the EAC during the 19th extra-ordinary summit of the EAC heads of State and government chaired by President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and attended by the other six heads of governments or their representatives.

The admission of DRC signified the ability of the EAC to expand beyond the socio-economic and cultural ties and accommodate new trading partners and expand opportunities for the citizens of the region. The admission of DRC to the EAC brings to an end a process which started in 2019 when DRC first applied for admission to the regional bloc. The entry of DRC is envisioned to reinvigorate intra-regional trade as well ease movement of people across each partner State's boundaries particularly with the adoption of the newly launched East African passport.

Opportunities and Challenges

Several opportunities emerge from the DRC's admission to the EAC, particularly those premised on trade and free mobility of factors of production, residence and establishment in a geographically expanded common market. A population of more than 300 million people presents a large market appropriate for a meaningful industrial take-off. A producer or manufacturer of goods in Tanzania or in Kenya targeting such a large potential market is encouraged to produce and manufacture more thereby increasing production. Upon the ratification of protocols enabling free movement of goods and services across the DRC's boundaries, an additional market of more than 50 million people will be created. Therefore it shall be easier for businesspersons to venture new markets in Kinshasa with their merchandise enjoying common internal and external tariffs.

Conclusion

The admission of DRC to the EAC broadens the regional market with a combined population of approximately 283.7 million people bringing optimism to the community resulting from economies of scale and pooling of productive human and financial resources. Admission of the DRC to the EAC ensures sharing of the common social infrastructure for instance the Swahili language which has been hailed as a regional lingua franca. Additionally, it is anticipated that DRC's admission will increase regional collective security and end a protracted conflict that has destabilized the entire region and slowed the country's development.

CREATING AWARENESS FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN KENYA

MS L N MAKOSI
KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE

Conservation education is the act of influencing people's behavior in order to help protect wildlife in their wild places. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) with legal mandate to protect wildlife inside and outside Protected Areas, employs conservation education awareness towards bringing local people closer to management of various protected areas in the country. Kenya Wildlife Service Strategic Plan 2019 - 2024 identifies collaboration as one strong pillar towards achievement of the conservation mandate of wildlife conservation and protection in areas inside and outside National Parks and Reserves.

Conservation education awareness dates back to the inception of the first national park in Kenya; the Nairobi National Park in 1946. Nairobi Education Centre opened its gates to visitors in 1946 with the aim of creating awareness on conservation and protection of wildlife either inside or outside of the Nairobi National Park and the country at large. In the wake of expansion of human population across the country, many people started encroaching the wildlife ranges, designated national parks, reserves and other protected areas hence leading to continuous conflicts between them and wildlife due to livestock predation and crop destruction. In retaliation, communities especially the pastoralists started killing wildlife to protect their livestock. This retaliation was emulated by other individuals who engaged in bush meat and large scale poaching in most parts across the country. Conservation Education was therefore used as a soft tool to engage some of the non-hostile communities while the runaway cases were and are up to date handled through the legal frameworks and in accordance with the law i.e. Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, (2013).

Execution of Awareness Programmes

KWS conducts community engagement through various forums including use of opinion leaders who are able to rally people in seeing the sense in protecting wildlife as conveyed by the conservation educators. The Success of Nairobi Education centre necessitated coming up with other satellite

Ostrich birds, Source: KWS

and fully fledged education centres in other Protected Areas of Kenya. The fully fledged Education centres include Tsavo East Education Centre, Murera Education Centre in Meru National Park and Lake Nakuru National Park education centres while information centers are found in almost all National Parks and Reserves including Tsavo West National Park, Watamu Marine, Arabuko Sokoke Forest, Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park and Aberdare National Parks just to name but a few.

Fully fledged education centres have an education hall, hostels and a bus for education tours. Information centers only have a lecture hall and no bus nor hostels, however arrangements utilized to ensure they use their buses for these programmes. Several programmes are employed in passing the information to these target groups who are mostly adults, youth and school going children. These programs are in the form of In-house, outreach or special programmes. In-house programmes is when the groups visits the education centres while outreach is where the Kenya Wildlife Service Educators go out to community and convene meetings popularly known as barazas; which are attended by community groups of a certain area to chart out a way on modes of ensuring harmonious collaborations between them and the Park management. Special programmes entail a blend of either outreach or in-house programme and a possible park visit while celebration of a conservation day or an activity brings the two groups together e.g. tree planting activity, cultural festival among others.

Education Awareness is normally themed depending on the area and the issues at hand and the two groups extensively discuss issues and how each group can contribute towards alleviating the impending issues. With good understanding, opinion leaders are chosen as liaison between the park management and the community groups and this helps in bringing harmony to the two sides. Initial benefits are realized with time because youth and anybody eligible is offered temporary employment whenever available and this helps in bringing change in attitude towards existence of the protected area.

All these community interactions are done by uniformed personnel from Kenya Wildlife Service and this has helped the communities view them as friends unlike before when they could see them as enemies. The collaborations have borne initiative on wildlife enterprises associated with presence of wild animals outside the National Protected Wildlife Parks and Reserves. Some of the community enterprise venture close to protected areas includes selling of beads, wooden artefacts and cultural clothing all which brings some income to these communities while higher magnitude ventures includes setting up wildlife community conservancies and ranches with the expertise guidance from Kenya Wildlife Service.

Conclusion

Public participation in wildlife management has taken cognizant of the government directive also embedded in Kenya Wildlife Service Strategic plan on working with communities around the Protected Areas. Coexistence has never been better and especially now that the National Security is also community entrenched through the community policing. The realization that security operatives cannot work in isolation has led to these approaches which generally have proven advantageous not only to the wildlife sector but to the communities as well. Improved information sharing, reduced illegal wildlife off take and more inclusion of communities into conservation work has increased and consequently increasing various opportunities for socio-economic development across the wildlife range areas. Diverse wildlife enterprises have been borne out of these collaborations coming up in form of licensed community ranches, wildlife conservancies and outlets for souvenir and merchandise in areas once plagued with intense human- wildlife conflicts like Narok and Samburu Counties respectively. Establishment of these facilities have led to increased employment opportunities which then contributed to decline in general wildlife insecurity in and outside the National Protected areas. Public collaboration approach can therefore make a good avenue to handling some institutional challenges emanating from grass root levels; and for Kenya Wildlife Service; a mechanism to realization of 100% zero wildlife poaching.

> With good understanding, opinion leaders are chosen as liaison between the park management and the community groups and this helps in bringing harmony to the two sides.

COVID-19 AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Kenya's economy is partly sustained by the manufacturing sector. Although not developed and large as in the developed countries, the sector plays a key role in employment and wealth creation. It is in this regard that the sector was identified as one of the four pillars in the Big 4 agenda of the then Jubilee Government as policy expected to spur economic growth. Since then, the government and the private sector focused on addressing measures to support the sectors' development. However, in 2020 the manufacturing sector was globally disrupted by the COVID-19 Phenomenon.

The onset of the pandemic triggered a health crisis that escalated to an economic crunch with severe impact on both global demand and supply sides of the economy. Oxford Economics, an independent economics advisory firm reported a global production slowdown in the automotive, textiles and electronics sectors of 13.1%, 8.4% and 7.4% respectively by the end of the first half of 2020 compared to the fourth quarter 2019. The decline was directly associated to introduction of COVID-19 containment measures that ranged from the restriction of movements to shut down of business operations, in some cases. On a wider scale, COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges to supply chains globally. Multiple national lockdowns slowed or even temporarily stopped the flow of raw materials and finished goods, disrupting manufacturing as a result.

The Kenyan Scenario

In Kenya, the pandemic is considered a threat and an opportunity not only to the manufacturing sector but also to the other sectors. As most manufacturing units in Kenya rely on raw materials sourced from other countries, the pandemic seemed to have cut supply of the raw materials due to restrictions of movement imposed by governments in a bid to enforce health protocols. The cost of raw materials increased significantly due to high transportation costs. It is reported that insurance companies increased premium rates for cargo in sea, railways, road and air transport. The increase in cost of transport was occasioned by adherence to health protocols such as periodical testing of staff in the transportation of the goods and

COL E N KITUSYA
KENYA ARMY

a limited number of passengers ferried by public means.

Shut down of some raw material producing outlets worsened the crisis in the supply chains. For example, in most world economies manufacturing units of raw materials to other countries were shut in a bid to reduce the spread of the pandemic. Some countries shunned products from China for fear of contracting the virus. In general, raw materials and other products supporting manufacturing sector in Kenya contracted in quantity thereby reducing production capacity of local industries.

At regional level, the supply chains supporting manufacturing sector in Kenya were adversely affected as well. For example, long queues of trucks transporting cargo across East Africa region were witnessed. The Kenya and Tanzania governments were at loggerheads at one time in clearing the truck drivers. This was similar between Kenya and Uganda as the health protocols were not harmonised. The misunderstanding and uncoordinated approach to addressing common problem caused massive delays in supply chains across the region.

Locally, the pandemic had far reaching ramifications. Indeed, travel restrictions in Kenya reduced movement of people who work in various manufacturing units. Movement in and out of Nairobi Metropolitan region was restricted and the cut in labour supply was further worsened by night curfews. The restrictions implied that demand of some goods that used to be consumed within the hospitality industry declined while the low demand inferred cuts in production capacity.

In general, the supply chains supporting the manufacturing sector in Kenya were affected to unprecedented levels. At local, regional and international levels, supply chains were disrupted thereby contributing to decline of manufacturing outputs. KPMG, a global consulting firm reported that manufacturing sector contracted in two consecutive quarters of 2020. The manufacturing sector output contracted by 3.9% and 3.2% in the second and third quarters of 2020, respectively. The value added by the sector dropped to KES 183 billion in the third quarter from KES 191 billion realised in the first quarter.

Given the importance of the manufacturing sector in Kenya, the effects of the pandemic necessitated a change of focus for enterprises to stay afloat during the turbulent times. Reducing costs, retaining jobs, and improving cashflow were the main priorities for businesses. For players in manufacturing sector, the pandemic provided an opportunity for reengineering responsiveness of the supply chains at local, regional and international levels. A survey by Ernest and Young indicates that enterprises in the US planned for shake up of their supply chain strategies to ensure they become more resilient, collaborative, and networked with customers, suppliers, and other stakeholders. Kenya is not an exception.

Conclusion

In Kenya, as the manufacturing sector is supporting the economy in terms of employment and wealth creation among others, focus on recovery is therefore critical. The pandemic has clearly provided an opportunity not only to the entrepreneurs but also to the government and other industry players to develop strategies that will promote resilience. Manufacturing sector players are therefore expected to have in place contingency plans during emergencies. The plans for supplies should be cost effective, predictable and sustainable. Further, governments are expected to promote coordinated responses in a bid to reduce challenges in the supply chains. With these expected responses, Kenya's manufacturing sector is expected to be responsive to challenges of COVID-19.

THE EGUNGUN VAMPIRES DEVOURS MODERN CIVILIZATION

COL G O OHNDYL

KENYA AIR FORCE

Welcome to this satirical read on modern time political, economic and social comics! The imagination was ignited by Commandant's hilarious comments on 29th June 2022, during the opening ceremony of *NDC Course 25/2022-23*. One key objective of this course is to develop high level conceptual thinkers and strategists.

The colorful ceremony was a powerful and mind blowing event. Today the planet is in turmoil, the earth is on fire and the ravaging heat is burning life out of humanity with ferocity. The vulnerable populationis spluttered across the continents facing existential threats (UN, Annual Report, 2021).

The drums of war, armed conflicts, diseases, hunger, starvation, insecurity, famine, climate change, disasters, environmental pollution…inthe 21st Century. You may probably ask, Why is this happening now? Is someone responsible? Is the world irresponsible? Are there people benefitting from this situation? Does International Relations really matter? Is man naturally destructive? Is it true that power corrupts and corrupts absolutely? As I continue to grapple with imaginations on these issues, allow me to take you back to the course opening ceremony!

During the ceremony, the auditorium was full of interludes of laughter, happiness and tears of joy filling the air. Commandant's metaphorical mention of *Egungun vampires* continued to evoke laughter, joy, fear, terror, horrorand new nick-names at the same time. Like a playwright, he narrated to the audience terrifying experiences of a long-time friend interaction with *Egungun Vampires* in West of Africa, traditionally rich in heritage, culture, believes, rituals and metaphysics.Indeed no human would dream to face off with the dreadful *Egungun vampires* on the ready to haul and maul mankind!

These *Egungun vampires* have fearlessly descended on the planetwith a scorching excoriation on defenseless mankind as affirmed by *OGA Col Toskin Ayoola* from that part of the world. It is saddening that no leader nor their agents (coalition of the elites) are ready to mediate with the *Egungun vampires*. It's an orchestration of powergames as noted by *Wole Soyinka* in his latest book, *Chronicles from the land of the happiest people on earth (2021)*. In this great piece, Soyinka releases a scathing indictment of political abuse of power and corruption bedeviling modern society. Its Sodom and Gomorrah, the wicked and sinful cities of biblical chronicles.

The human landscape, cascading from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Libya, Tunisia, Central African Republic, Mozambique…. countless nationalities littering the surface of the earth arising from armed conflicts and war. This unprecedented crisis has exacerbated human suffering, essential commodity shortages, high cost of living, insecurity, health and environmental challenges. These occurrences are reminiscent of the ancient and medieval war periods shocking to re-emerge christened *contemporary intra-state, non-international armed conflicts in the 21st Century.*

These dire humanitarian situations littering modern society have left us with more answers than questions. The greedy nature of man seeking power betrays his purpose of existence in society. The widely proclaimed and highly abused people's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, are just but dead scripts and withered memorial plaques buried in

constitutional graves. Thanks to the private interests and wild insanity of the ruling elites.

Russians second invasion of Ukraine on 24th February 2022, following the 2014 invasion and annexation of *Crimea,* further seeking quick fix solutions against mammoth NATO influence to further annex *Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson* and *Zaporizhiato* keep the *Egungun vampires* a distant away from her borderline. This military action has caused massive refugees influx into Europe estimated at 8.4 million people and a third of the population has been displaced internally (Mankoff, 2022). Both leaders; Vladimr Putin and Volodymyr Zelenskyy continue to hold hardline positions betrayed by the spirits of nationalism (Kissinger, 2021).

These vampires have thrown the world into world economic crisis. As Ukraine continues to rally military aid and financial support from allies, the world humanity is grappling with social-economic and security challenges arising from the conflict. The UN continues to bark helplessly from the sunshine of New York City with no heed from the protagonists to stop the war. The world fossil energy and commodity prices have risen threefold spiraling global inflations that continue to push the lower bottom population into extreme poverty, starvation and suffering.

The Russian-Ukrainian conflict has added more salt to injuries caused by COVID-19 pandemic (2019-2022). The emergency of the deadly severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) broke out in December 2019 like forest fire consuming over six (6) million people in the world and left behind tattered economies (Sumitra and Chhetri, 2021).

These are the shadow reality of power politics, *the mammoth monster of spiritual chaos* that rules the anarchic international system characterized by vicious cooperation, competition, containment and conflicts.

As the world powers throttle their beautiful planes high in the sky carrying happy passengers in pursuit of strategic interests leveraging on their political, economic and technological supremacy, in contrast, the developing world is struggling on the ground carting sick mules with unhappy horrified sick, poor and hungry passengers. The developing world is caught and caged up by the unfair global policies of the world powers which are strategically shadowed in both bilateral and multilateral treaties. To them, the ways and the means do not matter, what matters to them is survival for their nation-states. Then, turning to would have been the gods, the supernatural intervening powers, metaphorical healers, they are nowhere, they have been scorched in acid by the greedy *Egungun vampires,* the local elites in cahoots' with their foreign counterparts! The poor mankind in developing world have no safe place to turn nor hide from the powerful and influential world vampire tribulations before fellow men! And as reflected in *Wole Soyinka's novel, the Trials of Brother Jero, it's a world full of deception and trickery. Its life potent with lies and lies and potent lies rule the world of politics, economics and social landscape perpetrated by coalition of elite predators!*

THIRD-CULTURE KIDS

MS B M MUTHIGANI
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

When people think of diplomats, what comes to mind is diplomatic privilege, immunity, glitzy lifestyle, big houses and cars. The same is also the case, when it comes to high-flying expatriates working for big multinational companies, international civil servants, such as those working for the United Nations and other international organizations, military personnel who are deployed abroad as well as missionaries. As these "expatriates" relocate from their home countries to live abroad for mostly career-related reasons, many are accompanied by their immediate families, specifically their children. The ease of travel, availability of education opportunities in international schools, and good medical facilities have made the decision by parents to take their children along an easy one.

Little heed has however been paid to the experiences of these children who accompany their parents on their rendezvous abroad. Their internationally mobile, jet-setting childhood, education in premier schools and life in major capitals of the world are the envy of their peers. They find themselves operating in a rather peculiar environment whereby they become detached from the culture of their "passport countries" and find themselves being raised in countries that have cultures that are diverse from their own. This becomes even more complex if the parents are frequently transferred from one country, or culture, to another. In the process of traversing the cultures and not fully belonging to either one, the children begin to develop their own peculiar culture as they interact with other children in similar circumstances.

In studying this phenomenon, Pollock and Van Reken have referred to these children as "Third Culture Kids" or TCKs in short, in their book "Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds" (2009). They have defined a TCK as *"a person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside the parents' culture. The TCK frequently builds relationships with all of the cultures, while not having full ownership in any. Although elements from each of these cultures may be assimilated into the TCK's experience, the sense of belonging is in relationship to others of similar ground."* Consequently, their "home culture" becomes the first culture, followed by the culture of their temporarily adopted country, while their

"in-between" culture is the third one.

Having served Kenya as a diplomat in Belgium, Australia and Oman, I realized that this description easily fitted my two daughters. The following perspectives are elicited from their TCK experiences: While it is a joy and privilege to live in other countries, it comes with some drawbacks. Leaving all friends, teachers, family and acquaintances behind when it is time to move from one country to another is usually one of the biggest challenges that they faced, regardless of whether they are moving from their home country to another country or vice versa. Detaching themselves from the familiar environment into the unknown is always a struggle. Perpetually being "the new girl" in the many new schools can take its toll on the children as they try to fit in into the already existing groupings of friendships.

Living in different countries entails going through different education curricula. For instance, the Australian curriculum is very different from the Kenyan 8-4-4 curriculum, the British curriculum or even IGCSE that are pursued by international schools. The different curricula come with diverse education and learning cultures and teaching methods which, if not managed properly, have the potential to confuse the young minds. After having started their formative schooling in Australia, my daughters struggled to fit into the Kenyan system of education upon their return home. Joining a school where corporal punishment was practiced was a major culture shock for them. An incident that stood out was when they were punished for not knowing Kiswahili. This was besides the fact that the teachers had been briefed that it was more or less their first time to fully interact with the language, in a formal setting. They eventually had to leave the school and join the more familiar British system of education.

Another drawback of being a TCK is the issue of identity. Movement across cultures engenders the process of assimilation where children pick up habits from their newly acquired friends. My youngest daughter, for instance, had a thick Australian accent when we moved back to Kenya, but it vanished within the first school term. Their schoolmates weren't used to hearing people who spoke like her and hence made fun of how she spoke, by mimicking her. Thereafter, when we moved to Oman, she had a confused British/American/Arab accent, which she also quickly got rid of when we once again moved back to Kenya and she joined a different school. As a result of her mobile upbringing, she tends to easily switch her accent depending on who she is talking with; to the point where she is not quite sure which accent is her real one.

In other instances, children may be unable or are slow to adapt to new and strange environments. Some are easily confused by the disruption of their previously predictable lives. The fact that the eventual expected return to their home country after the tour of duty is a constant reality at the back of their minds may also mean that some children never really settle down in the new country. The disparity in development and standards of living, for example between Nairobi and the other capitals, is similarly a matter that adds to the confusion and restlessness. Such scenarios may easily cause anxiety and depression, which parents may often inadvertently overlook.

The children also bear the burden of being expected to maintain behaviour that is consistent with the goals and values of their parents' "sponsoring organizations", in order not to jeopardize their parents' careers in the third countries. For instance, children of diplomats are expected to observe certain ethos and behaviour that are in tandem with their parents' diplomatic careers in order

> Children may be unable or are slow to adapt to new and strange environments. Some are easily confused by the disruption of their previously predictable lives.

not to cause any embarrassments or related incidences. This is a big burden for the young ones.

These drawbacks notwithstanding, the "nomadic" life can still be an amazing experience to TCKs as they get to interact with all sorts of cultures, weather, people and religion, thus widening their knowledge and perspectives of the outside world. They get an expanded worldview, learn new languages and life skills by living in different environments compared to if they stayed in the same country or town their whole childhood. They get to make diverse connections with other children from far and wide, and which can now be sustained for life, thanks to the era of social media.
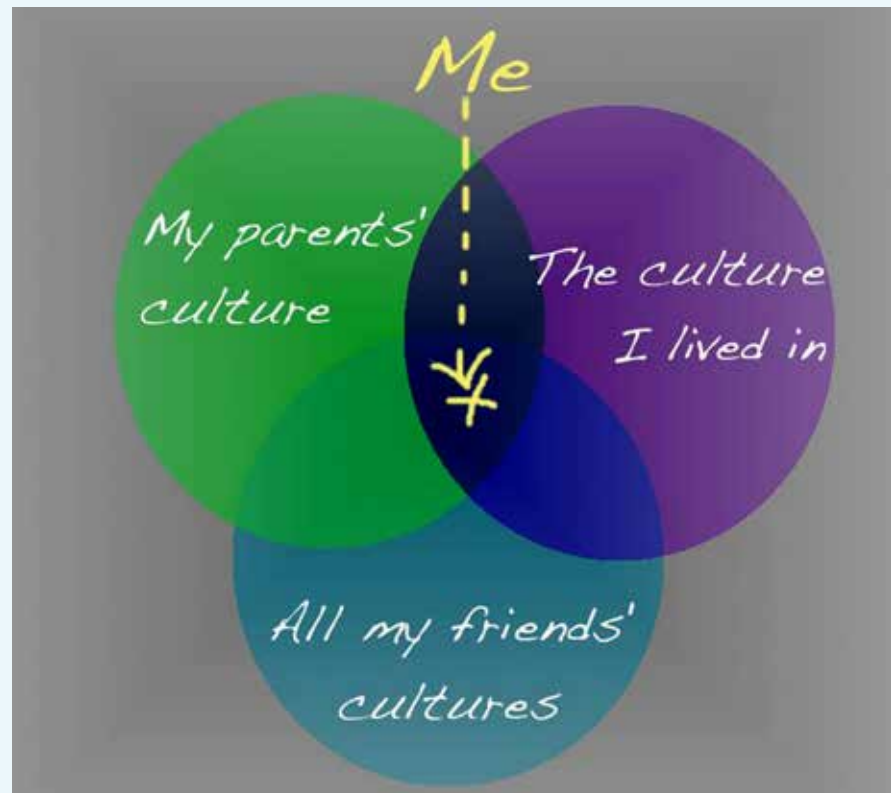
"STRANGE DISEASES" AND IMMIGRATION PROTOCOLS

MR W N MUGO
DIRECTORATE OF IMMIGRATION

When in December 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health Committee of Hubei Province in China reported of 27 cases of pneumonia whose cause could not be readily identified, few in the world took any special notice. However, by March 2020 when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of a pandemic, the world was in a frenzy as it sought to limit the deaths and sickness occasioned by the deadly disease.

On July 26, 2022, the WHO declared the spread of monkeypox a global health emergency. The disease now joins COVID-19 and polio as the other diseases that WHO has ever declared as global health threats. With 16,000 infections recorded in 75 countries worldwide, the WHO was right declare monkeypox an international health emergency.

Just one month before this declaration on June 28 2022, WHO had taken note of the outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD) which had claimed the lives of two people in Ashanti region in Ghana. MVD which is a viral hemorrhagic fever is also said to be epidemic prone and deadly due to its high case mortality ratios.

As previous pandemics, including HIV/AIDS, H1N1, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Ebola have taught us, unknown, incurable and highly communicable diseases not only tend to disrupt normal lives but also give rise to all manner of myths, misconceptions and half-truths as health authorities and the public seek to understand the new phenomenon and contain it.

Strange Diseases

Whereas communities suffer socially, economically and psychologically due to the pandemics, there are certain segments of society which always seem to bear the brunt of these pandemics. Migrants or aliens mostly find themselves in difficult situations because often they are used as scapegoats by governments and health authorities seeking to appease the public and generally seek to come to terms with the new threat. Being outsiders, migrants are often looked at as carriers of these strange diseases.

This was the case with the 2003 SARS which was used to stigmatize New York's Chinatown residents as being responsible for the spread of the flu. The same scenario was witnessed during 2009 H1N1 pandemic when some US anti-immigrant groups suggested that the influenza may have been brought into the US by illegal aliens.

Monkeypox which is said to be endemic to parts of Africa is already being used by some to stigmatize Africans with images in the international media driving the narrative that the disease is an Africa disease though the truth is that the disease is spreading internationally and not discriminating black, brown or white communities.

Stigma and Discrimination

Over the years people with HIV/AIDS have suffered discrimination and stigma for their status including being denied entry into some countries as it was feared they would indiscriminately infect their hosts despite there being no medical justification for many of these fears.

Though migration plays a very crucial part in the socio-economic development of many countries, the emergence of COVID-19 gave rise to incidences of xenophobia and discrimination against migrants.

Reports abound of people of Asian and European descent being targeted in many parts of the world as they were associated with the spread of the pandemic as were Africans who were also profiled in some Chinese cities as potential carriers. In some instances physical and verbal abuses were directed to them stemming from erroneous and fake information spread through social media.

This discrimination and stigmatization can be attributed to the reaction of some national governments and their public health officials undertaking measures that their populations wrongfully interpreted to mean that the crisis is solely as a result of migrants living among them.

Policy and Hysteria

As happened following the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the 9/11 attacks in the US, there is a high likelihood that immigration will be impacted negatively in the months and years to come. International travel and the acceptance of migrants which is already perilous will undoubtedly become more complicated.

As countries seek to limit further spread as well as avoid the spread of new diseases, they will be forced to close their international borders and make it harder for people to enter and reside in their countries. This will further entrench stigmatization and discrimination of migrants and make their lives even more difficult.

This doomsday scenario can however be nipped in the bud if the international community takes deliberate action to ensure that migrants will continue to play a crucial role in promoting economic and social recovery following the disruptions witnessed as a result of the pandemics.

Conclusion

Governments should avoid formulating policies and regulations driven by fear and mass hysteria to limit and curtail migration. They should instead enact laws based on scientific understanding of the public health diseases devoid of myths and fake news. To counter the false narrative of migrants being carriers of diseases states must seek to give factual information to its masses while highlighting the importance of migration to national and international development.

