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PLUS
Ghanaian Actress Nadia Buari
turns Barrister. p.21

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Immigrant

PASTOR GBILE AKANNI

Coming to Canada

Toronto, Ontario –
Friday, May 11 and Sunday May 13, 2012
Venue: The Prayer Palace Ministries...
1111 Arrow Road, North York, Toronto, M9M 3B3, ON, Canada

Dates: Friday, May 11, 2012 Teaching Service - 8:00p.m
Sunday, May 13, 2012 Morning Service - 10:30a.m

Evening Service - 6:00p.m
If you are coming from outside of Toronto and you need accommodation, the following are the recommended hotels that are close to the venue of the program:

Holiday Inn Express North York:
Comfort Inn Toronto North:
Travelodge Toronto North-North:
+1-416-663-9500

Airdrie, Alberta – Thursday, May 17 – Saturday, May 19, 2012
Venue: Dynamic Life Christian Fellowship
209, 2903 Kingsview Blvd, Airdrie, T4A 0C4, Alberta, Canada

Dates: Thursday, May 17, 2012 Teaching Service - 7:00 – 9:00p.m
Friday, May 18, 2012 Teaching Service - 7:00 – 11:00p.m

Saturday, May 19, 2012 Men's Meeting with Bro Gbile - 10:00a.m - 12:00 noon

Women's meeting with Sister Sade – 10:00a.m-12:00noon
If you are coming from outside of Airdrie/Calgary area and you need accommodation, the following are the recommended hotels that are close to the venue of the program:

Comfort Inn & Suite Airdrie:
Super 8 Airdrie:
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Airdrie +1-403-912-1952

Calgary, Alberta - Sunday, May 20, 2012
Venue: First Assembly Church, 6031 Elbow Drive SW Calgary, AB T2V 1J4
Alberta, Canada Time: 9:30a.m – 1:00pm (2 Services)



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The Richness of African Traditional Clothing

| AFRICAN TRADITION |



There are several types of fabric that are used to make traditional African clothing. They include Aso oke fabric and Adire fabric both of which are made by the Yoruba group. Aso oke is the fabric and Adire refers to a tie dye process that is used to create patterns in the woven cloth. Other types of African textiles include Kente cloth, which is made by the Akan ethnic group, Barkcloth, Muddcloth, Kanga and Kitenge. African clothes are usually loose fitting and very comfortable. An outfit may vary from region to region. In some areas, a long robe or dress may be worn by both

men and women. They may also be influenced by the cultures from other countries which surround an area where a piece of clothing comes from. Full African outfits normally also include a head wrap or hat that varies from region to region. If you are interested in purchasing African clothes, there are a number of different websites and stores that you can shop in. Online stores can be good because you have a larger selection of clothing patterns, styles and colors to choose from. You should decide whether you want to choose an outfit because of your own cultural heritage or based on a style that you like.

One beautiful outfit that can look wonderful at an African wedding or other important event is the Ariya. This is an African woman's outfit that is made up of four individual pieces. It usually includes a Buba (blouse), Iro (wrapper), Gele (head wrapping) and Ipele (shawl). These pieces go together and form a loose and comfortable African dress that may be available in many different styles, patterns and colors. There are other outfits which look very similar but which are from different geographical areas of Africa. Men who are getting married may be interested in traditional African clothing such as the Agbada. It includes a long, flowing shirt, a pair of pants which are worn under the robe, a hat and a robe which is normally worn over the shirt. They are usually heavily embroidered in patterns that have cultural and spiritual significance. If you are not interested in wearing a complete outfit of African clothes, consider using traditional fabrics such as Aso oke fabric to make part of your outfit. In fact, it is becoming quite normal to blend African clothing with Western style outfits in order to show your heritage. (Allafricancloths.com)

HIV/AIDS & the African Community: *The Battle Goes On*

EDITH WAMBAYI DISCUSSES the importance of shared learning in combating the HIV/AIDS scourge — Edith can be reached at (416) 297 6826 or at help_consultancy@yahoo.com)

BY DR. EDITH WAMBAYI



For your information, HIV & AIDS is still a disease of concern among the African community in Canada despite global trends towards reduction in rates in some countries including those in sub-Saharan Africa. In Canada, the Black community accounts for about 12% of the infections as people from countries where HIV is endemic (with a prevalence rate of 1% and above) immigrate. Other high risk categories are gay men, those who inject hard drugs into their

system, Aboriginal people, and women. The major question is why this trend? Answers to this question are what communities need in order to reverse the trend. Many of the answers have been shared over the 30 years HIV has been around and are well known. So why does the problem still persist? What perpetuates this spread among African communities is the stigma associated with the infection, cultural and structural issues as

well as the denial, fear and gossip among most members of the community. Other factors include religious beliefs and homophobia (the denial of homosexuality). These factors create barriers to testing and treatment among other supports available to reduce the spread of HIV in our community. There is therefore a need among African communities to spread awareness to remove the above barriers before wholly or partly laying blame on other causes. True, there is racialization of HIV as a Black or African disease by mainstream cultural media which impedes access to knowledge and awareness by African people. The criminalization of those spreading the disease is another cause of fear among those infected but unless communities rise above these fears to combat the problem it will continue to devastate our community.

Africans therefore have a responsibility for continuous shared learning, exchange and coordination individually and through agencies providing services to Africans such as *Africans in Partnership against AIDS*, a leading agency providing services to Africans affected by HIV/AIDS. The *Federal Initiative to Address HIV* in Canada calls for communities to strengthen the prevention response to HIV. Canada's Black population predominantly lives in urban centres, particularly in Toronto and Montreal hence these two cities carry the brunt of the AIDS burden among African communities in Canada. The advantage of living in urban centres is the ease of accessing services compared to rural settings. Africans

need to increase access to support services for HIV/AIDS. Those accessing support services learn ways of prevention while those infected learn how to be careful

African people
therefore have a responsibility for continuous shared learning

about making decisions around disclosure of information while maintaining strong social and community connections in a culturally appropriate manner. This calls for capacity building and community engagement both for community members and service providers to increase sensitivity when sharing information. As part of community engagement there is a need for more targeted community-based programs and research involving community members. This will empower Africans to take charge of their own issues and make recommendations for change. Such programs would address issues such as knowledge of HIV/AIDS as well as people's attitude towards the disease. More importantly, studies will address risk-taking behaviour which is a major contributing factor in the spread of HIV. If well addressed behavioural changes to reduce social exclusion and racism will inform policy interventions that will greatly reduce HIV/AIDS in the African community in Canada. *AIM*

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MAY 2012:

- Mother's Day Special
 - Summer Travels
 - The Next Time You Have a Job Interview
 - The Rush to Saskatchewan
-and much more, **DON'T MISS IT**

