

INLAND PORT BUILDS MOMENTUM FOR THE COUNTRY'S LOGISTICS HUB DREAM





HEALTHY & WHOLE



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Rwanda in its long term strategy, aims at leapfrogging the economy to knowledge based, as well as regional tech and logistics hubs. Several years ago, the government has laid strategies to achieve this. In terms of technology, an infrastructure was built, mainly the fibre optic cable covering the whole country. It adopted the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) approach and Technical Vocational Education (TVET) to boost a labour force with Science and Technical skills. In inviting more Foreign Direct Investment, construction of industrial parks was done to ease doing business. With these now in place, the government set out to start the real implementation of its agenda.

First, most services were put online, sectors were digitised, STEM and TVET were boosted by the construction of more TVET schools and polytechnics together with global science-based universities.

The government attracted more investment in areas of science, industry and technology and these have paid off shaping the country's dream into perspective. Such was witnessed at the inauguration of the plant manufacturing mobile phones -Mara phones, the first of its kind in Africa and a dry port- Kigali logistics platform which is expected to boost trade and logistics in the region.

Also to note is the recent survey- Rwanda Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (RPHIA) which indicated that Rwanda has achieved the global



in all sectors between African leaders and Putin government tells it all.

The appointment of a new spokesperson for Rwanda investigation Bureau, the arrest of four people alleged to have been involved in the grenade attacks that claimed four lives in the Kamembe the district town of Rusizi in Western province also highlighted the busy activities of the month of October.

Important to read in this issue is the entertainment, sports and technology news that brings yet another side of life, not forgetting the lifestyle tips that will help you have a healthy life. Information that will guide you on how to start or boost your business is also guaranteed.

Beginning with this October edition, the management of Light Magazine is piloting its new outlook and agenda --- the development of journalism, content that drives the control to the beneficiaries of the socio-economic development of the communities, and telling the story from the source.

The contribution to the growth of all sectors of economy through Corporate Social Responsibility motivated us to highlight the stories that are not told by other media, either because it is not contributing to their profit margin or the media feels it's not newsworthy despite its impact to the society.

Ernest Nyetera
Chief Executive Officer
Light Publications Ltd

UNAIDS 90-90-90 prevention target. The report showed that 76 percent of all HIV-positive adults including almost 80 percent of women who are HIV positive have achieved the viral load suppression which is a gauge used in measuring effective HIV treatment among the population.

But of course, one cannot miss the Africa-Russia Summit held in Sochi, Russia which most experts have referred to as a ladder to bring back Russia's influence in Africa as it was in the Soviet days. More trade and partnership deals

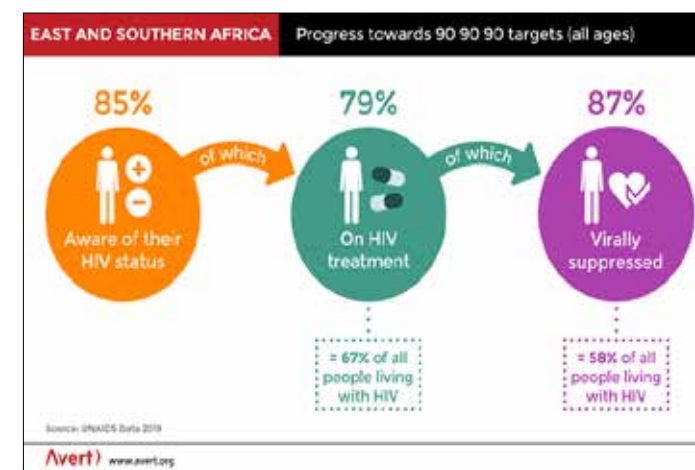


On 27th October 2019, four people presented before the Public were alleged to have been behind the grenade attacks in the town of Kamembe in Rusizi District on Saturday, 19th Oct 2019, at about 7.30pm which claimed the lives of four people according to Rwanda

National Police. The four were alleged to have been recruited in Bukavu, DRC by the Forces for National Liberation (FLN) led by Brussels-based Paul Rusesabagina and Faustin Twagiramungu according to Olivier Nduhungirehe, State Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Rwanda has exceeded the global HIV prevention target, UNAIDS 90-90-90 target sex external icon, according to the new Rwanda Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (RPHIA) survey.



The survey showed that 76 percent of all HIV-positive adults including almost 80 percent of women who are HIV positive have achieved the viral load suppression which is a gauge used in measuring effective HIV treatment among the population. The country attained 84-98-90 among adults. Data also revealed that new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women are substantially higher than among males of the same age, which is a result of these girls and young women having sexual intercourse with partners older than them.



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Meeting with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs | Kigali, 17 October 2019



Rwanda Day Germany | Bonn, 5 October 2019



Russia-Africa Conference | October 2019



Closing of the 12th Unity Club Forum | Kigali, 25 October 2019



Visit to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation | Seattle, 2 October 2019



World Policy Conference 2019 | Marrakesh, 12 October 2019



Youth Connekt Africa Summit 2019 | Kigali, 9 October, 2019



“You see, well-being has both objective and subjective dimensions. You cannot dictate how people should feel. People who feel hopeful about their lives are not going to change their minds, because you tell them the data show they should actually be unhappy. Africans are constantly subject to this kind of gas-lighting. It is as if the reality we know and live and see, requires external validation,” PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME



“As has been the case recently, nobody attacks Rwanda and goes back. Those captured are brought before courts to answer for their crimes. Those supporting the attackers should decide to give up now, otherwise why would you keep supporting something not delivering results. A sensible person would give up. They should not keep pushing other people into death.” JOHNSTON BUSINGYE, MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL.



“Thank you so much Honorable Minister (Ambassador Richard Sezibera and congratulations to our diplomats for the great job! I do also hope that those negationists and revisionists of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda who made too much noise these days have/will read your message!,” Amb. Jacqueline Mukangira, former Rwandan Ambassador to Nordic countries, while responding to the Tweet from Minister Sezibera about his visit to Israel.

HEALTH HIGHLIGHT



Rwanda has made great strides towards achieving the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 90-90-90 target that helps end the epidemic.

The Rwanda Population-based HIV Impact Assessment showed that 84

percent of all people living with HIV know their status; 98 percent of those who are diagnosed HIV positive are on sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART); and 90 percent of those on ART have an undetectable viral load, reaching 84-98-90 of the joint target set by the UNAIDS in 2014.

The 90-90-90 target campaign aims to have all the above three steps reach 90 percent by 2020, in a bid to eliminate AIDS by 2030.

The survey was conducted between October 2018 and March 2019, with 11,000 households visited, and over 30,000 adults aged 15-64 and 9,000 adolescents aged 10-14 interviewed.

About 210,200 Rwandans aged 15-64 live with HIV, representing 3 percent of the population in the age group.

“There is no doubt prevention efforts to end the HIV epidemic in Rwanda are working,” said Rwandan Minister of Health Diane Gashumba at the survey release event.

“We are performing well in the fight against HIV. However, we need to maintain our efforts, improve our approaches and become even more innovative in looking for better solutions,” Rwandan Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente said at the event.

Congratulations to those that have seen good times in October, and to those that have experienced their darkest days continue believing in the good times ahead for there is no situation too big for confident, strong-willed people to weather through.



Marie Michelle Umhoza has been appointed the new spokesperson of Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB), replacing Mbabazi Modeste. Umhoza was previously appointed Investigation analyst during an Extraordinary Cabinet Meeting chaired by President Paul Kagame on Monday, November 19, 2018.



Carl Wilkens, an American was conferred with Rwanda's Civilian honour known as abarinzzi b'Igihango (protectors of friendship pact) by President Paul Kagame. Other people who were conferred with the honor were two Rwandans: Daphrose Mukarutamu and Serge Gasore. The honor is conferred to individuals who showed outstanding acts of courage and humanity by protecting or saving thousands of Rwandans during the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi.

Charles Kyomuhendo, a Chef from Volcanoes Safaris National Park won the silverhat, the highest award in the fifth edition of the Gorilla Highlands Silver chef Competition. The Gorilla Highlands initiative is a project which aims at branding and promoting globally the trans-boundary region shared by Rwanda, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo.

This competitive cook-off against some of the region's top young chefs was held at the Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel in Musanze last month.



A family of about 20 Gorillas crossed to Uganda from Rwanda which caused drama between the two countries with each country bringing its own version of why Gorillas crossed. However, Gorilla Rwanda through Rwanda Development Board (RDB) – the country's caretaker of conservation programs said that it is normal for Gorillas to cross. It is alleged that the family that crossed over has twins, the only ones of the kind in the Gorilla families in the region.



US President Donald Trump announced last Month that **the founder and leader of ISIS Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi** died by committing suicide. It is said that the leader of the notorious terrorist group committed suicide by detonating a suicide vest while he was hiding in a tunnel after a two-hour-long gun fight with US forces in Syria.

The 2,935km Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line from Mombasa to Kigali via Kampala has been finally called off. The proposed gauge railway failure has been hit by critical funding challenges with President Uhuru Kenyatta failed to secure \$3.6b funding from China for the final piece of its SGR to Malaba border post, which is the third phase connecting to Uganda then to Rwanda from Mombasa. Uganda said it lacked the funds to construct its gauge segment that was supposed to link Rwanda from its Western Part.



President Kagame reshuffles army chiefs, appoints new ministers

President Paul Kagame who is also the Commander in Chief of the Rwanda Defence Forces-RDF reshuffled army chiefs while promoting others, a statement from the army stated.

According to the statement, Gen Jean-Bosco Kazura was promoted to four-Star General and appointed Chief of Defence Forces replacing General Patrick Nyamvumba who has been holding the position since 2013. Nyamvumba becomes the Minister in charge of internal security. The internal security ministry was scrapped off in 2016.

Prior to his appointment, Kazura, 56 has been commandant of the RDF command and staff College, the military's elite training college in Musanze district. Brig Gen Didas Ndahiro was taken to RDF Command and Staff-Musanze replacing Gen Kazura as its commandant.

After being dismissed last year in November last year, Gen Fred Ibingira bounces back to his position as Reserve

Force Chief of Staff replacing Lt Gen Jacques Musemakweli, who appointed the Inspector General of RDF. Maj Gen Innocent Kabandana, who has been commander of Special Operations Force, takes over as Deputy Reserve Force Chief of Staff.

New changes and deployments in the RDF:

1. Major general Jean Bosco Kazura is promoted to general and appointed the RDF chief of defense staff.



2. General Fred Ibingira is appointed the reserve force chief of staff.
3. Lieutenant general Jacques Musemakweli is appointed the inspector general of RDF.
4. Major general innocent kabandana is appointed the deputy reserve force chief of staff.
5. Brigadier general Didas ndahiro is appointed the commandant of RDF command and Staff College.
6. Brigadier general Ephraim Rurangwa is appointed the commandant of Rwanda military academy – GAKO.
7. Colonel James Ruzibiza is promoted to brigadier general and appointed commander of engineering brigade.
8. Colonel Karusisi Ruki is promoted to brigadier general and appointed commander of special operations force.
9. Colonel Joseph Karegire is appointed chief j3 (operations and training).
10. Colonel Faustino Kalisa is appointed chief j1 (personel).
11. Colonel Adolphe Simbizi is appointed chief j4 (logistics).
12. Colonel Jean Paul Karangwa is appointed commander of military police.
13. Lieutenant colonel Patrick Karuretwi is promoted to colonel.
14. Lieutenant colonel Emmanuel Kanobayire is promoted to colonel and appointed second in command of special operations force.
15. Lieutenant colonel Jules Kwirangira is promoted to colonel and appointed commander of artillery division.
16. Lieutenant Colonel Lausanne Ingabire is appointed chief j9 (civil-military relations).
17. Major Regis Rwagasana Sankara is promoted to lieutenant colonel.