As the WHO Director General, Tedros Adhanom aptly observed "Our greatest enemy right now is not the virus itself. Its fear, rumours and stigma. Our greatest assets are facts, reason and solidarity".

Source: Face-to-Face Africa, (2014)

THE TRADITIONAL SOMALI WEDDING

DR. I MOHAMMED
DIRECTORATE OF VETERINARY SERVICES

In many if not all African communities, weddings are held in high esteem as communal events. Marriage in the Somali community is considered to be a religious duty as well a social necessity. The married the woman is absorbed into the man's clan, though she retains connections to her original clan. Weddings run for three days and three nights.

The festivities are marked by singing, dancing and feasting by all involved. On the first day, there's feasting of rice and meats prepared in the traditional Somali way. During this time, wedding contract is formalized. The women's party is held at night after the two families come to an agreement. The bride wears a white dress while the rest wear *Dirac's* of different colours. The *Dirac* is usually made of silk chiffon and is very expensive. Being worn only once there are cheaper but still stylish alternatives made of polyester or nylon. *Dirac's* are translucent thus men are not invited to the women's dance parties at night. Ironically, many of these dances are filmed and copies availed to anyone who attended the wedding if they so desire.

Somali weddings consist of two rituals. First, is the *nikah,* which is the wedding ceremony consisting of reading the Quran verses by the elders and the exchange of vows. When the couple is declared man and wife, women burst into ululations. The second ritual is the *aroos* which is mainly an after party to celebrate the bride and groom and their families. But before all this can happen, men usually need to seek consent of the woman's parents before they can begin dating. The dates are always chaperoned and when he wants to ask for her hand in marriage it is preferable that he also has his own parents present.

The men elders are the ones who ask for the hand of the bride during *nikah.* The preliminary dowry negotiations are done by the male elders and are called *dadabgal.* Bride's parents determine the amount of the dowry. The dowry consists of monies and gifts which are given to the bride's parents, aunts, uncles plus a general amount for the bride. These steps are very formal and the families take pride in both giving and receiving as the groom and his family are able to show their respect and social standing from their gifting and how they present themselves.

The groom's family caters for wedding expenses while the bride's family fine tune's the wedding preparations. After the *nikah,* the *sooryo,* i.e. money given to the bride's family, is divided among relatives of the bride. Culturally, Somali brides usually remain at home for seven days after the wedding. After a week, women hold

Source: Taarifa, Rwanda, (2021)

a celebration for the bride. Here the bride wears the traditional *guntiino* with beads.

The guests make merry while adorning the bride with scarves on her head called *(shaash)*. It's an event known as *Shaash Saar*, which basically means putting the scarf on the bride's head. Women elders get the bride ready for her new home. They make sure that she has a comfortable home. They go about decorating her house. During the ceremony and one week after, elderly women are in charge of the bride's makeup. Before the *nikah,* these women wash the bride in a solution containing dates and other scents and decorate her arms and legs with *henna.* Nowadays, they take the bride to the salon to get her hair done.

The *shaash* is usually made of silk and symbolize a woman is married. After a week the bride's family feeds and gifts the groom family. The food is placed in *xeedho,* which are traditional containers before being wrapped in cloth and tied tightly. Nowadays in wealthy families, the bride and groom arrive in stretched limousines. They are conspicuously and ostentatiously dressed in matching robes with the bride having on a lavish headdress. There's usually a lot of time taken on investing on the details of the marriage as the groom must prove that he is capable of financially catering for his bride.

Nowadays wedding preparations are held in different countries as people travel due to business commitments and settling in foreign lands. Through technology parents are able to monitor and be part of these ceremonies. The parents and elders are crucial part of these weddings. The groom/bride clan is paramount. It's considered a taboo a non-relative to the bride/groom inviting a female to the wedding.

Nowadays two ceremonies of the wedding are held.

The first one is held in mosque officiated by an imam. It's usually very conservative as no music is played Men and women are separated by a curtain though they follow proceedings in real time. The other ceremony is held in the evening in a hotel ballroom or social hall and is more liberal in ambience as men and women mingle. Music, food and drink are freely available. Weddings in the Somali culture are joyous events as everyone usually smiles at the groom and bride, offering them good tidings and gifts, but they are not without controversy as many times disagreements arise between the family of the groom and bride due to dowry negotiations and how much should be spent on the ceremony.

Women in this community seem to be the most fascinated by weddings.

Weeks before the marriage ceremony, groups of women can usually be found gossiping about the upcoming event. They talk about the families, the dowry being offered, their ages and their relations.

In Somalia and north eastern parts of Kenya, wedding ceremonies cannot be held during drought seasons since many of them are nomadic communities and this is the time that resources must be used frugally. The Somalis in the Diaspora, they mostly prefer not to hold weddings during the cold seasons. It seems through all the turmoil the Somali people go through, that has affected many of their modern institutions; marriage in the Somali culture will last.

Source: Taarifa, Rwanda, (2021)

GRAVITY-DEFYING HILL IN KENYA

"Strange Natural Phenomenon explained"

COL J K MUTUA
KENYA ARMY

History and Origin of *Kyamwilu* Hill

Kyamwilu hill in Machakos County also known as *Kituluni* hill is a mystical location where bizarre natural phenomenon appears to defy Laws of Gravity and topography which postulates that anything that falls or rolls downward, flows in response to differences in potential energy (from high to low). The history of *Kyamwilu* hill has two dimensions with regard to its origin as explained by the native Kamba legends. First is that of the mythical story that explains the sacrifices made at the hill to appease the ancestors and seek favours from them, such as bringing rain or casting out evil spirits. The

second version that led to the name change from *'Kituluni* hill' is that of existence of a beautiful woman who was married to two men – *Kyalo* and *Mwilu.* The norm of the time among the Kamba community allowed polygamous marriage but this polyandrous union was unheard of. Interestingly, the trio made it work. The woman was said to rest by a stream that separated the men's homes to decide which man she would visit each night. When the two men died, they were buried in their respective homes and the woman returned to hers. The Kambas believe, due to their rivalry over the said woman, the two men still fight over the woman in the after-life causing a strong pull towards the uphill side hence, the name *'Kyamwilu."* a portmanteau of the names of the men in the myth.

Location of *Kyamwilu* Hill

Machakos is County number 016; Kyamwilu hill is 12 kilometers from Machakos town along the Mutituni–Kivutini tarmac road. A visit to the hill will give you a scintillating experience of the tortuous twists and turns of the road. Machakos town is approximately 60 kilometers southeast of Nairobi and surely a place worthy to visit and witness this mystery of gravity defying powers.

The Myth

According to myth chasers, the phenomena defeats Isaac Newton's famous first Law of motion in a drifting topography. Factually, there are a number of bewildering 'mystery spots' across the world that appear to defy gravitational edicts - places where cars seem to drift uphill and cyclists struggle to push themselves downhill. These bizarre natural phenomena can be found in places like Confusion hill in California and Magnetic hill in Canada. *Kyamwilu* hill has the dubious distinction of being one of the places in the world where water flows uphill unaided. Tales are told that walking around the hill seven times can turn a man into a woman or vice versa although nobody will attest to having met a man or a woman who had undergone a change in sex as result of *Kyamwilu.* The sex change tale is not new to the native Kamba nation. Infact it is so much pronounced in Kitui County at the monumental *Nzambani* rock, a few kilometers from the town. Perhaps it has something to do with the mystical powers that these places supposedly hold. While these gravity defying hills have inspired rumours of witchcraft and giant magnets buried in the countryside, the actual scientific explanation will have you questioning every slope you encounter.

The dynamo effect theory posits that a celestial body such as earth or stars generates its magnetic field. Scientists have suggested that due to strong magnetic forces, a magnetic field in the one square kilometer around the hill where the strange phenomenon is experienced is responsible for overpowering the force of gravity. Like *Kyamwilu* hill, all gravity hills around the world, have one thing in common - if you drive your car to the bottom of the hill and put it on neutral gear, it will proceed to roll back up the slope while water poured onto the road flows uphill. So what's actually goes on here? Scientists explain that these bizarre phenomena are elaborate optical
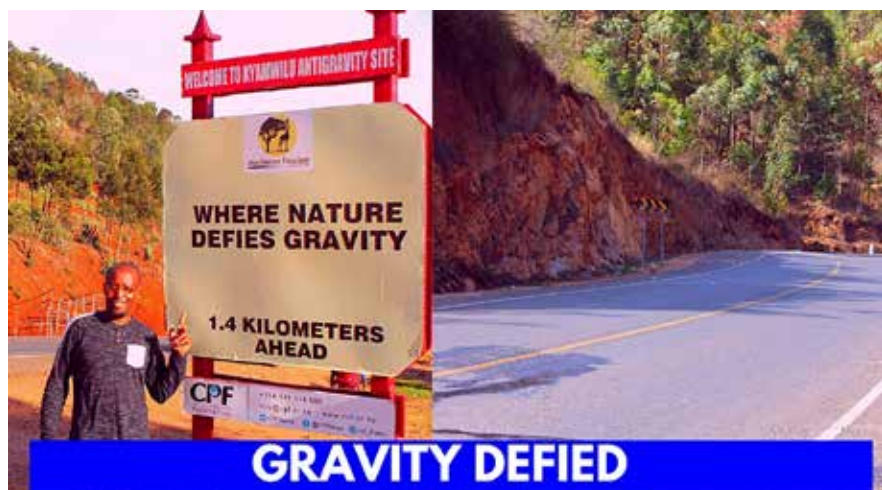
Tourists experimenting with water at Kyamwilu.

illusions - illusion so good that it would be impossible to believe without proper instruments. They hold that if you get survey equipment or global positioning station markers to actually measure the difference between the 'top' of the slope and the 'bottom', you'll realize that everything is actually in reverse. "The embankment is sloped in a way that gives you the effect that you are going uphill,"

Materials physicist Brock Weiss from Pennsylvania State University told *Discoveries and Breakthroughs in Science* (2006). "You are, indeed, going downhill, even though your brain gives you the impression that you're going uphill." But if a hill is physically sloping one way - so much so that cars actually gain quite a bit of momentum when they start drifting 'up' - how could our eyes trick us so bad every time? According to psychologists, it's all about the horizon - either it's obscured in areas with gravity hills, so we don't have a proper point of reference, or the horizon is there, but it obscures how the hill slopes in relation to the rest of the landscape.

Perspective is Everything

Researchers from the Universities of Padova and Pavia in Italy looked into how the absence of a horizon can also skew our perspective on gravity hills by recreating a number of real-life 'antigravity' places

in the lab to see how volunteers would react. They built tabletop models of several gravity hills around the world, and got volunteers to peep at them through a hole that gave them the perspective of actually being there. They then messed around with the horizon in the model to see how that would affect the volunteers' perspective on which way the slope ran. They found that without a true horizon in sight, landmarks such as trees and signs actually played tricks on the volunteers' brains. The visual effects obtained in the experiments were in all respects analogous to those experienced on site. After each observer's task was concluded, where a small roll of tape placed on the misperceived slope appeared to move against the law of gravity - producing surprise and reverential fear.

Conclusion

Even with scientific explanations above, the phenomenon at *Kyamwilu* hill along Machakos – Mutituni road where nature defies classical physics is a worthy life experience. The surrounding environment, the terrain slope, trees and the other features in the area disapprove the researchers' laboratory explanations. As the old adage goes 'Seeing is believing'. This location *Kyamwilu* is a mind boggling experience that I can only leave to you to discern by paying a visit. A Sunday afternoon when

traffic is low, the area is flocked by curious local and international tourists trying to match researcher's argument with real life experience. It is a worthy family outing experience, make a point and experience physics gravity laws defied.

As the old adage goes 'Seeing is believing'. This location Kyamwilu is a mind boggling experience that I can only leave to you to discern by paying a visit.

PICTURES SPEAK

Commandant NDC delivering his welcoming speech to Course No. 25 participants.

Members of Seminar A.

Course No. 25 Group Dynamics.

CEO Safaricom PLC, Mr Peter Ndegwa delivering Lecture of opportunity to Course No. 25.

PICTURES SPEAK

Arrival of CS MOD, Eugene Wamalwa for the Course No. 25 2022/23 opening ceremony.

CS ICT, Joe Mucheru delivering Lecture of opportunity to Course No. 25.

Course No. 25 Group Dynamics.

Members of Seminar B.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND DEVIANT BEHAVIOR IN YOUTH

The social media phenomenon began in 1997 following the establishment of the first social networking site, Six Degrees, which allowed users to create online profiles and interact through comments and messaging. From then, other social media sites began to emerge, and now their use has become an important part of modern society. Scholars define social media as a virtual space of interaction and communication through dialogue, comments, chat, and photography. These features have attracted millions of users who have stayed connected to their families, and friends, expressed their opinions, shared ideas, and consumed knowledge and information. Youth make up the largest user proportion of the social media sites, such as Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, Snap Chat, and WhatsApp. It is undeniable that these social networking sites have played a key role in influencing youth behaviour.

Deviant behaviour connotes the actions or behavioural patterns that violate the norms, values, and culture, such as drug abuse, violence, excessive drinking, and irresponsible sexual behaviour, to mention a few. Youth experimentation with alcohol and drugs is not unusual. However, social media sites have enhanced their exposure to substance abuse. They consume content from social networking sites that glamorize and normalize behaviour such as binge drinking, illicit drug use, and abuse of prescription drugs. A study conducted at Colombia University established that young adults who are regular users of social media have a high likelihood of using illicit drugs and alcohol compared to those who use social sites less frequently. Social media sites have provided a platform where highly influential people, such as famous musicians upload pictures of themselves drinking alcohol. The adverts on the social

COL E O OWINO
KENYA ARMY

sites portray the wealthy and the socially successful using various alcohol brands. These actions desensitize young people to the dangers of this behaviour. The ability of social media to influence behavioural choices can be explained through Albert Bandura's social learning theory. This theory explains that humans learn by observing the attitudes and behavioural patterns of others within their social environment. Since social media has become virtual spaces of interaction, young people are lured into alcohol and drugs by observing the behaviours of persons they admire.

Cyberbullying is another worrisome issue across all demographics because of its negative psycho-social consequences on the victims, such as anxiety, depression, embarrassment and isolation. These effects can culminate in suicide. Cyberbullying includes sharing, sending, or posting false, harmful, or negative content about a person. Social media exposes young people to this risk. Twitter is one of the largest social networking site that has been studied for manifestations of this abusive behaviour. In one of these studies, cyberbullying was found to be pervasive. The study also established that messages spreading negative content tend to involve groups of people. More people are falling victims of cyberbullying as one of the studies found that 20-40 percent of young people who are social media users have been bullied on social media, and six percent admitted to perpetrating cyberbullying. The anonymity that the social platforms provide is one of the factors that encourage the act of cyberbullying. The constant barrage of harassment and insults on the victims causes them to engage in self-harming behaviour and develop suicidal thoughts. It has contributed significantly to increase in the rate of youth suicide across the globe.

How much is too much social media for teenagers? (Courtesy katv.com)

Illegal drugs (Courtesy istockphoto.com)

Studies show that social media also propagates risky sexual behaviour among the youth. Social sites are increasingly exposing impressionable youth to content that feature sexual risk. The risky sexual behaviour include maintaining multiple sexual partners and engaging in unprotected sex. These types of behaviour predispose the youth to several sexually transmitted diseases. There is also a high risk of unwanted pregnancies, which increases their likelihood of seeking unsafe abortion procedures. A study that was conducted by Plan International in 2019 showed that 98 percent of pregnancies among 15-19 year-old girls across nine counties in Kenya were unintended. 45 percent of the respondents reported they were also undergoing severe abortion complications after engaging in unsafe abortion practices. Additionally, social media exposes young people to illicit sexual content, which causes them to develop permissive sexual attitudes, engage in unsafe sexual practices, and strengthen attitudes toward sexual violence.

The integration of social media into the daily life of young people has allowed it to be a vehicle through which they can propagate acts of violence. Social media exposes young people to photos and videos that show groups or individuals engaging in acts of violence. Some of the social media accounts show the content of people being

Young couple arguing. (Courtesy istockphoto.com)

disrespected, harmed, or humiliated, which may create pressure among other youth to retaliate to protect their individual or group association status and reputation. Continual exposure to violent content may result in imitative violent behaviour, heightened feelings of hostility, and acceptance of violent behaviour. Violent groups also use social networking sites as platforms for recruiting. Terrorist groups use social media to recruit foreign fighters. They use platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube to lure young people into fighting for their causes. Social media presents

several advantages to extremist groups, such as informal communication channels not bound by national jurisdictions.

Based on the analysis above, it can be concluded that social media plays a critical role in promoting deviant behaviour among youths. The youth represent the future of nations, and so this analysis demonstrates that social media deserves attention from all necessary stakeholders including learning institutions, social organizations, and security groups to develop strategies that will help the youth avoid the danger zones of social media.

SOMALIA: UNTOLD STORIES OF REMAKING A NATION

COL F M WAMBURA
KENYA NAVY

For three (3) decades, Somalia has remained one of the world's most conflict-afflicted state, due to existence of multiple threats to the Country's

stability. The nascent federal system remains weak and plagued by self-interests and clan manipulation. This is further compounded by mistrust and disagreements among Somali political elites, particularly between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and its Federal Member States (FMS) on one hand and the ultra-extremists, Al-Shabaab (AS) and the Islamic State in Somalia (IS) on the other hand. This is particularly so due to their stark ideological variance with the government.

Since the reconstitution of the Somalia state in 2000 under the Arta conference in Djibouti that was pegged on a clan-based formula, the country has made very limited progress in advancing democracy and good governance. This in turn, has generated what seems to be an incessant political instability and government ineffectiveness, in terms of preventing random outbreaks of

violence and offering nationwide security and service delivery.

With a grossly inadequate and poorly resourced national security force that is often swayed by clan loyalty, the Somali government remains in place courtesy of the African Union Mission in Somalia and limited security support by international partners.

The re-election of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in May 2021, replacing immediate former President Mohamed Abdullah Farmajo following prolonged period of uncertainty and heightened tensions promises semblance of order to the war-torn country albeit being done behind schedule.

Former President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo's term ended on 8 February 2021, but he remained in office without legal cover until mid-April 2021; when he attempted to

extend his term for two additional years through House of the People (Lower House Parliament). This sparked political and security chaos in the country, putting it on the verge of sinking back into a new civil war. The crisis led to splits in the Somali security forces, resulting into violence in Mogadishu featuring exchanges of fire in vicinity of the presidential palace. Cancellation would have otherwise extended the former president's stint in office for two years.

Under pressure from the streets and Somalia's international partners, the immediate former president reluctantly reversed the decision to extend his term culminating in a political agreement that excluded him from managing the electoral process. The responsibility of organizing fresh elections was then assigned to the FGS Prime Minister (PM) Mohamed Hussein Roble.

Several Somalia nationals have played crucial roles in the war-ravaged country's re-establishment efforts since and few of them stand out.

When the history of the ninth president of Somalia Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed *aka* Farmajo is written, the role of his former intelligence chief Fahad Yasin Dahir will feature prominently. Fahad Yasin first served as Farmaajo's chief of staff in 2017, then became deputy Director General (DG) National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) before becoming its boss a year later. Fahad Yasin went on to become the National Security Adviser following his removal as NISA DG after the fiasco with the then Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble. He was reportedly the brains behind Farmaajo's presidency and worked hard to keep him in power.

According to media sources, a shrewd and ruthless power player, Fahad Yasin played critical roles in the administration of the Islamic Courts Union in 2006, current President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's first term between 2012 and 2017 and President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed aka Farmaajo's term between 2017 and 2022.

It should, however, be remembered that Fahad Yasin once worked for Farmajo's predecessor Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as his deputy campaign manager but is said to have lost favour. Fahad Yasin, Salafist came into prominence in Somalia as early as 2006.

Fahad will go down in history as an expert who led the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA), but according to media reports; maintained links with the Al-Shabaab insurgency group that fought the very government he served.

Caught with his hand in the cookie jar but determined to continue playing king maker of Somalia politics, Fahad Yassin went ahead to seek a parliamentary seat in Beledweyne, HirShabelle state. His election was, however, rescinded by the electoral body.

Although millions of dollars have been pumped into Somalia from United States, the European Union, Turkey, and Qatar among others, to combat terrorism during his tenure as NISA boss, media and stakeholder reports say nothing tangible has been achieved.

Born in Mandera, Kenya in January 1978, Fahad Yasin comes from the Reer Hassan, Hawiye clan and is said to have turned radical in mid 1997 after his step-father was allegedly killed by Ethiopian forces. According to reports, Fahad Yasin might have lived in one of Kenya's many refugee camps thereafter. He is also reported to have trained as a Qatari intelligence informant, the links he used to channel millions of dollars used to buy 'friendly' Somalia members of parliament to support Farmajo. Several behind-the-scenes underhand deals that critically influenced Somalia politics have been attributed to his activities.

Somalia media attribute the devastating October 2017 Al-Shabaab attack on Mogadishu in which over 500 people died to the replacement of old guards at NISA by his Islamist allies. The suicide bombing that killed the Governor/Mayor of Banadir region, Abdirahman Omar Osman is a case in point. He was at the helm during the disappearance of a 24-year-old female NISA operative Ikran Tahliil Farah who was abducted from her Mogadishu home on the night of 26 June 2021 by suspected NISA colleagues.

An expert communicator who previously worked for Al Jazeera news agency and Al Jazeera Centre for Studies, Fahad is said to have run Somalia's NISA with a tight fist. While some sources claim he travelled to Yemen for religious studies, others opine that he travelled to Pakistan. It is at the International Islamic University in Islamabad, Pakistan that he was introduced by his clansman Farah Sheikh to a Palestinian classmate Wadar Khanfar who was chief editor of the Qatari based Al Jazeera news network. Fahad initially worked as a religious tutor for Khanfar's children before relocating to Somalia in 2005 as Al Jazeera stringer when Islamists took over the country. While he has been criticized and accused of high-handedness, his participation in Somalia's administration won't be forgotten soon.

When all is said and done, Fahad Yasin's role in the remaking of Somalia will be remembered like that of many others.

REDUCING IMPORT DEPENDENCY FROM THE LENS OF A KDF OFFICER

COL F M NZUKI
KENYA ARMY

Kenya is the biggest economy in Eastern Africa and the third largest economy in Sub-Saharan Africa, coming behind Nigeria and South Africa. The Kenyan economy is a market-based economy with few industries and minimal natural resources. It is also an emerging market but relatively industrialized ahead of its East African peers. Kenya is a middle-income nation and the plan is to become a newly industrialized, middle-income country by 2030 through flagship Vision 2030.

The economic growth, according to the World Bank Outlook in the last 5 years, has been steady with an estimated GDP of $ 95 billion and an expanding growth on an average of about 5.6 percent. The bigger percentage of Kenyan wealth is generated through agriculture, tourism and industrial production. Kenya engages in the international trade through a complex web of import and export businesses that handles distribution and delivery of goods from one nation to another. Kenya import volumes are higher than its exports therefore creating a trade deficit. The exports are primarily agricultural produce including coffee, tea, spices, cut flowers, vegetables, fruits, tobacco and clothing. In manufacturing, the exports consist of plastic articles and pharmaceuticals. In the last 3 years, the trade deficit gap has widened due to the Covid-19 effects, prolonged drought and the price fluctuation of agricultural goods

in the international market. The Ukraine-Russia conflict has further disrupted world supply chains, thus, creating a shortfall of affordable food items and therefore, increasing the import cost of food.

To cater for the population needs, Kenya imports industrial finished goods including automobiles, automobile parts, petroleum products, machinery, computers, equipment, iron, steel, plastics, vegetable fats and cereals among others. The imports are necessitated by several factors and considerations. These conditions include the need to introduce new products in the market; the need to import goods at cheaper cost; the need to become an industry leader on unique products before competitors import; and the benefit of importing products of higher quality.

Easy internet access in the country has made it easy for the Kenyan citizens to import good of their choice by taking advantage of the existing global supply chains. Industrialized nations have invested in technology that guarantees better quality products and higher volumes of production thus, lowering the production cost. Lower production cost means cheaper product that competes favourably in the market.

In contrast, dependency on imports drains the country's foreign reserves and exposes the citizens to poverty and other human insecurities. The outbreak of covid-19 in 2020, created an unusual opportunity for Africa, Kenya included, to reflect on the effects of import dependency on basic essential goods such as medical, nutritional and pharmaceutical. The dependency of import of these essential goods is not a sustainable solution for Africa.

The overreliance of imports destabilizes the country's economy. The high demand of foreign currency for import forces higher exchange rates, thus depreciating the local (Kshs) currency. The trade deficit also affects local interest rates as the government tends to borrow to meet the import obligations. A downward pressure on Kenya shillings leads to its devaluation, thus, resulting in inflation. This effect forces the Central Bank to put restrictive monetary measures on the government in order to lower interest rates. Increased imports in the country, reduces consumption of locally produced, leading to reduced local industrial production and therefore reduction of job opportunities and revenues.

To improve the trade deficit and reduce

dependency on imports, Kenya needs to develop and implement policy measures that encourage production economy as opposed to importation dependency. The policies should be persuasive and favourable to attract both local and foreign investments. Increased production and export of goods and services will boost foreign exchange flow into the country.

The Government should promote consumption of locally produced goods as opposed to imports. To ensure this practice does not conflict with the world free economy practices, Kenyan industrial sector should endeavour to invest in production technologies that are competitive in the international market. Locally produced goods of high quality attract local consumption and therefore develops the local economy.

The Government should scale up agricultural production by increasing the acreage of arable while developing and leasing out irrigation schemes in ASAL areas where large tracks of idle land exist. To reduce conflict of interests, the Government should only manage the irrigation scheme infrastructure but lease out the farms. Further, the government should subsidize farm inputs, encourage value addition and also seek markets beyond this region. Increased agricultural production will not only afford self-sufficiency but would increase foreign income through the export markets.

To maintain a competitive edge on the world stage, the government as well as the private sector should invest in Research and Development (R&D) that seeks to continuously improve quality of local production, as well as develop new technologies to match with the contemporary trends. Failure to innovate and march up with customer dynamic needs, creates redundancy thus stagnating production and nations development.

In conclusion, for Kenya‟s to achieve its aspiration of becoming a newly industrializing middle income country by 2030, some economic sacrifices have to be made. With globalization and free market economy taking toll on our local industries, Kenya government should sensitize its population on the importance to embrace consumption of locally produced goods and reduce dependency on imports. At the same time, the local industries should seek to produce quality goods that match or compete better in the global markets. Quality goods will attract market competitiveness in the global stage and the consumers to appreciate value of their money. Increased export of locally produced goods, increases the nation‟s foreign currency reserves, thus, lowering inflation rates and above all, create wealth for the nation. A prosperous nation is a pride to its population and a guarantee of prosperity to its future generations.