Your Friends Determine Your Level of Success

PROF. PHIL TAM-AL ALALIBO

The type of friends one makes could invariably determine their level of success, especially, in a new country. Often times, when Africans arrive in Canada, as expected, they make friends from their own community—it's a natural phenomenon, but this phenomenon could very well be the conduit of failure in many respects. A friend recently narrated how she was misled by friends she met in her early days in Canada. Highly educated as she was, these friends advised her not to seek re-credentialing and instead hurriedly introduced her to a profession that was well beneath her skills, level of education and experience. "Everyone does this" they stated to her. "It's the only way to survive in Canada" they further emphasized. While this friend resisted the pressure and elected against all odds to return to school to earn a graduate degree from Ryerson University in Toronto, many, I am afraid are sucked into this loop of hopelessness that retards their ingenuity and progress. Their innate urge for self-improvement conceived well before their epic sojourn to Canada all but disappears with the wild northward wind and aptly replaced by despair and sheer

complacency. It is imperative therefore for one to be careful about those they elect as their friends. As well intentioned as they may be, their advice could be utterly detrimental and indeed inimical to one's progress and success in a new country. Some of those friends can only give what they have and if they are not ambitious, goal-oriented with an ardent penchant for success but rather lackadaisical, I am afraid that is all they would have to offer. As the parlarce goes, "Little minds gossip, average minds talk about events, great minds talk about ideas." When one associates with little minds it becomes difficult to rise above their level to pursue set professional and personal goals. It is often easy to get trapped and stagnant in this country amply aided by an un-enabling environment. Conversely, when one chooses great

minds as friend, those with clear roadmap in life with a positive deposition, those whose friendship adds value to one's life, mediocrity will hardly be their lot. In this tough society, we need to surround ourselves with positive influences that would advance our professional and personal goals. In this context, it might be useful to seek a mentor, someone who has a proven track record of success in their field of endeavor. It is interesting to note that some of today's most successful men and women all had mentors. A while ago, I was advising a recent African immigrant to seek a mentor in accounting since he was preparing for the CGA designation. But his response belied the arrogance that has come to typify Africans. "How can I get a mentor with all my education?" he asked. "Education has got nothing to do with it", I responded, "knowledge is power". **AIM**

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FORTY BEST IMMIGRANT EMPLOYERS IN CANADA 2012

By Prof. Phil Tam-Al Alalibo

African Immigrant Magazine is pleased to bring to you the top forty best immigrant employers in Canada. These companies and organizations have immigrant friendly hiring policies and programs that make it easier for most immigrant applicants to be given a fair chance in the hiring process. Some of these companies have even taken the additional step in setting up a process to ensure that the language in the posted job descriptions does not discourage immigrants from applying for jobs they could qualify for. In this tough economic environment, it is important that immigrants are

aware of companies that are sympathetic to their plight, companies that have seen the value in tapping into immigrant skills and experiences to enable them to compete globally. Part of the challenge of immigrants in securing suitable jobs is the lack of Canadian experience which often translates into rejection for otherwise highly qualified immigrants. To assuage this, some of these companies have internship programs specifically designed for immigrants lacking such experience. With the grim prospects of the Canadian economy facing acute labour shortage, companies have started to realize the need to hire immigrants to ensure their relevance and competitiveness in the

new emerging economic environment. The companies below were judged by their efforts in the following initiatives: recruiting recent immigrants by partnering with community organizations, posting job vacancies with multicultural media or hosting a dedicated Web page; providing employment through internship and co-op placements; helping international professionals to get their foreign credentials recognized or upgraded; mentoring initiatives; ESL/FSL language and other business training for newcomers; and training to help recruiters, managers and co-workers better understand cross-cultural issues or inclusiveness. We encourage immigrants seeking for jobs to visit the web-sites of these companies for vacancies.

Source for List: Mediacorp

AltaGas Ltd. , Calgary. Natural gas distribution; 540 employees. Participates in the Work Links program organized by Immigrant Services Calgary.	Deloitte & Touche LLP , Toronto. Certified public accountants; 7,922 employees. Is a national partner of Assisting Local Leaders with Immigrant Employment Strategies (ALLIES).	McGill University Health Centre , Montreal. Colleges and universities; 11,500 employees. This non-profit hires newcomers with foreign credentials at temporary junior-level positions while they pursue credential equivalencies.	Pitney Bowes of Canada Ltd. , Mississauga. Office equipment merchant wholesalers; 1,625 employees. Worked with TRIEC to ensure language in job descriptions does not discourage new Canadians from applying.	Toronto-Dominion Bank , Toronto. Banking; 41,360 employees. Works with a range of community organizations including Equitek, Career Bridge, MicroSkills, COS-TI and Skills for Change.
BC Hydro , Vancouver. Hydroelectric power generation, 5,911 employees. Advertises vacancies in multicultural media.	Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) , Calgary. Regulation of electric, gas and other utilities; 874 employees. Participates in employment information sessions organized by Immigrant Services Calgary.	Medtronic of Canada Ltd. , Brampton. Medical apparatus manufacturing; 474 employees. Employees new to the country are paired with another who has a similar cultural background.	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP , Toronto. Certified public accountants; 6,255 employees. Piloted a soft-skills seminar in partnership with JVS and ACCES Employment.	Telus Corp. , Vancouver. Telecommunications carriers; 23,400 employees. Sponsors international candidates in securing work permits and covers the costs of relocation.
Bank of Montreal (BMO) , Toronto. Banking; 29,605 employees. Participates in ACCES Employment's Speed Mentoring program.	Ernst & Young LLP , Toronto. Certified public accountants; 4,161 employees. Supports York University's Internationally Educated Professionals bridging program.	City of Mississauga , Ontario. Legislative bodies; 3,909 employees. Supports Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council's (TRIEC) Mentoring Partnership program.	Providence Health Care , Vancouver. General medical and surgical hospitals; 3,412 employees. Manages a dedicated Web page to offer resources to employees who are new to Canada.	Tetra Tech WEI Inc. , Winnipeg. Engineering services; 972 employees. Participated in conferences and workshops to discuss issues and strategies for the integration and employment of new Canadians.
Bombardier Aerospace , Dorval, Que. Aircraft manufacturing; 17,222 employees. Recruiters participate in training sessions on inclusive recruitment strategies and interview techniques.	Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP , Toronto. Lawyers; 1,232 employees. Created an in-house, six-month paid internship program for internationally trained lawyers to help them gain work experience.	Mount Sinai Hospital , Toronto. General medical and surgical hospitals; 2,295 employees. Recently launched a formal employment strategy for internationally educated professionals.	Provincial Health Services Authority , Vancouver. General medical and surgical hospitals; 7,181 employees. Conducted focus groups with nurses who are new to Canada to improve the program for future hires.	TransCanada Corp. , Calgary. Natural gas distribution; 2,487 employees. Hires newcomers with foreign engineering credentials at the technologist level, moving them to engineering classification after they receive accreditation.
Business Development Bank of Canada , Montreal. Banking; 1,834 employees. Helped create the Ethno Business Council of British Columbia to support and celebrate new Canadian entrepreneurs.	Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning , Toronto. Schools; 1,303 employees. Forward vacancies to multicultural media such as Charity Village, Sing Tao and India Journal.	NTT Data Canada Inc. , Halifax. Computer systems design services; 565 employees. Provides partially paid work terms for up to six weeks for unemployed new Canadians.	Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) , Toronto. Banking; 53,100 employees. Participates in language training programs including the "Talk English Café" e-learning initiative.	University of Ottawa . Colleges and universities; 2,900 employees. Launched "Access UOttawa" in partnership with Hire Immigrants Ottawa.
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) , Toronto. Banking; 33,489 employees. Offers information sessions to new Canadians, which includes tips for résumé writing, interview skills and employment at CIBC.	KPMG LLP , Toronto. Certified public accountants; 5,413 employees. Manages an "International Club" for employees who are international hires.	New Flyer Industries Canada ULC , Winnipeg. Heavy-duty truck manufacturing; 1,283 employees. Subsidizes the costs of assessment fees for professional accreditation.	Saskatoon Health Region , Saskatoon. General medical and surgical hospitals; 6,239 employees. Provides extensive support to international hires, from settlement information to formal documentation and licensure.	City of Vancouver . Legislative bodies; 6,858 employees. Publishes a guide for newcomers, including a list of city services and resources for immigrants, available in multiple languages.
CH2M Hill Canada Ltd. , Toronto. Environmental consulting services; 1,098 employees. Employees volunteer to teach ESL classes and workshops on the Canadian workplace at the Employment Resource Centre at MicroSkills Toronto.	Loblaw Cos. Ltd. , Brampton, Ont. Supermarkets; 30,472 employees. Works with ISIS and MicroSkills to match vacancies with résumés of new Canadian job-seekers.	Nordion Inc. , Ottawa. Electromedical apparatus manufacturing; 502 employees. Recognizes foreign credentials and experience and has them evaluated by World Evaluation Services, a third-party credential assessor.	SaskPower , Regina. Hydroelectric power generation; 2,768 employees. Forwards vacancies to local community organizations including Moose Jaw and Saskatoon Multicultural Councils.	Xerox Canada Inc. , Toronto. Computer manufacturing; 3,606 employees. Provides paid internships to newcomers through the Career Bridge program.
COM DEV International Ltd. , Cambridge, Ont. Aeronautical system and instrument manufacturing; 1,074 employees. Partners with Focus for Ethnic Women, a not-for-profit agency.	Manitoba Hydro , Winnipeg. Hydroelectric power generation; 5,959 employees. Participates in the University of Manitoba's Internationally Educated Engineers Qualifications Program.	Ontario Public Service , Toronto. Government support; 65,423 employees. Provides managers with guidelines on creating barrier-free employment advertisements.	St. Michael's Hospital , Toronto. General medical and surgical hospitals; 3,710 employees. Developed an Internationally Educated Professionals Transition and Integration Program, funded by the Government of Ontario and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.	York, Regional Municipality of , Newmarket, Ont. Legislative bodies; 2,636 employees. Created York Region Immigration Portal, a website to provide resources, such as settlement and employment information, to newcomers.