In the Cabinet Reshuffle, former Minister of Environment Dr Vicent Biruta has



ABOVE: Dr Vincent Biruta, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Gen Patrick Nyamvumba, Minister for Internal Security; and Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Minister for Environment.

BELOW: Aurore Mimosa Munyangaju, Minister for Sports; Edouard Bamporiki, State Minister in the Ministry of Youth and Culture; and Ignancienne Nyirarukundo, State Minister in charge of Social Affairs.

replaced Dr Richard Sezibera, who has been out of public for months as new Foreign Affairs Minister. Dr Biruta has been holding the environment docket since 2017 and previously held the position of Senate President between 2003 to 2011.

While Dr. Jeanne D'Arc Mujawamariya who previously was Rwanda's Ambassador to Russia replaces Biruta as minister of Environment. Gen Patrick Nyamvumba was appointed minister of Internal Security, a Ministry that was removed on the cabinet list in 2016. Nyamvumba before appointment was the Chief of Defence Forces.

Other appointments include; Aurore Mimosa Munyangaju who will be charged with Ministry of Sports which saw the culture docket transferred to the Youth Ministry. Rose Mary Mbabazi will continue to head the Ministry since 2017. Prior to her appointment, Mimosa was Chief Executive Officer, Sonarwa Life Assurance Company Ltd.

Edouard Bamporiki, who has been the Chairman of the National Itorero Commission was appointed as state

minister in the Ministry of Youth and Culture.

Meanwhile Ignatienne Nyirarukundo who was a member of the Lower Chamber of Parliament has been appointed State Minister in the Ministry of Local Government in charge of Social Affairs replacing Dr Alivera Mukabaramba who was recently appointed to the Senate.

The president also appointed Assumpta Ingabire as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion while Didier Shema Maboko going to Ministry of Sports as Permanent Secretary and Samuel Dusengiyumva as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government.

Other appointments saw Tito Rutaremara as the Chairman of Rwanda's Elders Advisory Council which was headed by Dr. Augustine Iyamuremye currently the President of the Senate. Dr. Rose Mukankomeje as the Chairlady of the Higher Education Council (HEC) and Marc Kabandana as also appointed as Member of the Elders Advisory Council.

Putin hopeful to renewing Russia-Rwanda bilateral ties

Russian President Vladimir Putin hopes to activate economic ties with Rwanda, expressing his gratitude to President Paul Kagame for attending the Russia-Africa summit in Sochi on his birthday.

During the meeting with Kagame, the Russian leader stated that the Russia-Africa summit is “a good opportunity to discuss the state and the prospects of bilateral cooperation and to exchange opinions on current African and international issues, namely in the context of the upcoming chairmanship of Rwanda in the East African Community.”

“Our intergovernmental relations have traditionally been friendly,” Putin said, reminding of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between both states celebrated last year.

Putin stated that in 2018, bilateral trade between Russia and Rwanda grew by a third. “Even though the numbers are small, the trend is a positive one,” the Russian leader said, noting that the participation of Rwandan representatives in the Russia-Africa economic forum should provide a boost to the trade-economic relations between both states.

Putin thanked Kagame for visiting Russia on his birthday. “The first day of the Russia-Africa summit coincided with your birthday. I would like to wish you good health, prosperity and success and to thank you

for deciding to visit Russia despite this personal date,” the Russian president addressed his Rwandan colleague, who celebrated his 62nd birthday on October 23.

Kagame thanked Putin for his wishes. “I would like to thank you for such warm, kind wishes,” he said. “It is a great pleasure for me to be here on my birthday. I have pleasant memories of our meeting last year. We have managed to establish good relations between our countries,” Kagame said, expressing hope that the sides will continue to enhance these relations.

Kagame congratulated Putin on the successful organization of the first Russia-Africa summit. He stressed that he is satisfied with its results, noting that the sides have signed several important agreements.

On October 23-24, the resort city of Sochi has hosted the Russia-Africa Summit, co-chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Egypt's head of state Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. All 54 African countries took part in the event, with over 40 of them represented by heads of state.

Eight major African integration associations and organizations were also involved in the event. An economic forum took place on the summit's sidelines, attended by the continent's heads of state, as well as representatives of the business community and government agencies.

By Tass News



Rwanda ranks 29th most charitable country in Africa, New survey reveals

Rwanda has been ranked the 29th most charitable country in Africa and 115th in the world according to the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)'s World Giving Index.

The survey which was conducted by Gallup involved views of more than 1.3 million people in more than 125 countries took place between 2009 and 2018.

The most charitable country on the continent was Kenya, which was ranked 11th. It is also the second most improved country globally and the 11th overall, with 47 per cent, followed by Liberia 17th, Sierra Leone 20th, Nigeria 22nd, Zambia 32nd, Uganda 35th and Malawi 36th.

“The study looked at how people in 125 countries give their time and money to causes that they care about over the last decade,” said John Low, CAF chief executive officer.

In terms per category performance, Rwanda scored 115th with 33 per cent in helping strangers category while it ranked position 97th with 17 per cent

in donating money, while it scored 90th with 14 per cent in volunteering time.

Low says that that the study focused on the ability to help strangers who are in need, donating money to charity and volunteering one's time to an organisation.

On an individual basis, the study indicated that men are generally more likely to help the destitute than women and are also slightly more likely than women to have volunteered their time (22 per cent of men against 19 per cent of women).

“In the past decade, men are more likely than women to help a stranger (49 per cent of men versus 46 per cent of women) but they are equally likely to have donated money (29 per cent of men and women),” the report read in part.

Again, the report reveals that old people are less likely to help a stranger than the young people mainly in developed countries while the tendency to donate money grows with age.

“Those aged over 50 are the most likely to have given money to charity over the 10 years. While 25 per cent of those aged 15-29 had donated money, this rises to 32 per cent among those aged 50 and above,” Low said.

He adds, “The biggest jump, however, is from those aged 15-29 to 30-49 where there is a six percentage point difference in the number of people donating money.”

In the 10-year aggregate, the United States of America (USA) is the world's most generous country with 58 per cent, followed closely by New Zealand (57 per cent), Ireland (56 per cent), United Kingdom (54 per cent) and Sri Lanka (51 per cent).

On Africa Continent, Kenya leads as the most improved country and in terms of the 10-year aggregate scores where it compares favourably with rich Western and Eastern countries.

Whilst, South Africa came sixth among the most improved, with Rwanda settling for eighth.

To remove disparities such as financial inequalities that would affect the ability of the person to donate or help, CAF carried out the survey over a period of time that included the depths of the financial crisis and its fallout, brighter times as the global economy began to bounce back and into more recent moments of geopolitical unrest.



Inland port builds momentum for the country's logistics hub dream

BY DIAS NYESIGA

So many dreams has Rwanda dreamt and most if not all came true. From the trucks piled with dead bodies off for mass burial 25 years ago to the trucks carrying goods to an inland port is a magical transformation of a country once regarded as a land of hopelessness.

Almost nine years ago, as Government pondered over efforts to eliminate barriers within the logistics value chain mainly upped by the country's landlockedness, the need for an inland port popped up. In 2011, Dubai Ports World came with the solution. This saw the development of Kigali Logistics Platform, a Public Private Partnership with DP World and the Government spelled out the development of an inland port under a 25-year concession.

Accordingly, DP world, a Dubai-based global logistics company under the stewardship of its CEO Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, was flagged off to construct a dry port facility, which despite a couple of years in the pipeline has built the country's momentum to grow into a regional logistics hub.

While inaugurating the inland port at Masaka in Kigali on Monday October 21, President Paul Kagame said the dry port will facilitate trade across Africa ---mainly the movement of goods under the recent formed African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"We are very happy to see that it has materialized. We are also happy to be associated with DP World, a partner in the development of the inland dry port which is already easing trade," The President said.

The inauguration was for the first



phase which started its operations in September this year and cost \$35m on a 130,000 square metres with a 12,000 square metre for container yard and 19,600 square metre for warehousing

"We are very happy to see that it has materialized. We are also happy to be associated with DP World, a partner in the development of the inland dry port which is already easing trade."

PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME.

facility. The government will further support the expansion phases for the port.

The port is expected to deploy smart technologies that ease monitoring and tracking of goods. The first phase will handle 50,000 containers at once with reduction in delays of goods in transit from 14 days to 3 days.



"This is a high-tech operation that offers real time cargo tracking for customers and I congratulate DP world on completing this first phase which has already demonstrated significant reduction in truck turnaround time," He added.

In a bid to grow into a knowledge

driven economy, Rwanda looked at many options and building a regional logistics hub was among the priorities, as experts say that the inland port is expected to bolster movement of goods and curtail the logistics expenses that is grappling the region.

As Africa closes gaps of fewer intra

trade deals through the AfCFTA, which removes borders on the continent with trade expected to commence in July, there is optimism that trade and integration will be realised.

"Trade agreement and economic policies won't have much impact without actual infrastructure. With the launch of this facility, Rwanda is doing its part to connect with the larger market of about 1.2 bn consumers in Africa and beyond," The President said.

According to several surveys done within East Africa, it was found out that logistics cost added up to 40 percent of the cost of a good making it expensive.

"We need to make this work and reduce the cost of trade. We see Rwanda as the gateway to the heart of Africa," said Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, CEO, DP World adding that the country is positioned to be a leader in logistics for the region.

The port is seen, before the expectations of traders mainly importers as a solution to high costs in logistics mainly warehouse costs. Most of them, especially those with transit goods to Central Africa like DRC will find a relief to have their goods stored safely.

"There is at times a container delays at Mombasa for example and scarcity of warehouses pushes the storage prices high, of course this eats into our profit margins," said Jean Claude Sekamana.

Locally, the inland port is also another step to facilitate government's efforts to create employment mainly for the youth which under its long term strategy plans to create 200,000 jobs every year.



Vasectomy, a growing hope in birth control surrounded by myths



His peers always saw him as worthless, a man that cannot perform his conjugal rights, but that would not bother Claude Habarurema, 60. What irked him is women whispering that he is a castrated bull.

For Alexis Niyonkuru, bringing to terms his decision to help his wife who is suffering from a pancreas disease and cannot manage to continue using birth control and the thought he will never perform conjugal rights as well as losing his manhood, is yet another task to ponder over.

“When I went with my wife to the health centre to try out another birth control method, after feeling dizzy all the time, I found out that she would be putting her life at risk because

she has an incurable disease in the pancreas,” Niyonkuru, a father of four whose wife has been using birth control for over 10 years narrated.

“I love my wife and can’t put her at risk, but still I cannot again bear the

risk of producing more children,” he says, but he adds that luckily, the nurse told them it is possible Niyonkuru to go for birth control method; she explained and it was vasectomy.