DATA ANALYTICS AS THE NEW OIL

MS N W NDIRANGU
KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY

The phrase coined by Clive Humbly in 2006, that "Data is the new oil" rung true in the digital era, with data being the most coveted resource. As in oil, the control of data implied influence and an ability to transform outcomes and realities. Companies including Facebook, Google, Amazon, Twitter among others used and continually use the information amassed mainly to "sell us things". Typically, an individual spends much time on the hunt for something better – from all the products being thrown on us. From a user perspective, the amassed data has not translated into creating efficient productivity, with organizations and individuals alike limited in full utilization of the power of data in elevating and transforming their business. This implies that there is need for good data collection and utilization - authoritative and filtered data that enables fast and accurate decision making – and thus organizational operational efficiency.

Unlike oil, which is scarce and finite, data is an infinite resource, which has various characteristics including its reusability and durability; with an ability for replication without destruction. However, data value is not consistent among various users due to disparity in vision, goal and/or objective of its use. Costs related to data are with regard to storage and maintenance as well as in the extraction and processing of the data, as different users apply varying tools. Accumulation of data yields high productivity from its use - under the right vision and talent. In this regard, data is an asset or investment, which requires proper treatment.

The phrase "Data is the new oil", was qualified in that its value is only realizable when broken down and analyzed. Like oil, the value of data is obtained when it has been transformed/refined to a usable form. Data collected should be refined from inconsistent or inaccurate information and missing information. Further, in its raw form, it cannot be used for predictive analysis thus requiring transformation to more productive object. Data attains great value when processed, analyzed and efficiently exploited.

Data Analysis and Analytics

The rise in technology has driven to an internet and internet economy, fueling an exponential growth for data storage, protection of the data and analytics for insights to inform organizational decisions and adjustment in strategy. When data is collected in an unstructured format - in the

form of documents, images, videos, social media contents and audio - organizations are required to make sense and extract value from this. Data Analytics enables value extraction from the unstructured voluminous data to inform new market opportunities and, through uncovering customers' purchase patterns, enhance customer services. This is possible where the data is reliable, accurate and is representative of the subject of concern. Data value is realized when subjected to analytics and artificial intelligence.

Data analytics, the second technological development, involves using the computer analysis of big data to reveal patterns or other information that is useful to various stakeholders, both in the public and private sector. It enables acquiring, processing and interpretation of voluminous data within minimal timeframes. Further, it provides insights by linking data points to expose new information or connections among these data points that would otherwise be obscure to the human mind. Additionally, big data analytics enable organizations to; forecast future trends, gain insights in the voluminous data extracted, take proactive action and inform strategic decision-making to improve an organizations competitive advantage.

Data requires infrastructure in the form of software and hardware, similar to oil which requires transport and storage infrastructure. However, with data as an infinite resource, constantly being created but not destroyed, this calls for a data management system characterized by availability, fault-tolerance and cost-effectiveness.

Challenges in Analytics

In a digital world, characterized by volatility, unpredictability, complexity and ambiguity, the only way to make sense of anything is through data. This is only possible with the right competencies in understanding the precise needs of the customers for organizations to develop services that deliver valuable insights and that yield customer retention. Adoption of new technologies is also a challenge since some organizations may lack awareness of the potential of data analytics and its applications. Moreover, some may lack understanding of the tools required. Product awareness and education is thus required.

Applications of Analytics

The Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies including; Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, internet of things (IoT) and Robotics drive application

in Earth Observation such as defence and internal security, disaster management, infrastructure and engineering, agriculture, energy and power as well as climate change and environment monitoring, mining, supply chain and logistics. Clearly, data and data analytics has generated great impact on many industries and sectors – both public and private sectors – including banking, healthcare, education, tourism, finance and e-commerce.

Emerging Issues

In exchange for ease in performing tasks, the customers provide their data – a useful raw material to inform companies' decisions in improving service. However, debate abounds on the reciprocity of this relationship with reference to the value and power data. Further concerns revolve on the integrity of the data with focus on ethical and security concerns on data use. Data protection laws plunge in and moderate on this relationship. It is thus paramount for organizations to maintain good data management policies, which enable the organizations to generate value from the data they handle and manage while at the same time securing the interests and privacy of the providers of the data. Like oil, data flow should be controlled, regulated and legislated.

EFFECT OF CORRUPTION
ON INSECURITY AND TERRORISM IN KENYA

COL E W NDEGWA
KENYA AIR FORCE

Corruption is a serious concern everywhere and has been a factor in many of the problems that have beset Africa economies and democracies in the recent history. The connection between corruption and the success of terrorism is an element that doesn't get enough attention. According to research, countries with high levels of corruption experience a rise in the number of terrorist strikes. This impact has been felt in key battlegrounds against extremism, including Afghanistan, Nigeria, Iraq, and Kenya, at times derailing efforts to defeat terrorism.

Since1 2006, the Somalia-based Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Shabaab has made Kenya one of its main targets. According to the Global Terrorism Database, Al-Shabaab orchestrated or carried out a total of 409 attacks between 2005 and 2017 focused on the Kenyan capital Nairobi, as well as the north eastern towns of Mandera, Garissa, and Kenya's tourist-filled coastal cities. In 2016 alone, Al-Shabaab carried out 48 attacks, while being a suspect in having been involved in many others. The most notable attacks carried out by the terrorist group in Kenya include the year 2015 Garrisa University Massacre near the Kenya-Somalia border that led to 148 deaths, the year 2013 Westgate shopping mall attack that led to 67 deaths, the 2017 attack in the

village of Jima in the South Coast, where Al-Shabaab militants beheaded nine civilians, and recent killings of teachers in Mandera county near the Somali border. In 2019, gunmen associated with the Somalia-based Al-Shabaab terrorist organization attacked the DusitD2 Hotel complex in Nairobi that led to loss of lives, property destruction as well as portraying the country's security image negatively.

There is a general belief that the increased terrorist attacks in Kenya are due to high level of corruption. Due to the regular acceptance of bribes by Kenyan security personnel along the Somali border, Al-Shabaab agents frequently have unhindered access into Kenya and back across to Somalia. The high level of corruption in Kenya not only undermines counter-terrorism efforts but also provides extremists with funding, access and motivation. Corrupt members of security forces are known to take bribes and collaborate with extremists, allowing easy access for Al-Shabaab operatives, which have resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives because political leaders and security agents have allowed themselves to be driven by selfish interests and not national values. The counter-terror strategy has mainly

been reactionary and evades the role of community policing because anti-terror authorities relapse to slumber until jostled by a blast here and there.

Weaknesses in Suppression of Terrorism

According to the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, Kenya was ranked 128th out of 180 countries surveyed in 2021. Systemic corruption has permeated even the security agencies, with the police regarded as one of the most corrupt institutions in the country.

Kenya security sector has been accused by human rights groups for violation of basic rights of terror suspects during counterterrorism operations. Such allegations against security officials include extra-judicial killings, disappearances, and torture of suspects especially in the Coastal and North Eastern regions of the country. Specifically, legislation of anti-terrorism laws has remained a challenge for the country and has often elicited strong resistance in parliament and outside especially from the civil society. The suppression of Terrorism Bill introduced to parliament by the Grand Coalition Government in 2003 to give

government more powers to fight extremist groups faced a lot of resistance. Similarly, there were chaos and physical fights in parliament in 2014 when Security Laws Amendment Bill was passed into law amid widespread resistance from a section of legislators because of its "draconian" nature (BBC News, 2014).

The perception of Kenyan public towards terrorism has also been a source of weakness. The Kenyan public has been on slow learning curve as some sections perceive threats from local armed groups such as Mungiki and threats like COVID-19 to be more serious compared to the threat of terrorism.

Youth unemployment rate in Kenya is also a huge challenge making it almost impossible to counter both domestic and international radicalization. Unemployment in Kenya provides a fertile ground for recruitment and radicalization of youths because of high rates of poverty, weak policing, porous borders, and corruption. Although opinions remain divided, several scholars hold that terrorism in Kenya is partly as a result of disillusionment with the internal socio-economic and political marginalization especially of the pastoral minority communities.

Conclusion

The threat of terrorism in Kenya has long term implications on human security, economic and national security. The dilemma facing the government of Kenya and its partners in dealing with the crisis is that the resilience of groups such as Al-Shabaab have been boosted by the very efforts that are meant to defeat such groups. Domestic reforms, including but not limited to introduction of devolved system of government have paved the way for the integration of previously marginalized groups into the country's development agenda thus reducing the communities' grievances. The Kenyan security forces have good international networks which combined with the country's diplomatic advantages can help strengthen its response to domestic and regional terrorist activities.

By having multiple intelligence services to include one involved in covert overseas operations in support of the country's security and considering establishing a ministry of Homeland Security charged with, among other functions, protecting citizens from terrorism, identifying and deporting illegal immigrants, developing the country's readiness for emergencies (terrorism, floods, hunger and other tragedies), and developing cutting edge responses based on new technologies.

Stringent ethical and professional accountability should also be demanded of security agencies, and also the need to adapt modern good practices training and equipment provided to such agencies. This is crucial if counter-terrorism efforts are to achieve any meaningful impact in preventing future attacks in Kenya.

THE TIRIKI CIRCUMCISION CULTURE

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The Tiriki are part of the eighteen or so linguistically related sub-tribes of the Bantu-speaking Luyia people of western Kenya. They are found in the formerly larger Kakamega area and are closely related to the Isukha and Idakho people of Shinyalu and Ikolomani divisions, respectively.

This community, like the Bukusu in the far north region of the Luyia territory, is renowned for its adherence to cultural traditions. Like their Bukusu counterparts, the Tiriki are famous for their elaborate male initiation rites, which mainly involve circumcision. It is important to note from the outset that traditional healing, sorcery and witchcraft are central to the Tiriki cosmology. Among the Tiriki, as is the case with many African communities, diseases and misfortunes are thought to be caused by evil spirits sent by malevolent people in the neighbourhood, relatives, enemies, the gods, or spirits of the dead. In this society the period of circumcision-when young men are initiated into adulthood-is believed to be a very delicate and precarious phase of life.

The Tiriki circumcision mask is of central importance at his time. It is made from sisal *(Likonga)* or aloe *(Linakha)* fibres, with palm reeds *(Mashindu)* tied around it on top of the head. Originally it was made from the fibres of certain tough climbers *(Likhambi)*. However due to declining *Likhambi* resources, the community resorted to using more widely available fibres. The newly circumcised initiates make the mask themselves following a two-week period of training. This training takes place during the period of seclusion in the forest, which starts from the time they leave home and finishes when they are completely healed. They are instructed by their watchful caretakers *(Batili)*. Only men take care of the initiates; women are not supposed to come into contact with them during the period of seclusion.

The purpose of the mask is to mystify the whole initiation ritual and the initiates in particular. When the initiates are identically dressed in full seclusion regalia, it is not possible to identify them. The mask is also meant to scare women and children, some of whom may be tempted by curiosity to approach the initiates. During their seclusion the initiates process along major roads, singing and chanting circumcision songs and slogans. This performance is known as Bukhulu and the performers *Bakhulu (Mukhulu),* meaning elders or ancestors. Therefore, Bukhulu means

The initiates wear cow hides and ingolole as a form of ritual art.

performing the elders' or ancestors' dance. Participation in the dancing indicates that the initiates are engaging in past traditions; they are aping their ancestors, thereby becoming elders and prospective ancestors. The initiates shake their heads as they dance in an attempt to break loose the palm reeds that are fastened to the mask around the top of the head. Of course some succeed in this endeavour, while others do not. Only the successful are considered strong and masculine. The breaking of the reeds symbolizes the initiates' physical as well as spiritual, ritual strength and power. Viewed from a symbolic and cosmological perspective, the term *Bukhulu* means the life-giving seed (the seminal fluid). When this cosmological perspective is transferred onto the initiates' efforts to break loose the palm reeds from the rest of the mask, Bukhulu comes to symbolize the initiates' ability to sire children by fertilizing the ova. Therefore, the initiates, on graduating from childhood to adulthood during the *Bukhulu* (seclusion) period, symbolically attain the power and achieve permission to take on the full conjugal and social responsibilities; that are bestowed upon adults in the Tiriki community. It is essential to note that the initiates endure long periods of dancing both day and night. During daytime, the mask protects the initiates from the scorching sun; it also helps to reduce the rate of sweating, which, if excessive, could sap their energy. At night, the mask protects them from wild animals and insects. It is also believed that the mask renders the evil forces unable to

recognize the initiates individually.

The Ingolole as a form of ritual art seems to bear witness to the resilience of the Tiriki culture; what Bakhtin might have called the cannibalization of the social order. A central reason for using this mask, it seems is to affirm the Africanization of the arena, both public and private, where a culturally appropriate image reigns. The mask usually invests the wearer with signs of power over evil, while modelling him on the norms of masculinity and respectability. The Ingolole is one item of art that is yet to be transformed from artefact to curio (or Momento). This is apparently so because its mechanism of distinction is yet to mobilize

political as well as economic categories. This mask resonates well with the notion that visual art communicates cultural values. It is a complex ideological communication that derives its symbolism and references from culture. Yet it also draws its form and content from the fundamental tenets of the magical appropriation of power through the manipulation of depiction and elucidation.

The initiates shake their heads as they dance in an attempt to break loose the palm reeds that are fastened to the mask around the top of the head. Of course some succeed in this endeavour, while others do not. Only the successful are considered strong and masculine.

The initiates perform in the evening before returning to their homes under their caretakers (batili).

WHY ME? VICTIM MENTALITY

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Have you ever felt victimized? Do you know people who always behave like victims? Do you know people who blame others when bad things happen to them? And do they blame their families, partners, people at work or any number of things that they perceive to be victimizing them? If you pose this question, the answer will be a resounding yes. The world these people live in appears to be peopled by victimizers. And if you tried to rescue them from the trouble, they ignore every bit of advice you offer and brush it aside.

If any of these observations apply, you may be dealing with people who suffer from the victim mentality. A victim mentality is a psychological behavior whereby a person's thinking deflects responsibility for their behavior. Additionally, the person views themself as a victim of someone else's actions and, as a result, acquires a personality trait. These people feel that bad things keep happening to them no matter what, that trouble follows them everywhere, and that none of these circumstances or situations is their fault.

This is not to suggest that they are making it up. On the contrary, there is always some truth in their stories. Bad things happen to people who have done nothing to deserve them, and understandably, people who face one difficulty after another may start to believe the world is out to get them. Nevertheless, that's life. Life is "not a rose garden". There are many different ways of dealing with the difficulties that come our way. When faced with life's challenges, most people deal with them and move on.

People with the victim mentality are incapable of doing so. Their negative outlook on life transforms every setback into a major drama. Even though their way of absorbing information causes chaos and stress, they complicate and aggravate their issues. People with a victim mentality are always very difficult to handle, for they have an extremely defeatist outlook on life. They also believe they have no control over how events unfold, and have a poor sense of responsibility. Every negative outcome in their life is attributed to people or circumstances beyond their control. Every effort made to help them or to present a solution to their predicament is met by a huge array of reasons why it will not work, some of them quite inventive. According to them, their problems are unique and therefore not soluble. They appear to be trying to prove the helper wrong. Anyone prepared to help them is left with a sense of utter frustration.

People with a victim mentality are passive-aggressive in their interactions with people. They get their way in a subtle, indirect way by laying guilt trips on others through various types of emotional blackmail. For example, they can sulk, pout, withdraw, bungle and make excuses or lie. Playing a victim satisfies a variety of unconscious needs. The poor me card elicits others' pity and offers of help. Being a victim can also be a great excuse for not confronting difficult issues in life.

An important question to ask is, can people with a victim mentality break out of this self-destructive cycle? The answer is yes; because not all negative situations are completely uncontrollable, even if they seem that way at first. Often, at least some small action could lead to improvement. Strange as it may sound, people with a victim mentality are often victims of their own choices. A basic choice they can make is whether to be a victim or to take responsibility for the quality of their life by choosing to start working towards healing and change. Mark you! The power of choice does not mean that they can determine everything that happens to them, for some circumstances are indeed beyond their control. It is true that they cannot always choose events that happen in their lives, but they can choose their attitude towards all events, people, experiences, and even God.

People with a victim mentality need to know that this behavior is not healthy for them, for a victim mentality imprisons and will eventually destroy them. It would be good for them to seek professional help. In addition, they should seek every possible way to take responsibility for their lives, to begin to see that even if they cannot control what happens to them, they can control their responses. When they accept responsibility for their attitude, life's circumstances will no longer control them because they are free to choose their responses.

As the novelist Joan Didion once said, "the willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life is the source from which self-respect springs". Taking personal responsibility is a must. We cannot change the circumstances, the seasons, or the weather but we can change ourselves.

Chains of Mental illness in West Africa. Source: The New York Times

PERKS OF A POSITIVE PARENT

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A parent-child relationship is believed to be one of the most basic forms of social interactions between individuals. Basically, this is ingrained in the day to day activities of a human being from infancy and therefore in one way or another, it influences child development. This article is going to cover what a parent-child relationship is, the types of parent-child relationships, the effects of these relationships and why a positive relationship is necessary for the proper development of a child.

The term "parent-child relationship" refers to the unique and significant affiliation between a parent and child. Legally, the parent-child relationship is defined as the relationship between an individual and their biological offspring or between an individual and a child he or she has legally adopted. This relationship fully consists of feelings, expectations and behaviour. The necessity of this relationship is recognized by all and that is why in Kenya, every child has a right to parental care and protection, including equal responsibility of the mother and father as provided for under article 53(1)(e) of the Constitution of Kenya.

Parent-Child Relationship Intrigues

There are four main types of parent-child relationships. These are: Secure relationships, avoidant relationships, ambivalent relationships and disorganized relationships. Secure relationships are relationships where the child feels that he or she can depend on his/her parent and always knows that the parents will always be there for him. In this case, the parent usually has an open relationship with a child and therefore exits mutual respect. Children from such a relationship have an easier way of interacting with other people, building new relationships and trusting people around them; they allow themselves to feel and show their real emotions. The children can easily maintain other types of relationships. This is obviously because they learnt that they can rely on a special adult to be there for them.

Avoidant relationship on the other hand is found in an insecure relationship. This is because children learn to depend on themselves as they do not find a sense of security from their parents. However, this does not mean that the parents are not available; they just respond late to their child's needs, or may pay little attention to their interests. For example, when a child is excited about something, the parents may turn away or ignore her. Children raised with this type of relationship tend to be independent and avoid or are afraid of seeking assistance yet judge themselves quite harshly. They find it hard to build strong relationships with others.

Another sign that a child is uneasy about his attachment to his parents is ambivalence. Children who experience an ambivalent parent-child relationship have discovered that their demands are occasionally met and at times not. They take note of the activity that previously attracted their parents' attention and again engage in it. They are constantly seeking the sense of security they occasionally experience. These type of children are usually clingy, over emotional and tend to act younger than they are. They always need validation and may get upset when attention is not shifted to them.

A disorganized parent-child relationship stands out from the rest. It is different in the sense that the child does not know what to expect from the parents. The other types of parent-child relationships are structured as the child has the ability to foresee his parent's reactions and whether they are favourable or unfavourable. Additionally, they discover that certain actions will

result in specific actions from their parents. Parents having this type of relationship with their child may rarely respond to their needs and if a parent does respond, the response does not suit the need. A child raised in this relationship may have odd and random behaviours that may not clearly fit a certain scenario.

We have seen how these types of relationships influence a child's personality or how they would react in a certain surrounding environment. They therefore shape who someone will become, not ignoring other external influences. This means that the relationship in itself is important without even narrowing down to the type of relationship. Well, a loving parent will mean a loving child and therefore the most stable and positive relationship is desired to achieve the following positive outcomes:

- **Creation of strong relations.** Young children have a better chance of forming positive and satisfying connections with other people in their lives if they grow up with a strong and secure attachment to their parents.
- **Emotional intelligence.** A child who has a strong bond with their parents has the ability to control their emotions under pressure and in trying circumstances. They also tend to take time to internalize an issue before acting on it.
- **Easy communication and delivery.** Having a positive relationship encourages the growth of the child's mind, language, and communication skills. This is because they have been provided with a proper safe platform to say what is in their mind and to communicate freely without fear of being misunderstood or not being heard at all. It encourages the child to display upbeat and self-assured social behaviour.

Conclusion

A strong bond promotes positive social, emotional, cognitive, and motivational growth. When kids have a good relationship with their parents, they develop great problem-solving abilities. They are usually open to listening to both sides of the story and making better leaders. The more positive the relationship is, the higher the chances of getting a very effective and well-rounded individual. When this is the case, society would be easy to handle as trauma emanating from this relationship would be minimal. But can we win at everything? With this eye-opener, I believe that you can evaluate the relationship that exists between you and your child.

KAMURATANET: THE KALENJIN RITE OF PASSAGE

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The African cultural practices gave individuals a sense of where they belonged in a particular society and what roles they were supposed to play. It is felt in many African contexts that African traditions and cultures are being eroded thus denying young people a sense of structure in their day to day lives. The first rite of passage is birth. This rite of passage will include the naming of the child which is a ceremony. From this point, the child is not only a member of the family but of the community.

The second stage is moving into adulthood which nowadays may be considered as the puberty stage of a young person's life. The third stage involved nuptials, which made a person responsible for his own family. But before marriage, one had to be circumcised which was also considered a rite of passage. It is essentially the second rite of passage as one moves from childhood to adulthood. In *Kalenjin* it is known as *Yatitaet* and during this ceremony one was usually educated on proper behavior and on things that were considered to be taboo.

On a curious side note, it should be noted that the circumcision rite is practiced in communities that are separated by great geographical distances and are not of the same racial, ethnic or even religious backgrounds. The *Kalenjin* society is hierarchical and consists of various sub tribes. Among the *Kalenjin* community just like many other communities in East Africa, circumcision is considered to be a transitional period from childhood to adulthood. It is a time when the young people are told to put away childish things and embrace their awaiting responsibilities of adulthood. They were supposed to embrace tribal beliefs, practices, culture, religion and history, which they would also impart on the coming generations.

The word *Kamuratanet* is a *Kalenjin* word that denotes a number of cultural practices that young people go through in order to be considered a fully functional member of the community. It culminates with the circumcision of the individual. It involves the teaching and learning of appropriate behavior, knowledge, skills, attitudes, virtues, religion and moral standards expected of its cultural members.

The *Kamuratanet* requires or rather demands that the youth of the community obey and fulfill cultural norms and rites. It is a continuous learning process for community youth until they are fully recognized as adults. It is a rite of passage that does not only bestow certain privileges on a particular age set, but it also grants

Source: Google, (2022)

responsibility to the current youth that they must be educators of the coming generations on the *Kalenjin* culture.

Since age sets are set a few years apart, the preparation for this rite takes several years; but a month before the actual event, elderly women in the community collect milk from homesteads which they put in gourds. It will be nutrition for the initiates. It is usually mixed with cow blood. Days to the ceremony, members of the older age set usually mock the would-be initiates to ensure that they do not "go soft" and show fear during the ceremony. Showing fear dishonors one's family. Therefore, this ceremony is viewed as a high-stake event for the individual, family and whole community.

The elders present at *Kamuratanet* whose voices were loud during *Yatitaet* were known as *Motirenik*. The initiates are guided by members of older age sets on how to behave, what to do and what not to do. Members of the older age-sets given this responsibility are usually vetted in a vigorous process by village elders. There is always an overruling voice of an elder who is omnipresent in all the stages to make sure things go according to plan. Any initiate who has been selected for the ceremony cannot mingle with the rest of the community until the initiation is over. He is under the care of the older youth and they take charge of all his interactions.

The *Kamuratanet* was a school of sorts where youth would learn skills on interaction and how to have a livelihood from older initiates. These cultural practices have survived over time against all odds. In modern times, the practice is still evident in urban areas of *Nairobi* City, Bomet County and Eldoret town, where *Yatitaet* is being organized by members of the

Kalenjin community, while taking into account the health codes. This initiative is pioneered by what is now known as the Kitengela and *Kapkruger* groups in Nairobi and Eldoret respectively. Members of the *Kalenjin* community who have been raised in cosmopolitan areas learn the relevant *Kalenjin* dialects. Even those who are in diaspora bring back their children for the initiation.

The *Kamuratanet* serves as a locus of behaviour regulation. *Kamuratanet* teaches values such as honesty, courage, and respect for everyone, the virtue of hard work, discipline and dedication to tasks being undertaken by the cultural community. These are virtues that are universally accepted even by modern societies. The institution of *Kamuratanet* has rules and regulations that go against established ethical, religious and moral standards of some Kalenjin people and of other communities. Therefore, cultural and lifestyle clashes can emerge and elders in the community need to dialogue with all stakeholders on the way forward in order for an acceptable middle ground.

It should be noted that certain traditional rituals and cultural practices such as the *Kamuratanet* are quite similar to modern techniques used to deal with behavior management in modern psychology analysis practice. Certain psychological conditions experienced by young people today, such as depression, anxiety and bipolar can be attributed to intergenerational apathy which was not possible in *Kalenjin* communities that practiced. The *Kamuratanet* lessons give young people structure in their lives which is vital for young minds in order to have a sense of purpose and destiny. It is curious to behold how the community will fuse its values with modern values in the twenty-first century.

> The *Kamuratanet* serves as a locus of behaviour regulation. *Kamuratanet* teaches values such as honesty, courage, and respect for everyone, the virtue of hard work, discipline and dedication to tasks being undertaken by the cultural community.

Source: Google, (2022)

TALENT MANAGEMENT IN THE NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE

MR R K KEMBOI SSP

NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE

In today's competitive security environment characterized by volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity, talent management is the key differentiator for an organization's success. With the advent of globalization, changing demographics, and improved technology, organizations have been forced to design talent management strategies that fit their national context. Kenya's National Police Service therefore has to leverage on this concept given the mounting pressure to deliver more with less.

The National Police Service therefore should focus on development and developing officers who articulate the passion and division of the police service with energy to perform higher levels.These officers build and drive the knowledge assets of the value of which has been established to be more than the tangibles. The capacity of the service to hire, develop and retain talent is therefore the most crucial organization process and should be a priority for the police service. Finding and managing talent has become more complex than ever before. Today, talent is harder to find and nurture, easier to waste and lose. The National Police Service ability to consistently seek, attract and keep talent provides a source of competitive advantage to overall security performance.

Talent management enables National Police Service enroll, train, engage and retain the appropriate pool of talented officers who enhance organization's performance. Talent management provides for a systematic process of effectively acquiring, identifying the right talent, developing those talents, deploying them to fulfill critical roles or to take up key positions in future, assessing and managing their performance in a supportive work environment that enhances retention. Talent management is top priority for the organization and will continue to increase insignificance in future.

