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CANADA'S PREMIER AFRICAN MAGAZINE

# African IMMIGRANT

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JUNE 2012

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Executive Director & Ethiopian-born Immigrant, **Liben Gebremikael**, Speaks of Successes & Challenges

**HONOUR:**  
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## G8 Pledges to Lift 50 Million Africans Out of Poverty



The G8 have offered warm words on food security but have failed to make a specific pledge to simply maintain L'Aquila level financial commitments going forward,"

8 leaders pledged to lift millions of Africans out of poverty by promoting investments in sustainable agriculture. "Today we commit to launch a New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition to accelerate the flow of private capital to African agriculture, take to scale new technologies and other innovations that can increase sustainable agricultural productivity, and reduce the risk borne by vulnerable economies and communities," the Group of Eight major industrial nations said.

"This New Alliance will lift 50 million people out of poverty over the next decade." The ambitious announcement, contained in a final communique released after a high-profile gathering on a range of topics, came a day after President Barack Obama reached out to the private sector for financial support for the cause. The initiative also comes as pledges expire from 2009 in L'Aquila, Italy, where the G8 promised more than \$20 billion over three years to improve food access to Africans and others hit by the high prices and a global slowdown. Civil society observers appeared skeptical about the endeavor's success.

"The G8 have offered warm words on food security but have failed to make a specific pledge to simply maintain L'Aquila level financial commitments going forward," said Katie Campbell, senior policy analyst for ActionAid USA. "In failing to deliver this, they have turned their backs on the women smallholder farmers who are so vital to food security in Africa." Oxfam claimed that input from those directly concerned had not been taken into consideration.

"Poor countries have presented the G8 country-led, sustainable, and coordinated plans for food security and agricultural development, but today the G8 gave them the cold shoulder," Lamine Ndiaye, the group's Pan Africa Head of Economic Justice, said in a statement. According to the G8 communique, the initiative would, among other things, be guided by "a collective commitment to invest in credible, comprehensive and country-owned plans."

The Norwegian global firm Yara has said it would build Africa's first major fertilizer production facility as part of the initiative. Companies including Pepsi and Dupont have also pledged to invest in Africa's small-scale farmers. (Yahoo News)



ATTENDEES @ THE EVENT

## CELEBRATION

### Annual Africa Day Celebrated in Ottawa

Members of the Executive Committee of Canadian Eye on Africa along with several CEA staff attended the 2012 Africa Day celebrations held at the Government Conference Centre in Ottawa. The event was also attended by the Honourable Ed Fast, Canada's Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, and Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird. The Dean of African Ambassadors, Ambassador Chideya of Zimbabwe, welcomed Canadian Foreign Minister Baird to represent Canada on this 2012 Africa Day celebration. Both Ministers addressed the gathering in which they celebrated the achievements of Africans and the common goals Canada shares with African nations: to bring peace, democracy and prosperity to all Africans. Minister Fast made an announcement related to the Harper government's commitment to deeper trade and investment ties with African nations. "We had many conversations with those in attendance in which we discussed the mandate and goals of Canadian Eye on Africa with public sector officials as well as Diplomatic representatives and var-

ious ambassadors. We also discussed future projects including the upcoming Trade and Diplomatic Show in Ottawa in July. Our discussions were warmly received by all those with whom we met and many expressions of support and future participation were received," said the President of Canadian Eye on Africa, Mr. Jamie Beals. Extended discussions took place with Ambassadors from Angola, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Tunisia, to name a few, in which all expressed their strong support for the mandate of Canadian Eye on Africa and the unique and accurate understanding that CEA has of the various regions of Africa. "This event and the discussions that took place including the expressions of support and commitment we received served to strengthen our resolve and further confirmed our goals and the mandate of Canadian Eye on Africa," Mr. Beals stated.

Source: KBI Empower Group, Ottawa, Canada

## PRINCIPLED LEADERSHIP

Malawi President, Joyce Banda, Shuns AU Meeting in Ethiopia



Malawi President Joyce Banda will shun an African Union summit next month which was moved to Ethiopia from her country as she refused to host Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, state radio said.

Banda said on state radio that Vice President Khumbo Kachali will now attend the July 9-16 summit in Addis Ababa. Sworn in on April 7 after the death of president Bingu wa Mutharika, Banda broke with the AU line last month asking the body not to invite Bashir, wanted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, to Lilongwe for the summit.

The AU insisted that Bashir must be invited, while Banda wanted the Sudanese leader to send a representative to maintain ties with donors, who contribute up to 40 percent of her country's development budget.