Medically, vasectomy is a family planning method for men where a minor surgery is done to block sperm permanently from reaching semen that is ejaculated from the penis.

“Some people think that when they do vasectomy, they stop the semen and you cannot ejaculate or even erect, it is different,” said Habarurema.

The tale of these two men is the myth that surround vasectomy, a birth control method for men which experts say would increase the uptake of family planning methods. Currently, most birth control methods are for women.

Some even are told that they cannot enjoy their conjugal rights and may force a wife to look for other men leading to disagreements within marriage and to some extent, divorce.

But Niyonkuru like Habarurema, later went for vasectomy last month in Ngoma district, he has not lost his manhood strength.

“Nothing has changed, I enjoy my sexual life normally, my wife is now relieved and she can relax,” he said as he glanced at her photo in his identity card holder, “she is beautiful”, he says, “I don’t want to lose her.”

The government has put up strategies to increase the uptake of



family planning methods and this has painted a positive outlook for the country towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs 2030 on health.

One of these, is through mass sensitisations across the country, where partners such as Society for Family Health-SFH rolled out

Medically, vasectomy is a family planning method for men where a minor surgery is done to block sperm permanently from reaching semen that is ejaculated from the penis.

messages that encourage people to use birth control methods, particularly looking at male engagement events like one held in Gishali sector, Rwamagana district which attracted more men for vasectomy.

“To do birth control, it requires that people first be sensitised and this is what we have been doing with SFH because as a district cannot do it alone,” said Lhin Pierre Rukundo Director of Health, Rwamagana district.

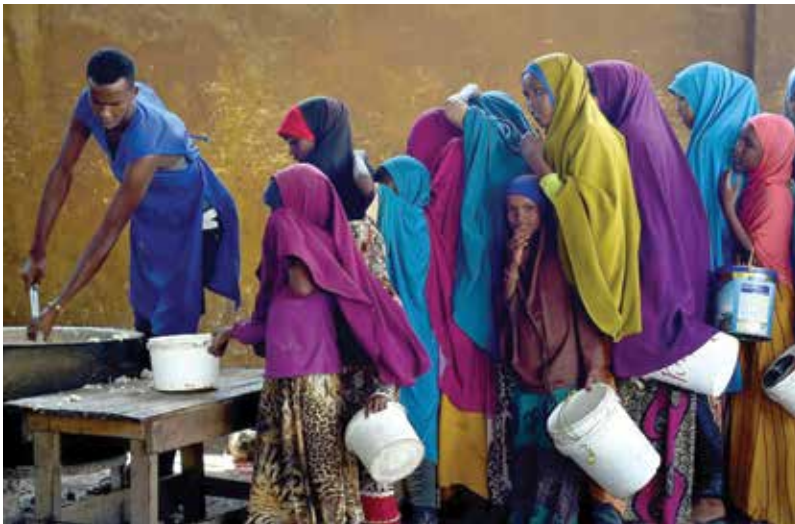
The mass campaign is part of the Rwanda Social Marketing Program-RSMP a Cooperative Agreement funded by USAID Rwanda since 2012.

“This has been the best ever male engagement event we have ever organised in our Rwanda Social Marketing Program (RSMP) in the past seven years, you could see the playground was full, we got a lot of engagement with people and others provided testimonies during the football match,” said Janet Opio, Chief of Party, SFH.

According to medical experts, after vasectomy Semen still exists, but it has no sperm in it and the testes will still make sperm, but they soaked up by the body.



Ending hunger and malnutrition will help achieve lasting peace in the world - Adesina



The African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina believes that ending hunger and malnutrition will contribute greatly into bringing lasting peace across the Globe. Hunger, as experts say has been a main contributor to instabilities across the world, mainly in developing countries.

“Together, let’s end hunger in Africa. Together, let’s end hunger in our world,” said Adesina who won several prizes in relation to agriculture and food security and peace.

According to the recent UN report, an estimated 820 million cannot have enough to eat rising up from 811 million last year and has been increasing for the last three years - one in very nine people is estimated to be suffering from hunger.

This poses a challenge towards achieving Zero hunger target under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Adesina who is also the Patron of World Hunger Fighters Foundation pledged his commitment and

financing towards bolstering efforts to fight hunger and malnutrition.

“When I won the World Food Prize in 2017 and the Sunhak Peace Prize in 2019, I pledged the prize money and a few matching donations totaling \$1.1 million to the creation of the World Hunger Fighters Foundation,” he said.

He adds, “This young crop of hunger fighters and agripreneurs will pick up the baton and in turn, do great things across the world.”

Accordingly, World Food Prize Foundation is partnering with the newly launched World Hunger Fighters Foundation to provide year-long fellowships to young African food innovators and entrepreneurs, an approach that is expected to provide a sustainable solution to hunger.

The World Hunger Fighters Foundation will award annual Borlaug-Adesina Fellowships to young Africans to develop new technologies, champion public policy, and develop viable businesses in the field of agriculture.

Of 1,300 applications, 10 outstanding African youth have been selected for the 2019 Borlaug-Adesina Fellowship.

The fellows are Lourena Arone Maxwell (Mozambique), John Agboola (Nigeria), Adonai Matha Sant’ Anna (Benin), Olufemi Adesina (Nigeria), Ifeoluwa Olatayo (Nigeria), Victor Mugo (Kenya), Emmanuel Maduka (Nigeria), Marianne Enow-Tabi (Cameroon), Solomon Amoabeng Nimako (Ghana), and Nicholas Alifa (Nigeria).

The young leaders will gain experience in international agriculture research centres, including food and agribusiness companies.

Experts say that agriculture is likely to be a source of peace in Africa through provision of jobs as well as food for all. In countries like DRC, agriculture is being used to reintegrate ex combatants of various militias in the country.

“The problem of youth unemployment, criminality, and many other related problems will be solved substantially if we take agribusiness, food security, and social security altogether,” said Olusegun Obasanjo former Nigerian president.

He adds, “One of the feedbacks from this year’s World Food Prize event is that agriculture should not be taken as a development affair, but rather as a business.”

The late Nobel peace prize laureate, Dr. Norman Borlaug, whose work helped feed one billion people, used his award to set up the World Food Prize Foundation. It annually awards the prestigious World Food Prize, known as the Nobel prize for food and agriculture.



Rapid Urbanisation providing cities with opportunities - Report

The report, *Creating Livable Cities: Regional Perspectives*, looks at urbanization trends across emerging and developing economies in Africa, Asia and the Pacific

Rapid urbanization has provided most cities in the world with opportunities to provide more sustainable, vibrant, and prosperous centers for their citizens, the report says.

The report, *Creating Livable Cities: Regional Perspectives* looks at urbanization trends across emerging and developing economies in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

But hurdles still remain, such as inadequate infrastructure investments, pollution and congestion, and poor urban planning.

The report is published by the Regional Development Banks (RDBs)

—African Development Bank-AfDB, Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

“Cities offer access to key infrastructure, institutions, and services for a good quality of life,” said Takehiko Nakao, President, Asian Development Bank.

He added, “They can be centers of innovation for a more livable future for all. But realizing that potential requires forward thinking and flexible planning, adequate capacity at the municipal level, and good governance.”

Accordingly, the world’s urban population has grown from just 750

million in 1950 (or 31% of the total population) to 4.2 billion in 2018 (55% of the total population)—a number that is estimated to reach 5.2 billion in 2030 (60% of the total population).

Whilst the majority of leading economic hubs are still in advanced economies, the center of economic activity is moving toward the developing and emerging markets, the report says.

Asia and Africa will account for 90% of urban population growth between 2018 and 2050, with more than a third of this growth to happen in just three countries—the People’s Republic of China (PRC), India, and Nigeria.

Although large and still dominant, megacities of more than 10 million people and national capitals are not the fastest-growing urban areas. Urban areas with fewer than 1 million residents account for 59% of the world’s urban population and are experiencing a faster growth rate across the regions, the report says.

“We are helping to open up rural areas to development as a means of reversing migration trends. To do this, we are investing in skill upgrades, creating jobs, providing access to SME finance for young men and women,” said Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank.

Cities need large scale investments to develop and maintain infrastructure and services such as urban transport, water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management.

In the face of rapid growth, overstretched services, skills shortages, and increased vulnerabilities to disasters are adding to cities’ environmental stress.

Making cities more livable is one of the seven operational priorities of ADB’s Strategy 2030. ADB’s Livable Cities approach puts people and communities at the center of urban development, and promotes strengthening urban institutions through holistic and participatory urban planning and sustainable financing, and use of data and digital technologies to improve urban services to the residents.

Rwanda introduces first ever electric car in Africa

DIAS NYESIGA

Rwanda has introduced the first ever electric car in Africa with the testing of the feasibility of these cars. It kicked off, another milestone for the country that is leaping to a knowledge based economy.

The feasibility project will be conducted by Volkswagen brand and Siemens through a joint development agreement. The Pilot Project, part of Moving Rwanda Initiative, consists of four electric cars under the brand name e-Golfs and one charging station for the initial phase of the pilot project.

Under the agreement, Siemens will provide the charging infrastructure for the electric cars. During the pilot phase, four e-Golfs and one charging station will be introduced in Kigali.

"The success of our innovative and pioneering mobility solutions business has shown us that Rwanda has the potential to leapfrog the internal combustion engines into electric cars," said Thomas Schäfer, CEO of Volkswagen Group South Africa and responsible for the Sub-Sahara Africa Region.

The e-Golfs will be added into the Volkswagen Mobility Solutions fleet to provide customized mobility service.

"Together with our development partner Siemens and with the support from the Government of Rwanda, Volkswagen wants to make the e-Golf pilot project in Rwanda a blueprint for electric mobility in Africa," he said.

Accordingly, the plan is to increase the number of the electric cars to 50 units and 15 charging stations, depending on the outcome of the pilot project.

Rwanda has a young and progressive population that appreciates individual and modern mobility.



"Our partnership with Volkswagen on this project solidifies our commitment not only to Rwanda but to the East Africa region," Sabine Dall'Omo, CEO for Siemens Southern and Eastern Africa

Sabine says that through contributing towards shaping the African market for intelligent, adaptive infrastructure, while addressing skills challenges in this sector, Siemens is helping to build a more sustainable future for the people of Rwanda.



With their uniqueness, the drivers as well as technicians who will be working with the electric cars have received specialized training in preparation for launch of the pilot project.

Gerd Müller, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development says that Africa's youth need sustainable jobs and better prospects for a future in their home countries.

"Therefore, German development cooperation supports innovative ideas for vocational education and environmentally friendly mobility concepts for African cities," he said.

He adds, "In this respect, initiatives such as Moving Rwanda are yet another step towards implementing the Marshall Plan with Africa."

The electric mobility project was developed within the Moving Rwanda initiative, cooperation between Volkswagen, Siemens, SAP, Inros Lackner, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The Moving Rwanda Initiative was established as the result of Volkswagen's initial investment in Rwanda, which saw the launch of Africa's first Integrated Mobility Solutions business in June 2018.

GIZ supported the e-mobility project by bringing together relevant partners from the private and public sector and by advising on the development benefits of the project.