The changing security landscape requires effective management of human capital as acatalyst to organizational success. Decisions about talent management shape the competencies that organizations have and their ultimate success from the officers, these decisions determine the path and pace of the officers' career. Talent management decisions in NPS are often driven by a set of the organizational core competencies as well as position specific competencies. The competency set may include knowledge, skills,experience and personal traits. There is more to diversity than gender.diversity helps achieve police service goals by fostering innovation and by increasing and retaining available talent. Hence it is crucial for the National Police Service to find the optimal degree of diversity and the optimal mix of officers who can contribute to creating value and high performance. This goes far beyond compliance and analyzing the organization implications of basic demographics.

Performance appraisal is an organizational assessment tool which aids the leadership to monitor and assess the work of the subordinates. The main objective of performance appraisal to embrace identify best performance inequality,efficiency and effectiveness. Managers and supervisors in the National Police Service use performance appraisal tools to moderate tasks,advice for remedies and make other decisions which can help officers exceed current objectives. This guides the organization achieve its mission and perform well. For example,the officer in charge of a station can recommend a junior officer for higher responsibility. The officer assigned will then have to exploit all possibilities to optimally perform the task that will maybe culminate into a promotion or just a reward.

The National Police Service also considers compensation as a strategy for talent management. Compensation is the cash offered to the officers as a way of recognizing their services to the organization. The value and output of the service is normally dependent on the reward strategies of the service. Compensation plan does not only portray the rewards in financial form but also includes fringe benefits,medical cover and other benefits that have promoted success. From the forgoing, a comprehensive compensation package is vital to the vision achievement and overall performance of the National Police Service for it forms part of the talent management strategies in the organization.

Talent management implies recognizing officers' inherent skills,traits personality and offering matching job. Every officer has a unique talent that suits a particular job profile. It is the job of the management,particularly the human resource department in the National Police Service to place officers with prudence and caution. A wrong fit will result in further hiring,retraining and other wasteful activities. talent management beneficial to both the police services and its officers. The police service benefits from increased productivity and capability, a better linkage between officers' efforts and service goals,commitment,reduced turnover, increasedbench strength and better fit between officers' job and skills. Officers benefit from higher motivation and commitment, career development, increased knowledge and greater contribution to organizationgoals, motivation and job satisfaction. In the era of highly competitive world, wherechange is the only constant factor, it is important for National Police Service to develop the most important resource of all the human resource.

WHAT SHOULD YOUNG OFFICERS READ?
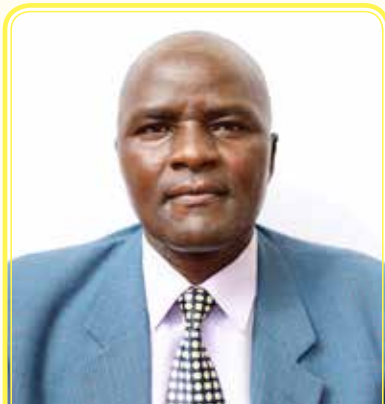
COL K K MASAI
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Sir, what should I read? Asked a young officer who had just joined the unit from cadet training. Indeed, what should young officers read? This question was valid then, still valid now and will continue to be asked in the near future and even years to come. There is, of course, no general answer to this very individual question; however, all are encouraged to keep asking that question. General George S Patton read Rommel's book, but as he watched the AFRIKA KORPS wither before his defenses, he shouted, "Rommel, you magnificent bastard, I read your book." In other words, he was lamenting that what he had read could not help at the time of need.

When asked what lieutenants should read, a veteran military reader General Peter M Dawkins suggested that lieutenants should try to gain a vision of what they might be as future military leaders; On the other hand, General Paul F Gorman recommended that they should read the military history that best addressed problems they might face in their own careers. The question is, would the generals of World War 1, have acted differently if they had taken into account the lessons of the machine gun and barbed wire that were so evident a decade earlier in the Russo-Japanese war? General Patton who followed his father in command of the 2nd Armored Division, suggested that they should read accounts of the Great Captains,

for guidance on how to command fighting organizations; but then, do we have any of those accounts/books/records in our military today?

Experienced military researchers and writers are more often guided in their work with the desire to come up with books for a rather select audience. Books meant for those inquiring young officers and soldiers who continue to ask questions concerning what to read, and who are comfortable with the study of history, with some offshoots into the humanities and social sciences. They come up with books for those who aspire to command, and who seek a vision of themselves in the many roles inherent in such a complex undertaking.

Very few men and women who join the military have an opportunity to command battalions and larger military organizations; there are far more command clients than command billets. Why, then, should all officers focus their reading on command? The obvious answer is that the military needs a pool of potential commanders to draw from in case of a large-scale war. An equally important answer is that all officers will perform better in their staff and specialist roles if they see their work in the eyes of the commander, with an understanding of his responsibilities and needs. A third dimension is that the common study of command serves as a cohesive force in an Officer Corps that is being fragmented by specialization. The commander must be a generalist; it is in his mind that all the parts of the puzzle are pulled together, and all officers must understand this mind.

According to Peter M Dawkins, most lieutenants who have been in the sub-units for a year or so, know their job reasonably well; they have picked up the fundamentals as cadets and at their specialized officer basic course at their respective formation schools. But the real learning for the job comes from being in the job. When the fresh recently commissioned lieutenant reports for duty, it becomes immediately clear to him/her what he/she must learn/

read; and the failure to rapidly develop the requisite competence frequently results in terrible embarrassment. So, he/she learns from others, from manuals (reading) and from making mistakes. Unfortunately, that's where it tends to stop – just the side of what they need to know each morning to get the day's job done. There is little learning about the future which lurks just around the corner, when they may find themselves captains in combat or in command of combat teams.

The focus of lieutenant learning which basically guides reading is on what an officer does. But more needs to be said about what an officer is and should be. Very few junior officers have any clear sense of themselves as military men/women with responsibilities and opportunities that are unique from the normal life. They seem to plod along day to day, working hard and developing the essential skills of their 'profession'. Many if not most of them miss a critical step; that of developing a sense of how their growing confidence and competence relate to the essence of what a soldier is meant to be.

Young officers should be encouraged to read widely; not only on who they are as officers and what they are expected to do, but also on command as junior commanders with focus on being future senior commanders and at higher levels.

> When asked what lieutenants should read, a veteran military reader General Peter M Dawkins suggested that lieutenants should try to gain a vision of what they might be as future military leaders;

It goes without saying that many of the great military thinkers, were once great military commanders. Sir William Francis Butler in his book *Charles George Gordon* (London: 1907, 85) wrote that 'a nation that insists on drawing a line of demarcation between the fighting man and the thinking man is liable to find its fighting done by fools and thinking done by cowards'. And so as young officer gains knowledge on command thus preparing himself/herself for future command responsibilities, he/she will equally be laying ground for future 'think-tank' assignments.

All young officers are commanders at their own levels; they command troops – (Troop Commanders). As the commander, one has to be more technically competent than anybody else on weapons, tactics, communication etc; all that technical knowledge that makes you the team/troop's expert trainer. You must seize the initiative with the higher headquarters every day, become the planner of your outfit and help them avoid sending you off in wasteful directions. You have to eliminate some poor-quality soldiers so that the 10% bad element does not prevent the other 90% of your team/troop from doing a good job. To achieve this, one has to be firm always and should never allow himself/herself to be swayed around even by accident. This together with the preceding paragraph shapes the reading of a young officer who is committed to the military life; it is not for a crop of young men and women who are currently popping in and out of the military and neither is it for the cowards who take-off leaving their troops in the frontline.

POST-COVID-19 RECOVERY: LESSONS FOR EAST AFRICA

Evidence from Kenya and Tanzania

COL Z J SIKUKUU
TANZANIA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCE

At the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak, the number of cases and fatalities in Africa were comparatively lower to those from other continents of the world. However, the African economy suffered significant negative impact from the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic shook the African continent on three fronts: Demand and supply slump-down due to movement and restrictions and lock downs, reduced economic activity leading to low trade and foreign investment, socio-political shock which altered several countries' livelihoods and political activities. Whereas, the pandemic is not yet over, the slackened global economy is on its way to recovery. We must ask ourselves, 'What lessons can East African countries draw from the COVID-19 pandemic on their road to recovery particularly Kenya and Tanzania?'

Macroeconomic Stabilization Policies

Upon the outbreak of COVID-19 towards the end of 2019, the global economy is estimated to be at 3.3% of world's economic output. It had been projected to grow by 2.0 per cent in 2020 and reach 6.6% by 2021 as reported by Delotte (2021). Available data from the first half of 2020 indicated a rebound in global economic activity. Improved management of the pandemic is allowing the global economy to recover. African countries have initiated several macro-economic stabilization policies. With reduced foreign direct investment (FDI), African economies reviewed their industrial manufacturing policies focusing on value addition on local products.

The East Africa Community (EAC) unveiled a comprehensive COVID-19

response plan to reinforce measures to protect and prevent further spread of the novel corona virus within the region. According to Article 118 of the Treaty establishing the EAC, partner states committed to take joint action towards the prevention and control of communicable diseases and control pandemics and epidemics and vector-borne diseases which might endanger the health and welfare of residents of the partner states.

Macroeconomic policies adopted by the East African countries particularly Tanzania and Kenya are diversified in varied sectors of the economy. In Kenya the adoption of digital technologies in various aspects of the economy constitute a fundamental policy shift in the recovery journey. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased the demand for digital health technology solutions and digitization of many businesses and services.

According to a technical report issued by Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) in collaboration with Joint Research Centre (JRC) the government of Kenya announced new spending policies and reduction of rates for VAT, income, turnover and corporate taxes facilitated by increase in foreign borrowing which determine a short-term recovery at a macroeconomic level, where negative GDP growth reduced from 5.6% to 4.8%, implying an approximately 0.9% growth rate for 2020. These measures have pronounced effect on the recovery of household income and the food sectors. Other macroeconomic recovery policies adopted in Kenya include reducing VAT on most goods from 16 per cent to 14 per cent; 100% tax relief for people earning gross monthly income of up to Ksh 24,000, reduction of resident personal income tax rate from 30 per cent to 25 per cent and a reduction in turnover tax from 3% to 1%.

Tanzania's macroeconomic performance has been strong for the last decade, but the COVID-19 pandemic presented an unprecedented shock that requires strong, well-targeted and sustained policy response. In Tanzania, macroeconomic policies adopted for post-COVID-19 recovery include; adopting an emergency financial assistance under the rapid credit facility (RCF). There is also Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) from the IMF to respond to the pandemic by addressing the urgent health, humanitarian and economic costs. The government is implementing a comprehensive pandemic response plan which is commonly referred to as the Tanzania COVID-19 Socioeconomic Response Plan. The plan seeks to address the economic slowdown of the Covid-19. This is a national Covid-19 response plan (NCRP) estimated at TZS 250 billion (US$ 109 million) as reported by World Bank Group (2020). The government also plans to boosting tourism particularly in Zanzibar given the regions contribution to foreign exchange.

As part of the recovery plan in support of the private sector activities in Tanzania, the government waived duty on raw materials used by local manufacturers of health-related materials. The government of Tanzania further fast-tracked the verification and settlement of business sector claims and arrears. The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) discount rate was reduced from 7 to 5 per cent while the statutory minimum reserve requirement was lowered from 7 to 6 percent; and a special loan facility was introduced in July 2021 to banks and other financial institutions for on-lending to the private sector. This was done to ensure credit was accessible to private sector through lower market interest rates, increase liquidity and ensure a faster recovery of the economy. Apart from the macroeconomic policies, the government of Tanzania has formally joined the COVAX facility which is dedicated towards providing and accessing COVID-19 vaccines.

Conclusion

COVID-19 pandemic outbreak offered vital lessons for the globalizing world where it ravaged the human population in gigantic proportions. While global economy slumped, African economies almost went to near collapse. The discovery of vaccines brought a sigh of optimism and relief to countries as they embarked on a journey to recovery. The recovery journey has been one riddled with numerous lessons. First; no country is an island. There is no single country which can survive in isolation. The pandemic hit all the countries in varied proportion and none was spared. Second; health emergency is a threat not only to national security but also to global one. Third; the journey to full socioeconomic recovery is one riddled with various challenges which call for macroeconomic convergence both at regional and continental level to enable countries to effectively absorb these shocks. Fourth; Uptake of vaccines should be prioritized in Kenya and Tanzania to possibly cover 90 per cent of population.

Photo: A Nairobi business lady placing a notice on her premises door to indicate resumption of business, after Weeks closure following the government directive on COVID-19.

TAMING BRAIN DRAIN IN AFRICA

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Brain drain has been and continues to be a controversial topic particularly in the developing countries. Africa has a large number of its educated population working in the developed countries thereby denying their home countries their much needed services. Since independence, most of the Africa countries have been losing some of their best brains to the developed countries.

But what is brain drain? It can be defined as the migration of highly skilled individuals who are trained in one country and take up residence and work in another. In this circumstance, professionals leave their home countries and seek employment opportunities elsewhere. Brain drain can therefore be seen as flight of human capital from the emigrant's home country to other countries for greener pastures.

Statistics have shown that African continent is losing the very people it needs most for economic, social and technological development. According to International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Africa has already lost one third of its human capital and still continues to lose its skilled personnel at an increasing rate.

In the year 2000, African countries had on average 2.3 % of citizens officially living and working abroad. According to Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, eighteen million Africans were living in other continents by the year 2021 of which eleven million lived in Europe, five million in the Middle East and more than three million in Northern America. In terms of level of academic/professional training, over 400,000 are highly qualified professionals with more than 30,000 having doctorate degrees.

Causes of Brain Drain

The major causes of brain drain can be viewed as pull and push factors. The push factors may be seen as those aspects which force people to think about leaving their normal place of abode or move from their home country for other countries. The pull factors on the other hand are the attractions that draw people to particular destinations.

The migrants compare the conditions between their home country and foreign countries. Personal taste and circumstances as well as costs of transactions and time affect the individual decisions to migrate. Some are after employment and professional opportunities, which are may not be available in their country.

Political instability may force the migrant to lose confidence with their home country's governments and future prospects for a better life. These are individuals who may have difficulties because of their ethnic, cultural, and religious belonging or being a member of opposition political grouping in their home countries. In some instances, migration may also take place in response to conflicts and political or social turmoil.

Students from the developing countries who go to developed countries to study are expected to go back and provide manpower in such areas as medicine, education and engineering. More often than not, most of them do not return home but rather opt to stay. Those who seek to remain behind site prestige of degrees obtained abroad and the good academic facilities as well as better living conditions as the main reasons for their stay.

Impact of Brain drain

The effect of brain drain does not show results right away, rather it takes time to produce any significant economic effects. The worry of economists is that this problem will balloon to unmanageable levels unless action is not be taken against the growth of brain drain. The main problem is that the highly educated professionals who leave for better opportunities are the same people who are required to improve their countries' economic systems. Developing nations hope to achieve an equilibrium, where the benefits from developed countries' economies without those same economies drawing away all their resources, which include educated workers. Without this balance, there is no reinvestment back into their economy.

Professors John Gibson and David McKenzie in their article "Eight Questions about Brain Drain" emphasize that the issue of brain drain should be taken seriously due to its potential implications on the economy of the developing countries. Basically, brain drain has the potential to cause a dangerous "domino" effect of overloading developed nations with highly educated workers while denying the developingcountries of such workers.

Brain drain in Africa has significant financial, institutional, and societal costs. The phenomenon is putting a significant strain on the continent because to fill the gap created by the skills shortage, African countries spend an estimated $4 billion annually (about 35% of total official development aid to the continent) to employ about 150,000 non-African expatriates. Besides, African countries get little return from their investment in higher education, since too many graduates leave or fail to return home at the end of their studies. Moreover, the departure of health professionals for example has eroded the ability of medical and social services in several sub-Saharan countries to deliver even basic health and social needs.

Africa's share in the world's scientific output is quite small and has been on the downward trend. Africa is suffering a continuing brain drain of scientists, engineers and technologists. Africa as aaccounts for only 20,000 scientists or 3.6 % percent of the world total. Whereas the developed countries account for more than 80% of scientific research, Africa contributes less than 0.5%.

Implications on Agenda 2063

The developing countries have often been blinded by remittances thereby overlooking the negative implications of brain drain on human resources, institutional capacity and national development. What does this potent for Agenda 2063?

The African Union Agenda 2063 is a shared framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development for Africa to be realized in the next thirty one years. Among the goals to be achieved is a high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens. One of the ways of achieving this dream is by harnessing its human capital. This therefore implies that the problem of brain drain should be addressed in order to spur the development of the continent as envisioned in Agenda 2063.

THE EVOLUTION OF CHARISMATIC FIGHTER JETS

Since the Second World War, fighter jets have seen evolution and advancements on an enormous scale. From straight-wing turbo-jet canon fighters to after burning delta form interceptors and now to multi-role stealth aircraft that are equipped with phased array radars, digital controls, thrust vectoring turbo fans, and deadly missiles with ranges of over 100 kilometres, this technology has evolved faster than expected. With radical differences between a jet from the 40's compared to one from the 80's to the high-flying war machines dominating current times, it is prudent to classify the fighter jets into generational categories based on their designs and capabilities.

First Generation

The oldest generation of fighter jets began with Nazi Germany's Messerschmitt-262 which first flew in 1942 along with the Gloucester Meteor from Britain. These aircraft entered service while propeller-driven fighters were still all the rage. They often had straight rather than swept wings and an average speed of 800 to 1000 KMPH. The late aircraft from this generation had swept wings and did begin to dabble in the use of guided air-to-air missiles. This generation also saw the first employment of unguided rockets and bombs. Korean War

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INDIAN AIR FORCE

heroes like F-86 Sabre (USA) and Mig-15 (USSR) belong to this generation.

Second Generation

The second generation began with the Soviet MikoyanMig-19 and US F-100 Super Sabre in the early 1950s and sped fighter jets to supersonic speeds with after-burning engines that allowed for much better high-altitude performance. These fighters were equipped with search and track radars and saw missile technologies drastically improve. The second generation of fighters saw speed increases from barely supersonic to beyond Mach 2.0 and predominantly featured interceptors such as the F-102 Delta dagger (USA), F-104 starfighter (USA), Su-9 (USSR), and the very famous Mig-21 Fishbed (USSR).

Third Generation

The third generation of fighter jets began with the US McDonald F-4 Phantom-2 and included Soviet Mig-23 & Mig-27, French Mirage-F1 series, British Jaguar, etc. These aircraft prioritized multi-role capabilities carrying substantial ground attack weaponry while still being capable of air-to-air missions with huge upgrades to radar and missile technology introducing Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missiles. Guns were replaced as the primary weapon of choice for air-to-air combat and air-to-ground missiles were introduced. Counter measures against missiles, such as flares and chaff began to see common use, and Radar Warning Receivers (RWR) were installed to warn pilots if enemy aircraft was detecting and locking them on its radar. Range and endurance were improved with increased numbers of hard points for missiles, conventional bombs, and fuel tanks.

Fourth Generation

The fourth generation brought back a heavy focus on high thrust-to-weight ratios, dog fighting, and maneuverability, as lessons

A 2nd Generation Mig-21 Fishbed of Indian Air Force.

A fourth generation Light Combat Aircraft Tejas of Indian Air Force.

A 4.5 Gen Su-30 MKI of the Indian Air Force.

It is impossible to imagine fighting the enemy without the use of lethal fighter jets, and the power of any military is often judged by the technological edge of its Air Force.

from the Vietnam War, while also upgrading avionics including Head-Up Displays (HUD), Missile Approach Warning Systems (MAWS), and Data Linking. Beginning in the mid-1970s with the adoption of the US navy's F-14 Tomcat (Maverick's plane in the first Top Gun movie), the fourth-gen fighters also saw the use of active radar homing missiles such as the US M-54 Phoenix, AIM-120 AMRAAM, and Soviet R-77. Russians introduced thrust vectoring and super maneuverability on their fourth-gen aircraft. These jets boasted aerial superiority-type designs capable of turn fighting much more effectively than the previous generation fighters. This generation is by far the most popular today including aircraft like the F-16 (USA), Mirage-2000 (France), Su-27 (Russia), and LCA Tejas (India).

Four and Half Generation

Within the 4th generation, there are also what many call the four-and-a-half generation fighters sometimes referred to as generation 4 plus. They include aircraft like the F-15E Strike Eagle (USA), F/A-18 Super Hornet (USA), Eurofighter Typhoon (EU), Rafale (France), and Russian variants of Su-30, Su-33, and Su-35. Upgrades to these aircraft include phased array radars, helmet-mounted sights for high off-bore sight missile launches, full multi-role capability with high stand-off precision

weapons, and highly advanced navigational and data-linking systems with digital age influence. These aircraft are capable of performing the swing role i.e., execution of air-to-air combat and air-to-ground attack missions simultaneously.

Fifth Generation

The fifth generation of fighters are rather easy to define as they consist of only half a dozen models. The F-22 Raptor& F-35 Lightning from the USA, the Russian Sukhoi SU-57, and China's Chengdu J-20 &Shenyang J-31 are included in this generation. Development of Gen five fighters is also underway in countries like Japan, Turkey, and India. This generation came into being with the F-22 entering service in 2005. These aircraft prioritize low radar observability or stealth featuring internal weapons bays, radar absorbent coating, highly digitized controls and systems, and sleek angular designs that make them difficult to detect by enemy radars.

Sixth Generation

The sixth-generation fighter jets are currently in development with little concrete data. The known designs

are the American FA-XX, British Tempest, and the future combat air system or FCAS being jointly developed by Germany, France, and Spain. This generation will see incremental improvements to the general design pioneered by the 5th Gen fighters. With extremely low radar observability, virtual reality visor systems that allow the pilot to see through the aircraft itself below or behind them, highly capable networking and data linking, and possibly higher speeds and service ceilings than any fighters preceding them, the sixth generation of fighter aircraft is expected to truly unveil itself in the latter half of the 2020's.

Conclusion

The invention of flying machines is one of the most important creations of human beings that took the man into the third dimension of war fighting. In today's world, it is impossible to imagine fighting the enemy without the use of lethal fighter jets, and the power of any military is often judged by the technological edge of its Air Force. It is reasonably assured that lagging in this race for technology surely is a threat to any state's National Security.

HARNESSING BENEFITS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN BY RIM STATES

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Our world is mostly covered by oceans, which also contribute to control the climate and weather. It absorbs a significant quantity of carbon dioxide, produces the majority of our oxygen, and feeds the majority of people. The ocean, which makes up 70% of the surface of the planet, carries heat from the equator to the poles and hence controls our temperature and weather patterns. Trade involves the nautical transfer of goods and even people across the seas. Other interesting activities on the ocean include fishing, boating, kayaking, and whale watching. Threats include lower ocean acidification, marine litter and pollution, illicit, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and the loss of ecosystems and biodiversity threat and to human health, ecology, economics, and governance.

Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14 was promoted during the United Nations Ocean Conference, which was co-hosted by the governments of Kenya and Portugal in June 2022 where a number of issues were raised by the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG). The Blue Economy could flourish thanks to the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture resources in the fishing industry. Future prospects for the region include potential for renewable ocean energy. Energy continues to be in high demand. Sustainable energy sources include marine-based renewable ocean energy produced by wind, solar, waves, tidal cycles, salt concentration, and thermal energy. The seaborne trade benefits greatly from ports and the services they provide. If ports' infrastructure were integrated, it would ease the movement of commodities throughout the area and guarantee smooth transactions. The region's seabed is an untapped source of metals and minerals that is thought to be a growing industry. Cobalt, nickel, manganese, iron, copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver, titanium, thorium, and other rare earth metals are among the valuable seafloor resources. According to estimates, copper, lead, zinc, and other minerals are abundant in the central and south-western regions of the Indian Ocean. All of these require collaborative efforts for long-term utilization.

Indian Ocean has a significant role in global trade, particularly in the petroleum sector. The large, densely inhabited, and some of the fastest-growing regions on the planet make up its littoral. All of the island and littoral states are part of the Indian Ocean area. Some countries border the Red Sea and Persian Gulf. There are 48 independent nations in the area, including the littoral states of East Africa and South Asia. The Indian Ocean region offers a distinctive environment and connection pathways to the world's resource-rich regions. Growing technological advancements and capacities have created chances for collaboration in resource exploitation. The shared responsibilities for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) across the Indian Ocean, including marine surface and aerial search and rescue (SAR), are significant. Several Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) states have fervently pushed for enhanced governance of the blue economy and more collaboration (BE). Sustainable development was the main emphasis of the 2015 Conference ON Enhancing BE for Sustainable Development.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) occupies a central geostrategic position astride the confluence of the Indian and Pacific Oceans and share littoral geography. Their collective interests are affected by the indivisible nature of the Indo-Pacific maritime context for example, emerging tensions in the South China Sea that impact regional stability.

Historically, Australia looked north and east for its strategic geography. The Indo-Pacific concept has emerged from the rising importance of the maritime as a strategic domain of great power competition. Australia's

unique geography occupying a southern middle ground between the Pacific and Indian Oceans presented an opportunity to incorporate the Indian Ocean into Australia's foreign and defence policy planning making the country an important member.

On security front, Maritime territorial sovereignty is crucial to regional stability and nation-state integrity. Law and order at sea and action against criminal activities that occur like piracy and robbery transcend national maritime boundaries. The geostrategic and geo-economics interface are linked not only with traditional maritime conflicts between nation-states but also are linked with non-traditional threats, such as environmental threats and threats by non-state actors (maritime terrorism and piracy) all calling for cooperation for sustainable ocean use.

In the Western Indian Ocean littoral states developing the BE for the region's benefit faces many of the challenges of developing countries. Smaller island countries suffer from relative isolation, from high energy and logistics costs, lack economies of scale and have limited human resources and internal markets. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) all have programmes referring to the BE, climate change mitigation and adaptation and implementation of core outcomes of the Rio and Johannesburg (UNCTAD) conferences.

Somalia piracy in the Gulf of Aden impacted regional maritime trade. Several states committed maritime forces to assist international anti-piracy efforts in the Western Indian Ocean, individually as coastal state and operating under the banner of the voluntary multinational naval partnership, Combined Maritime Forces or European Force under Operation ATLANTA. At the eastern end of the IOR under the Malacca Strait Patrols (MSP) mechanism involving Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand generate maritime trade security for all who use the Indian Ocean.

The 2009 Djibouti Code of Conduct was inspired by the 2004 Regional Co-operation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships (ReCAAP) in Asia. It is concerned with the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. The regional grouping is a greater step towards the needed cooperation to fight pirates and possibly emerging terrorist groups at sea.

The IOR Littoral States have advanced and established regional initiatives and cooperation in line with African blue economy ambitions to accomplish the SDG 2030 and African BE goals of 2050. To implement policy steps that will assure the sustainability of maritime resources and services, a regional collective action is very necessary. A concerted regional effort is required to address the trade-related and environmental difficulties, such as ocean acidification, natural catastrophes, climate change, and maintenance of security consequences.

PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES OF TERRORISM

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The search for "good life for man" is the professed common quest of all fields of study. Ethics is not isolated in this pursuit. The attempt to understand what constitutes the good life for man. Ethics studies human acts against acts of man. In every situation, ethics concerns itself with "how man ought to behave." To this effect, a threat to society is a threat to man's ethical platform: and likewise, a threat to ethics. In the contemporary society, terrorism is one phenomenon that provokes and orchestrates this kind of threat. Incontrovertibly, some of these acts of terrorism are traceable to religion. The focus of this article is on the 'ethics education on terrorism ', and the possibility of mediation through philosophical perspective.

Brief Conceptual Analysis of Ethics
Philosophy is not only speculative but also axiological or practical. Axiological philosophy deals with the application of philosophy to understand human situations. It involves true understanding of speculative philosophy to serve man's existential needs. Therefore, practical philosophy is pragmatic in orientation and comprises ethics, aesthetic and political philosophy. Nonetheless, in this article, the accent is on the nature of ethics. Etymologically, ethics is derived from the Greek word ethos (custom or conduct), which is equivalent in meaning to the Latin mores (custom or behaviour) from where moral philosophy originates. Ethics is an aspect of practical philosophy that is concerned with human acts (actushumanus) as against acts of man (actus hominis). The subject matter of ethics is voluntary human acts. This is an act for which man can be held culpable or responsible. Human acts are characterized by "intellectual and volitive constituents". According to Peschke, human acts and voluntary effects can be distinguished into the following: the perfectly and imperfectly voluntary act, the directly and indirectly voluntary effect, and the negatively and positively voluntary effect. Ethics is divided into two, namely; meta-ethics and normative ethics. Meta-ethics deals with philosophical analysis of ethical terms such as good, evil, obligation, duty, principle, responsibility, freedom, determinism, moral, amoral, immoral, right, wrong, etc. Primarily, meta-ethics investigates the meaning of good and bad.

Normative ethics on the other hand deals with the norms, standards or principles of human behaviour. It revolves around the standard for determining the morality of an action. It considers the question such as:

what is the moral standard for a responsible human action? It is against the above backdrop that most of the theories in ethics can be seen. As a normative science, ethics is a law giving science. It concentrates on how man ought to live and behave; and what he ought to do. Ethics is not an empirical science, which is descriptive in nature. Rather, ethics deals with values. It concerns how things ought to be. Therefore, ethics is an aspect of practical philosophy that studies human acts with the intention of determining what constitutes the good life for man.

Terrorism can appropriately be described with the term 'dread'. The concept terrorism has enjoyed very wide publicity even though it is not a new human dilemma. According to Primoratz, historically, terrorism dates back to 1793-1794 in which it was referred to as state terrorism as represented by the 'French Reign of Terror' which was imposed by Jacobins. Primoratz designates that terrorism at this time was used to designate acts committed by a government aimed at re-structurization of both the society and human nature. However, he remarked that it was the extremes of the French Revolution that scrambled the term and is cognates. The totalitarian regime of Russian Revolution and the Civil War; and the Nazi rule in Germany as well as that of other groups, illustrate the extreme face of terrorism. The phenomenon was later adopted by non-state actors, who carried out indiscriminate killings of people in the name of "presumed just causes". "For them, the test of terrorism is not what is done, but rather what the ultimate aim of doing it is". This is in contrast to state idea of terrorism which dwells on the one who performs an action, rather than the action performed: it stresses the agent of an action rather than its effect.

To deal with the problem of terrorism adequately, one cannot circumvent the causative agents of terrorism. A proper knowledge is necessary for any counter-terrorism measures proposed to be of any relevance. Many approaches have been proposed by experts on terrorism, with respect to identification of the best approach to terrorism in an attempt to wage war against it. These include: multi-causal approach, the political approach, the organizational approach, the physiological approach and the psychological approach. To end terrorism, it can be approached from Interreligious perspective which can be approached from various philosophical lenses. This context harps on the critical consideration of the objectives of the dialogue. Specifically, it deliberates on the logic of the various objectives of interreligious dialogue. Therefore, suffice it to consider these objectives in piece-meal, i.e.: quest for truth and collaboration in practical actions.

Human beings are by nature individualistic. Each man is unique and possesses specific qualities vis-à-vis others. But man's insatiable nature challenges and propels him to transcend himself in search of other realities which he thinks are tailored towards his integral growth and development. Thus, in spite of the individual differences, man's need for mutual interaction is so strong that it often thrusts him into dialogue; even at times against his will. Therefore, dialogue in all spheres of life is as important as it is inescapable. Adherents of different world regions especially Islam require it as a solution for global peace against the backdrop of the contemporary religion-inspired terrorism.

Conclusion

There is a tension between ethics and terrorism. This tension can be reduced by a return to societal ethics through inter-religious dialogue leading to programmed anti-radicalization process. The dialogue has been approached from the base of philosophy, in which attention is focused on showing the validity of the objectives of the dialogue leading to reduction of the above tension. The apparent perennial nature of the tension warrants consideration of the said dialogue as a continuum. This position is in consonance with the resistant and recurrent character of religion-provoked terrorism. Consequently, interreligious dialogue is a continuum in its search for truth; hence, it is considered as truth-sustained dialogue. It is a continuum in its inter-personal perspective as human relation is an ongoing event. It is equally a continuum in its collaboration in practical actions since human phenomena requiring dialogical engagements are persistent..

PICTURES SPEAK

CS MOD, Eugene Wamalwa with the NDC leadership.

Amb. Kirimi P Kaberia, PS, Ministry of Sports delivering Lecture of opportunity to Course No. 25 participants.

Course No. 25 visit to USIU Library during Orientation Phase.

Members of Seminar C.

THE INFLUENCERS OF KALENJIN MUSIC

Music is a universal language; this is especially so owing to the fact that music of identity that deploys history, mythology and narration as a means of reshaping Kalenjin self-definition and culture. It should be noted that while this sort of music has a particular ethnic identity it is being massively influenced by other genres of music.

The late Raphael Kipchambai Araap Tapoituk is one of the shining lights to emerge from Chepalungu with regard to music. He was born in 1937 in Bomet County to Mugalya Tapotuuk, his father, and Tapsabei Kobot, his mother and he made music for at least six decades. He had two brothers and for sisters and hailed from Kapsirich village.

Moris Arap Mainek is a musician from the Kipsigis community who values his culture and this is what he had to say; "many of the musicians from the Kipsigis community are conscious of their culture and this makes them compose music that resonates with people of the community and they are also experts on wordplay." Moris said that Kipchamba, even though deceased, left a music legacy that greatly popularized Kalenjin music. He also said that Kipchamba was one of the pioneers in the Koilonget band. In this way he became an inspiration to many younger artistes.
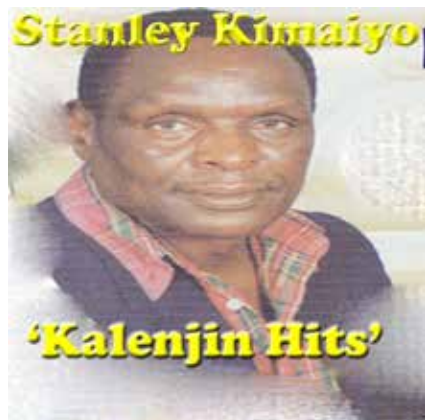
COL P K LIMO
KENYA AIR FORCE

Moris posits that it is due to Kipchamba's influence that he quit his long time profession of farming and ventured into music. His new career came with plenty of dividends including being honoured by the county government. Other musicians of reputable note from the region are: Francis Koech, popularly known as Chemirei.

Chemirei was a colleague of Kipchamba and under Kipchamba's wing he recorded more than forty songs one of them being the popular hit *Chi Neo Ketekisi*. Segeri Araap Talam, Joseph Chepkulo and Philip Sigei were also members of Kipchamba's band. Sigei who was a member of Kipchamba's band was the only member to leave the group and not pursue a solo career but formed his own band called, Cheilonget Band.

Micah Maritim was also another musician from Chepalungu who was inspired by Kipchamba and went ahead and formed his own band called,

Kimaya Jazz band. With the evolution of music, Chepalungu has still managed to maintain its status as a hub of musical talent in Kenya. The youth find his style refreshing and he has been able to slice off a considerable chunk of the Kalenjin music market for himself.

Michael Rotich, who goes by the moniker *'Sweet Star'*, has come into the Kalenjin music industry with a new flair. He made his debut in 2009 and had a unique style in his production, performance and shooting of music videos. He has so far released over 150 tracks and has been a great hit especially with the more contemporary generation. In the beginning many critics dismissed his music courtesy of his modern dress and performance style. But with time his music became popular in rift valley even when he chose to sing about taboo topics, involving intimate relations.

Michael feels vindicated by believing in himself. In a recent interview he opined that even though he faced some backlash early in his career for the kind of music

Source: Ketebull Studio, (2006)

Source: Google, (2020)

Source: Google, (2020)

he played; now he is admired by many. Michael feels that his background has a lot to do with his success since he is also a native of Chepalungu. He feels that Chepalungu being a hardship area provided little else avenue for social mobility other than music. He cites his influencers as musicians such as Ben Bii from Kaproron in Nyangores Ward, popular for his song, *Batiemisiek.* Ben began his career in the entertainment industry as a video director but then switched to being a full time musician.

Ben explained that in his formative years as a music video director he was able to pick up a lot of tips from musicians on the art of crooning behind the microphone. Ken Soi, another budding musician from Singoroi ward has formed his own band called Kibaraa Band. Ken said he was mentored by his uncle Paul Rotich of Makiche Sounds. Cyrus Langat of Isimba Jazz band is another leading artiste from Chepalungu.

Wesley Laboso of Makibe Warriors is another Singoroi counterpart. He started his music career as a guitarist and then proceeded to lace some of his tracks with his own vocals after about two years being in the business. His hit songs include, *Chekenwon Betut Angenge* and *Chepkirui Kapkatet,* and have ten albums to his name. Paul Langat, also known as

Subembe is from the Chepalungu fold and has a unique style of vigorous stage performances. This is because he started off as a dancer early in his career and this was where his primal talent lay. He has evolved to become a recording artist and he hails from Kimaya village.

Rotich, chairman of *Kamua* and founder of *Makiche* Sounds is quoted as saying that some of the best talent in the music industry can be identified early on in school music festivals and performance arts clubs in schools. Chepalungu Sub County has outdone itself and stands head and shoulders, so to speak, above all other regions in Kenya's Rift Valley with regard to music production.

In conclusion as much as music can be said to be a universal language, it is also a means of deploying specific history, identity, ideas and even mythology. Most musicians of the Kalenjin folk songs, especially Kalenjin music, were influenced and spent most of their time with their fathers or men in general. In turn this made them spend a lot of time with elders, sitting at their feet listening to their conversations on some of the key themes that affect the community, that could be translated into music, with the aim of passing strong and positive messages that could teach the community values and impart on the upcoming generations.

Chepalungu Sub County has outdone itself and stands head and shoulders, so to speak, above all other regions in Kenya's Rift Valley with regard to music production.

Cattle grazing in beautiful communal grazing areas.

THE FUTURE OF BEEF INDUSTRY IN BOTSWANA

COL M K MOKGADI
BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE

Botswana is an agricultural oriented country concentrating on growing field crops and livestock rearing as the main sub-sectors of the agriculture industry (United Nations Environment Programme, 2011). It is considered that the agriculture sector/ industry plays a major role and is the backbone of the country's economy for rural and village dwellers. Currently the sector contributes less than three percent to the Gross Domestic Products (GDP) compared to a proportion of more than forty percent ($\geq$ 40%) it contributed in 1966 when the country gained independence from Britain.

The beef industry in Botswana continues to play a pivotal role in the country's economy. First, it is one of the leading components of commodity exports and sources of foreign exchange for the country. In the early years of Botswana's independence, Meat, Hides and Skins (MHS) were the leading export commodity. With time, after the discovery of diamonds and other minerals, MHS assumed second place after minerals. However, MHS has been surpassed by other foreign income commodities, but remained one of the key commodity exports.

Cattle production is one of the key economic activities in the rural economy, and as an important source of livelihood amongst rural dwellers. Even to date, a substantial population of Botswana national (rural) still live within households that own cattle. The industry therefore still remains as a significant component of agriculture

sector that accounts for a good proportion of national and rural workforce and hence it is an important source of income, livelihood and welfare amongst rural dwellers, and continues to be a mainstay of source of income for an ordinary Motswana.

Cattle rearing and crop production at subsistence level remains the most affordable enterprise that most Batswana can afford and this sector has sustained our people for decades, hence it is very critical that the Government of Botswana protect and improve this sector to better the lives of Batswana. During the period around late 1990's, the livestock industry which is dominated by beef cattle production accounted to over 50 percent of agricultural value added and has remained the leading agricultural activity. The proceeds from

Cattle carcases in BMC storage facility.

agriculture sector was the main source of economy even at family levels, parents used the same to pay school fees for their children, even to date this sector remains very relevant and important to our lives.

With the government intensifying its efforts to diversify the economy to reduce its over-dependence on the mining sector, the need to bolster growth of non-mining sectors remains an urgent national priority. This became more apparent in the aftermath of the 2008-09 global economic crises, which yielded substantial reductions in mining GDP, government revenue, and mineral exports, consequently leading to an economic recession in 2009. Through its Strategy for Economic Diversification and Sustainable Growth, the Government has made a commitment to commercialize and restructure the agricultural sector and the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC), a state trading beef export monopoly, to improve beef industry performance. The priority given to livestock industry development is also reactivated through the high budget allocations accorded the industry within the Ministry of Agriculture.

There is still a tremendous potential in the livestock sector in Botswana. Tapping into it hinges on transformative actions that boost its competitiveness and sustainability. It needs to promote a sound business environment and increase productivity of the value chain, without compromising the quality and safety of products. An already daunting challenge in itself, this needs to be done while protecting natural resources, improving social and economic conditions of smallholder producers by far the largest share in Botswana and safeguarding animal health and welfare.

Botswana has come a long way in developing competitive livestock value chains. The industries are well-organized, meet quality and sanitary requirements of high-end markets, and have good animal identification and traceability systems in place. However, productivity has stagnated in the past years due to repeated climate shocks, animal disease outbreaks, and weakened health systems.

It is however important to note that Botswana is one of the world's most drought-prone countries. In the periods of draught, Botswana looses a good number of cattle due to insufficient pastures and other cattle supplements. In this alarming setting, the agriculture sector, especially cattle

The effects of drought in some parts of the country

industry is left acutely exposed to climate-related risk, as it is the most critically affected subsector.

As the livestock sector in Botswana is under serious threat from climate change, the government has amplified his efforts, introducing strategies to mitigate and adapt, while reducing vulnerability to future shocks. Further increasing climate resilience will rely on a very comprehensive strategy that will be directed at improving management of natural resources and integrating climate change action plans.

Though country has initiated some rangeland management initiatives; its effectiveness will anchor on strong attention and support at the smallholder level to effectively deploy community-based rangeland management plans that take into account stock holdings and grazing rates, underpinned by enhanced surveillance programs to monitor cattle and wildlife movements.

Nevertheless, this sector has proven to be profitable with substantial scope for further development. However, this potential is only likely to be achieved if the country can take bold actions to improve environmental and social aspects for reaching regional and global competitiveness, and gain access into high-end markets.

As livestock takes a leading role in delivering healthier diets and stable livelihoods, moving towards a sustainable and resilient sector becomes an imperative in Botswana and Namibia. This is a challenge that calls for regional integration to leverage shared human and physical capital and, overall, provide a cohesive and coordinated framework for the development of a climate-smart livestock value chain. Innovative, synergistic and collaborative approaches are needed for livestock to become a development force, and the time to explore them is now.

A local subsistence farmer's cattle in a kraal.

DELIMITATION OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES IN AFRICA

COL W N MURIMI
KENYA NAVY

The territorial boundaries on land are indicated by fences and other markers used as the physical indicators between states, but this form of border delimitation cannot be achieved at sea. Instead, coordinates are used to determine a state's territorial extent at sea and other water bodies. The post-colonial African states are faced with challenges that hinder them from consolidating their sovereignty at sea and lakes. Upon independence, the issue of maritime delineation was largely neglected as African countries treated land borders as priority. It took many years before the continent's maritime domain began to be of importance. According to the United Nation's report on the Maritime delimitation, management and dispute resolution report and raising interest in exploiting marine natural resources resulted in maritime disputes. The Kenya-Somalia, Namibia-South Africa, and Botswana-Namibia disputes are some of the most notable maritime border disputes in Africa.

A secure maritime domain is critical to a nation's overall social economy, security, and environmental development. Maritime boundaries can be delimitated under the provision of international law, national legislation, or delimitation by agreement. Inappropriate delineation can become a source of conflict which can assume regional or even international dimensions. Consequently, the implementation of Africa maritime strategies is jeopardized by the maritime disputes within the continent. Their resolution is imperative for African counties to fully leverage on the benefits of their maritime domains. Unresolved delimitation issues are a cause of strained relationship between various nations and states. For this reason, this article discusses the impediments to proper maritime delimitation and management in Africa.

Challenges to Management of the Maritime Boundaries

There are numerous challenges affecting the proper delimitation and management of the marine boundaries in Kenya as follows:

Maritime Insecurity

Peace and security are critical to the maintenance of the proper infrastructure in the African waterways. Maritime insecurity encompasses all acts that have an adverse impact on the resilience and the natural integrity of the navigable waterways. It also includes security of offshore resources of oil, gas, living and non-living organisms. Maritime insecurity persists in African's maritime domain majorly because of African governments' inability to police the expansive areas of seas this results in various risks that threaten peace, security and other economic activities therein. Studies on maritime security in African have shown that maritime insecurity inform of piracy, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), smuggling of firearms and drugs, human trafficking, and marine pollution have increased significantly in recent years.

Governance Problems

The threats at sea are also linked to governance problems in Africa, the state of security on land, and the ill-defined national borders. African countries are characterized by governance problems emanating from the failure of leaders to properly manage resources, diversities and their economies. Intrastate conflicts have also been the great cause of instability in many African states which also influence the emergence of maritime insecurity as is seen in the case of the Kenya-Somalia coastline. Therefore, African costal states need to implement stronger mechanisms that will strengthen governance and consequently eradicate the unresolved security threats at sea. This calls for proactive international and regional cooperation through regional cooperation and adopt conflict resolution mechanisms to get rid of the threats in African waters.

Lack of Maritime Legal Framework

The delimitation and management of Africa's maritime borders are also hampered by lack of maritime legal framework. Corruption in the governments and lack of capacity within relevant institutions has also prevented African states from managing and protecting their maritime resources adequately. Corruption in the judicial systems of African countries further weakens the government's capacity to promote maritime security. Such acts motivate criminal activities at sea since smugglers and pirates are confident of bribing their way to freedom if apprehended. Criminals also take advantage of weak and out-dated laws that are incapable of eliminating their illegal operations from Africa's maritime

> Corruption in the governments and lack of capacity within relevant institutions has also prevented African states from managing and protecting their maritime resources adequately.

domain. Therefore, there is need for the states to develop effective laws and ensure that they implement regional legal instruments that promote maritime security.

Institutional Capacities

The capacity challenges in the institutions involved in the maintenance of security at sea manifests through insufficient and ineffective naval capacities and capabilities in patrolling, surveillance, and intelligence operations in Africa's waterways. The capacity challenges are observed in form of inadequate patrolling personnel and limited number of patrol vessels and other essential resources. The lack of institutional capacities indicates that Africa lacks preparedness to tackle maritime security threats. It also shows that African countries have failed to prioritize maritime security, and yet majority of them are heavily dependent on it for food, transport, energy production, and other benefits. Insecurity adversely affects the countries' ability to utilize these benefits. As a consequence of African continent inability to combat insecurity within its maritime borders, its waters have become highly militarized by Western and non-Western naval forces. For instance, the USA, China and other European powers have been involved in operations to improve maritime security in Africa. This does not sit well with the African nations' position as sovereign states. In several instances, it is the African states that seek out help from western countries when their maritime domain is under threat from a more powerful state. By doing so, African nations become highly dependent on foreign powers. Some African countries have also established collaborative relationships among themselves e.g., the Djibouti Code of Conduct which is an attempt to retain sovereignty. However, these regional agreements face challenges, such as regional rivalries and lack of political will, which hinder their goals of protecting national interests and those other member states.

Conclusion

Maritime boundary delimitation and management are key issues and their resolution in African states is necessary to foster maritime security and sustainable socio economic development. To address the issues that have been raised in the article, countries must first prioritize the achievement of maritime security through collective efforts and a strong regional mechanism for dispute resolution. Other appropriate responses to this issue should be strengthening the legal framework to address maritime security challenges, supporting cooperation with other African countries on matters of maritime boundaries delimitation, and enhancing the capacity of the institutions involved in the maintenance of peace and security by providing adequate human and material resources and training.

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FOR CONTEMPORARY MILITARY LEADERS

A CASE STUDYOF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

COL T A AYOOLA
NIGERIAN ARMY

Leadership is the art of influencing a group of people to achieve a common goal. Military leadership on the other hand is the employment of men and material to deliver the military element of national power. Great military and national leaders like Mao Zedong, Josef Stalin, Julius Caesar and Alexander the Great had exhibited various leadership attributes in taking their nations to greater heights.

It is therefore necessary to study the leadership attributes of past successful great leaders in order to understand how they have applied their skills and traits in achieving their goals. One such leader worthy of studying is Alexander the Great. It is against this backdrop that this article examines the leadership attributes of Alexander the Great, his escapades in the Battle of Hydaspes and draws lessons for contemporary military leaders.

Military Career

Alexander became the commander of the Macedonian Army at the age of 16years after his father's death and within 13 years, led his army to victories across the Persian territories of Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt all the way to India without suffering any defeat. In his major battles which included the battles of Issus, Gaugamela, Granicus, Jaxartes, Hydaspes, he was acknowledged for always leading by example and exhibiting great human skills in convincing his troops to fight even when they were heavily outnumbered. Alexander established himself as an exemplary leader and earned immense respect and admiration from his men.

Leadership Style

Alexander was a transformational leader who adopted the four elements of leadership namely individualized consideration, intellectual stimulation, inspirational motivation and idealized influence. Alexander used these attributes to inspire his followers with a sense of purpose and excitement which placed him among the greatest leaders the world has ever had.

Role in the Battle of Hydaspes and Lessons Learnt

In the spring of 326 BC, Alexander camped near Jhelum on the North bank of River Hydaspes (now Jhelum) with the intent of

The important lesson here is the significance of mission command. Alexander gave Craterus the "what", "when" and "why" but was allowed to work out the "how" himself with ample time and resources to do so. Furthermore, Alexander's treatment of Porus tells us that Alexander was a man of conflicting personalities. He was ruthless in battle and often not sympathetic towards his enemies. But he showed his forgiving and more generous side towards Porus making him his ally in future battles. This demonstrates Alexander's strategic mindset.

The major war fighting lesson identified from Alexander in the Battle of Hydaspes is the importance of deception. Through deception, Alexander was able to achieve surprise.

Numerous lessons have been identified from Alexander the Great's leadership, but only the need for commanders to be best positioned to influence battle and the importance of maintenance of morale will be discussed.

A commander's presence on the frontline enhances success in battle and experienced commanders remain physically visible in order to motivate and inspire their troops.

In Alexander's case, he always fought within the soldiers' ranks in the frontline in all his battles.

While some may argue that the advent of radio, drones and other technologies deemphasise the need for commanders to be at the frontline, in many instances, it was their exemplary leadership on the frontline that enabled momentum to be maintained.

Though Sun Tzu notes recklessness as one of the five faults that may affect a general, it behoves leaders to maintain safety while engendering their troops to fight on. There is need therefore for military leaders to place themselves forward well enough to inspire the troops without being reckless.

Alexander was a transformational leader who inspired his followers through charisma, individualized consideration and intellectual stimulation. The lessons for contemporary military leaders include the need for an offensive posture, the need to conceal intentions, the use of darkness and weather to one's advantage. Other lessons are the significance of mission command, the need for commanders to be well positioned to influence battle and the importance of morale.

subduing King Porus. Porus on the other hand intended to defend his kingdom and therefore deployed on the Southern bank to repel any crossing. Alexander realised that a frontal approach would be disastrous because Porus had employed the use of natural obstacle to his advantage but over relied on it. Alexander employed numerous feints and deceptions to deceive Porus keeping him continuously on alert until he concluded it was a bluff and relaxed.

Sun Tzu said "All warfare is based on deception. Hence, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable; we must make him believe we are near." The lesson gleaned from this is the need to conceal intentions and use feint by incorporating deception in planning. Through this, Alexander achieved surprise.

Alexander divided his army, leaving a small force with Craterus in the base camp while taking most of the army to cross River Hydaspes 27 km away. He instructed Craterus to cross only when

the main force had engaged Porus on the other side. By chance, a storm occurred that night which drowned the sounds of Alexander's crossing. An important lesson identified here is the need to use darkness and weather to one's advantage. According to Sun Tzu "If you know the enemy and you know yourself, your victory will not stand in doubt; if you know Heaven and Earth, you may make your victory complete." Alexander's skilful use of darkness and the weather further guaranteed surprise.

The Indians deployed cavalry on both flanks, with infantry and war elephants at the centre. The Macedonian infantry was outnumbered by the Indian infantry. But Alexander divided, disrupted and dislocated Porus force and compelled the Indians to extend their flanks and created a gap in the cavalry. Porus's army was encircled by the Macedonians as Craterus crossed the river to pursue the Indians who escaped.

Though Porus put up a brave fight, he was eventually captured but later spared.

NEGLECTED STONE THAT BROUGHT LIFE IN MPHANGALA VILLAGE

COL P W SIMWAKA

MALAWI DEFENCE FORCE

Bwana Mkulu was a well-known teacher in Mphangala village. His fame was built on his riches which he accumulated from a mining company in the 60s in a far rich country of Kubulendo. Due to his riches, Bwana Mkulu attracted massive reputation in Zonde village. Many women flocked to Mkulu in a bid to win a hand of love or just an affair so that their status could be elevated in Zonde society. Consequently, Bwana Mkulu ended up marrying four women; Nyaluhamba, Nyalupeto, Nyasebo and Nyasimba.