FUSION—EVENTS, PLACE & NEWS

Brima Mohammed, an Accountant from Sudan Balances Work and School

Brima Mohammed is a very busy man. He studies English full time through the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Edmonton and works part time as a security guard at the University of Alberta. “It can be challenging to juggle school and work, but it’s worth it to get a job in my field and to live in Alberta,” he said.

Originally from Muglad, Sudan, Brima fled his country as a refugee in 2001. Political problems there led him to Egypt, where he spent five years waiting for Canada’s immigration process to be finalized. A friend who lives in the town of Brooks near Calgary, Alberta set up a private sponsorship, which allowed Brima to come to Canada in 2006. Brima initially landed in Winnipeg, Manitoba but moved to Alberta in 2007 following the advice of his sponsor and friend.

“It was a long journey for me to come to Canada but I learned a lot along the way and I am very happy to be in Alberta now,” said Brima. Each year, millions of people around the world are forced to flee their countries to escape persecution, war or severe human rights abuses. Often, these people are never able to return home. Through the Canadian government’s Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, groups and individuals in Canada can sponsor refugees from abroad who qualify to come here.

Brima has a bachelor’s degree majoring in accounting, which he earned in Sudan. Accountancy is a regulated occupation in Alberta, which means certification and registration with the appropriate accountants’ professional organization are required. Brima had his education credentials from Sudan assessed through the Alberta government’s interna-

“Brima’s income was about \$400 a month. Once he completes his current studies, Brima hopes to earn about \$4,000 a month as a starting salary.”



tional Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS) to see how they compared to provincial standards. He plans to complete his English program then enroll in an accounting program also at NAIT in Edmonton. His goal is to earn the Certified General Accountant designation. In Muglad, Brima’s income was about \$400 a month. Once he completes his current studies, Brima hopes to earn about \$4,000 a month as a starting salary. “I’m very excited about finding an accounting position,” he said. For Brima, what he enjoys most about living in Alberta are the friendly people, the job and educational opportunities available, and that Canada is a safe, democratic country. “There are many opportunities for growth here, and it’s reassuring to see how the government helps people build and improve their lives,” he said. “Safety is another major benefit.

In Sudan, I never knew what each day would bring. I could have been arrested for no reason, or worse. In Alberta, I feel safe and appreciate my freedom.” Brima doesn’t hesitate to encourage other immigrants to come to Alberta. “It’s a very good area to live and work. The economy is strong and there are many programs to help immigrants adjust to living and working in a new country. I am very thankful to the federal and provincial government and to the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, which have helped me feel settled,” he said. (Alberta Govt. website)

New Procedure Announced to Assess Foreign Credentials

On 28 March 2012, Jason Kenney, the Canadian Minister of Citizenship, Immigration, and Multiculturalism, announced major changes to the ways in which foreign skilled workers will have their education credentials assessed before arriving to Canada.

Further details on how this ‘pre-arrival assessment’ will be implemented are forthcoming. However, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has stated that “a pre-arrival assessment would let applicants know how their education credentials compare to Canadian credentials and it will give immigrants a sense of how Canadian employers are likely to value their education”. With this knowledge in mind, applicants without sufficient education will be more effectively screened at an earlier stage, and those whose applications are accepted will be better prepared to find work in their field. Of course, applicants who intend to work in regulated professions will need to have their qualifications further assessed before being allowed to enter the Canadian labour force.

Minister Kenney stated that “this proposal is part of a broader package of transformational changes that will make Canada’s immigration policies work better for the Canadian economy”. These changes have been announced in conjunction with the release of the 2011 Government of Canada Progress Report on Foreign Credential Recognition, Strengthening Canada’s Economy, which outlines new efforts by the Canadian Government to better address educational issues. (Canadavisa.com)

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From Page 10

your TFSA on a tax-sheltered basis, and when your child goes to school, you can withdraw the funds (plus any subsequent growth) on a tax-free basis to help finance your child’s education. Moreover, the amount you withdraw in a given year will be added to your TFSA contribution limit for the following year.