The Moving Rwanda Initiative was established as the result of Volkswagen's initial investment in Rwanda, which saw the launch of Africa's first Integrated Mobility Solutions business in June 2018.

Volkswagen Mobility Solutions Rwanda offers mobility solutions services such as ride-hailing and corporate car sharing. The services are offered on the Move App, an innovative IT mobility solution which

was developed by a local IT start-up company, Awesomity Lab.

Further, services are offered using a fleet of vehicles assembled at Volkswagen Rwanda's assembly facility in Kigali. By the end of 2019, Volkswagen Mobility Solutions Rwanda will have a fleet of more than 200 vehicles consisting of Polo, Amarok, Teramont and Passat.

Move App has about 27,000 registered users. Over 59,500 rides have been completed in the ride-hailing service since the beginning of 2019.

Experts say that Africa is the last frontier for the automotive industry and Volkswagen's long term goal is to play a leading and pioneering role in the development of the automotive industry in the continent.

As a result, Volkswagen has significantly expanded its engagement in Africa with the establishment of assembly facilities and marketing activities in Kenya, Rwanda and Nigeria. Ghana and Ethiopia are planned as the next locations.

Airtel, Ecobank partner to bolster access to mobile financial services



BY DIAS NYESIGA

Airtel Africa, a leading global telecommunications services provider with operations in 14 countries across Africa, and Ecobank Transnational Incorporated ("ETI") have signed a partnership which will allow millions of Airtel Money and Ecobank customers across Africa to improve their access to mobile financial services and carry out a variety of mobile transactions.

The partnership, subject to regulatory approval in each market, will enable Airtel Money customers, through Ecobank's digital financial services ecosystem, make online deposits and withdrawals, effect real time domestic and international money transfers make in-store merchant payments, and access loans and savings products amongst others.

Ecobank Transnational Incorporated is the parent company of Ecobank the leading pan-African banking group operating in 33 countries.

Accordingly, the partnership will also allow Ecobank corporate account holders to make bulk disbursements, such as payroll payments, directly into Airtel Money customer wallets. Additionally, Ecobank will be able to sponsor Airtel Money to issue both virtual and physical debit and pre-paid cards to Airtel Money customers.

"This partnership is a further demonstration of Airtel Africa's commitment to provide affordable, simple and innovative solutions for our 'consumers across Africa,' said Raghunath Mandava, CEO for Airtel Africa, adding that, 'We will continue to offer locally relevant M-Commerce solutions with partners like Ecobank in order to enhance the daily lives of our customers.'"

Ecobank Group CEO, Ade Ayeyemi, commented: "We believe that financial inclusion can ultimately contribute to economic development, collaborating with major telecommunications providers in Africa is therefore a key strategic driver towards closing the gap between the banked and the underbanked."

The understanding with Airtel Africa will make Ecobank financial services available to any Airtel line registered on Airtel Money in our markets where regulatory approvals are in place. This potential extensive reach will further provide convenience to customers, intra-country and particularly for cross-border transactions and remittances across Africa."

"This partnership is a further demonstration of Airtel Africa's commitment to provide affordable, simple and innovative solutions for our 'consumers across Africa,' said Raghunath Mandava, CEO for Airtel Africa."



Children of the Shadows

A tale of the 'Marines' and their terror to survive

BY SAMUEL BAKER BYANSI

By a mere glance at him-his pale, dry face, youngish reddened eyes and lips longing for a swipe of saliva, Claude is an innocent child, one that would have wondered off home to play with others. But his tale of life is one that shocks everyone- he is one of the street Children referred to as Marines for their mugger tactics to steal from unsuspecting passersby.

It all seemed a good day start for Annet Batamuriza on the morning of 20 May, 2019; the young bright sun was growing up from the far horizon of Kabuga, the eastern suburb of Kigali City. Batamuriza flagged a taxi cab to Nyabugogo bus Park, the country's main Bus park- all transport routes across the country pour in, making it one of the busiest spots.

No sooner had she paid the cab driver and got off at ENGEN fuel station opposite the Bus Park, than two teenagers in ages between 14 and 16 accosted her, with eagle's eyes focusing on the hand bag.

By a mere glance at him-his pale, dry face, youngish reddened eyes and lips longing for a swipe of saliva, Claude is an innocent child, one that would have wondered off home to play with others. But his tale of life is one that shocks everyone- he is one of the street Children referred to as Marines for their mugger tactics to steal from unsuspecting passersby.

Fate played in favour of the marines, the day's prey was in their hands, likely it was a blue day as they slangly refer to good days.

"The fact is I did not know what was going on, one of the boys hit my ankle with a metal stick and I immediately fell to the ground," she recalls.

"As I landed on the ground, the other boy ordered me to surrender my mobile phone which I did and he even snatched my bag I lay on the ground helplessly and shouted for help but none of those who were passing by came to my rescue."

It was after the marines had vanished with a mobile phone and other valuables in the herd of people and the busy traffic heading to the nearby swamp snakely joined to river Nyabarongo that a man approach her.

"I wanted to report the incident to the police but the man who witnessed it all told me I would be wasting my time because the police won't do anything to the boys," she said.

The marine boys that have now become the shadows of their own childhood innocence were named marines after their ability to sway through the swamps and river Nyabarongo after stealing or running away from Police. Like the army that fights on and under water- the Marine Corps, so are the boys.

AN UNLUCKY VICTIM

While Annet was lucky to get away alive, losing her phone, money, jewellery and getting a slight cut on her finger, Jane Mukashyaka a business lady died after her attack.

Popularly called Brown, the 35-year-old lived along the high way from Nyabugogo to Gatuna a boarder to Uganda in a place called Gatsata few kilometres from the Nyabugogo taxi park.

A witness, Patrick Ntakirutimana, says Jane had, at about 6am. on a day in July 2016, woken up as was her usual routine for businesses in Nyabugogo when Marine boys apprehended her.



"She was our boss, she bought on whole sale some tomatoes and gave is to take them to our shop and after buying before even we left, the boys stormed our area and met Mrs Jane" Patrick recounted.

"Numbering about ten, the boys surrounded us and demanded she surrender the money and the phone but she resisted.

"Before one could count three, a member of the gang, who looked not even older than 10, pulled a knife and stabbed the woman in the stomach."

"They ordered me to kneel down with one putting the knife on my neck" Patrick said.

Apparently overwhelmed by the fatal cut, Mr. Patrick said that Mrs Jane shouted and felled down.

It was Jane's cry that attracted many residents and caused youth in the neighbourhood to confront the Marine boys, who seemed to have gone unchallenged before then, while they terrorised the community. All the marines escaped.

Following discussions with the Residents and visitors in areas of Nyabugogo, Gatsata and Kinamba shared bitter stories about the ruthless Marine boys.

A resident of Gatsata, where the street gang is said to have begun, said the name, "Marine" was first used after members of the bloody gang, consisting of street boys and girls, numbering over 20, surrounded and robbed a business

man in the area in 2013 and after all of them jumped to the river Nyabugogo in area and disappeared.

"It was like a film, have you ever seen a film of Rambo when he jumped in water this is what these kids did that time, the police came but before arresting even one of them the guys jumped into water and disappeared" the resident said.

"Over 20 street boys and girls after realising that the police was coming made commando signs, in a quick move and they jumped at once into the water and the police men just started observing what next with the business man's phones, money and a small metallic case"

After successfully robbing, the source said the leader of the gang, whose face was masked, before ordering his fellow to jump in to the water he counted three times and the other gang members shouted, "we are Marines" just like that the guys disappeared.

THE CHANGING FACE OF NYABUGOGO, GATSATA

Nyabugogo, Gatsata are first in many historical narratives in Kigali city and Rwanda in general. Here is the source of the shining city of Kigali and the mother of the capital.

It also boasts the first tax park in Kigali city, Nyabugogo taxi park, the oldest Post Office and working flat built in the 1923 and this made it the Kigali business centre, attracting entrepreneurs to work in it very many years ago.

Besides its rich history, Nyabugogo Park increases the movements of people

in it from all parts of the country and neighbours countries like Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania and DR Congo, and even including those on transits through Rwanda.

But in the last four years, Nyabugogo – Gatsata seems to be losing its endearing peace and ambience; especially with the menace of street children.

Odetta Kanzayire is one of such street children, a 17-year-old girl who has spent nine years of her life on the streets of Nyabugogo – Gatsata.

Odetta said she was born into a poor family in Gatsata. Her father had a low income but was able to provide and care for everyone in her family.

However, trouble started when her parents separated and her father married someone else.

"I lost my step mom's money (100 Rwf) had and she chased me out of the house. I was not welcomed in my relatives' homes due to the status of their families financially (Poverty) and so I found myself on the street," she narrated.

"On my first day I slept outside, I met other age mates, more than 30 mixed boys and girls living the life I was trying to start" she added.

By the time she spent a year on the streets, Odetta said she had encountered hundreds of kids who lived in motor parks, marketplaces, uncompleted buildings, water trenches, inside nyabugogo Tax Park, in the nearby car wash and unoccupied public buildings.

She maintained that one interesting attribute of street children is a sense of communality which enables them to fight and defend one another from intruders and other hostile street kids.

But that did not insulate them from disagreement and fights which she said were regular within their community.

"We had no food and shelter. To keep ourselves from cold, we slept in uncompleted buildings and market stalls in the night and very early in the morning we go round begging for money," Odetta said.

"Time reached when we got the plastic market and we started searching for discarded plastic materials and sold them to make money. Some of us washed plates for food sellers in Gatsata and Nyabugogo Street and they gave us remnants of food eaten by customers."

Odetta gave a chilling account of how she was raped by men in the night.

"I went through a lot on the streets of

Nyabugogo and Gatsata. it is not simple to say what I passed through and still pass through, I have been raped on several occasions. for the first time I was sleeping in a trench then amen came and threatened to kill me if I don't allow him to go his way." Odetta cried.

"I was afraid he could hurt me and so I allowed him take turns and raped me as much as he wanted and then left me before sunrise. I fled that area because I believed the man had been monitoring me for some time before he came to rape me.

John (Not real name), aged 29 a former street boy who is currently working as a driver of cabs said on several occasions raped and assaulted his female group members and even members of the community in the night.

"It was a common thing for we boys to wake up in the night and forcefully have sex with the female members of the group. we beat up any girl who resisted our advance and so at a point, they had no choice but oblige us anytime we want to have them," John said.

As the security authorities in Nyabugogo and Gatsata works hard to solve the insecurities that are mainly caused by these street kids, the solution remains shoutings, arrests and taken to transit centres like "Kwa Kabuga". This is a weakness of not solving the problem from its roots.

Following the days we spent working, discussing and living with these kids, it's obvious that the cause of this issue is founded in the families, and here the government has to work hard to educate the citizens on the impact of the domestic violences, with the security organs also increase their deployments mainly in the danger zones.

"Here you can scream in case of anything and no one can help, we have one police post, it's there in the tax park but even sometimes you find only one officer inside" said Patrick, he also added that when you report a robbery case the police officer ask you if are young kids, and if the answer is "yes" then he openly says that you can't get those ones, filing your case maybe a wastage of time.



Mara phones Affordability and access to digital devices paving way for knowledge based economy



DIAS NYESIGA

Rwanda has 15 percent of people owning smart phones, way below the 80 percent of those that have mobile phones, but this does not stop the current shift to digitisation as all sectors embrace technology by going smart.