Bwana Mkulu was a very good public speaker, humourous and had the charisma to convince an audience. He was very brilliant, with traits of genius confronting critical problem. He was a village knowledge bank where Chiefs and Elders could tap guidance on any problem confronting them in Mphangala society. He was also a hub of history for Zonde people. He managed his four wives with peace and harmony and was very skilful in resolving conflict in his family. His wives respected each other according to their seniority. Every wife took custody of her children in their lubaza. The good parental leadership of Bwana Mkulu brought togetherness among his siblings. As a first generation teacher, the core value of his family was to enable his children attain sound education. After years of harmony in the family, his second wife Nyalupeto misbehaved for not respecting marriage oath

and was divorced immediately. The second wife eloped with another man to a distance village in the Ngahe society. She had sired two boys with Mkulu and took away with her the youngest boy, leaving behind the teenage boy Lada. Lada immediately came under the custody of the senior wife Nyaluhamba.

The absence of Nyalupeto made Lada to lose focus on education and started engaging in indiscipline behaviour. He became very interested in herding cows for the family and tilling farm land. His close friend Tipa was an offspring from the senior wife Nyaluhamba. Tipa was a few years older than Lada. Tipa was born from a family of five male children. Unlike Lada, Tipa, the neglected stone was loved by his

> Bwana Mkulu was a very good public speaker, humourous and had the charisma to convince an audience.

father Mkulu and shared remembrance in both physical stature and vocal articulation.

The love of Tipa by his father made his senior brothers to exacerbate abuse and ill treatment. The frustration Tipa faced made him to get very close to his younger brother Lada who sympathised with Tipa. The two brothers were always engaged in cattle herding and tilling the family farm land. The contrast between Tipa and Lada is that Tipa continued to study despite being engaged in agricultural engagements for the family. However, his abuse and ill treatment from his senior brothers made him to perform poorly in academic. His immediate senior brother who was a wonderboy in the village gradually motivated Tipa. Tipa the neglected stone did not take off well in his academic journey. He had to repeat in his

first, third and eighth grade.

After reaching adolescent age, his senior brothers moved to big cities for further studies. This created a conducive environment for Tipa to concentrate and realise his dreams in academic journey. He continued engaging in both family agricultural responsibility as well as academic focus. The relationship between Tipa and his immediate senior brother improved and Tipas' gates of brilliance started to open. His immediate brothers' fame in academic circles in the family drove Tipa more to concentrate on Education. This made him to improve academically. Tipa proceeded well in education and managed to attain a University Degree. Tipa the neglected stone continues to stay closer to Bwana Mkulu as a favoured son.

The affection between Tipa and his father grew from strength to strength. It did not take long when Mkulu started to get sick of old age as he was in his late 90s. When the hand of angel was extended to Mkulu, he called Tipa the favoured son and showered blessings on him from his dying bed. The neglected stone that brought life to Mphangala village accepted the blessings, shortly Mkulu took his last breath and departed from this world. The blessings immediately opened success on job. Tipa unprecedented financial muscle made him engage in infrastructure development for his poor Mphangala village from hall complex, shopping mauls, restaurants, rest houses, secondary schools, entertainment centre, bars, ware house, offices and pharmacies. Projects were running at an astonishing speed to the surprise of all villagers.

The neglected stone Tipa changed life and brought smiles on faces of all Mphangala villagers. The village turned into a mini town. Tipa impacted Mphangala villagers academically, socially and economically. Truly he was the Neglected Stone that brought life to Mphangala Village. Sadly as the sons of Bwana Mkulu conquered the Education Mountains and blossomed in their lives, they all forgot about their brother Lada.

A TRIP TO NEPAL

COL D K KARKI
NEPALI ARMY

Nepal is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of bio-diversity due to its unique geographical position and latitudinal variation. The elevation of the country ranges from 60m above sea level to the highest point on earth, Mt Everest at 8,848m, all within a distance of 150km results in climatic conditions from sub-tropical to the Artic. Below, an attempt to advise about three major trips is made.

Spiritual Trips

The birthplace of the Buddha and the abode of Pashupati, a holy shrine to Shiva, Nepal is an important destination for Hindus and Buddhists. The many devotees visiting temples and monasteries and going on pilgrimages are proof of the depth and strength of its spiritual roots. This harmonious co-existence of religions has birthed and encouraged a multicultural environment, attracting both believers and freethinkers alike. In Nepal, the Himalayas are considered the home of the gods and a sacred place of spiritually and mysticism. Attending the evening Aarti (offering light to the god) at the Pashupatinath Temple and lighting butter lamps, watching them glow softly in a quiet Buddhist cave make for a divine experience. Meditating near a serene lake as the sun rises over snow-capped peaks, or walking silently through a forest is nothing short of a transcendental experience. Yoga retreats, mediation treks, monastery visits or wellness holidays are all great ways to explore your spiritual side through the medium of travel.

Nepal was officially a Hindu Kingdom until recently, and the ancient beauty of its temples has been preserved. Towns have a central durbar square, which used to be the seat of the king and his court. Ornate doorways, massive pillars and structures, intricate carving and beautifully sculpted status, built over nearly 600 years, chronicle a bygone era strongly rooted in Hinduism are present. Pashupatinath stands out as one of the most important sites for Hindus from all over the world. Nepal is one of the few countries that worship's a living human being as a goddess, the Kumari. Tourists can take part in festivals like the Kumari Jatra and Dasain.

Cultural Trips

Nepal is the cultural nerve Centre of the Himalayas. Its unhurried pace and the history of the medieval city squares in Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktpur are the heart of this nation. The Kathmandu valley is home to an unrivalled world-class places, hidden backstreet shrines, and sublime temple art. Nepal's diverse culture is packed into a compact geography, home to a stunning variety of handicrafts and a sophisticated cuisine. The place combines gorgeous views of the world's tallest mountains, golden temples, charming hill villages and wildlife to offer one of the world's greatest travel destinations. It has more than 60 ethnicities, a staggering architectural range in its ancient temples, and pristine Buddhist stupas, a testament to its multi-religious heritage.

The Mall period, particularly between the 15th – 16th centuries, was the golden age of Newari craftsmanship in the Kathmandu valley. Some of the famous places and temples in Patan, Bhaktpur and Kathmandu were built during this time. Apart from woodcarving, Newari craftsmanship has also included stone sculpting, metal work, and ceramics in places like Bhaktpur's

Pashupatinath Temple. Source: Wikimedia Commons

Kumari (living goddess)
Source; dreamstime.com

Bauddhanath Stupa. Source: pinterest.com

Hanum Dhoka Darbar Square. Source:Babina Sapkota

Thangka Paint
Source; Mandalas life

Potters Square. The Buddhist influence on the country has resulted in the creation of many Thangka painting schools. These are attended by local artisans, whose work is sold at galleries and centres like the Dharmapala Thangka Centre; and by travelers learning through long-term courses. The sleek Khukuri (dagger) of the Gurkhas, the world famous warrior community of Nepal, is a popular souvenir, and these can be found at Khukuri House.

Adventure Trip

Nepal is home to nearly one-third of the 1500 mile-long Himalayan range, the tallest mountains in the world and the deepest gorge. The 1700-Kilometer Great Himalayan Trail is the longest and highest alpine trekking trails, and it connects the two ends of the country via a breathtaking route. There is also plenty for those who want to see majestic views in plush comfort, unwind while gazing at snow-capped peaks, or watch the indescribable beauty of the sun rising over misty mountains. Nepal offers hikes with a network of over 20 protected regions, including conservation areas, reserves, and national parks crisscrossed with trekking trails. Whatever your fitness and or interest levels, Nepal has something for you.

Once you have had your fill of adventure, kick back and relax midst of some of the most breathtaking mountain landscape in the world. From watching sunrise over the Annapurna mountains to a gentle boat ride down to the Rapti, and from waking up to birdsong in the middle of nowhere to soaking in luxury in locals you would never expect it in, get a taste of the best experience in the unofficial adventure capital of south Asia. In Nepal, your next big thrill is just a mountain peak, river or valley away.

Though small, Nepal can fulfill travelers' desire, from ascending the Himalayas to watching birds and wildlife in the plains, from adventure sports to pilgrimage tour. Mountains are only half the Nepal story. The towns of Kathmandu valley are jam-packed with pagoda-roofed temples and the national parks of plains are teemed with exotic wildlife. On a single trip to Nepal, you can climb a mountain, mediate in a monastery, ride on a bus roof, sip Chang (rice beer) with a Sherpa, and get chased by rhino; how many countries can compete with that?

Source: bigstock.com

Rapti River. Source: bbc travel

WATCH OUT FOR CYBER CRIMINALS

COL P KIHUTA
UGANDA PEOPLES DEFENCE FORCES

Over the past two decades, cybercrime has become a silent area of inquiry for criminologists and a growing concern for public policy. Cybercrime is a criminal activity (such as fraud, theft or distribution of pornographic materials) committed using a computer to access, transmit, or manipulate data illegally.

Why is the Prevalence Rate Increasing?

The increasing prevalence of cloud computing has made storing and accessing important electronic data relatively easier and cheap. However, the increasing number of documents and information meant for storage electronically has made the cybercrimes threat and data breaches worse. Small businesses are falling victims to "ransom ware", where malicious codes lock up computer files. The Cyber criminals then demand a ransom to have the files unlocked. "The growing number of mobile devices such as phones, iPads (tablets), and the popularity of social media networks give the new eve miles in which to expand their cybercrime".

Types of Cybercrimes

The term cybercrime covers many possibilities of various types of crime fragmented into several categories according to the kind of electronic used.

In some types of cybercrime, a computer or other electronic communication devices are used to commit the crime. In others, the computer or device is the actual target of the crime.

Computer Viruses: A small computer program that places copies of itself onto other computers without the user's consent. The makers create their virus programs to attach or embed themselves in emails. When the email is opened, the virus activates and does whatever it was programmed to do, including and not limited to: Stealing valuable hard drive disk space, destroying data, accessing personal information, and sending information (or itself) to other computers using the original victim's contact list.

Identity Theft: Involves stealing an Individual's personal information, and using it to use their financial resources without their consent or open new financial or credit accounts without their knowledge. The information commonly stolen to facilitate these crimes includes; name of the victim, date of birth, social security number and credit card number.

Hacking: Personal identifying information can be stolen when a computer-savvy person hacks into a computer network, like one which a bank or a retail business establishment shares information with its branch. These breaches allow hackers to snare huge blocks of information at a time.

Cyber criminal Operations in EAC States

Cyber criminals have leap-frogged their operations to cover the entire world over, ranging from the developed communities, e.g., the USA, the UK etc., to less developed communities (LDCs), including our EAC states, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). South Africa first suffered more cybercrime attacks than any other country in Africa, with consumers losing a little over $167 million in the year 2013- *Norton report of 2016* in Johannesburg City.

Cybercrime is taking a bottom-line toll on the corporate workplace. "Only in 2021, losses exceeded $ 100 million – and that figure continues to skyrocket as security breaches pose an increased threat to US corporations, banks and even the government itself".

East Africa recorded the highest losses at $171 million to cybercriminals. Tanzania lost $ 85 while Uganda companies lost $15 million. Over one-third of organizations that experienced a breach in 2016 reported substantial customer, opportunity and revenue loss of more than 20%, according to *CISCO 2017 Annual Cyber–Security Report.*

Further still, the article by Mr Fredrick Obura in "The Standard News" dated 10th April 2017 indicates that in Nairobi, Kenya, banks have become the leading target of cybercrime as people increasingly adopt the use of financial technology. African countries lost at least $2 billion in cybercrime.

Cyber criminals Main Targets

Individuals, Government and Property (IGPs) are victims of cyber criminals. Indeed, from the fore stated information, it is evident that the cybercriminals target not only money, but also Individuals, Governments and Property. The Covid-19 pandemic season aggravated the situation since cybercriminals could use the Covid -19 face masks to conceal their faces for obvious reasons of the SOPs as per the MOH guidelines, and also conceal their identity.

Kaspersky Security Solutions, in September 2020, reported 28 million malware attacks and 102 million detections of potentially unwanted programs (malware, hardware, among others) where South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria were the most affected.

Interventions against these Cybercrime Activities

Following the serious impact the cybercrimes have on Individuals, Governments and Property, IGPs; Individual users of computers and related

electronic devices are encouraged to use government-registered antiviruses in their devices to protect against both suspicious viruses and very strong passwords to guard against hackers.

The Kenyan government has already embarked on the improvement of online ICT infrastructure since 2018 - by the enactment of the computer misuse and cybercrime Act of 2018 through the National Kenya Computer Incident Response Team – Coordination Center (National KE-CIRT/CC). This serves as a multi-agency collaboration framework which is responsible for the national coordination of cybersecurity matters. We pray that all other EAC States follow suit using appropriate ministries and departments respectively to avert this severe socio-economic threat. All these actions aim to protect cyberspace citizens against cyber threats and eminent attacks.

Conclusion

Cyber criminals are with us and are evolving, as Information; Computer Technology (ICT) tends to rule all social and

economic operations worldwide. As much as our governments have made appreciable interventions to curb or control the rising vice, it remains incumbent upon everyone to strictly watch out for these criminal operations, not to be victims. As electronic device and generally computer users, we should always apply antiviruses and report any suspicious malware on our gadget also.

HAVE THE KENYAN YOUTH LOWERED THEIR GUARD IN HIV / AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL?

DR. C A ASIN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The virus that causes HIV/AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is one of the world's most serious public heath challenges. Today, the HIV/AIDS infections have decreased significantly due to the implementation of various health initiatives that have been supported by the Global Fund, UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and WHO (World Health Organization) among others who have also greatly enhanced access to treatment and health related services. According to UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), there were about 1.71 million adolescents on average living with HIV/AIDS globally in 2021. Adolescents account for 5% of the 11% of adults living with this disease globally. According to CDC, young people aged 13-24 years account for 20% of all new HIV infections. In Sub-Saharan Africa alone, the youth account for 82% of the new infections.

The rate of HIV/AIDS infections in the Kenyan general population has dropped significantly due to awareness creation and use of antiretroviral drugs. The number of children living with HIV/AIDS infections in Kenya has also dropped over time due to increased access to Medicare, especially among expectant women. However, there is a growing worrying trend of infections among the young people aged 15-24 years as the advocacy for Social Change revealed. The youth normally tend to experiment with drugs, alcohol, substance abuse and indulge in unsafe sexual practices. According to the National AIDs Control Council, males aged 15-35 years are more affected by the HIV disease because of their poor care seeking behaviours. These men suffer silently due to the fear of stigmatization. The questions of concern therefore are: Has Kenya relaxed efforts in awareness creation on HIV/AIDS? Does the Kenyan youth have the correct knowledge on HIV transmission and prevention?

The problem of HIV/AIDS infections amongst the youth has been compounded by poverty, unemployment and cultural practices that force some girls to be submissive and not have a voice. The

ARE HIV INFECTIONS AMONG KENYAN YOUTH ON THE RISE?

population of the youth is burgeoning and there are no job opportunities to absorb them. Some of those that are lucky to secure jobs cannot sustain their basic needs because they live from hand to mouth; the vicious cycle of poverty. Consequently, majority of the youth lack adequate food and income to replenish their lives. This makes them vulnerable to immoralities through which they contract the disease.

The practice of female genital mutilation and circumcision has also continued to expose young girls to the disease through the sharing of the knife practice. Forced and early marriages for young girls have also contributed significantly to increased cases of HIV/AIDS. There has also been an increase in sexual violence by men around family circles. Some men abuse their daughters and nieces leading to unwanted pregnancies and new HIV/AIDS infections. This has been further fueled by mental and physical health issues amongst men which have contributed to the increase in gender-based violence amongst families.

Additionally, the rising infections have been driven by the COVID 19 pandemic. Due to the negative impact of this pandemic on livelihoods, the youth have lost their sources of income which has resulted to their indulgence in drugs, alcohol and substance abuse. This has equally led to the new infections. The six months lock down that happened in Kenya at the onset of the pandemic has also contributed greatly to the rising cases of HIV/AIDS amongst young people in Kenya as well as gender-based violence. The youth have a very significant role in renewing and refreshing the current status of leadership, skills and innovations in our society. It becomes challenging

therefore to advance in these undertakings when one has a myriad of health and social problems.

The youthful energy and capabilities are key in peace building work mediation, humanitarian work, and community mobilization. In this regard, the government needs to harness the potential of the youth to develop and secure Kenya. The current challenge of rising infections amongst the youth implicates negatively on the government's agenda of empowering the youth. Recruitment of the youth with an aim of working towards various National Security aspects can be affected by HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. A generation of young people suffering from infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS cannot be fit to participate in nation building activities. The community in close collaboration with the Government of Kenya also needs to renew its efforts in advocacy work on HIV/AIDS and empower the infected and affected to effectively participate in nation building. Increased awareness on access to HIV/AIDS services needs to be continuously propagated since a healthy nation is a wealthy nation.

The opinions, knowledge and attitudes towards HIV/AIDS are important in care, support and prevention of this disease. Kenya, with the support of various key stakeholders has benefitted immensely from various initiatives that have been targeted towards enhancing knowledge through awareness creation and prevention of this disease. These initiatives include the Presidents Emergency Plan for

AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which works in collaboration with the government of Kenya to combat HIV/AIDS. The Ministry of Health also collaborates with other ministries in supporting activities around prevention, treatment and care through the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). To back up the efforts of key stakeholders, community groups and organizations can support by providing HIV prevention education at schools, work places, churches and community involvement. At work places, organizations should develop HIV/AIDS policies and implement a fair employment practice.

Misconceptions about HIV/AIDs continue to exist amongst the youth. It is important for the government and stakeholders to urgently implement strategies to improve HIV infection risk perception and intensify education through targeted relevant messages which will help the youth to protect themselves from infection at an early age. School-based intervention programs intended for behaviour change should continue being implemented. Young people should also be continuously made aware of HIV counselling and testing services to help increase their access to these lifesaving services.

hiv affects everyone
risks for hiv:
- not knowing facts or personal risk
- having sex
- alcohol or drug use with sex
- sex with older partners who may be more likely to be infected
- multiple sex partners
- injecting drugs
- no condoms
- not tested
- not treated

IS TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT THE PANACEA?

MR E K OBURA
KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY

As we grew up, my siblings and I looked up to our parents for provision, protection and guidance which ensured our wellbeing. Upon attaining the school-going age, we were introduced to the school system. With time, we were taught to memorize in order to pass exams. Our parents reinforced this, and as a confirmation of this commitment, Dad, our home tutor-in-chief required us to memorize the multiplication table which was printed at the back of our exercise books. At unscheduled intervals, he would pop in to my room and ask a random question from the multiplication table. A wrong answer would attract dire consequences including the much-dreaded denial of a well-deserved evening meal. This approach produced excellent students. If success was a person, then yours truly was that person. My achievement at the national exams at primary school level spoke for itself, and of course when this was replicated by my siblings, my parents were the heroes in our neighbourhood.

As we progressed into high school, teachers and parents did not encourage us to think but to memorize deeper concepts even though trying to understand them would have been more desirable. After all, why change what has been proven to work before? With exams in mind, the desire to progress in the world of academia meant that memorization still reigned supreme.

Exit high school, enter college and we graduated (though at different times) from being taught to attending lectures. Our instructors were no longer teachers but lecturers, and success was no doubt beckoning. The stage was set and memorization took its rightful place, or so we thought. It was such a nice feeling just to tell a colleague that "I have an appointment with my lecturer to review my proposal". It is at this stage that we were challenged to focus on research and private reading. In essence, it was a change of approach from memorization to individual research. This conditioned us to reading widely, borrowing many books from the library and carrying them to our respective rooms in full glare of colleagues, leaning on one side of the shoulder due to the 'academic weight' of the books. Was this going to be the breakthrough into resolving real life challenges? Certainly, or so it appeared. With our brains full of new concepts, our mouths armed with academic quotes, an elevated ego and enhanced memory quotient, we passed our exams and felt ready to solve the challenges that facing humanity. We graduated and proceeded to look for employment.

Our entry into the job market was low key and unacceptable, contrary to our high expectations. Whereas we expected prospective employers to be waiting in tow for us at our respective universities to usher us into triumphant entry into the world of employment, the exact opposite happened. Few of my colleagues obtained job placements immediately after graduation. I was fortunate enough to be absorbed as a graduate trainee at a state corporation and not the senior manager I had all along hoped would be my entry-level designation. The majority of us were subjected to a further two-year graduate trainee programme, inclusive of on-the-job training to prepare us for the job. It dawned on me that up to this point, we were not yet fully prepared to take up the fancy positions we had been dreaming of.

This period introduced us to laws, policies, procedures and processes through which respective institutional mandates were to be delivered. We were instructed to always operate within the specified limits and this to me became the new "box" within which my thinking had to be confined. There was a certain way of doing things that did not quite admit new thinking, and our superiors were comfortable with this arrangement. However, when faced with un-met targets, the phrase 'think outside the box' was common-place in our institution. Having been appraised on the consequences of operating outside of the written procedures, the innovation gear that we had so long looked forward to engage was rendered redundant at least for the moment. For quite some time, our institution reported un-met targets in successive periods even with massive investments in automation, refresher courses for staff and the ever-increasing operational costs. What was missing? Innovation!! it was.

As I reminisce my journey so far, I realize some missing ingredient that could have been incorporated in the school system to realize better outcomes and efficiency in the workplace; the lack of total quality management being incorporated in the education spectrum. The situation above could be addressed by seeking to identify the root cause of poor innovation and implementing appropriate interventions. This includes developing the "whole student" by identifying learner's talent, creativity and cognitive abilities. In Kenya, the government introduced the new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) in its education system in 2018. This consists of 2-6-3-3-3 education cycle in years at pre-primary, primary, junior secondary, senior secondary and university respectively. In it, every learner shall transition through 17 levels (minimum), each lasting one year. In addition, what used to be called subjects are now referred to as learning areas. A leading Kenyan newspaper in 2017 described the new education system as one in which, "Learners will not sit exams but they will be evaluated through Continuous Assessment Tests (CATs) on the skills acquired as opposed to cramming for exams as has been the case". Hopefully, this new curriculum has embraced the principles of Total Quality Management and will address the gaps that we survived with through the years. Ultimately, creativity and innovation will be the new normal even in the workplace.

THE EARTH ENERGY BALANCE

COL P M KIMONDIU
KENYA ARMY

The Earth's climate is determined by flows of energy into and out of the Earth's surface. All energy entering or leaving the Earth climate system is in the form of radiation at the top-of-the-atmosphere (TOA). All energy warming the Earth's climate system comes from the Sun. Some of the solar energy is reflected back to space, reducing much heating. The difference between incoming and outgoing radiation determines the net radiative flux at TOA. If the imbalance is positive (less energy going out than coming in), energy in form of heat is accumulated resulting in global warming, or cooling if the imbalance is negative.

The imbalance is due to increases in greenhouse gases from human activities, leading to heat accumulation that drives global warming. Greenhouse gases prevent extra energy from radiating back to space, causing global temperatures to rise. This energy imbalance is the most fundamental metric defining the status of global climate change. Everything else about global climate change, including the warming, is a symptom to the mismatch of energy-in versus energy-out.

Discussion

In the lower school, science teachers explained a fundamental property of the Universe that energy can neither be created nor destroyed, but can only be transformed. On reaching the Earth, the Sun's rays are transformed into random motions of molecules that are felt as heat. The Earth and the atmosphere send radiation back into space. The balance between incoming and outgoing energy is termed earth's "energy budget." The various facets and impacts of observed climate change arise due to the positive Earth Energy Imbalance (EEI), representing a crucial measure of climate change rate.

Global climate is determined by these energy flows where if the energy coming in is more than the energy going out, planet earth warms up. This happens in a few ways namely, when ocean ice which reflects solar radiation back into space disappears and the dark oceans absorb that energy instead. The ocean absorbs around 90% of the planet's excess energy, making ocean heat a prime indicator of changing energy balance. Planet earth can also warm up when greenhouse gases build up in the atmosphere and trap some of the energy from radiating away.

The surface energy balance determines the energy available to evaporate surface water and raise or lower the temperature of the surface. The atmosphere absorbs lots of energy and emits it as radiation into space and back to the earth's surface. The surface gets almost twice as much radiation from the atmosphere as it does from direct sunshine. This is because the sun heats the surface only during the day, while the warm atmosphere is up there 24/7. Only a tiny fraction is conducted upward from the earth's interior. The earth receives approximately 340.4 Watts of sunshine per square meter. All sunshine falls on the daytime side, with numbers much higher at local noon.

Of the 340.4 watts; close to 99.9 watts are reflected back into space by clouds, dust, snow and the earth's surface. A quarter of 240.5 watts balance is absorbed by the

The Earth Energy Balance: https://www.google.com/search?q=THE+EARTH+ENERGY+BALANCE&client
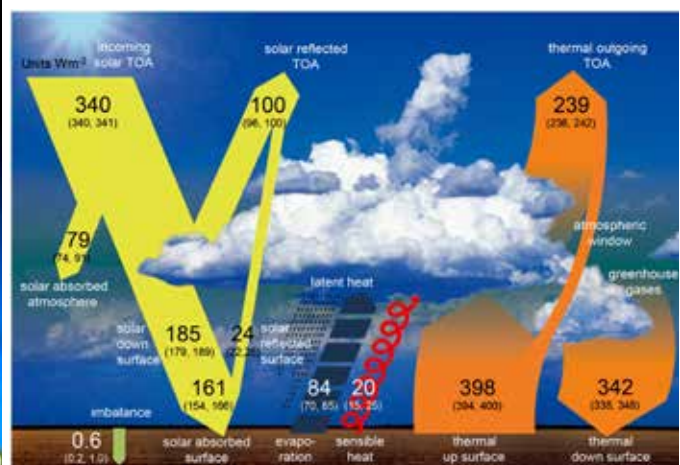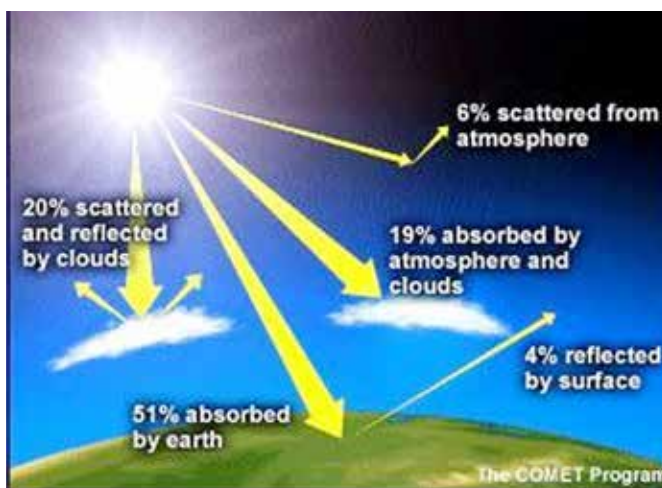
atmosphere and the rest by the Earth. This radiation is transformed into thermal energy and all the absorbed energy is matched by energy emitted back into space. A residual 0.6 watts goes to evaporate water and warm the air, oceans and land, causing global warming. The residual between incoming sunshine and outgoing infrared is due to accumulation of greenhouse gases in the air. These gases are transparent to sunlight but opaque to infrared rays, absorbing and emitting a lot of infrared rays downwards. Earth's surface temperature must increase in response until balance is restored between incoming and outgoing radiation.