Insurance – Most people think of life insurance as basic financial protection for loved ones but a universal life insurance policy can also help fund your child’s education. A universal life insurance policy is a blend of life insurance protection and investment accounts. As the owner, you select a face amount of the life insurance, the type of coverage needed, and the name of the insured – your child, in this case. You pay the insurance premiums, which are usually quite low for a minor, and within certain limits you can make additional payments.

Those additional dollars are then invested in a variety of investment funds to grow over the life of the policy on a tax-deferred basis – making this accumulation the policy’s primary benefit. At any point after your child turns 18, you can choose to suspend further premium payments and transfer ownership of the policy to the child. This is a tax-deferred transfer that gives the child the ability to draw on the policy’s cash values to pay university costs. And, since the policy is now owned by the child, the taxable portion of any cash withdrawals is taxed at the usually lower marginal tax rate of the child.

Tax-advantaged mutual funds – This unique mutual fund structure gives you the freedom to rebalance the investments in your non-registered portfolio, without triggering capital gains and incurring an immediate tax liability liability as a result of the switch. You enjoy the substantial benefits of compound, tax-deferred fund growth and the ability to choose a date to utilise the tax efficient withdrawals that can be used to supplement your child’s education budget.

Monthly Income Portfolios – This mutual fund option allows you to create a stable, tax-efficient, monthly cash flow that can be used to support your child. A portion of the monthly payout is treated as a return of capital and is not taxed in the year that it is paid out. This tax deferral feature can reduce the amount of tax that you would pay compared to withdrawing funds from other types of investment vehicles.

Age 40 trust – If you are planning to put away a large sum of money, a properly structured age 40 trust can be an effective means of accumulating capital for education. It provides income-splitting opportunities so that capital appreciation may be taxed in the beneficiary’s hands, typically at a lower rate than you would pay. And when funded with a loan, you can retain access to the principal, giving you the flexibility to decide how trust funds should be used, regardless of whether the beneficiary pursues a post-secondary education. When the time comes, you want your children to be able to afford the college or university program of their choice, to follow the career they want and to obtain the earning power they desire. We can help you make the best RESP and beyond RESP investment choices for your life and theirs.

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| SAVING MONEY |

TAX TIME

"5 Simple Tax Tips to Save You Money"

With about one month remaining until the tax deadline, it might help to review some of the simple ways you can maximize your tax return. By planning how to optimize your taxes, you can put more of your money back in your pocket. While most Canadians know they can receive a tax credit on charitable donations, they may not realize that they can get a larger credit by saving their donation receipts for five years and then claiming them in the 6th year. To maximize the tax benefits of your contributions to federal political parties, the process is almost an exact opposite to the charitable donations. With political contributions, your best tax advantage is on the first \$400, which provides a 75% credit. Not surprising considering politicians make the rules, even contributing up to the \$1,275 maximum gets you a net credit of 51%, much more than if you made a donation to a charitable organization.



"You can claim medical expenses for your entire family in any 12 month period ending in the tax year you are preparing a return for. This allows you to fit as many expenses into the time frame you choose to best maximize your return. "

You can claim medical expenses for your entire family in any 12 month period ending in the tax year you are preparing a return for. This allows you to fit as many expenses into the time frame you choose to best maximize your return. The reason you benefit from picking the best 12 month period is that you cannot claim the first dollars spent equal to 3% or your income or \$2,011, whichever is less. Though it may not to apply to as many people as the previous tips, you can open up many tax savings opportunities by starting a home business. This could be as simple as buying at garage sales and selling for a profit on Ebay. When you have a home business, you can claim any expense that was incurred to earn income. Some examples could be a portion of your mortgage interest or automobile costs, your telephone or internet bills, or even travel for work opportunities or conventions. All these tax saving strategies can lead to a big refund come tax time. However, you need to keep in mind that a large tax refund means you gave the government an interest free loan throughout the year. Using a TD1 or T1213 form, you can adjust the taxes you pay from each paycheck. This allows you to have more money every pay day, which could then be used to increase your RRSP contribution, leading to even more tax savings. (Canadianfinance)

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- Finding a home
- Education
- Healthcare
- Transportation
- Learn English
- Family life
- Sports and fun



6 Rich African Culture:

There are several different types of fabric that is used to make traditional African clothing. They include Aso oke fabric and Adire fabric both of which are made by the Yoruba group. Aso oke ...



9 Jobs for Ontario College Graduates:

New statistics show 83 per cent of Ontario college graduates found jobs within six months of graduation, despite the difficult economy."



14 Sudanese Immigrant Balances Work and School:

Brima Mohammed is a very busy man. He studies English full time



JOYCE BANDA
MEET MADAM PRESIDENT
MALAWI'S NEW PRESIDENT *A.18*

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VISIT AFRICANIMMIGRANT.CA FOR NEWS ABOUT CANADA'S AFRICAN COMMUNITY

-Online blogs on March Issue

► "Africans are some of the best dressers I know. I also know that they are the worst color coordinators" - J. Wikini

► "The best prevention of the HIV/AIDS virus is by abstaining from sex. This message is lost among the youth of today" - Myra Sackey

► "RESPs are very important in planning for children's education. But many Africans don't even know it exist." Matthew Bandaya

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WANT TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS—EMAIL PUBLISHER@AFRICANIMMIGRANT.CA

Dear Editor;

RE: Canadian Racism:

I came to Canada in 2010 with my wife and two kids. We emigrated from Lesotho after living many years in South Africa working as a civil engineer and my wife as a clinical nurse. We had a very good life in South Africa with our own home, two cars, some home assistants and occasional trips to Europe. In spite of our good life in South Africa, we sold our home, cars and other belongings and moved back to Lesotho in preparation for our move to Canada. After almost a year in Lesotho where my wife spent some time with her ill elderly father, we made the move to Canada in August of 2010. We arrived in Ottawa where we stayed with my wife's cousin who is a professor at Carlton University. After three

months searching for a job, not as an engineer, but sometime close to it while I prepared for my exams, I could not find any except Tim Hortons and MacDonald's jobs. After five months or so of endless searching across this country, I registered with an employment agency and through it found a job in a factory that refurbish defective auto parts. While the job was okay, the conditions were unbearable made so by the racist environment. The foreman was racist and inconsiderate allotting to us the Africans the late night shift not minding our family situation while favouring others. I came to realize that he had only a secondary school education, a fact that made me to rethink my decision to come to Canada. In spite of the much talked about multi-culturalism, there is still racism in Canada.