The government enhanced the smart economy initiative which called for digitisation of all sectors, providing access to services such as health care services, industry and manufacturing, transport, smart farming, education among others..

The country is embracing manufacture of digital devices, the third phase of the leap to technology led economy, after laying of the infrastructure that includes the 3,000 km fibre optic cable boosting internet access by at least five times and digital

literacy that saw government signed agreement with Microsoft in 2014, with an optimism that the country's vision will be realised.

Although the first two phases proved successful at their initial stages of implementation, the third

- manufacture of digital devices seemed a farfetched dream and given the fact that it had not existed on the continent.

"The percentage is still really low of Rwandans, who are already using smart phones, but we want to enable



many more who would like to, and this is why dealing with cost and quality is very important," President Paul Kagame said while inaugurating the Mara phones plant last month.

He added, "Producing smartphones is not a simple matter. Around one thousand individual components are involved as we have been taken through the whole process."

And now that Rwanda is manufacturing its own smart phones and the only kind in Africa, the uptake in the use of smart phones is likely to go up thus pushing further digitisation of the economy.

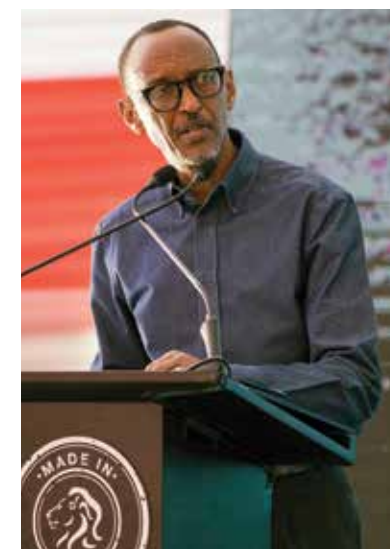
"The investment by Mara Phones Group is therefore in perfect harmony with our focus on science and technology, as the key drivers of our economic transformation," President Kagame said.

The president also noted the need for constant innovation bearing in mind that the world is changing fast and requires the country like Rwanda to keep the momentum towards its knowledge based economy vision.

"The plant is therefore a complex manufacturing operation requiring significant technical skill and expertise. It is another milestone on our journey to high-tech, "Made-in-Rwanda" industry," the President said.

The plant that is worth \$ 50 million in investment is expected to manufacture smart phones that would help people access services, transact, trade online as well as improving their day to day lives as they go digital.

"The Smartphone is no longer a



luxury item. It is rapidly becoming a requirement of everyday life," he said adding that, "trend is bound to increase in the years to come, as more and more services migrate to digital platforms."

In a bid to facilitate digitisation, the manufacturer is already integrating key services that are already used by most people such as Irembo into the phone as a feature. The Irembo is a portal that has all government services provided online.

"In Rwanda, we have Irembo which is already the citizen's primary gateway for many public services. Integration of Irembo into Mara Phones is an innovative feature," said Kagame .

Experts believe that such an integration will ease ownership as well as access as the manufacturer will be able to liaise with financial

institutions , other service providers and local apps developers to allow users use local content.

There is also optimism that the locally produced phones will provide affordability on their price tag to enable low income earners access smart phones, thus pushing access to internet further to rural areas.

"We are gradually dealing with those obstacles through what Mara group has established here in Rwanda. The introduction of Mara Phones will put smartphone ownership within reach of more Rwandans," he said.

Such is the smart agriculture initiative introduced to boost agricultural production, the Agricultural Services and Digital Inclusion in Rwanda. The project has four mobile applications; 'Cure and feed your livestock,' 'eNtrifood,' 'Weather and crop calendar,' and 'AgriMarketplace.'

This and other digital applications are aimed at providing timely information to farmers, fight climate change and increase productivity for the sector.

The firm that produces its own chips and other phone components currently employs 200 people with 90 percent of these being locals and is expected to increase to 650 in the long run.

"The product is backed by a warranty and the price can be paid in instalments over two years. They have tried to make it as simple and possible for Rwandans as they could," President Kagame noted.

Quick facts about Mara

Mara phones produces is the first of its kind in Africa. The plant produces its own chips and parts from over 1,000 tiny components to have a complete phone. It has assembly plants that put together complete parts. The plant's current capacity is 1,000 phones per day.

Mara Phones has two brands- Mara X and Mara Z. The Mara X costs \$130 (or Rwf120,250) at retail price and Mara Z costs \$190 (or Rwf175,750) at retail price.



Heaven on the Mountains

A story of Sina Gerard in transforming lives through hope, prosperity and improved livelihoods

Born and raised in a village in the current Rulindo district, Sina started his humble agrarian life, struggled, missed going to school, toiled and now owns Sina Gerard enterprise Urwibutso, a multi chain industry and several model farms.

DIAS NYESIGA

The weather seemed cool after a drizzle in the month of October and buses are snaking in at Nyirangarama, a popular bus stop in Rulindo district. Herds of people are moving out of the buses and private cars rushing towards a storey building that houses two selling points. On its side are cottages where men are busy roasting meat and Irish potatoes.

On the first floor of the storey building is the VIP restaurant whose

window provides a picturesque view of the twin mountains-Terimbera and Tare. Terimbera looks taller and overlooks the busy Nyirangarama, with its foothills accommodating the popular Sina Gerard Enterprise Urwibutso, a household multi chain industry that has lived in the lives of many people from generation to generation.

Through the window you get a glimpse of the green mountains with fresh banana plantations, hay grass for cattle, well-cultured gardens on the terraces, houses covered with shining iron sheets --- all these tell a story that started with a one man's (Sina Gerard) dream in transforming the community.

Sina Gerard's image is permanently engraved in the mind of Elidebrante Mugemangango, a father of 5, resident of Nyirangarama cell. A mention of this name (Sina Gerard) made his face glow covering the wrinkles of the aging skin.

"I can't tell how my heart wants to thank Sina Gerard but what I know is without Sina I would be a forgotten history, all I have is because of him," Mugemangango says as he smears his cow in a shed.

Mugemangango is one of the less privileged that have benefited under Sina Gerard giving back to the community which has seen many lives transformed from poverty, most of them moved from the lower category (Ubudehe 1) to the second and third.

"I came to ask him to give me his cow and look after it," then he asked me, "will you manage to look after the cow when you are in Kigali?". At that time, Mugemangango was still working in Kigali.



"He gave it to me without hesitation," he added smilingly.

In Rwandan culture, a person with no cow can ask the other to give him a cow to look after. Under this arrangement, the owner takes back their cow after it has produced and the calf remains with the caretaker. This tradition was meant to allow people help each other get out of poverty.

"The cow produced 13 litres of milk a day and I got enough money to buy basic necessities for my family and my children recovered from malnutrition," he said. He said that Sina later gave him another one; he then sold the bullock from the first cow and got money to build a house.

To further support him, Sina gave Mugemangango 10 apple seedlings, oranges, strawberries and 50 banana tubers, and this changed his life. "So I would sell all my produce to his factory and he paid me instantly," Mugemangango added.

For Patricia Mukamana --- from Tare village, Nyirangarama cell --- had become a destitute and homeless, she survives on the mercy of well wishers.

"I was like a living dead, even animals would not want to eat me, I had wished God take my life," she said. Her life changed when she was on a roadside and Sina stopped on his way to Saint Gerard Chapel named after him.



"He (Sina) asked me, what can I help you?," she recalled. That moment made her heart beat with hope that things are going to change for the better. She said that in just few days, Sina built her a house, planted a banana plantation and gave her a cow while her 3 children were sent to school without paying any school fees.

Kamili Bigegari, a father of two was working at the factory at Sina Gerard Enterprise Urwibutso, he didn't have any skills in food processing. After learning about Sina's kindness, he approached him and asked to go back to school to learn food processing.

"I went and asked Sina Gerard to help me and without any hesitation, he accepted my plea and I am now in my

final year in food processing at the foundation college," he said.

Kamili's two children are also studying for free in the lower primary at the Sina Gerard Foundation College and he is allowed to work at the factory during his holidays, helping him to raise more income for his family.

All these are tales of giving back to the community by Sina Gerard Enterprise Urwibutso, a chain of industry known for producing quality products and for empowering and improving people's lives.

"Apart from giving people quality products that they need in their daily lives, I also make sure that their socio-economic lives improve," said Sina



Gerard, Managing Director and owner of Sina Gerard Enterprise Urwibutso.

Sina says that he does not aim at supporting people through giving money but rather agricultural support like seedlings, animals such as cows, goats, pigs, rabbits, as well as building houses for those that are less privileged.

"When a farmer receives the seedlings he goes and plants them. During the harvest, we buy all his produce," Sina continued, "So he doesn't come here as a beggar but a producer who then sells his products to us".

In order to ensure that these people have sustainable income and livelihoods after the support from Enterprise Urwibutso. Sina set up a financial approach where the enterprise buys all the produce and channels their money to the bank which then guarantees their financial flow to help them access credit.

"This approach gives them hope and assurance that the country they are in is the best place compared to others in the world. The government has exerted its efforts in ensuring that whatever they do, what they eat, where they live --- the government is concerned about them and ready to provide them assistance," he said.

In his approach towards transforming communities, Sina has set up a foundation College that has nursery, primary and secondary school, where people from poor families can have free education; the school has over 1,800 students. Most students are children of those farmers that work with the enterprise and the employees of the factory.

In addition, a technical school was established to provide technical and vocational skills to youth in order to be self-employed. The technical school has several sections that include; mechanics, hair dressing, welding, construction, plumbing, agronomy and veterinary among others.

"We are helping people but all these initiatives also benefit us, the students from these schools are employed in our farms and factories and others become entrepreneurs who then become our business partners," he added.

His approach towards investing in education is driven by his belief that when children are educated and given the required skills, they will be able to protect and improve what the older generation has left for them.

"Teaching these children who didn't not have the opportunity to go to

school means we are training future doctors, agronomists, engineers, leaders, teachers, entrepreneurs, technicians that would take over from us," he added.

Moreover, the enterprise has contributed to the construction of infrastructure such as roads, chapels, schools, access to electricity as well as building Nyirangarama cell offices as well as the health centres around the district.

He added, "We still have a long journey in improving the livelihoods of people and we will continue to do so."

Sina feels happy when his example is transforming the lives of the people in the community and is being used as an example to transform communities in different places.

A stunning example is a youth from Ivory Coast who saw on CNN what Sina Gerard Enterprise Urwibutso is doing and replicated it in his country and has created an impact. Sina's contributions to the development of the country has been researched by graduate students in Europe and in the US.

Freed from chains of unforgiveness

Tales of women about their journey to Unity and Reconciliation under SEVOTA

She had just been raped before her husband and children, and her family killed. The only one hope she relied on was the baby on her back as she ran away from the killers, but the dark hour was yet to strike --- the baby had been injured during the time when she was raped and the child died two days ago. She did not know that she was carrying a dead baby.

Marie-Rose from Kamonyi district faced challenges and went heads on with death and survived. But her story is a testimony of resilience, unity, peace and reconciliation. At the beginning of 1994 Genocide against Tutsi, genocide perpetrators attacked their home; they raped her in front of her husband and children and later killed them leaving her helpless.