Worsening Imbalance
With worsening imbalances, greater climatic changes are expected. Emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, capturing outgoing radiation that would otherwise escape into space. Warming of the planet triggers other feedback cycles that further increase the imbalance. Melting ice is one and over the last decade, average global ocean level has risen by about 4 millimeters

per year. This is due to melting of ice in mountain glaciers plus at the Poles, and expansion of Ocean water on taking up heat. Highly reflective Ocean ice beams sunlight away from earth. As ice continues to disappear; more solar radiation gets through to the earth's surface.

Clouds consist of droplets or ice crystals, which form when water vapour condenses or deposits around tiny particles called aerosols. They either trap solar energy or reflect it back to space, depending on cloud type, local climate conditions etc. Cloud cover changes increase the radiation absorbed by the earth. Some of the cloud changes are linked to shifts in natural climate cycle, or probably human-caused climate change.

Future Trends
With current emissions, greenhouse gas levels would double from preindustrial levels and climate scientists calculate this would warm the earth's climate by about 3 °C. Mitigation requires replacing fossil fuels, the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions, with other forms of energy.

Some changes may be irreversible, but can be slowed and others reversed through rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The 2015 international Paris Agreement limits warming well below 2 °C above preindustrial levels. It requires getting global carbon dioxide emissions to zero before 2050.

Conclusion
Climate is determined by energy flows where if the in-coming energy is more than the out-going energy, the earth warms up. This energy is enough to evaporate surface water and raise or lower the temperature of the surface. If the Earth's energy imbalance continues to grow, consequences that are already being felt today will accelerate. For a carbon quota consistent with 2 °C warming limit, the necessary long-term mitigation rates are very challenging, both because of strong limits on future emissions from the global carbon quota and also the likely short-term persistence in emissions growth in many regions. The big question therefore is "how much more imbalances are 'in the pipeline?"

PAY EVOLUTION IN THE KENYA DEFENCE FORCES

Human beings have to learn skills and knowledge that will enable them to sustain themselves in their day to day life. According to Karl Marx "Labour has become not only a means of life, but life's prime want". Primarily, the essence of labour is sustenance and therefore to achieve its intended objective, every organization rewards labourer's productivity and performance through monetary incentives. Pay is a form of compensation from an employer to an employee for services rendered, which may be specified in an employment contract. In the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), pay is regarded as a morale factor.

From the earliest days of the Republic, the Government of Kenya has been compensating Members of the Defence Forces for their devoted services to the

COL P M MUIRURI
KENYA ARMY

country. While the initial pay structure was fairly simple, over time it has evolved to more complex system matching with the current economic status. The pay system

includes Cash Payment such as Basic Pay and Various Allowances, Non cash Benefits such as Medical, Free Lunch to all Service Members, subsidized Housing, Education and also access to consumable Products from Defence Forces Canteen Organization and Deferred Compensation in form of Retirement Benefits to the retired KDF personnel. Basic pay is the primary means of compensating members of KDF for their services to the country except during the period of Absent Without Leave (AWOL), Excess Leave and Confinement. It is paid to individual Members on regular basis; the amount depends on the Member's pay grade, pay structure and length of service.

During the old days, the KDF by then Kenya Armed Forces used a payment system which was known as a Pay Parade where Paymasters would make cash

requisition from the Armed Forces Cashier and in turn was assisted to carry his duties by selected Units officers to pay service personnel at their respective Pay Points or Station in cash bi-monthly using AB 64. The Pay Raw Data was maintained in the form of "Run 3" at the Defence Headquarters. Overtime, this system turned out to be tedious due to growing number of personnel in the KDF. The game changer came in 1996 when Soldiers were allowed to open Bank Accounts where their salaries would be credited and withdraw at their own convenience. This was a major milestone in the KDF as it empowered the personnel financially where they could borrow unsecured bank loans and enjoy other services thus improved on their quality of life in line with pillar five which is resettlement.

In 2007, Integrated Payroll and Personnel Database (IPPD) were introduced to replace "Run 3". This system helped in human resource management mainly in payroll administration which was marred by inefficiencies resulting from the initial manual management of the payroll. IPPD is effective, accurate, efficient and economical, reduces manual work, offers consolidated reports and streamlined updates.

Traditionally, the KDF reviews its pay and allowances through the Pay and Review Board that was established in the year 1979, however upon establishment of Salaries Remuneration Commission (SRC) in 2010 constitution, a change in remuneration of Public Service including the KDF was instituted through a job evaluation exercise of all government employees in 2016. Consequently, future pay and remuneration will be hinged on SRC remuneration cycle for all public service.

Evolution of pay has led to streamlining of some allowances applicable to Service Personnel. For instance, previously, leave allowance was paid in the month that the Service Personnel was due to proceed on his/her leave and was paid depending on one's marital status, number of children and distance in Kilometers from one's unit to domicile area. It was paid full rate for the Personnel, wife and children above 4 years old while children below 4 years were paid half rate. In the year 2015, leave allowance was harmonized where all the Service

Soldiers lined up for pay at Lanet Barracks.

Personnel are now paid annually in the month of December at an equal applicable rate for married and single. Compassionate leave allowance which was initially paid in a similar manner as annual leave upon compassionate occurrence was harmonized and paid at an equal rate irrespective of rank.

Evolution of pay has led to streamlining of some allowances applicable to Service Personnel.

In the past, the KDF housed Personnel in Married Quarters. After some time, Commanding Officers had the authority to give the house allowance at their own discretion as per DEFSO to Officers who didn't have house within the MQ. The

mentioned allowance was based on one's Rank; with time the allowance was applicable to all Service Personnel but paid according to the location of the unit. In the year 2015, house allowance was harmonized and is payable according to the rank regardless of work station. Evolution of pay has seen the KDF introduce Additional Pay and Other Allowances in order to compensate, attract and retain certain specialist officers such as Medical Doctors, Pilots and Lawyers. KDF gives compensation to her personnel on death and injuries that occurs on line of duty Indemnity.

Equally, the remunerations' ensure overall enhanced mission readiness, better recruitment and retention of future military force. It is worth noting that pay is the fountain of motivation to soldiers and hence "a well-motivated soldier is more lethal than a primed bomb".

CRIMINAL GANGS IN KENYA

MR E K WENDOTT

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR & COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

In the last two decades, Kenya has made great strides in socio-economic development amidst a myriad of challenges which include rising cost of living, youth unemployment, unpredictable weather patterns hampering food security and terror threats amongst many others. However, the proliferation of criminal gangs in major towns such as Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru and many others in most counties in the country is becoming a cause for concern for security agencies, policy makers, and the country's leadership at large. A number of factors such as unemployment, poverty and inequality in resource distribution, corruption, broken families and lack of basic services in our informal settlements have been blamed for the current state of affairs.

According to National Crime Research Centre, a state Agency within the Ministry of Interior, the number of criminal gangs operating in the country rose from 33in 2010 to 326 by 2017. There is marked increase of over 900% with Kibera in Nairobi having the highest concentration of these gangs. This indeed is a worrying trend considering the fragility of Kenya's socio-economic operating environment.

The research indicated that many of the major towns in our counties were having more than 10 criminal gangs. They are known by different names such as Gaza, Young Turks, Wakali Kwanza, Wakali Wao, Confirm, Mungiki, 40 Brothers/40 Thieves, Chinkororo, among many others. In most of the towns where the gangs are prevalent, the public live in fear of profound attacks, businesses are usually disrupted and the country's image and reputation is at stake. In fact, the menace is turning out to be a 'crime industry' and a significant interaction with political undertones (NCIC, 2017).

The state trend and proliferation of the organized gangs in Kenya has been evolving in unprecedented rates and measures giving security agencies and law enforcement agencies the difficult task of countenance. This is so because the groups are amorphous, invisible, they keep changing faces and mutating to avoid arrests and detection by the law enforcement agencies.

These criminal gangs whose ages range between (13 – 26) years are described as vicious, violent and dangerous at times operate under the influence of drugs and other intoxicating substances which of course means their judgements are impaired. In the areas where they operate,

Kenyan youth engaged in Kazi Mtaani.

their *modus operandi* mostly involve opportunistic robberies, muggings, shoplifting, carjacking, burglaries, bank and mobile fraud through sim swaps, shoplifting, extortions and in extreme cases hired killings. In some of the informal settlements, they provide services such as waste removal, illegal electricity, informal security and water connection where they charge illegal levies and collect millions of money. This is able to sustain their criminal activities and they can use money to obtain protection from unscrupulous, corrupt government officers. This is not withstanding the huge control the gangs have over the Matatu industry which rake in thousands of shillings in illegal collections daily especially in major towns like Nairobi.

The country has made deliberate efforts to deal decisively with these gangs through banning 18 in 2002, 33 in 2010 and 89 in 2016 respectively to allow security agencies deal with them more firmly and ruthlessly. In addition, we have vibrant community policing and Nyumba Kumi initiatives that assist County and Sub-County security committees across the country to monitor and counter their activities. Due to proactive identification and arrest of some of the gang members, some groups have disintegrated and that's why they keep on changing face to evade the criminal and judicial system.

However, there are challenges impeding some of the efforts to eradicate these criminal gangs completely. It has been reported again and again that majority of these groups began as political youth groups being used by politicians during the campaign to mobilize and intimidate voters to vote for them, used by drug barons to peddle and traffic drugs and other illegal substances, illicit brewers to protect drinking dens and even by land cartels to cause mayhem in troubled ranches and land buying companies.

The existence of these criminal gangs provides a fertile ground for radicalisation and even recruitment to terrorist groupings such as ISIS, Al-Shabaab and Al Qaeda. This is bound to complicate the matrix and will threaten both our national security and national interests. The gangs are also a threat to our business operating environment owing to extortions and illegal collections by the daring gangs. As a

Kenyan youth engaged in Kazi Mtaani.

consequence, many investors and potential investors will be operating in fear; some may close their businesses and even relocate thereby slowing the economy which affects investments. It's also bound to paint the county as unsafe and thus discourage even tourists from visiting the country.

As the country makes deliberate effort to achieve its development goals through Kenya Vision 2030 and the BIG 4 Agenda it becomes imperative that security provision as enshrined in our constitution becomes key in ensuring that the operating environment is conducive for industries to grow, businesses to thrive, food and agriculture sector to remain vibrant in order to secure food for the citizenry and create job opportunities to reducing youth unemployment.

All is not lost, the country has invested heavily in the security sector and the government has all the security apparatus to deal with criminal gangs and other emerging security threats such as terrorism and cybercrime. The great investment in technological infrastructure and innovative hubs by institutions of higher learning will create a greater impetus by young

people to earn legitimate incomes through e-commerce and online job opportunities making them less susceptible to engage in crime. We also have excellent youth policies and technical training institutions in every county which can accord the youth necessary skills and training to be self-employed and competitive in job market. Some County governments are also coming up with youth empowerment programs to complement national government programs already in place. Many youths from the 47 counties have also benefitted from the National Hygiene Program commonly known as *Kazi Mtaani* which apart from giving them a stipend is meant to keep them busy and some have been given the opportunity to train and utilize their talent and skills in the program.

In the meantime, every Kenyan needs to know that security begins with the individual for the country to remain safe and maintain a regional competitive advantage hence we all have a cardinal responsibility to work with our security agencies to uproot criminal elements in society. It is the only option but the better option.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN KENYA
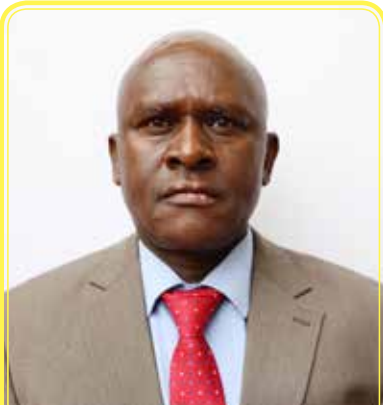
MR J K MUSYIMI
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

The impact of infrastructural development on the economy of any country is always assumed to be positive. It is a strategic pillar towards a county's industrial development and economic prosperity. In mid 1980s, Kenya's infrastructure development slowed down thereby providing the private sector latitude to enter the public sector through concessions and Public Private Partnerships. This brought in new thinking that propelled infrastructural development's role on economic growth. Scholars have begun to ask more fundamental questions about the stock and quality of infrastructure needed to stir economic development. This article, therefore, examines the influence of infrastructural development on Kenya's economic growth.

The Nexus of Infrastructure Development and Economic Growth in Kenya

Infrastructural development in Kenya has undergone a fundamental change in the last two decades. These changes have largely been manifested in the scale and number of projects, level of connectivity, and forms of transportation, which have cumulatively elevated Kenya's stature as a regional hub in East Africa. Infrastructural development in Kenya has featured in numerous economic development plans, papers, and strategies including Sessional Paper No.10 of 1965, Economic Recovery Strategy of 1980, and Vision 2030. Amongst these documents, the role of infrastructure in Kenya's economic growth is better articulated in the Country's Vision 2030. The Vision postulates the level, forms, scale, and nature of infrastructural development the country needs to transform into a Middle-Income Industrialized Nation. Vision 2030 envisages a highly modernized information communication and telecommunication system, increased energy generation and supply to the National Grid, as well as increased port capacities and turnaround time on clearance of goods. The planned infrastructural development estimated at a total cost of Kenya Shillings (Ksh.) 2 trillion, is supposed to remove the infrastructural deficit and steer the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by double digits.

Infrastructural development took center stage in late President Mwai Kibaki's regime with road networks increasing from 63,000 Km to 166,000 Km in a decade. The Kibaki administration also breathed new life into state agencies charged with infrastructural development and management namely the Kenya Highways Authority, Kenya Urban Roads Authority, Kenya Ports Authority, the Civil Aviation Authority, and Kenya Airports Authority as well as the National Transport Safety Authority and the National Construction Authority. Some of the major infrastructural projects started under Kibaki's administration include the Lamu Port, Thika Super Highway, Southern By-Pass, Syokimau Railway Station, and Konza Technopolis.

However, it has been under President Uhuru Kenyatta's administration that the infrastructural gap in the country has largely been reduced with the commissioning and realization of some of the grand mega infrastructural projects including the operationalization of the Standard Gauge Railways, the Lamu Port which is part of the larger LAPPSET corridor. Other notable investments include the agreement for the construction of the 175 Km Nairobi-Mau Summit highway at a proposed cost of US Dollars $ 1.5, by a French company, and the construction of the hyped 27 Km Nairobi Expressway by the China Road and Bridge Construction company.

Notwithstanding, the numerous successes associated with investments in public infrastructure, critics have downplayed Kenya's infrastructural success, terming the advancements well below the continent middle income countries, and limited by high government tariffs, poor connectivity as well as low capacity, and underperforming port facilities, that have constrained the country economic growth. Indeed, according to the International Trade Administration, Kenya's option for further infrastructural development in the next

A section of the Nairobi Expressway, source: Tuko News

decade, estimated at $4 billion annually, to close the infrastructural gap, is largely limited to Public Private Partnership. This essentially means the country in many ways has or is surpassing its credit ceiling and therefore may either have to borrow more money to pursue development projects, a situation likely to escalate government borrowing.

Notably, investments in infrastructural development are aimed at stimulating structural transformation and capital accumulation. Structural transformation is essentially the shift of people from low-paying jobs often characterized by low productivity in the agricultural sector to higher-income jobs fundamentally in the manufacturing and service industry. Conversely, capital accumulation or investments translates to improved and expanded infrastructure which naturally attracts more capital investments and builds State competitiveness by engendering concentration of economic resources, development, and expansion of markets, value addition on finished products, and more importantly job opportunities. For instance, improved infrastructure in the country has firmly cemented Kenya's position as the regional hub, in trade, tourism, and hospitality industry, international conferences, education as well as headquarters for many international organizations including United Nations Environmental Program.

It is therefore not surprising that the government has sustained a high budgetary allocation to infrastructural development since 2003, the country's infrastructure index rose over ten years (between 2000-2010) from position 35 out of 53 in the continent position 2014 according to World Bank (WB) report of 2011. Notably, in 2014, President Uhuru Kenyatta made it known that infrastructural development shall remain one of his biggest priority in the country development agenda. In the same WB report, direct and indirect infrastructural systems in Kenya affect about 65% of the country's GDP, essentially forming the bedrock of economic growth and the improvement of the quality of life amongst the citizenry, by linking demand to supply, reducing the cost of business, increasing the level of production as well as creating employment. Infrastructure has also been pivotal in the increase of Foreign Direct Investment inflows in the country, as well as the ease of doing business, which has seen Kenya move 19 steps upwards, in the World Bank ranking. The WB report also revealed that Kenya plans to invest Ksh 215 billion in the 2022-2023 financial year on improving the road network in the country to boost farmers' and manufacturers' productivity, as well as the service industry. Indeed, in the south of the Sub-Saharan Africa, Kenya remains amongst the top countries with the best infrastructural systems.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly, there is a positive causality between infrastructural development and economic growth in Kenya. This is partly because in a developing country, where infrastructure poses one of the greatest development challenges, reduction of the infrastructural deficit is a boost to productivity. This essentially means that in countries where development has to a greater extent been achieved infrastructural development is unlikely to have a significant positive effect, if any, on economic growth. On the same wavelength, in States where the level of development is largely considered "developing" it is most likely that infrastructure development is likely to boost economic growth, as it has in Kenya.

Architectural image of the projected JKIA Greenfield Terminus. Source: Nairobi Wire

AFROCENTRICITY AS A FRAMEWORK TOWARD AN AFRICAN RENAISSANCE

COL T K VIGISA
KENYE AIR FORCE

The word 'Afro-centric' was coined by W.E.B Du Bois in the 1960s to describe the subject of his projected Encyclopedia Africana, which was to center around Africa. But Afrocentrism's contemporary meaning was not defined until MolefiKete Asante published *Afrocentricity: The Theory of Social Change (1980).* Afrocentricity is the idea that people of African descent must view themselves in a historical context as centres within the framework of their own realities and experiences. Africans can never rise to any position of power or substantive understanding unless they see themselves as owners of their own experience.

African Renaissance is the concept that African people on the continent and diaspora shall defeat the current challenges confronting the continent and gain a cultural, scientific, and economic renewal. This concept was introduced by the great African scholar and Egyptologist Cheikh Anta Diop. It is a philosophical and political movement to end the violence, elitism, corruption, and poverty believed to plague the African continent, and to replace them with a more just and equitable order.

Eurocentricity is the promotion of the European experience as if that experience is universal. European experiences and consciousness are seen as the true and only experiences in the world. An afrocentric approach to education and culture is one of the ways to catalyze an African renaissance and set the continent on the path back to greatness. The social, political and economic problems that Africans on the continent and diaspora face are unlike those of other ethnic groups, so the concept of 'equal' or 'same' education ought to be re-thought. Afrocentric approaches should inform the strategies that go towards formulating education systems and syllabi in African schools. Any philosophy of education should consider that the function of education and intelligence is to solve problems particular to a people or nation, and to secure their biological survival.

An analysis of African culture and history should beg the question; in which ways did these traditions advance our interests as a people and in which ways did they fail us as a people? Culture is a set of values, rules and procedures and ideas that a people develop after interacting with their environmentin order to meet their needs and enhance their own survival. Culture must solve problems and meet needs. When a culture no longer meets the needs of its people or doesn't solve the problems confronting its people, that culture must be transformed. Culture is a way of thinking and perceiving the world; of classifying the world; ofprocessing information and evaluating the world.

When we say that the Europeans de-cultured Africans or distorted our culture, we mean that Europeans dis-located or re-located our modes of experiencing our world; our modes of classifying, categorizing and evaluating the world; our modes of processing information that comes from the world. No wonder Africans have problems with what we call 'education' considering it is eurocentrically designed. African children were perceived as having problems in thinking skills, maths, science etc; and yet it is culture that provides the framework for thinking, organizing, processing, classifying and evaluating information.

African Renaissance Monument, Dakar.

The challenges that children have in school (paying attention, thinking logically and rationally, using vocabularyetc.) are not educational problems, they are cultural/ political problemsthat manifest themselves as educational problems. Educational challenges of Africans have to be solved by a cultural transformation and noteducational techniques only, because the current Eurocentric educational system is designed to solve only European problems. An educational system without that African 'centredness' or without that African sense of culture and without an African centered intentionality that determines why you are learning and how you intend to use what you learn to advance the interest of African people, leadsto one assimilating an alien culture.By adopting alien culture and values, one adopts a false framework that allows success within the European academic system. Unfortunately once you adopt the European structure of education and its orientation of thinking, you can only work within it. The European/west has its economic system set up in such a way that if you try to use any of its structured thought outside of the system, it will fail you.

Individuals do not have power; power is the result of the nature of social relations between people. The way people choose to interact with each other makes power. During colonization and slavery, European children could order around grown black men not because they had bigger muscles than the black men but because those boys were in a cultural framework that had structures and strategies behind them that allowed even a small child to come out and exercise power. The power was not inherent in the child but in the culture. Economic dominance is not a function of the mere existence of money; economic systems existed before there was money. An economy has something to do with the way people choose to cooperate and relate to each other and it is out of this that an economic system develops and eventually power. African states must accelerate cooperation and trade within the continent so that money can circulate within the continent and with diaspora countries like Jamaica and Costa Rica who have shown interest in joining the AU.

Finally, the dis-location ofthe African minds would not have been complete without

Liberation monument Island de Gorée.

the European concept of religion and its imagery. Images are powerful tools for mind control! Displaying the image of Jesus as a white Greco-Romanmale and giving him titles similar to European aristocracy (king, master, lord, Father, Reverend) contributed to Africans' mental slavery.Considering the suffering and Maafa (Genocide) Africans have endured throughout history including slavery and colonization under Europeans,is it possible that we are praying to the wrong Deity?Africans need to seek forgiveness from the ancestors, rediscover their ancient African spirituality and walk away from Eurocentric religions before they can experience a true African renaissance.

An analysis of African culture and history should beg the question; in which ways did these traditions advance our interests as a people and in which ways did they fail us as a people?

THE SECURITY SECTOR COUNTER VIOLENT EXTREMISM EFFORTS

COL Y A MOHAMED
KENYA ARMY

One cannot engage in a war of ideas without understanding the enemy's ideas. Likewise, you cannot decisively defeat the enemy unless you are intimately familiar with the ideologies they use to mobilize their threat doctrine that drives its violence. Based on these facts, the Security Sector Counter Violent Extremism (SSCVE) program was designed, as a soft power strategy that focuses on understanding the Al-Shabaab (AS) moral fabric. This program was designed to fit within the existing Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) strategy that is supported by the Kenya National strategy on countering violent extremism (NSCVE). SSCVE is domiciled within the County Action plans (CAPS) generic pillars, and fully supported by the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC). It provides means and ways of attacking the radical's drivers of violence while challenging the radical moral legitimacy.

The program brings together security actors involved in preventing and countering violent extremism to understand the Al-Shabaab moral component and defeat their legitimacy by building resilience against their potent narrative. It focusses on capacity building of uniformed and non-uniformed security officers as well as civilians and special groups. The SSCVE program creates awareness on drivers of radical ideology, demystification of Al-Shabaab Psyops effects and building Community resilience. The program focused to permeate the social fabric at the neighborhood level where most radicalization thrives.

Operationalization of the Program

The uniqueness of the SSCVE program is that it is driven by the uniformed operators in a multi-agency fusion. This strengthens coordination, cooperation and collaboration between all security stakeholders involved in preventing and countering violent extremism to include harnessing the grassroots knowledge of local communities and involving them as active participants against radicalization vectors. The SSCVE was designed while considering uniformed operators as vulnerable to the AS communication strategy, which was already rolling a robust campaign on its opponents in the Somalia Jihadi arena and the Kenya eastern borders which are predominantly Muslim counties. As such, the program focused on countering the lethal ideas and legitimacy of terrorists' potent narrative which was driving their agenda with impunity.

Radicals Media and Communication Focus

To AS, media remains its vital battle space. Ayman al-Zawahiri, once stated the importance of the media in an alleged letter to Abu Mosab al-Zarqawi, leader of Al-Qaida's Iraqi branch, *"we are in a battle, more than half of this battle is taking place in the media. We are in a race for the hearts and minds of our Ummah ("Muslim" nation)"*.

Terrorist groups use media as a tool

for information and communication at all spectrum of their target audience. They prosecute the war of ideas in a captivating and balanced messaging. Radical groups attract the youth and internet junks through interactive internet messages. Building infrastructures are crucial in winning the hearts and minds, but may not appeal to the radical's mind set, the radicals have proven difficult to deal with such undertakings because they have been trained to accept death. The conventional forces have not positioned the war of ideas as its van guard. This has eroded the significant input from psyops and thus outweighing the balance of ever available adherents to the radicals.

SSCVE Operators

The program incorporates a multi-sectoral approach which bring together state institutions, civil society organizations, the academia, media and grassroots communities. It was initiated by Kenya Defence Forces, but has now been rolled out to Police, county inspectorates, grassroots political leadership, Kenya Forest Service Wardens, Kenya Wildlife Service wardens, Imams, Madrassa students, civilians and vulnerable institutions in Kenya's eastern borders where the radicals were prevalent. The program aims at empowering targeted communities to resist radical ideologies that promote use of extreme violence as a justifiable means of expression, and continue to root institutional cooperation in tacking the complex and multifaceted radicalization issues.

Areas Targeted

Currently, the program focuses on the high-at-risk counties where the general populace is vulnerable to and/or victims of violent extremism. They may be considered at risk of turning from non-violence to violent extremism, or may be targeted as they can play a role in influencing others' choices. The counties of implementation are Mandera, Garissa, Wajir, Isiolo, Marsabit, Kilifi, Kwale, Tana River, Lamu, Machakos, Mombasa and Nairobi. The goal is to develop an all-round National response mechanism from all sectors across Kenya in addressing and responding to the radical extremism agenda.

Achievements

Among the achievements of the program are in addressing hate and radical preaching issues integrating faith leaders, building networks and contact base for all the vulnerable neighborhoods, educating stakeholders on the ideological arguments drivers and the position of religion in extremism. Establishment of information centers at county inspectorate HQs to assist on information collation and collection for quicker threat detection and prevention.