Collins Kekeletso (Ottawa, ON)

AFRICAN Immigrant

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ENTERTAINMENT

21

AFRICAN ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS

Of Canada: Calls For Nominations



The A.E Awards Planning Committee is proud to announce the call for nominations for the 2012 African Entertainment Awards of Canada. The public can submit their nominations for various awards categories between April 1, 2012 and June 2012 online



at: www.aeawards.ca The African Entertainment Awards takes place on September 15, 2012 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Toronto, ON. **About the African Entertainment Awards:** The awards

show is aimed at showcasing the rich culture of African art and entertainment. This event celebrates cutting edge development and forward thinkers shaping the future of African entertainment industry,

thereby honouring innovations, and entrepreneurship. This event will incorporate award presentation, live entertainment, Comedy Act, Stage performances, community leaders, and a gala reception that is geared to entice our very broad spectrum target market consisting of families, entrepreneurs, and business professionals.

Ghanaian Actress Nadia Buari Turns Barrister

OUR WRITERS



AMAKA EKENKWO

Amaka is our general interest writer, she writes with passion and zeal on topics ranging from African culture, immigrant experiences to youth and social media. She is a university student and an aspiring lawyer.



CHRISTOPHER ODUGBEMI

Christopher is a financial planner with the Investors' Group Financial Services and an instructor at Seneca College, Toronto. He writes on the critical topic of financial planning, taxes, RRSP, etc. See contact info on page 10



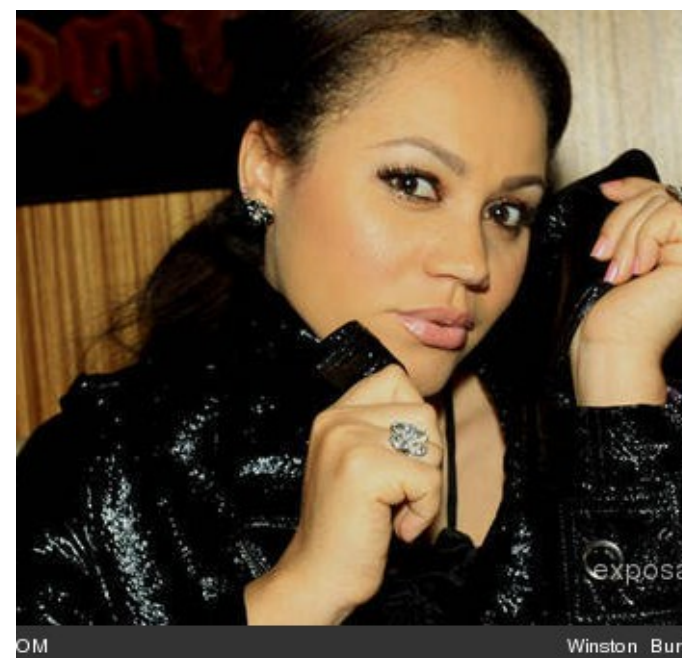
JOHNSON BABALOLA

Johnson is a prominent immigration and real estate lawyer in Toronto who has assisted hundreds of African immigrants to settle in Canada. He enjoys writing on immigrant subjects. To contact Johnson, see ad in p. 20



DR. EDITH WAMBAYI

Edith is a Research Consultant with "Health and Life Promotion Research Consultancy" (HELP) in Toronto. Services include: proposal and report writing, research, training/educational workshops and capacity building. For contact info, see page.19



A Pretty Ghanaian actress Nadia Buari has added yet another career to the résumé of achievements she has chalked up in her educational development. Nadia, who is currently the face of 'Devon', has successfully completed the law school and has been called to the bar. The maiden recipient of the "Showbiz Honours" has already taken up some sensitive cases and has so far not lost any in court. Nadia is gradually becoming a household name and the first young female Celebrity Barrister, but how long can she hold on to this fate and achievements and perhaps go farther, as she is about

to confront the biggest case of murder and drug trafficking against a presidential candidate. This is the plot of new movie "Trinity" jointly produced by two major production houses Gupado Films and Marhills Production, producers of thrilling Ghana/Nigeria movie "Shakira" which featured Nigerian Sensation Mercy Johnson. Nadia, who in recent times play roles around cocaine and drug trafficking, is Barrister Navida in "Trinity". "Trinity" is based on typical African governance full of greed, selfishness, corruption and neglect for the masses that put them in power. The result of which is several years of heart-breaking, poverty, diseases and civil unrest.

Ethiopian Christians Celebrate *Fasika* in Toronto



A week after most Canadian Christians commemorated the death and resurrection of Jesus this year, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church held its own particular celebration. On Saturday night, more than 2,000 worshippers crowded into Toronto's St. Mary Church to mark Fasika, the holiest day of the year for Ethiopian Christians. The celebration in Toronto is the largest yearly gathering of Ethiopian Canadians in the country. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church, a unique African form of Christianity, dates to the fourth century and is one of the oldest national churches in the world. Festivities on Saturday night capped a three-day fast, during which believers neither eat nor drink.

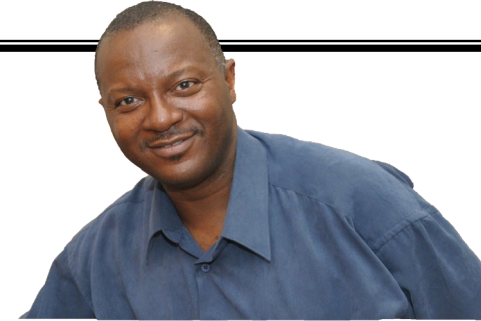
The highlight is a 45-minute procession when a sacred icon of Mary and Jesus, normally hidden from view, is paraded through the crowd. Hundreds of worshippers, holding candles aloft and wearing white shammias (prayer shawls), erupted into ululations and cheers as Head Priest Messale Engeda emerged with the image. The crowd chanted in Ge'ez, an ancient Semitic language still used in Ethiopian liturgy, and those who had earlier made a prayer request to Mary danced behind to the beat of drums. The joyous songs and blaze of candles symbolizes the individual's spiritual journey from darkness to light, as well as Jesus's death

and resurrection. A nearly three-hour service followed; at 1 a.m., worshippers finally returned home to break the fast in all-night gatherings with friends and family. For Ethiopian Canadians, this Fasika marks an important transition; It is the last time they will crowd into the old building, now too small for the growing community of more than 30,000, based mainly in Toronto. In the works for a decade, a \$4.5-million cathedral is set to open in July. Situated next to the current church, it will be the first Ethiopian Orthodox cathedral in Canada. According to church program co-ordinator Alemayehu Zenebe it is also unique in North America because it is built in traditional style with a bell tower and copper-topped dome.