For Claudette Uwimpuhwe from Ngororero district, the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis left her an orphan after witnessing her pregnant mother being raped and her womb ripped open and the fetus was removed and killed, while her sister died with pain after the killers inserted a bamboo stick in her genitals. The same men that raped her mother then raped her.

Mukamudenge was raped and impregnated by the same Genocide Perpetrator who killed her parents and whose brother cut her leg, "being young, I got traumatized," she says, "but luckily SEVOTA came to help me. My child was the talk of the village as they would refer him as the outcast, I got traumatized by the fact that I had lost both parents in the hands of my rapist."



SEVOTA, founded in 1994 brought these women together, it gave them hope, peace and a sense of belongingness, the trauma was healed, and most came to understand why their lives were spared during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis.

A couple of years later, they returned to their villages to be told they were the lucky ones. But many said they would have preferred to die than face a future haunted by what they experienced.

Such memories were hard to be forgotten and indeed it made these women and girls lived a traumatized life, rejected and abandoned, but the ray of hope was still glimmering, and the encouraging words whispered into their ears --- the words of forgiveness, unity and reconciliation spread by SEVOTA.

SEVOTA, founded in 1994 brought these women together, it gave them hope, peace and a sense of belongingness, the trauma was healed, and most came to understand why their lives were spared during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis.



SEVOTA also supported women who had been forced into marriages during the genocide including some orphans who had been married, some had been sold, others married forcefully to Genocide perpetrators to be abandoned when they freed into exile and others imprisoned.

The organization has the overall objective of promoting activities relating to peace, reconciliation, and the promotion of human rights --- specifically women's rights and the rights of vulnerable children, through the creation of spaces for dialogue and capacity-building.

Despite all these, the victims of Genocide could still not wipe out memories of the tragedy, even some would meet the perpetrators who killed their families or raped them and something had to be done --- to help the victims live a peaceful life. This is when Sevota in line with government's program of unity reconciliation started helping the women and girls through their groups to learn how to forgive and reconcile with those that caused their pains and sufferings.

"Unity and reconciliation has been our goal. We have worked with groups of women of genocide survivors and also have their husbands got involved. We provided counseling on how to support their partners in overcoming trauma or sadness and live peacefully," said Godlieve Mukasarasi, founder of SEVOTA.

Christine Mukayigire said, "To have



survived is not something to be happy about. We don't hear among the survivors saying it was good to survive. To me, suicide was my only good option until SEVOTA came to rescue me."

The government did come up with the system of community-based courts that sought to try genocide criminals while promoting forgiveness by victims, ownership of guilt by criminals, and reconciliation in communities as a way to move forward.

"We owe our existence to the liberation, the RPA forces are heroes who endured much to liberate Rwandans. They could have chosen not to interfere but they fought to liberate the people," said Mukasarasi

Gacaca melded justice with a form of truth and reconciliation that required the guilty to admit and apologize for their crimes, this later became the cornerstone to all national efforts and basis for combating all forms of

discrimination and exclusion, because the fabric that once held the society apart was reconstructed, reconciled with its divisive past and the natives being able to reconcile with each other in a way that brings about unity.

Under the umbrella of different organizations like SEVOTA, survivors expressed their happiness in that their lives have been restored that were once destroyed during the genocide. They have been able to organize themselves to analyze their problems and find solutions by valuing human dignity.

The Rwandan government listened to survivors and perpetrators. Their fears, trauma, hopes, expectations, prosperity and family rebuilding were taken into consideration with the Unity of Government under President Paul Kagame. Through the Ndimunyarwanda (I am Rwandan) program which SEVOTA also embraces as a partner for the government, Rwandans were reconciled and unified despite the past differences.



BENEFICIARIES SPEAK OUT

ALVERA UWIFASHIJE MUREHE CELL, RUKOMA SECTOR, KAMONYI DISTRICT

Genocide affected me. At the beginning of Genocide, my father met the perpetrators and told him to look on the other hill, he saw a burning house and they told him- you are next. News started coming that many Tutsis are being killed. He then gave me money to give to my Godfather who was a Hutu, but when I reached they refused me.

All my four brothers and father were killed, but what haunted me was how they killed my grandfather while I was watching

CHRISTINE MUKAKABERA KARAMA SECTOR, KAMONYI DISTRICT

I was raped and forced into marriage. During the Genocide, I was 20 years old from a family of six children. My siblings were killed. I was hiding at my relative's place with two other people. A

young man came and wanted to make me his wife. I refused but he t gave money to the genocide perpetrators came and took me by force to his home and he sexually abused me.

CHRISTINE MUKAYIGIRE GACURABWENGE SECTOR, KAMONYI DISTRICT

I was raped during Genocide in front of my husband and children. My husband was later killed. A genocide perpetrator took me as his wife, but he never gave me food or water, he only used

me. After the Genocide, I was picked by SEVOTA and gave me another life. I underwent therapy and was educated about unity and reconciliation. I thank the Unity government for helping us to have a renewed life.

I was able to reconcile with the person who killed my family. Currently, he comes to ask me for casual job for digging.

VESTINE MUKASEKURU, RUKOMA SECTOR, KAMONYI DISTRICT

Genocide happened when I was still young, I was from a well off family, but they killed my mother. I was able to save my sister. I was later raped by the man who killed my parents and he impregnated me. His brother cut my leg. What hurt me most was that I have not had a good relationship with my sister because she cannot accept the child I produced as a result of rape. , I also never loved my child. But SEVOTA helped me to reconcile with those that killed my parents and helped me accept my child. SEVOTA taught me how to forgive and live a peaceful and happy life.

FRANCINE MUGANGA, GATUMBA SECTOR, NGORORERO DISTRICT

I lost my parents at age 11 during genocide. I found myself sleeping with dead bodies. To survive I covered myself in blood and also drink it. After genocide I lived a difficult life, I was a destitute and did not have anywhere to go. The people I called my family continued to oppress me, they sent people to rape me and I got pregnant. I had no option but to get married. I also faced more problems because the man I married also had so much problems. Both families hated me. My trauma was too much to bear. But SEVOTA gave me

hope and taught me how to forgive, reconcile and reunite with those that caused me pains and sufferings. I am now happy and at peace with my family and my husband's family.

ESTERI MUKESHIMANA, NGORORERO DISTRICT

I was born in an extended family and they killed all of them. The perpetrators raped my mother. She was pregnant and they cut her womb and removed the fetus. I was also raped and my sister died after the perpetrators inserted a stick in her genitals. They later cut my leg, in the head and back. The Perpetrators then threw me in Nyabarongo River but I was saved. I survived as an orphan with no family. When I joined SEVOTA I was taught how to live a positive life and forgive those that caused my pains and sufferings. The Unity and Reconciliation Commission took us to the prison to forgive those that killed our family.

CLAUDINE MUNDANA, BUGESERA DISTRICT

I was young during the 1994 Genocide against Tutsis and witnessed the crimes of the perpetrators. It caused so much trauma in my life. I saw young girls and women being raped and I was also raped and got pregnant. When SEVOTA came, it gave me hope and I was linked with other women who have the same problems I have. We started learning how we can fight trauma and help each other. SEVOTA through this Unity Government taught us how to forgive and reconcile with those that killed our family. We are now living with peace and harmony.



THE FORBIDDEN DRESS

The queens torn between two roads

BY MARIE CLEMENCE CYIZA

Chantal in a catwalk candidly stepped onto the stage, her eyes glowing like a morning glory in wet season and her tender soft toned slim body well shown, thanks to the pink stringed white dotted bikini- with the audience screaming in wild cheers, you could know the elegance and beauty the young pageant carried on that stage. She felt confident, smiling that at least she has reached her dream- becoming a celebrity.

Moreover, most Rwandan young girl dreams of becoming "Miss Rwanda". Barely 25 years ago, many parents didn't wish their young girls to participate in the pageant but now, things seem to be different where you can see parents accompanying their children on their way to Miss Rwanda.

Even though Miss Rwanda changed the perception of different parents and showbiz lovers, it is quite impossible to understand that Miss could wear a "bikini".

Two days after the stage that carried around 10 contestants for Miss Rwanda beauty pageant that evening, Chantal who had been given a pass to a next level carried a gloomy face; disappointment and remorse was eating up that lustrous face



that made her receive a standing ovation-something might have gone wrong, terribly wrong.

"When I left the stage, I was told that it was not good for me to put on a bikini," it is not our culture, Umwali arambara akikwiza (a

Rwanda girl dresses decently) they told me, "Am confused and am not happy," she said.

For Uwera who had to endure rebukes and boos from the audience and negative comments on her social media accounts seven years

ago when she appeared on the stage of a beauty pageant with a swimsuit bikini is something to reckon with.

For girls with a passion for beauty pageant and modeling have struggled to stretch their legs to walk in two roads - the road that says; Protect our culture and the other that says; Modernity has come, there is freedom to dress up as you please.

Rwandan Beauty Queens face the "Bikini" issue these days, an equivocal talking subject among different Rwandans and Showbiz lovers especially.

But for the custodians of culture, the image is the not what is the docket for culture.

"It's not forbidden to wear "bikini", it depends on where they wear it"- said Dr Jacques Nzabonimpa, Director of Culture at the Rwanda Academy for Languages and Culture (RALC).

A bikini is a woman's two-piece swimsuit featuring two triangles of fabric on top which is like a bra and covering a woman's breasts and two triangles of fabric on the bottom.

"We are not against bikini" Dr Jacques added; "we just don't agree with the fact that they wear it in those competitions. Girls participating officially in International Beauty Queen Competitions, we send them with some advice and instructions; they know it, we don't send them in competitions that don't respect our culture."

At Umuganura event in the past, while the King was surrounded by his court and all people, they used to have time to choose champions in different areas where they also used to choose a girl that was stunningly beautiful among others, the "Today's Miss Rwanda".



A Ray of Hope: Glimmering light over Rwanda's Fashion Industry

BY MARIE CLEMENCE CYIZA

It was once regarded as a profitless industry--- the one where people would go for fun and show off and seen by people who would join the industry whom society thinks have gone off the norms, the spoilt ones.

But the industry through thick and thin have come of age, from lady socialites who would join to have a platform to do their 'work', to organizers who would only crave for celebrity status quo, and now to young women thinking to build their dreams to organizers, fashion designers who make every effort to invest and reap profits in a society that has embraced fashion.

Nowadays, things seem different. Some claimed that you wouldn't need an extra job to live in the modelling industry.

"It's a little hard for start-ups and newcomers to brand in but some famous models and fashion agents gain big wages and incomes," said Eric Muvunyi Marketing Manager at Uno Fashion Agency.

"Modeling industry might not have many local opportunities but when there are none, we create them. For example, we at Uno Fashion, when we don't have jobs we create them through Fashion shows. That's how we work and be able to give jobs to our models," he said.

But the growth of the industry is also linked to the Made in Rwanda campaign, a government initiative of promoting local industries and encouraging people to consume locally produced goods.

As a result, Clementine, Mujawamariya, a tailor says made people like clothing made locally which made more designers to spring up to promote the designs.