Under current ICC rules, signatories – which include Malawi and 32 other African states – have a duty to arrest Bashir. (StarAfrica.com)

## CANADA RAISES TO 4TH POSITION IN WORLD PEACE RANKINGS—U.S. 81ST.



as The Middle East and North Africa, lumped together as one region, were deemed the least peaceful, a title that had been held by sub-Saharan Africa since 2007.”

Canada has come in fourth on an annual ranking of world peacefulness, trailing only Iceland, Denmark and New Zealand. The 2012 Global Peace Index released Tuesday — the sixth produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace, an Australia-U.S. think-tank, with data from the Economist Intelligence Unit — saw Canada move up three spots from the 2011 list. The 2012 index ranks 158 nations using 23 indicators which gauge ongoing domestic and international conflict, societal safety and security, and militarization. The 2011 list included 153 countries. Canada’s

2012 ranking improved as its casualties decreased in the conflict in Afghanistan, according to the report. Overall world peacefulness climbed for the first time since 2009, as all regions of the world — except the Middle East and North Africa — saw an improvement in their levels of peacefulness. The Middle East and North Africa, lumped together as one region, were deemed the least peaceful, a title that had been held by sub-Saharan Africa since 2007. For a sixth straight year, Western Europe remained the most peaceful overall region of the world. Iceland was deemed the world’s most peaceful country for the second straight year. The survey also found: Syria, which as

been wracked by internal conflict, posted the biggest drop, slid 31 places to 147th position. Sri Lanka was biggest gainer, leaping 27 places to 103rd, with the end of its civil war. Somalia remained the world’s least peaceful nation for the second year running. The United States ranked 88th out of 158 countries in 2011 it ranked 81st out of 153. If the world had been completely peaceful in 2011, the benefit to the global economy would have been an estimated \$9 trillion US, the Institute for Economics and Peace. “While a total elimination of violence may not be possible, an achievable 25 per cent reduction in violence could reap a peace dividend of at least \$2.5 trillion US.”



### New Study Shows Canadians Enjoy High Quality of Life

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has published its annual Better Life Index report. For 2012, it ranked Canada as one of the ten best countries in the world in terms of the quality of life that its citizens enjoy. When comparing 11 key well-being indicators, Canada placed 6th in the world. This continues a trend of high performance on the Better Life Index - in 2011 the country ranked 2nd overall. In many aspects, Canada possessed the highest quality of life scores. For instance, 9 in 10 Canadians are satisfied with their living situation, and 8 in 10 are comfortable walking alone at night. On an overall scale ranking ‘life satisfaction’, Canadians graded their happiness an impressive 7.4. Canada leads in other factors as well. It possesses one of the smallest jobs and earnings gaps between men and women. In additional indicators such as good governance, environmental protection, population health, and income, the country also continues to lead.

## LETTERS to the Editor

### RE: Africa and Female Presidents

In regards to your coverage of the two female presidents in Africa, I have been following the news about the ascension of Mrs. Joyce Banda, the second female president in Africa and the first in Malawi. Before the election of Mrs. Ellen Sirleaf-Johnson in Liberia, just a few years ago, Africa was the only continent that had not elected a female as president. It was very sad and an indication of the non-recognition of the female talents that abound in the continent.

I marvel at the fact that some Asian countries that by virtue of their religious tenets have relegated women to the background could very well best Africa in this area. Benazir Bhutto was elected in the 1980s and 90s in fundamentalist Islamic Pakistan, this was well after Indira Gandhi was elected Prime minister in the early 80s to lead the world’s largest democracy in India.

Around the world women are taking their rightful places in political leadership and have done quite well at that. We still remember the tough and uncompromising Iron Lady of British politics, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher who had an illustrious run as Prime Minister. She proved astute in her calling and marched her male counterparts wit for wit even in tough nuclear arms negotiations. In the recent past and even currently, Bangladesh, Canada, Brazil and Iceland are some of the countries that have entrusted the highest political power to women.

I believe that Africa is coming of age and it needs more women in political positions to better situate the continent for the challenges of the future. In this new world order Africa needs women that can truly deliver and ensure that the

continent is well on its way to meeting the MDS goals. With the rate we are carrying on, it does not appear to me that we will achieve the goals in the stipulated time given by the United Nations except women with vision and objective such as the Nigerian finance minister and the Tanzania diplomat, the recent Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations are given opportunity at the highest levels of government to exert themselves.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thought in your magazine.