The sacred images inside will be painted by Toronto-based Ethiopian artists. St Mary's congregation, begun by a single priest and handful of laypeople in 1984, was the first Ethiopian Orthodox church in Canada. At that point, recalls Mr. Zenebe, Ethiopians were not sure if they would stay here. "But today," he said, "we have all ethnic groups, all age groups and everybody feeling, this is my church, this is my home. So this [cathedral] is a blessing for Ethiopians in Toronto and not only Toronto – because we are the centre for all Ethiopian churches in Canada. ... [This cathedral] gives our [Canadian-born] children pride and inspiration, too." (Globe & Mail)

Becoming a Registered Social Worker in Ontario

— By TUNJI IRELEWUYI, BSW, MBA, (RSW)



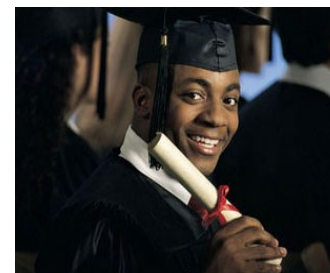
Aspiring to be a Social worker generally involves contacting the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers and ask for specific requirements needed for becoming a registered or licensed social worker in Ontario. Requirements could change from year to year. It would mean attending a university social work program in Canada and completing a degree in social work. You will need at least a bachelor's degree in social work (or a comparable bachelor's degree that has social work-relevant course content) to get a license. Also it is helpful if the program is accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work. Various universities in Ontario have accredited social work programs such as University of Toronto, University of Windsor, University of Waterloo, York University, Carleton University and Ryerson University. There are other universities as well that have social work programs in Ontario. If you completed some coursework

Aspiring to be a Social worker generally involves contacting the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers and ask for specific requirements needed for becoming a registered/licensed social worker in Ontario. "

or a credential at a recognized university outside Canada, you may be eligible for some transfer credit. If you hold a B.S.W. degree from another country, you may not be required to take additional courses, instead, you may be eligible for direct licensure. It is advisable to contact CASSW. A career in Social work requires some basic qualities and skills; Some of which are highlighted here. A social worker amongst other qualities must be compassionate, empathetic, have good listening skills, good organisational skills, and problem solving skills. Social workers often work with people who are in stressful and difficult situations. To develop strong relationships, they must have compassion and empathy for their clients. Clients talk to social workers about challenges in their lives. To effectively help, social workers must listen to and understand their clients' needs. The job involves helping and managing multiple clients, often assisting with their paperwork or documenting their treatment, hence a good organizational skills is required.

Author is a registered member of Ontario College of Social Work and a Principal partner of Goshen Support Services Inc.

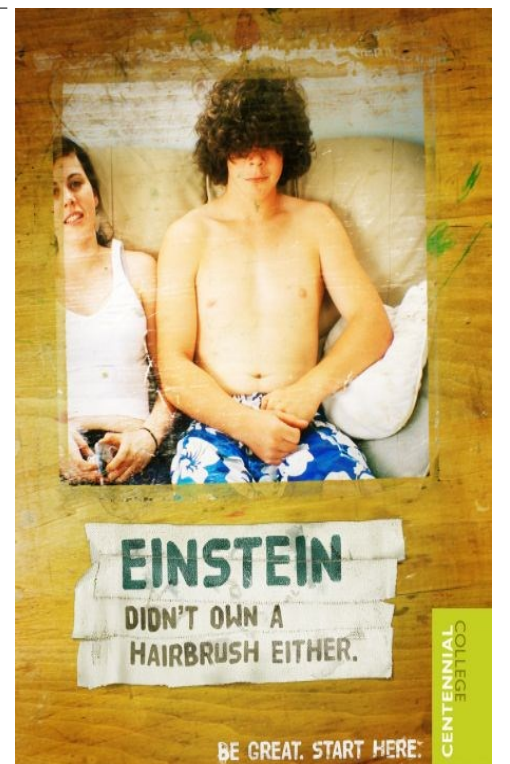
New Statistics: Employers continue to hire Ontario college graduates



New statistics show 83 per cent of Ontario college graduates found jobs within six months of graduation, despite the difficult economy. Employers value higher education that prepares people for careers," said Linda Franklin, president and CEO of Colleges Ontario. "In spite of the difficult economic climate, Ontario college graduates contin-

nue to get jobs." The employment rate for graduates is among the independently gathered Key Performance Indicators (KPI) data for the province's colleges that were released today. The results showed 83 per cent of graduates entering the labour force in 2011 found jobs within six months. The data also found 92.8 per cent of employers were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the graduates they hired. "Technology and trade are revolutionizing the workplace. It is important that new employees can adapt quickly to new innovations," Franklin said. "Employers ex-

pect that and college grads deliver." Since 1998, the provincial KPIs have been gathered annually by two independent research firms for the colleges and for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The most recent data were collected from March 2011 to February 2012. "Our colleges produce graduates who have the problem-solving abilities and technical skills to succeed," Franklin said. "Growing numbers of students are pursuing college education because they know it leads to career success." (Canada News Wire)



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BEYOND RESPs—Options to Help What You're Saving to Match What You will Need

By **CHRISTOPHER ODUGBEMI, MSc**

You want the best for your child – and for plenty of powerful reasons, a college or university education is one of the best things you can do to give your child a great start in life. There's the increased earning potential, of course – the average university graduate earns almost twice as much as someone with a high school diploma. Over a 30 year career, that could add up to \$1.2 million of additional income. There's the increased opportunity for employment – seven out of ten jobs now require a post-secondary education and

having a degree or diploma is bound to become even more important in the future. And there are the valuable life lessons and relationships that are an essential part of the post-secondary experience.

RESPs are the first choice

But you already know all that – which is why you contribute to a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) for your child. After all, for the vast majority of Canadians, an RESP is the most effective way to create an education fund that grows to offset the future cost of education. However, when was the last time you checked to see how much of the total education bill your RESP will actually cover? Here are some sobering facts about the dramatically escalating cost of a post-secondary education:

- ⇒ On average, undergraduate tuition fees have almost tripled since 1990-91. A student attending a full-time college or university program today can expect to pay an average of \$4,500 a year in tuition alone.
- ⇒ Add books, supplies, transportation, and other living expenses and university students living at home spend an average of \$4,500 on 'non educational' items, while students living away from home spend an average of \$8,160 on 'non educational' items.
- ⇒ The cost of mandatory supplies and equipment for college and trade schools varies widely and can be between \$50 and \$5,000.
- ⇒ Schools are increasing fees for programs that may offer a larger financial payback upon graduation, such as law, medicine, engineering and dentistry.
- ⇒ Nearly 50 per cent of Canadian college and university graduates leave school owing money for their education – with college graduates owing about \$13,000 and university graduates almost \$20,000.
- ⇒ It is estimated that by 2025, the total cost of four years of undergraduate education away from home may be between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Beyond RESPs – further tax-efficient saving strategies

All this means is you need every advantage you can get when saving to help your children pay for a postsecondary education – to avoid burdening them with huge student loans or the extra stress of a part-time job during the school year. Consider the following investment strategies that can deliver important savings beyond RESPs. **Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSA)** – TFSA's are very versatile. You can accumulate funds within - **Continued on Page 10**