"This made some us models be proud of what we do. Maybe you would ask if they weren't before. Of course, some of them were but others were like having a big burden of proof that this industry might go far; that this industry is not for "Slay Queens," said Aisha Uwase, 19, one of new models.

Uwase started creating designs at the age of 7 and she believes that the industry has now changed and become more competitive and more respect is accorded unlike in the past years.

She said "I don't earn much but at least I don't have to ask my parents for everything. Those who are in this industry have to fight for it to develop. They are the ones who might change the way things are by helping each other".

"But" he said; "the Fashion Industry needs many sponsors, partners and investors to be able to operate well."

Experts in the industry believe that if young people with a passion for the industry out much efforts to increase the momentum of the industry, growth would be guaranteed.

The industry's big names have currently increased and some of these include; Kate Bashabe, Jay Rwanda, Moses (Moshion), Dady de Maximo and there is optimism that as the industry continues to be profitable more people will be joining.



OCTOBER'S ENTERTAINMENT NEWS IN BRIEF



BY MARIE CLEMENCE CYIZA
UWIMANIMPAYE

Like any other month in Entertainment, October has its own trending news; the rib breaking "Bigomba Guhinduka Show"; a known show by Day Makers comedy troop initiated by Mugisha Emmanuel also known as Kibonke Clapton.

Day Makers, as the name states, is a kind of comedy who owns the hearts of showbiz lovers since they started early last year. The show "Bigomba Guhinduka" for this month was stunning but not comparable with their first show which was perfect.

On a second place, Clarisse Karasira who was managed by Alain Mukurarinda a.k.a Alain Muku, announced that she's no longer in Alain Muku's label "Boss Papa". That left showbiz lovers dumbfounded by the fact that her glory boosted when she met this man who also glorifies Nsengiyumva François, the known as "Igisupusupu", author of "Mariya Jeanne (Igisupusupu)", "Icange mukobwa" and "Rwagitima".

Some of Clarisse Karasira's songs like "Ntizagushuke", "Ubuto" and "Twapfaga iki?" are some of unforgettable songs in Rwandan cultural and traditional songs lovers.

Until now, they haven't yet really stated what caused that breach of contract. Clarisse Karasira claimed that she broke the contract because she had other fetchingly projects that do not match in some contracts contract she had with Alain Muku.

To name more, Clement Ishimwe, Manager and founder of Kina Music Label claims that someone has stolen from his bank account the sum of around two million Francs. A lady who was reportedly to be the thief said that she was given the check to withdraw the exact amount by someone who said to get it from Clement himself after he was caught having intimate relations with that man's wife. The check's purpose was to let him and the news go unobtrusively.

Last but not the least, is the news about Miss Uwase Muyango who organized a surprise birthday party to Kimenyi Yves who seem to be her boyfriend after his break up with Didy d'Or, who, actually, didn't gave up on her after a video of his nudity became viral. This one said he is in a new love with Miss Muyango and that things are going very well. Miss Muyango might be in Dubai now for her new job; said her friends. Kimenyi Yves, 27, is a former Police FC's goalkeeper who's working now for Rayon Sport football team.



Day Makers



Clarisse Karasira



Clement Ishimwe



Miss Uwase Muyango

Light Magazine to launch the Friends of Media Awards



ERIC NZABIRINDA

The linkage between Corporations or Organisations, Agencies and the media has been sluggish, despite the continued working relations, which exists on the fact that these sectors need each other to survive, but without a win-win situation.

According to a survey conducted by Light Magazine, it found out that the Media and the corporations need each other in order to thrive and be profitable but sometimes each side churns out the products the other doesn't feel comfortable adopting.

"For example, Corporations were telling us the media still lack the ability to bring out the content that attracts more viewers, listeners and readers which these organisations rely on in order to advertise," said Ernest Nyetera, Chief Executive Officer, Light Magazine.

Others, as Nyetera said, commented on the fact that the media lack creativity and innovation to be able to carry out objective, developmental and informative reporting, but despite these, they continued channelling money to the media in form of advertisements and sponsorship.

"And despite all these, the organisations and Corporations have continued to keep their budget to the media partnership stable and in some cases, even raising it, which gives hope for the media sector that depends on these corporations that serve as sponsors and advertisers," said Prof. Vince Sinining, Managing Director of Light Magazine.

On the other hand, the media also complained of corporations interfering with objective reporting where they threaten to withdraw or not advertise or sponsor when a media house would dare to point out

issues that the organisation does not want to be revealed.

Prof. Sinining noted that despite these disparities, there is still hope that the linkages could be closed to have a healthy working relationship between these sectors.

"This is why we thought of honouring organisations and corporations that have been supporting the media through advertisements and sponsorships," he said.

The awards named Friends of Media Awards-FMA, is the first of its kind in Africa and is expected to be launched in December 2019. It will recognise businesses and organisations that have supported the mainstream media as sponsors and advertisers.

"We will contact media houses and provide us with organisations that have been supporting them to help us draw the list of those that will be selected for the awards," Dias Nyesiga, Chief Editor, light magazine said.

"So to get the final potential winners, we will see who of these have supported a cross section of media houses but also look at approximately on how much they spent," he added.

The winners will be awarded at an award ceremony that will host both public and private sector players, diplomats, media and representatives of other sectors of the economy. During the ceremony, Light Magazine will also launch its three sector based publications, as well as a special Edition that ushers in Light Magazine's new approach to Development Journalism.

Also, the publication will unveil its training and support program which is under its Corporate social responsibility of providing internship and hands on skills for journalism students as well as refresher training for Public relations officers.

Gilbert Simbarashe joins Silverbacks as first-ever strength and conditioning coach

JERRY MUHAMUDU

A new era has dawned upon the Rwandan national rugby team as they progress further in its bid to become a competitive rugby playing nation.

In an attempt to professionalize rugby in the country, the Rwanda Rugby Federation (RRF) has appointed Gilbert Simbarashe Mandiringana as their first-ever strength and conditioning coach.

Gilbert joins the coaching staff of head coach Claude Ezoua and assistant coach John Livingstone Muhire and he believes a lot of hard work lies ahead.

"Physical preparation is the basis of any good sporting performance and I look forward to a long and successful journey with the Silverbacks. Our goals will not be achieved overnight but will take years as we try to instil a culture of professional preparation in all our players" he says.

Gilbert an Exercise Physiologist from South Africa believes a larger investment is needed in Rwandan rugby if they are to constantly compete with their neighbors. With rugby seen still as relatively amateur in the country, a keen eye is firmly placed on the youth.

"If rugby is to progress well in this country, we will have to have systems and structures in place to develop the game amongst the youth, this should be our main objective. We need to set up academies for our young players to specifically develop them to be competitive on the international stage"

However, he believes that, for this current team, it is important to start slow and build their way up the African rugby rankings. With



"If rugby is to progress well in this country, we will have to have systems and structures in place to develop the game amongst the youth, this should be our main objective.

experienced coach Claude Aime Ezoua at the helm, preparations are well underway for a competitive fixture of Rugby Africa Cup against the Ivory Coast on 23rd November 2019 in Abidjan.

"My role so far is to observe and assist

the coach in any way I can whilst slowly introducing the ideas of sports science to the guys. I look forward to seeing how we develop but this can only be achieved by constant support from our federation, government, and sponsors. To condition an athlete to play at the highest level, it takes years of dedication coupled with the resources and facilities to make it happen" he explained.

While he believes the opening of a high-performance center is the only way to take Rwandan rugby to the next stage, the new coach remains optimistic and excited about the future of the Silverbacks.

Why it matters for Rwanda to bid for 2025 Road World Championship



BY JEJJE MUHINDE

As we wait for the decision from Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), to name the host of the 2025 World Road Race Championship at the General Assembly, why is it significant for Rwanda to bid alongside Morocco, South Africa, and the USA?

Well, for a nation that has achieved so much after being ravaged by the horrific 1994 war, if it is to win, it will be a great opportunity to become the first African country to ever host the UCI Road Race World Championship.

For the past 25 years, Rwanda has transformed itself into a beacon of progress on the Africa continent.

Cycling has been on the rise in Rwanda for the past 19 years, since the renaissance of the popular international Tour Du Rwanda which has steadily gained recognition.

Hosting the championships would mean, an occasion that will see the world top riders, hundreds of reporters and hundreds of thousands



of spectators come together for the very first time in Africa, particularly Kigali over a whole eight days.

This year, Tour du Rwanda renowned for its spectacular final stage in the capital Kigali was promoted to the UCI 2.1 classification with Eritrean Merhawi Kudus taking the honors.

Having a UCI flagship event in Kigali would represent a significant step forward in the popularity of cycling in Africa especially since the world cycling body UCI wishes to take the World championship to uncharted territory.

Rwanda is also home to the Africa Rising Cycling Centre-ARCC. The

center is the home of Team Rwanda Cycling established in 2007.

It is a high-quality training center not only for local riders but also from around the world and a hub of African cycling growth.

ARCC pathway has resulted and produced the likes of two-time Olympian and former Dimension Data rider Adrien Niyonshuti.

While the 32-year-old was representing Rwanda at the London Olympics, it sparked the emotional feature documentary film, *Rising from Ashes*. Since its release in 2012, the film has won awards at more than a dozen film festivals worldwide.

Also, ARCC has been a training camp for numerous and upcoming riders from several African countries who have broken through on the World Tour, including Daniel Teklehaimanot and National Berhane.

Besides, the center is something of a regional equivalent to the UCI's World Cycling Centre.

On his visit to Rwanda in 2018 during the Tour du Rwanda, UCI president David Lappartient held talks about setting up a UCI-sanctioned World Cycling satellite at Musanze.

Economically, it will boost Rwanda's economy through tourism. Tour du Rwanda attracts teams, plus cycling fans across the world and the media who come not only to compete but to visit Rwanda.

The one week race influences tourists to stay longer by visiting other sites freely to see the national parks, natural assets including the six volcanoes, lakes, rivers and rare species such as mountain gorillas.

It will also re-brand our nation as a cycling Mecca of Africa, a beautiful as well as a safe place to do business.

Lastly but not least, is that being the land of the thousand hills, the relentless uphill downhill including the cobbled climb in Kigali will pep up the World Championship as it suits today's cycling traditions.

Tiger Woods makes history with record-tying 82nd career win



It's Official: No golfer has ever won more PGA Tour events than Tiger Woods. Wood's stunning wire-to-wire victory on October 26 at the Zozo Championship in Japan sealed the record.

After getting within one of Sam Snead's career record of 82 PGA Tour victories at the Masters back in April, Woods (-19) tied the mark on Sunday with a 3-stroke victory over Hideki Matsuyama (-16) at the inaugural Zozo Championship at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club.

This one was as unexpected as any of the previous 81. Maybe the most unexpected. After not shooting a single score lower than 67 since March 2019, Woods opened with

three in a row in Japan as he started 64-64-66 to take a three-stroke lead into the final round. From there, it was a wrap. It's always a wrap when Woods has a three-stroke going into the final round of any tournament, even if it adds a bit of pressure being the leader each round.

Because of crazy weather on Friday, the tournament finish was bumped to Monday morning. Woods completed 29 holes on Sunday local time (Saturday evening in the United States) before closing out the last seven holes on Monday morning (Sunday evening in the United States). "Five days at the top of the board is a long time, man. It was definitely stressful," said Woods, who is now ranked sixth in the Official World Golf Rankings.