Conclusion

Al-Shabaab radical's media reach has affected much of its opponent's efforts for peace by counter messaging on religious themes which tend to have traction on the youth. The mobile platform and the online base communications have made it easier for the extremist groups to increase their

> The counties of implementation are Mandera, Garissa, Wajir, Isiolo, Marsabit, Kilifi, Kwale, Tana River, Lamu, Machakos, Mombasa and Nairobi.

reach with the help of its international portals thus enhancing appeal. Currently, the radicals have a ready-made platform as a result of long-term indoctrination that impacted its opponents. They are perceived as a formidable force with visibility, while the population exposure to the prolonged information operation from the radical's media, they have formed a perception of AS invincibility and always plays neutral to avoid repercussion on areas of AS prevalence. The information operations on the ideological content and drivers remains an area to be focused by conventional forces for meaningful gains and high payoff results. The SSCVE program as a counter response tool has permeated to a relatively wider terrain, due to its intelligence guided programs, it had an accelerated outcome, due to targeted audience and maintaining the real thematic response to the radical's arguments. As the program continue and self keizening it is projected to have the potential of flipping the balance the radicals are enjoying so far.

SPORT AS A PEACE-BUILDING INTERVENTION

COL V N MBURU
KENYA ARMY

In recent years, there has been growing attention from governments and non-governmental organizations on the use of sport as a tool for peace-building. Sports are activities that involve physical exertion and skill for leisure and entertainment. Sports foster both mental and physical health. Conflicts in communities are a common phenomenon in Kenya and several countries across Africa. These conflicts arise for several reasons, including intolerance, tribalism, competition for resources, poor state-citizen relationships, and political marginalization. When conflicts occur, they cause adverse socio-economic effects, such as loss of lives, destruction of property, poor delivery of social services, such as health services and education, forced displacement of persons, scarcity of food supplies, decreased development, and interruption of normal economic activities. Finding ways to de-escalate violent conflicts is challenging, and even in cases where peace is achieved, there is still a need for effective measures to prevent its recurrence.

The field of Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) is founded on the recognition that sport promotes unique attributes that can be helpful in reconciliation processes. When a particular sport is properly designed and managed it can help to bring peace in highly volatile situations. Past studies have observed that sports festivals and tournaments involving conflicting groups help to create a positive and healthy environment. Indisputably, sport is a leisure activity suitable for all. The wide acceptance of sports across all social groups, qualify it as an entry point for stimulating social change. Also, the universality of sport means that it can bridge economic and social divides, and break through many cultural barriers within society. For this reason, it can be used as a hook for bringing together at-risk populations and other stakeholders into a peaceful agreement.

Sports bridge relationships and build a sense of shared identity among groups that would have otherwise treated each other with hostility, violence, or distrust. Relationship-building is the central aspect of peace-building and it emphasizes the importance of identifying interventions that stimulate strategic networking. When properly designed, a sport can create opportunities for social contact. Once the people from the disputing groups share similar sports experiences, they start feeling more alike than different. A 'ritual identity' develops between them, which helps to erase the persistent negative characterization of each other.

The Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation is an organization that has focused on organizing sporting events as a means of promoting peace in the conflict areas in Kenya, and also in the neighbouring country of Uganda. The foundation was founded in 2003, and has been organizing the annual Tegla Loroupe Peace Race in the Rift Valley, which has helped to bring pastoralist communities together. This event offers a platform for peace advocacy, reconciliation, and educating communities on the importance of co-existence. The foundation was also instrumental to the country's healing process after the post-election violence of 2007. It collaborated with other community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations and used peace races as platforms for reconciliation and to encourage resilience in the affected communities.

Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation

A Past East African Community (EAC) Athletics Event.

Tegla Loroupe Peace Race in Pokot, November 2007.

uses sport as a vehicle that addresses the inclusion issues in Kakuma Refugee Camp. This foundation has found sports activities as an effective method of maintaining co-existence in the camp. There are numerous positive effects of this peace-building strategy including; improvement of the relationship between the refugees and the asylum seekers from different cultural backgrounds, breakdown of barriers between them, and improvement in their self-confidence and self-esteem.

The popularity of sports in Kenya and across the world makes it a powerful and ideal platform for mass communication and spreading the message of peace. In this case, Kenya's sportsmen and women serve as a unifying force for Kenyans from various ethnic backgrounds, political, and religious affiliations. Just like at the local level, these moments also generate similar effects at the regional and international levels as a means of building a bridge between countries. For instance, the 6 (six) East African Community (EAC) member states of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan recognize the importance of sharing sports experiences in promoting social cohesion and unity among them. The East African Community Games (EACoG) include multiple sports disciplines like football, athletics, volleyball, basketball, handball, netball, boxing, judo, tennis, rugby, karate, and taekwondo. The EAC military games have also been a key pillar to the integration of this region by widening and deepened the cooperation among the member states that is crucial in building unity in East Africa.

Sporting activities have proven effective in promoting cohesion, peace, and unity. In Kenya, youth are the major perpetrators of violence with this behaviour influenced by factors such as social and economic exclusion. These youth, therefore, become vulnerable to social ills such as radicalization, recruitment into armed factions, criminal gangs, or paramilitary organizations. At the fundamental level, sport instils values such as teamwork, fair play, respect, adherence to set rules, and self-discipline, which are essential skills that can help them choose non-violent methods of conflict resolution. Here, sports can provide them with alternatives other than the life of crime. Sports activities are an ideal enticement for Kenyan youngsters to develop life skills, a positive outlook on life, promote positive values, empower them to practice leadership and responsibility, and motivate them to make positive contributions to society.

Undoubtedly, sporting activities have proven to be an important peace-building intervention in communities. Kenya therefore needs to donate and invest more in foundations such as Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation and other organizations that are focused on promoting peace using sports. Frequent conflicts in areas of Turkana, Isiolo, and Samburu need to be addressed urgently by introduction of inter-community sports that will effectively foster peace and unity. However, it is imperative to note that sports alone remain inadequate to creating lasting social changes, and so it should be regarded as a multi-dimensional process that includes other peace-building strategies.

Tegla Loroupe Peace Race in Kapenguria, 08 Nov 2014.

TEENAGE PREGNANCIES, THREAT TO BASIC EDUCATION

MR S M MBIUKI

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR & COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Kenya government is implementing a free and compulsory basic education policy. This ensures that all Kenyans attain valuable education that matches current and future challenges. In doing so, the government targets to strike quality and equity in access to education to all children. It is progressively carrying out reforms in the education sector. The reforms have made accessibility without compromising quality possible throughout the country. According to constitution, it is a right for each and every child to acquire skills through education. *The Kenyan constitution chapter 4 on Bill of rights section 53 sub-section (b), every child has the right to free and compulsory education*

The Ministry of Education has managed to implement 100 percent transition from primary to secondary schools every preceding year. It has also been providing teachers and all necessary instruction materials to all public schools across the country. That notwithstanding the ministry also avails capitation funds to each and every pupil in public schools. The funds are intended to improve learning. Teenage pregnancies are eroding these efforts by the government.

During COVID-19 pandemic many teen pregnancy cases were reported across counties in the republic. During this period government and private services were put on hold in order to control any possibilities of mass infections of the disease, schools were closed too. Pupils remained at their respective homes. Parental guidance to children remained very key during this period. Astonishingly, it is during this period that many teenage pregnancies were reported.
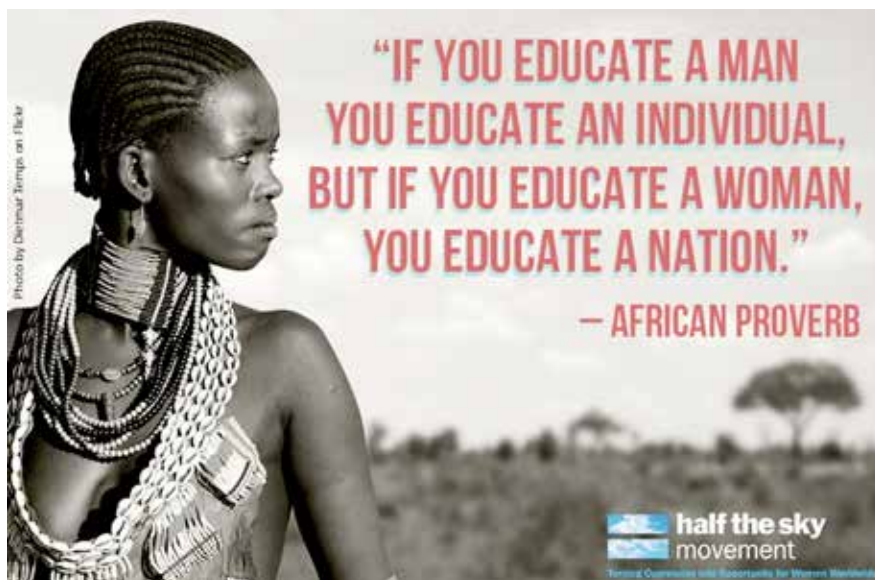
It has been noted that some cultures still abet adolescence pregnancies. Young girls engage in sex and subsequent marriages under the watch of everyone in these societies. Interestingly everyone in these communities is aware that it is against the law to engage underage girls to any form of sexual activities including marriage. Girls engaging in these activities end up disrupting their studies. In some other cases, secret marriages are planned and done and these girls are hidden or moved far away from the villages in order to evade law. This is done to avoid stringent legal actions that can be taken should one get arrested and convicted. Overall planning of these marriages is done by close family members. This has driven many adolescent girls to early parenthood and subsequent dropping out of school. This has contributed to non-achievement of the ministry's objective of ensuring that all school going children access basic education. To avert this, the government, children rights organizations and non-governmental organizations have tirelessly been working to ensure that such desperate and unfortunate girls are rescued and returned to schools. Legal actions are taken against all perpetrators.

In some other cultures, teenage girls who give birth are never reprimanded but however praised. A girl of any age can become a mother. Early pregnancies are widely accepted by all in the society. The society perceives it as a progressive move and is encouraged and appreciated. In other cultures, adolescence pregnancies are encouraged and supported. These teenage pregnancies contribute to dropping out of

"IF YOU EDUCATE A MAN YOU EDUCATE AN INDIVIDUAL, BUT IF YOU EDUCATE A WOMAN, YOU EDUCATE A NATION."

— AFRICAN PROVERB

half the sky movement

school by these teens hence ending their learning. In so doing they not only disrupt achievement of their lifetime goals but also land in unending vicious circle of poverty. Some families condone and pride in these teens marriage because in return they receive meagre dowries once they marry off their daughters. They value the dowry more than the learning for their children.

The other cause of these early marriages is attributed to *'bodaboda'* transport sector, the most preferred last mile form of transport. It has grown in leaps and bounds across the country. Larger percentage of the riders comprise of young men and mostly secondary school leavers. These young men earn considerable amounts of money daily. In low income urban sections and rural areas, they are hired to take pupils to and from schools. Some of these riders take advantage of girls from poor families. They usually lure them to early sex in the pretext that they will be providing the essential items which their parents are unable to provide. These items include sanitary towels, soaps and clothing. This has predisposed these girls to early sexual activities. Most girls engaging in these activities end up becoming pregnant and consequently dropping out of schools. They end up in early marriages or becoming young single mothers.

Apart from the above, many adolescents especially in rural areas lack education on sexuality. In most African cultures, is a taboo to teach children and especially girl's matters concerning sex and sexuality. Many

girls are left to self-discover their sexuality on their own. In the process many find themselves indulging in sexual activities quite early in life, therefore dropping out of school.

Regrettably some of these teens once they become pregnant, they end up being disowned by their families and this interferes with their learning. The government offer opportunities for them to resume learning but they rarely manage. Teenage pregnancy is becoming a crisis and a prick to the conscience of our nation that prides itself for making substantive progress in education, child protection laws, economic growth and technological advances.

The *National Council on Population and Development* blamed poor parenting and an education system that ignores sex education to adolescents. The council lists some consequences of teenage pregnancy as depression, suicide, abortion, interruption of schooling, maternal ill-health or morbidity and death, birth-related complications like fistula and early marriages
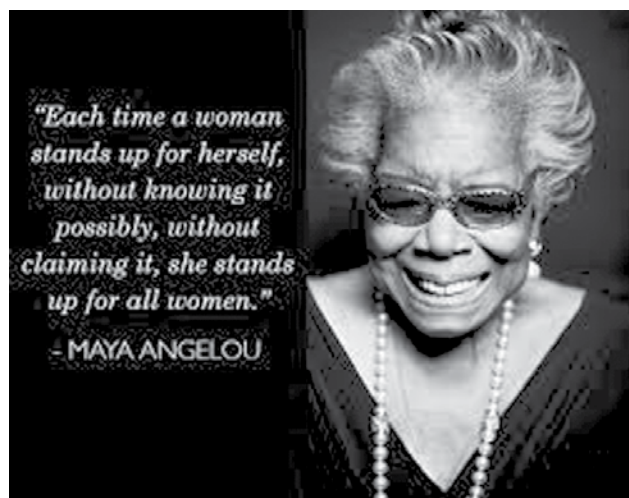
For underage girls to remain in schools concerted efforts by both the government, communities, civil society organizations

and the families should be made in order to ensure they remain safe from early pregnancies and marriages. Sex education to all adolescents should be availed in learning institutions. At family level, there is need to revert to the traditional way of imparting sexual and growth knowledge. During the olden days' girls were expected to become expectant once they get married.

The community should ensure proper parenting of children is undertaken. The first line of care and protection of young girls should be provided at family level. The parents should join in the government's efforts of making sure all children benefit from education being provided by the state.

The government of Kenya has initiated various interventions to address this challenge. It has formulated *Kenya Adolescent Reproductive Health and Development Policy.* The policy seeks to contribute to the improvement of the well-being and quality of life of Kenya's adolescents and youth by integrating the health and development concerns of adolescents and young people into the national development process

Childbearing interrupts school attendance and damage girls' long-term communal and financial mobility. In order for all adolescent girls to avoid pregnancies and remain in schools, the community and the families should resume the roles of parenting. It is the responsibility of the parents to give appropriate guidance to children and more so to girls. Adolescence pregnancies are affecting the achievement of free and compulsory education in Kenya.

"Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women."

- MAYA ANGELOU

THE MAGNETIC MAASAI MARA

MS A J PARMERES
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

The thought of visiting this beautiful place for me began with mixed feelings. Nevertheless, I was eager to corroborate the information I had read and heard about the Maasai Mara National Reserve. That morning, I awoke earlier than usual, in anticipation of my first-ever visit to the renowned Reserve.

So, on 27th April 2018, I began this thrilling journey, saying goodbye to Nairobi City gladly like the homebody city person I am. Heading to the Wilson Airport to catch my flight felt surreal, as this was my first flight and my maiden visit to the Maasai Mara. Flying over the rich lands of Kenya under clear, serene skies truly calms one's soul. I quickly grabbed my camera to catch a glimpse of the pearl-white clouds that sat peacefully in the sky.

In an hour, the plane landed at the Mara Serena Airstrip where hospitable workers donning Maasai traditional regalia's ushered me into a waiting Land Cruiser. They then drove me to the Serena Safari Lodge, where I checked into a spacious room overlooking the Reserve's beautiful scenery. The breeze felt fresh unlike the obviously highly polluted air in the City. As the sun began to set, I freshened up and headed for dinner, which was being served in the bush beneath the azure African sky.

The waiter, who attended to me told me that he was born and raised on the outskirts of Maasai Mara, and studied hospitality as it was his dream to work in the Reserve. "Are you happy that your dreams came true?" I asked him as I ate the creamy pumpkin soup, the appetizer of the night. "Working here and meeting people from different parts of the world brings joy to my heart." He said, a bright smile adorning his face as he cleared used utensils from my table.

An entire meal later, my tour guide called to inform me of the next day's itinerary. "At sunrise?" I exclaimed as my night owl mind could not wrap itself around the time the game drive was to start. I sacrificed the documentary I planned to watch in the dead of the night and drifted off to slumber.

Surviving the cold morning with a poor night's sleep, to witness one of the most beautiful sceneries in the world, was worth it. The sunrise waltzed in the skies, creating a scenery worth being labeled a renaissance painting. The blues and purples blended with the baby sun, and the abundance of resident wildlife was visible from afar. What better way to spend the weekend than on safari, watching wildlife in the verdant savannah? In our customized open Safari vehicle, we spotted a herd of elephants walking to the water source for a morning drink and shower. I whipped out my camera to capture a beautiful picture of the elephants, the sunrise, and a lone tree that stood out in the crisp grassland. Saruni, my tour guide who doubled as a driver, narrated beautiful tales of the renowned Reserve, as I took pictures of zebras, warthogs, buffalos, and giraffes.

The drive grew warmer and livelier, the glistening morning dew fading into the growing heat. Suddenly, the muffled sounds on the radio grew louder as the person on the other end informed Saruni that a pride of lions was feasting on a zebra. "They are

nearby, so we'll find them enjoying their breakfast." He said as he drove off. Other tourists followed suit and we found the lions devouring their prey limb by limb, piece by piece. The hyenas were lurking nearby hoping to feast on any leftovers. The pride, upon eating to their fill waddled to a nearby bush, prompting the hyenas to scramble for the bony remains.

We had lunch in the wild, making it a truly memorable meal. Later in the evening, my tour guide informed me that we were to visit the Maasai village the following day. "Why should I visit the village?" I curiously asked. He was quick to tell me that the village was the only place where I could interact with the local community and get a glimpse of their culture. With the fun-packed experience of the previous day, I woke up early for breakfast in preparation for a game drive before heading to the Maasai village. At the village, I was greeted by Morans, who harmoniously sang traditional songs and displayed their jumping skills.

Sadly, I had to rush back to the hotel for an early lunch before catching my flight back to Nairobi. Well, financial constraints and limited time did not allow me to sample other activities like

the hot air balloon tours but in life, there is always another chance.

Packing felt like a chore and I dragged myself to the airstrip. My tour guide expressed his displeasure over the short stay. I assured him that the experience was so good I would come back for a longer visit. In particular, I would love to witness the spectacular wildebeest migration, which I was told take place in the month of July every year.

As I sailed through the blue skies, I waved goodbye to the little adventure, with the hope that I will witness it again. Seeing Nairobi from the sky, I thanked God for the beautiful journey and safety. I came back to the city refreshed. No wonder John Burrough said, "I will go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have senses put in order." Maasai Mara deserves its praise and from my experience, I can attest that it is the most spectacular habitat and the world's top safari. No wonder people from various parts of the country and the world over visit the Reserve year in and year out. I hope that you too will get the chance to visit the grandiose Maasai Mara.

REVOLUTION IN THE SUDAN

Image: Twitter, sabahelshiekh

MR F O ESHIKUTA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

As a diplomat in a foreign country, one's primary duty is to promote the interests of the mother country. This normally means building good relations with the host country as a basis enhancing bilateral co-operation. Diplomats also endeavor not to meddle in the internal affairs of the host's country, a cardinal rule enshrined in the Venna Convention of Diplomatic Relations.

This was the role I expected to play during my tour of duty upon my arrival in Khartoum, Sudan as Deputy Head of Mission, and Head of Chancery at the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya on 14th September 2014. Indeed, nothing I had experienced could have prepared me for events as they unfolded in April 2018 when President Omar El Bashir regime was toppled from power through a popular uprising that resulted in a military coup.

The unrest leading to the coup could be traced back to December 2018, when the then President Bashir's government-imposed emergency austerity measures to try to stave off economic collapse by removing bread and fuel subsidies. This sparked demonstrations over the increased cost of living.

The largest demonstration since the protests began was held on 6th April 2019, during the anniversary of the uprising that overthrew former President Numeiri in 1985. Protesters marched to the military headquarters in Khartoum, where they staged a sit-in that lasted for days. The security forces attempted to use violence to disperse the crowds, but some segments of the military moved in to protect the protesters, signaling divisions in the armed forces.

I was observing the unfolding events from the safety of the Chancery at the Kenya Embassy whose location was in Bahri, not far from the flash point of the frequent protests. Since 19th December 2018, frequent gatherings were a common place in Khartoum to protest the steep increase in bread prices that had been announced following the removal of government subsidy. The gatherings were usually held on Fridays after prayers.

On this fateful Friday, what began as a routine peaceful gathering by a crowds quickly escalated to demands for the resignation of the President Bashir. The protests grew louder and bigger spreading to other Sudanese cities. In a matter of hours, things worsened with army trucks roaming the streets blaring military music. Masses of protestors gathered in Khartoum and were quickly joined by others who gathered from adjacent cities of Bahri, Omdurman, Atbara, Dongola, El-Obeid, Port Sudan, Gezira, Al Fashir, Madani, and the Red Sea State. As the Security forces advanced the protestors began erecting barricades and burning tyres, creating smokescreens to protect themselves from the advancing security forces.

The authorities tried to stem the wave by swiftly blocking mobile calls and shutting down the internet all over the country. The security forces were joined by a militia loyal to the embattled President continued

to unleash violence on the unarmed civilians while taking down the barricades the protesters had erected. But despite this crackdown, the protesters stood their ground quickly erecting the barricades as soon as the militias had barely moved to the next. These were common scenes all over Khartoum.

A state of emergency was declared, and the army quickly took absolute control of the city, all borders were closed, tanks cordoned off the airport runways to prevent departures or arrivals and dawn to dusk curfew announced, the internet and phone was shut down, and military roadblocks set up around Khartoum. All these could not stop the protestors who refused to relent.

Finally on April 11, 2019, President Bashir was overthrown in a military coup and placed under arrest. The military announced that it had dissolved the government, suspended the constitution, creating a military council that would lead a transitional government for two years, after which elections would be held for a new civilian government.

In the months that followed, talks between civil groups and military leaders regarding the composition of a new transitional government continued, with periods of progress interspersed with talks collapsing over disagreements. Demonstrations and strikes to keep pressure on the military-led transition council continued as well. The military response was at times criticized for being heavy-handed, resulting to what was to be known as the "June 3" massacre, which occurred when the security forces cleared demonstrators from one of their primary spots in Khartoum, more than 100 people are said to have been killed during this incident that led to the African Union suspending Sudan from the organization.

The signing on 21st August 2019 of the Constitutional Declaration for a power sharing agreement between an alliance of civilian groups named the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) and the military took place following successful mediation efforts led by Ethiopia and the African Union.

Following the agreement, transitional Sovereignty Council, comprising military and civil representatives, took power and was expected to rule until democratic elections, scheduled for the year 2022.As per the agreement, a military officer was to lead the council for the first 21 months, after which a civilian would lead. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who had been leading the military-led transition council, was named President. Abdalla Hamdok, selected by the civilian groups' alliance, was appointed Prime Minister, and he formed a cabinet on 5th September 2019.

President Bashir, meanwhile, had been charged with corruption-related acts and was convicted in December 2019. He still faces other charges, including those in connection with the death of demonstrators protesting his rule. Through this experience, I learned one very important professional lesson that if you should find yourself on an assignment in a country with active political problems, keep away from the affected areas, and always try to be as inconspicuous as possible. But don't let risks dissuade you from serving your country. I finally departed Sudan in November 2019 optimistic. The bravery, passion, humor, creativity and determination shown by people of Sudan makes me optimistic. I pray that Sudan will find lasting peace.

SURVIVAL OF THE NAMIB DESERT LIONS

COL P O ORANGE
NAMIBIA DEFENCE FORCE

Africa is recognized as the continent with great forest and wildlife all over the continent, and Namibia is no exception. Namibia lies in the Southern part of the African continent, with an area of 824,292 square kilometers, of which most of the country is classified as Semi-desert and bushveld, with two major desert the Kalahari Desert that stretches through both Namibia and Botswana. The most prominent desert of the two is the Namib Desert that is the oldest desert in the world and is along the Namibian west coast. The desert covers a total of 81,000 square kilometers in circumferences, from the Kunene River to the North of Angolan border stretching 1200km to the South, till the Orange River.

The Namib Desert is mostly characterized with sandy shifting sand dunes, low vegetation jagged mountains open plains with little rains than less than 2mm per inch of square meter per year, The average temperature normally ranges from 9-20˚C at night and 48-68˚C during the day. The only other water sources in particular the central part of the Namib Desert is the Swakop, Kuiseb and Tsauchab rivers that flows from various central highlands of the country towards the Atlantic Ocean, and that only occurs once in a decade.

Surprisingly the desert offers a variety of desert plants and animal life through its harsh conditions there are a number of animals such as Elephants, Oryx, Springbok, Jakals, Ostrich and giraffes to mention a few which have adapted to these conditions. More interesting was the discovery of the Namib Desert lions as far back in 1934, however they where only discovered in the North (Kunene River) and in the South (Orange River where water was in abundance not knowing that the influence of human activities will drive them centrally to the more harsh conditions of the Namib Desert.

Through the years as from 1934 the lions were scarcely seen. They were only seen again in few numbers by tourist in 1970 and 1990. Today it is believed that they have become extinct. It was only through a lion expert scientist Dr Phillip Stander in 1997 discovering once more small tripe, the Namib Desert Lions again in the area called

Having followed the lions relentlessly and through great dedication Stander finally realized and understand that the adapted lions can survive without water for extended periods obtaining little moisture from the blood from their prey.

the Skeleton Coast in the Namib Desert. In 1998 through the Namibian Desert Lion Conservation Project, Dr Stander started studying the lions for a period of four months intervals and eventually turned into a lifelong commitment. He further fitted the lions with radio collars to monitor the movement of the lions and providing him with necessary information to unfold the secrets surrounding the highly addictiveness of the lions in the harsh conditions provided by the Namib Desert.

Having followed the lions relentlessly and through great dedication Stander finally realized and understand that the adapted lions can survive without water for extended periods obtaining little moisture from the blood from their prey. He further noticed through hunger the lions would travel long distances in search of food and take big risks by hunting larger prey for food and quench their thirst.

Dr Stander also discovered through his studies that nature always takes care of its inhabitants, that the morning fog from the cool waters from the offshore western Benguela produces water drops for the plant life that attract smaller antelopes and eventually prey for the lions where they rely mostly. He also noticed when preys are rare the lions will also take the opportunity to hunt for seals on the west coast for survival.

The Field studies by Dr. Flip Stander has therefore, shown that the lions of the Namib, which live mostly at the northern edge of the desert, can survive in extreme conditions, feeding on gemsbok, giraffes, ostriches, and seals captured along the Skeleton Coast. They breed rapidly and quickly spread into new, suitable, habitats to uphold their survival as the only Desert Lions on earth.

PICTURES SPEAK

Cabinet Secretary Information Communication & Technology, Joe Mucheru in a group photo with NDC leadership after delivering Lecture of Opportunity to Cse No. 25.

Chief Executive Officer Safaricom PLC, Peter Ndegwa in a group photo with NDC leadership after delivering Lecture of Opportunity to Cse No. 25.

Commandant NDC, Lt Gen A K Kendagor presents Memento to the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Defence, Eugene Wamalwa after delivering the Opening Address to Cse No. 25.

Deputy Commandant Civil, Amb. Robert Mutua Ngesu presents Memento to the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Sports, Amb. Kirimi Kaberia after delivering Lecture of Opportunity to Cse No. 25.

Course 25 Participanrs in a group photo with NDC Leardership

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