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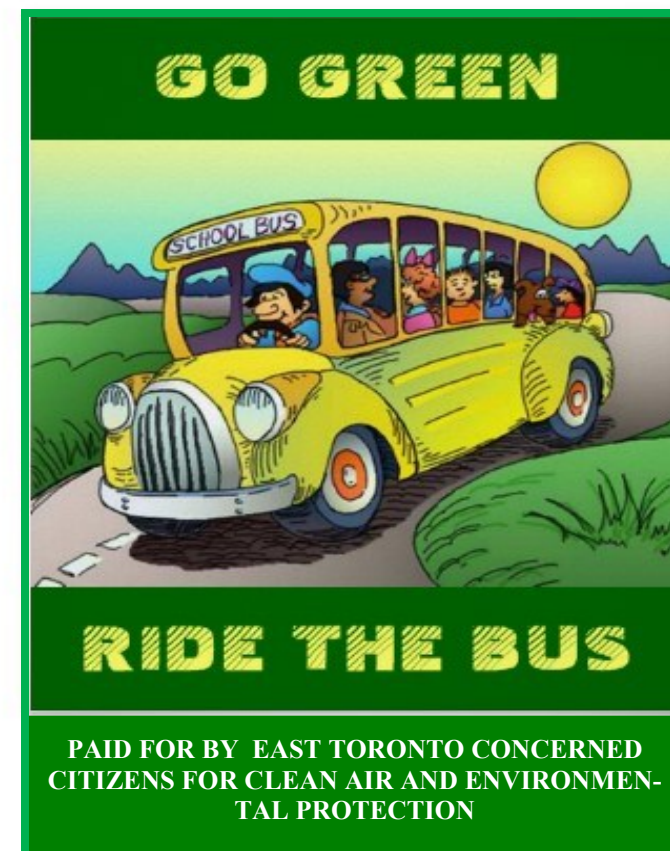
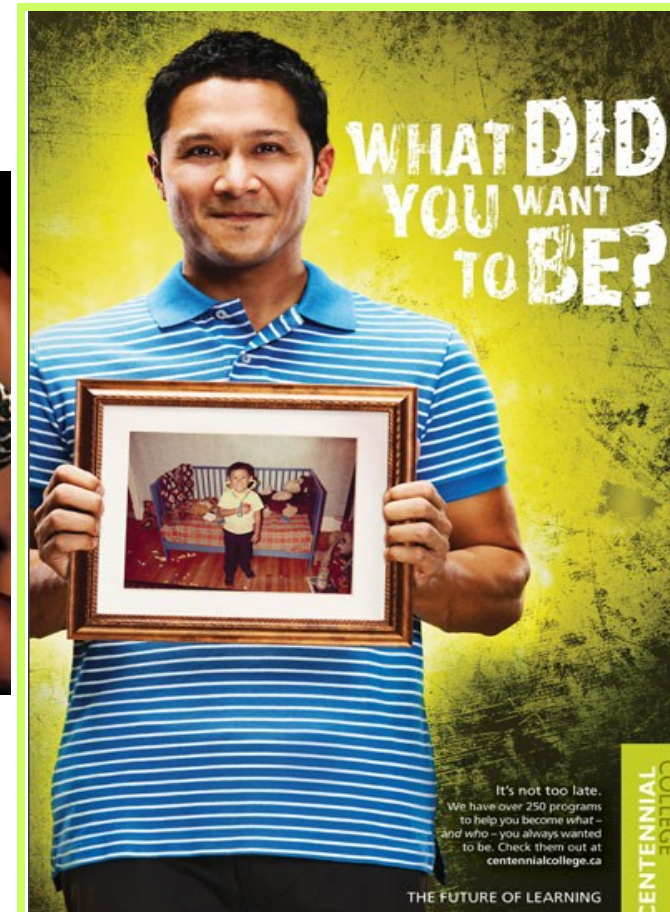
Profile of Africans in Manitoba



The migration of Africans to Canada has a beginning that goes back many generations. Africans have lived in Canada since the 1600's. The earliest Africans that migrated to Canada did not come directly from continental Africa. They were imported from the islands of the West Indies into then New France (Quebec) and Nova Scotia. Notable among them were the "Maroons: who were settled in Halifax in 1796. The term "Maroon" was used by the Europeans to describe run-away African captives who escaped from slavery and established their own communities.

By the next century more Africans migrated to Canada from the U.S.A. and West Indies. Most of the immigrants from the U.S.A. were enslaved Africans who were trying to escape from the bondage of slavery (see The History of the Underground Railroad) and the Black Loyalists (Africans who had fought on the side of the British against the colonies) who were promised freedom and settlement in British North America at the end of the war. The Africans from the West Indies who migrated to Canada came mainly as British subjects. A lot has been written on these early Africans to Canada. So we are not going to rehearse that history. The focus here, therefore, is contemporary African migration to Canada, and Manitoba, in particular. That is, an account of Africans who have come to Manitoba since the 1900's, especially, beginning in the 1940's.

Africans have lived in Manitoba as long as many other racial groups in the province. But it was not until the end of the Second World War that they began coming to Manitoba in significant numbers. The African community in Manitoba has grown appreciably. They have built and grown with the province, yet no one knows exactly how many Africans live in Manitoba. What is more, there is no documentation or profile of the composition, problems, needs, attitude and interaction pattern of the African community in Manitoba. Yet their struggle and effort to become part and parcel of Manitoba's cultural mosaic equals that of other immigrants. This study attempts to fill that information void. The 1981 census recorded 1,590 Manitobans who listed as their ethnic origin African, 1,395 of them were in Winnipeg. These figures cannot be accurate. The 1991 census contains no accurate counts either as it has no figures for the number of people whose ethnic origin is listed as African. (African Community of Manitoba)



Madam PRESIDENT

By Fred Womakuyu

Malawi swears in 63 year-old Joyce Banda as President Africa's Second Female President

Joyce Banda, the new interim President of Malawi, comes to office as a hardened woman. Banda made her career in the late 1980s as a woman activist, fighting for gender equality in a male-dominated society. But the road to her new role has been rough as she has to fight even her own. Best described as a woman - with almost nine lives - Banda was at crossroads with Malawi's late President Bingu wa Mutharika, when she was against him grooming his brother Peter to succeed him. As Foreign Minister, Peter was the ear and eye of Mutharika and nobody went against him. So, when Banda told off Mutharika that "The chronic disease of third term, or chieftaincy, remains one of the greatest enemies of our efforts to achieve sustainable development," she was expelled. Banda did not give up. Mutharika's efforts to sack her as vice-president did not bear fruit, because according to Malawi's Presidential system, one picks up a running mate during elections and the two are all elected equally by the people. So, she had the people's mandate and could not be expelled. She hang on until last week when she became Malawi's first female head of state after the death of Mutharika. He died in the hospital last week, following a cardiac arrest that fixed him in coma.

THE ROAD TO THE PRESIDENCY: Banda joined politics in 1999, during Malawi's second democratic elections. She won a parliamentary seat in the party of then-president Bakili Muluzi, who named her minister for gender and community services. Five years later, she won re-election, with Mutharika as the President. When Mutharika split ranks with Muluzi to form his own party the Democratic Progressive Party - or DPP, Banda followed Mutharika and she was rewarded with the post of Foreign Affairs Minister. During her time as the head of foreign affairs, the country sliced ties with Taiwan and established relations with Beijing. She argued that this would bring economic benefits to poor Malawi. China thanked her by building a new parliament in the capital Lilongwe where she was sworn in. Mutharika made Banda as his deputy following the 2009 elections. However, their political honeymoon was cut short as party infighting intensified amid rumours that Mutharika was grooming his brother as his successor. Banda accused Mutharika publicly for creating a dynasty. She also despised Mutharika for privatising the country's enterprises to his kin and kith. She was expelled from the DPP and she formed her own party the People Party, where she became Mutharika's harshest critic and opponent both in private and public life.