Underpinning cryptocurrency could revolutionize Rwanda's economy -experts

Experts believe that blockchain technology is likely to facilitate collaboration and tracking of all kinds of transactions and interactions in Rwanda, a country that has shaped its ambition to leapfrog its economy to knowledge based.

With bureaucratic financial sector and a lack of innovative technology products that would match with the growing trends and innovations on making financial transactions easy, block chain technology can fill up the vacuum.

"What if there was a protocol, call it the trust protocol that enabled us to do transactions, to do commerce, to exchange money, without a powerful third party? This would be amazing," said Michael K Nagenda the CEO Kipya - Bit2Big Rwandan local company

He adds, "If I'm going to send some money to somebody else, I have to go through an intermediary I mean a powerful bank, a credit-card company or a government to authenticate who I am and who you are."

Accordingly, the underlying Blockchain Technology, is the biggest innovation in computer science --- the idea of a distributed database where trust is established through mass collaboration and clever code rather



than through a powerful institution that does the authentication and the settlement.

"For example, we have this great asset of data that's been created by us, and yet we don't get to keep it. It's owned by a tiny handful of powerful companies or governments. They monetize that data and our privacy is undermined," he added.

How the Blockchain works

The Blockchain is basically a distributed database. Think of a giant, global spreadsheet that run on millions and millions of computers. It's distributed. It's open source, so anyone can change the underlying code, and they can see what's going on. It's truly peer to peer; it doesn't require powerful intermediaries to authenticate or to settle transactions.

It uses state-of-the-art cryptography, so if we have a global, distributed

database that can record the fact that we've done this transaction, what else could it record? Well, it could record any structured information, not just who paid whom but also who married whom or who owns what land or what light bought power from what power source. In the case of the Internet of Things, we're going to need a Blockchain-settlement system underneath. Banks won't be able to settle trillions of real-time transactions between things.

Most Blockchain and Bitcoin are what you call permission less systems. We can do transactions and satisfy each other's economic needs without knowing who the other party is and independent from central authorities. These Blockchains all have a digital currency of some kind associated with them, which is why everybody talks about Bitcoin in the same breath as the Blockchain, because the Bitcoin Blockchain is the biggest.

How disruption can occur

The financial services industry is up for serious disruption or transformation, depending on how it approaches this issue. For the research for Blockchain Revolution, they went through and identified eight different things that the industry does: it moves money, it stores money, it



lends money, it trades money, it attests to money, it accounts for money, and so on.

What could go wrong?

There are showstoppers such as the energy that's consumed to do this, which is massive.

Another showstopper, as experts say is that this technology is going to be

the platform for a lot of smart agents that are going to displace a lot of humans from jobs.

"I think the future's not something to be predicted—it's something to be achieved. What we're arguing is that this technology is revolutionary and holds vast potential to change society," he said.

The biggest problems, though, have to do with governance. Any controversy that you read about today is going to revolve around these governance issues. This new community is in its infancy. Unlike the Internet, which has a sophisticated governance ecosystem, the whole world of Blockchain and digital currencies is the Wild West.

"Imagine each of us having our own identity in a black box on the Blockchain. When you go to do a transaction, it gives away a shred of information required to do that transaction and it collects data. You get to keep your data and monetize it if you want, or not," he added.

Last year, \$1 billion went into venture alone in this area and there is more hope that the power of the applications to disrupt things for the good rather than redistributing wealth, can change the way wealth is distributed in the first place.



Negotiating for a better future

Why the good or bad of Russia's presence in Africa will rely on the continent's ability to make better deals

Deal-making is what will shape the future of Russia-Africa relations and will tell whether Russia's renewed influence in the continent is good or bad for its people.

Russia's return to Africa has been the subject of wide media coverage, governmental concerns and civil society reactions in recent weeks, especially as Sochi gears up to host the first ever Russia-Africa Summit next week. Most commentators have come from Europe and North America to voice concerns over Russia's dodgy arm deals in Africa, political meddling with unstable African regimes, and its overall challenging of the status quo on the continent. The problem is, when these comments are not outright hypocritical, they are missing a key point: competition is good for business, which is just what Africa needs right now.

First, Russia's presence in the continent cannot be summarized into sensationalism. It is complex and needs



to be put back into context. Its modern relations with African governments and institutions started building up in post-independence Africa, time when the Soviet Union offered key diplomatic and military support to young African nations in need of it. This assistance was multi-form and much needed for countries seeking fast development following harsh independence wars and conflicts. "The Soviet Union provided significant economic assistance, including

infrastructure, agricultural development, security cooperation, and health sector cooperation," wrote Paul Stronski of the Carnegie's Russia and Eurasia Program this week. Consequently, Putin's vision for Africa is resuming and building up on a cooperation that started in the second half of the 20th century and was only put on hold by the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

In short, while arriving late to the party, Russia is no stranger to the African playground. Beyond military cooperation, its state-owned natural resources companies have already made inroads into the continent, and could be a game changer for many African countries in need of investment and electricity. Key Russia energy companies such as Gazprom, Lukoil, Rostec and Rosatom are already present in Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea or Uganda, while mining and minerals ones such as Nordgold or Rusal are developing world-class mines in Guinea and Zimbabwe. On a global stage, Russia's involvement in OPEC has also sent strong signals that it is committed to market stability and global energy cooperation, which ultimately benefit African producers.

"Russia's influence is increasing through strategic investments in natural resources, and such investments are welcomed by African governments and companies. They bring in key Russian capital and know-how to the continent which is seeking to diversify its investors basket and attract much needed investment into its energy industry," said Nj Ayuk, Executive Chairman at the African Energy Chamber and CEO of the Centurion Law Group. "The African Energy Chamber is supporting such efforts and has seen a definite uptick in Russian companies' interests for the continent. We predict a lot of deals to be signed during and after the Sochi Summit for Russian energy companies

to develop African resources and do business in Africa. This will be especially beneficial as Africa develops gas-based economies," he added.

Amongst the most recent agreements are for instance the MoU between Atlas Oranto Petroleum and Rosneft in 2018, under which the pan-African E&P company agreed to explore the joint-development of its assets across Africa with the Russian state-owned giant. Another one is the signing of several agreements between Russia and Mozambique this summer, involving again state-owned Rosneft but also Nordgold. In Central Africa, Gazprom is also lifting gas from Cameroon's the FLNG Hilli Episeyo, the world's first converted FLNG vessel.

As such investments and activity picks up, the real game changer will be Africa's ability to make deals that work for its people and its economies. Deal-making is what will shape the future of Russia-Africa relations and will tell whether Russia's renewed influence in the continent is good or bad for its people. Rightly so, the ability and capacity of African governments to make better deals with investors is becoming central to the global business narrative on Africa.

In his much anticipated book coming up this month and already best-seller on Amazon, "Billions At Play: The Future of



African Energy and Doing Deals", Nj Ayuk dedicates an entire chapter to the critical art of deal-making. "For Africa to truly realize all of the benefits oil and gas operations have to offer, we need to see good deal-making across the board," he writes. "Clearly, good deal-making has far-reaching implications for African people, communities and business."

Contracts negotiations is in fact the key element missing from the current debate on Russia's increasing influence in Africa. There is no doubt Africa is welcoming Russia's interest for doing business

on the continent, not only because it comes without the conditionality of actors such as the IMF and the World Bank, but also because Africa needs critical energy investment and a giant oil producer like Russia has good technology and know-how to export. The only thing is, sub-Saharan Africa has seen several regulatory developments in the near future, with a particular focus on local content regulations across energy markets. Jobs creation, domestic capacity building and the growth of a strong base of local energy companies is high up on the African agenda. If African governments are able to negotiate contracts that deliver on these expectations and Russian companies are committed to see the continent grow, then the future is bright for Russia in Africa.

At the end of the day, it is all about how African governments and institutions will negotiate future contracts with Russian companies. As Nj Ayuk writes in Billions At Play, "governments must give investors a chance to generate income from the resources they are interested in and recoup their investments. At the same time, governments need to look at creating value for their country and its people. It's a balancing act. It's challenging, but it's doable."

Whether Sochi will result in that balancing act remains to be seen, but the challenge is given and Africa is up for it.



KnowBe4 names Cyber Security Africa as its continent distributor

KnowBe4 Africa has announced its partnership with Cyber Security Africa as its African distributor.

The partnership will help KnowBe4 Africa to make access the cyber security's awareness training platform easier for African businesses through CS Africa and offer a necessary solution to the threat of cybercrime in growing economies.

At the recent World Economic Forum in Cape Town, African business owners flagged cybersecurity as the biggest threat to a successful operation, with 94% of companies in Africa and the Middle East experiencing a cyberattack in the past year.

STRONGER TOGETHER

The distribution agreement between KnowBe4 Africa and Cyber Security Africa will allow relationship building as well as provide local support on the ground for channel partners and end users. Considering the rapid rate of digital transformation in African countries, it is vital that employees develop a security culture that will benefit them both personally and professionally.

Cyber Security Africa was the top choice as a continental distributor and has quickly established itself as an industry-leading Value-Added Distributor with a single-minded focus – the mitigation of information security risk for their clients. They focus their attention on niche, generally complex and certainly relevant security solutions that can be utilized by organisations of all sizes and sectors.

Led by Martin Britz, Cyber Security Africa prides itself on being small enough to remain agile and large enough to apply a dedicated approach



to each client experience. For this new venture, Martin is assisting in the North and Central African regions. Gayle Britz will serve as the KnowBe4 champion and care for the SADC region.

She guides a highly experienced team that includes Femi Ibine in West Africa, Susan Ndungu and Gladys in East Africa along with Andrew Ajuchi in Nigeria. Together, the Cyber Security Africa team will be able to provide support to business in close to 20 countries across the continent.

Cyber Security Africa founder, Martin Britz, believes great things are on the horizon for the fledgling partnership. "What sets us apart from our competitors is our keen understanding of this ever-evolving cybersecurity industry, with all its technologies, innovations, threats and solutions --- it positions us as "future-proof" to clients, while maintaining

availability to attend to their more immediate needs.

The offering from KnowBe4 Africa is unique and it's exciting to be able to offer local training content that will have big benefits for African businesses."

TRANSFORMING SECURITY CULTURE

At the heart of this partnership is an authentic desire to empower and protect the greatest assets of any business: its people. Both KnowBe4 Africa and Cyber Security Africa focus on minimizing cyber risk for clients by educating their employees on how to spot threats like phishing, social engineering and training them with general information security practices. This fortifies the clients' cybersecurity posture, saving them time and money while also drastically reducing the risk of falling prey to a cyberattack.

Anna Collard, managing director of KnowBe4 Africa firmly believes in securing a human firewall and creating a culture of security awareness in the digital age. "The human factor has become very important to the security of the organisation. People need to understand that if they use technology, they have to be cognisant of the risks. Organisations can support this understanding by investing in training that's relevant, targeted and memorable. Training that can sustainably transform the company's security culture."

Whether it's an SME, a healthcare institution or even a manufacturing business, there's no doubt that all organisations will come to understand the importance of security awareness training. We certainly know that Africa is ready to make smarter security decisions, every day.



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