POPULAR WOMAN: Banda's expulsion from the ruling party angered many city dwellers, making her a popular figure. Mutharika even accused her of inciting the city riots in 2011 that were tearing the nation apart. According to



the country's press, Mutharika was looking for a way of convincing parliament to pass a vote of no confidence in her, with the hope of completely kicking Banda out of the public eye. However, the move did not materialise as Mutharika was caught unawares by a cardiac arrest that ended his life last week. Her supporters claim that even when the President had already died in a Malawian hospital, Mutharika's supporters kept the public in lies, telling them he was still alive. He was reported to have been transported to a South African hospital for better medical care. But according to the Malawi press, Banda's supporters suspected Mutharika's supporters of foul play: to delay succession process and give time to the President's brother foreign affairs Minister Peter to succeed him. But the constitution did not allow this manoeuvre that would create a crisis. According to the Malawi constitution, in case there is a vacancy in the office of the president, the country's vice-president shall assume office and also assume the role to appoint another vice-president for the remainder of the term. Mutharika's term was meant to expire in December 2014. Banda was sworn as the country's first female head of state on April 7. The swearing-in did not escape the trappings of a delay. According to the local press, the country's chief justice Lovemore Munhlo had forgotten his robes at his residency in Lilongwe so it was postponed for a few hours.

Mutharika was looking for a way of convincing parliament to pass a vote of no confidence in her, with the hope of completely kicking Banda out of the public eye. However, the move did not materialize as Mutharika was caught unawares by a cardiac arrest that ended his life last week. “

But even as Banda takes office, her critics questioned her ability to steer the country through its worst economic crisis, with the local currency trading on the black market at twice the official exchange rate. But in an interview with the BBC, she vowed to heal the wounds of her nation. After anti-government protests broke out in July 2011, when police shot dead 19 people, Banda warned that Malawi could face more unrest ahead of the next polls. Chaos was the daily activity. But now that she is in the seat, Banda has the opportunity to prove her critics wrong. She remains a role model to many women in Malawi and across Africa, for her fight for gender equality in a male-dominated society.

Research Important When Immigrating to Canada

SETTLEMENT

| SOUND PREPARATION |

Doing research and being mentally prepared are very important for newcomers to Canada. A recent Royal Bank poll found that more than 58 percent of Chinese and South Asian immigrants said that emotional preparedness is the key to adjusting to a new life in Canada. An important aspect of mental preparation is understanding the financial challenges that a new immigrant can face. Currently, under the Federal Skilled Worker Program, an immigrant must have at least \$11,115 CAD in available funds if he is immigrating alone (the required funds in-



crease when more family members are accompanying). Although these funds should sufficiently sustain a newcomer to Canada for a couple of months, many find that these funds can run out quickly. The survey

Chinese and South Asian immigrants said that emotional preparedness is the key to adjusting to a new life in Canada. “

also found that more than 47 percent of immigrants conducted online research before coming to Canada to understand what they would be facing when arriving in the country. Some new immigrants are surprised to learn how many hours Canadians work and what skills are required to get a job in Canada. (Canadavisa)

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Why Everyone Now Wants a PC Tablet

BY SAM WAMBUGU

As manufacturers rush to capitalise on the attention given to the Apple iPad, there seems to be new tablet computers coming out every now and then. And although one cannot keep track of every slate thrown into the wild, if you are curious to know what your options are, here is a general overview of the tablet landscape. A tablet computer or tablet PC is a flat screen computer that looks similar to a laptop's screen. Tablet PC is a combination of a laptop and Personal Digital Assistant or PDA, all wrapped up into one. If you are a heavy internet browser and are getting fed up with your power-hungry laptop all the time running out of batteries while you're in the middle of reading a cool blog, then a tablet is for you.



If you love watching movies and listening to music while you are out, but don't need to do other work, then a tablet is for you. If you want constant way to your emails and the world online then a tablet is for you.

The benefit of the tablet PC is that it's portable and allows for easy surfing"

and allows for easy surfing, which is what makes it so popular. In the world of tablets, the iPad reigns as king. It has everything that makes an Apple product stand out – sleek design, posh feel, debonair look, innovative technology and is sizzling cool. The product has its detractors, sure, but you cannot dispute the millions of iPads consumers have purchased and the startling rate of adoption. Lots of Android models beat the iPad 2 in specific respects. Some have longer battery life, for instance. Others make it easier to get work done. Some are simpler to use with a camera or TV. Others may come in a size that you find more convenient. Android tablets come in varied screen sizes: 7 inches, 8 inches, 8.9 inches, 9.4 inches, and 10.1 inches. Some have screens of a higher resolution than the iPad 2's display, some offer the option to add more storage with a memory card, and some boast integrated ports. Generally, these are not the only tablets in the market. There are many others and with great features. While looking out for a tablet PC, some of the features to look for include one that allows for flexibility; for example one that use the digital pen, stylus or a mobile keyboard.

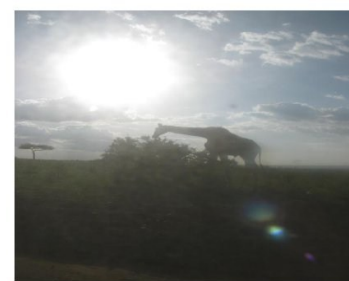
Battery Life

Handwriting capability should allow you to write and store information with digital ink and Windows Journal. Ensure that it is easily portable, it should be ultra-thin and light; the battery life should be long – over four hours is considered a good battery life. Speech recognition software is great. Make sure it has the latest in wireless capability that is an integrated wireless LAN 802.11b and Bluetooth. Look for the audio system; it should include built-in speakers, headset adaptor, microphone input and the facility to attach external speakers.

However, if you are planning on doing a lot of work and having loads of documents, spreadsheets and web browser windows at the same time, then the superior horsepower afforded by a laptop would probably be beneficial. There are two types of Tablet PCs - the Convertible and Slate. Convertible Tablet PCs are the ones that look like laptops or notebooks but can be swivelled or folded. The Slate Tablet PCs are those that have no keyboard. It's just a display screen and that's it.

New Generation

Let's not forget about its technical design capability that allows for easy mobile compatibility. And this is not all; the whole concept of the Tablet PC is created keeping in mind the style conscious and technology eager generation of today. And don't think that only those who are techno-whizzes can use a tablet PC. The tablet PC is quite simple to use, almost like a laptop just more advanced. The benefit of the tablet PC is that it's portable



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