Sincerely,  
Memoi Macharia (Kenya)  
Toronto, ON

### RE: The Digital World

I was quite taken in by the write-up of Amaka Ekenkwo in your last edition on the latest fad of technology overwhelming all that is human. To a great extent, I agree with the writer in the sense that every thing we do today is watched by the ‘big brother’ as known as Mr. Technology. I was in London, England last year to visit my aunty and one thing I noticed was the fact that every street corner was wired with camera. I believe London is the most watched and wired city in the world.

Being my first trip since age 4, my aunty warned me to be very careful when out in the city. This notion of being watched 24/7 gives us a false sense of security on one hand and on the other puts all of us on the edge. I believe as a global entity, we are yet to find a healthy balance between these two competing ideas and there lies the problem of technology with its profound cultural effects and social effects that have changed our way of life and behavior.

Jeanine Nzikobanyanka (Burundi) - Toronto, ON

## African IMMIGRANT

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Letters: If sent by post, send to  
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CANADA

# "Be in Good Health"

## TAIBU Community Health Centre

### Making a Difference

By Prof. Phil Tam-AI Alalibo

In this age of health consciousness, TAIBU (A Swahili word for 'Be in Good Health') Community Health Centre, located at 27 Tapscott Road in Scarborough, Ontario and established in 2008 has been a major force in promoting primary healthcare, health promotion, illness prevention and community development in the African-Canadian communities. Under the leadership of its Executive Director, Ethiopian-born immigrant, social worker and mental health expert, Liben Gebremikael, the Centre has grown rapidly from a single staff member in 2008 to more than 29 full-time and part-time staff who are primarily committed to fulfilling its mandate of addressing the myriad of health issues that affect the African and Caribbean communities. In an exclusive interview with African Immigrant Magazine, Liben spoke of the significant impact the Centre has had in these communities in a very short period of time not only by raising awareness about some of the most prevalent health issues of our time, but also by involving the communities in actionable and realistic programs that provide value and measurable outcomes.

"We have been well received by the community," he noted. "Over the years, we have worked very hard to gain the trust of the community and today I can proudly state that we have well over 3,000 active clients registered for programs and services." This is amply evidenced by the fact that space sometimes becomes a challenge in some of the programs hosted by the Centre. "We have a lot of popular programs for the communities, but unfortunately, we have to put some people on the waiting list on account of space, or we have to split the group to accommodate participants" he further noted. Much of the success of the Centre is owed to the dedication of its staff and leadership to the communities it serves and that has paid huge dividends. Liben believes that involving the community and understanding its health needs is at the core of its mandate and partly responsible for its ability to connect and provide sustainable programs that meet the needs of its clientele. For example, through consultation and involvement of

"We have been well received by the community," he noted. "Over the years, we have worked very hard to gain the trust of the community and today I can proudly state that we have well over 3,000 active clients registered for programs and services."

the community and health professionals and experts, the Centre has introduced a specialized primary healthcare and health promotion program for adults with sickle cell disease. This program attracts 20-25 participants one Saturday every month that gather to share ideas, provide support for one another, instill hope and draw strength. TAIBU was also successful in working with the Scarborough Hospital to implement an Emergency Dept. protocol for adults with Sickle Cell disease. Inevitably, the reach of the Centre in the last four years has been phenomenal underscored by the fact that it provides a plethora of health and community services in multiple areas of medical, social work, primary care, mental health, nutrition, support groups, education/community engagement, sexual health, skills building and Diabetes Education Program. "We intervene in critical parts of peoples' lives. Our services are multi-faceted offering advocacy, self (body) esteem and outreach into public schools," said Racquel Hamlet, a Social Worker Therapist who has been with the Centre for the past two years. Racquel though very optimistic about the future of the Centre noted some of its current challenges which are echoed by the Executive Director.

One of those challenges is the ability to expand its reach to serve and address the needs of the ever growing communities in the far eastern and western parts of the Greater Toronto Area and this is largely due to the required funding and capacity. "We need to expand our services to get maximum effect on the communities in the GTA", Racquel observed. Indeed, the need to expand its services is more pronounced now given the popularity of the Centre's programs and the mandate to ensure the availability and the equitable distribution of services to all in need of such services. An integral component of the strategy to achieving this is to partner with other community agencies to effectively deliver services that are tailored towards the needs of specific groups in the communities.

Liben, who on June 7, 2012, received the prestigious *Emerging Leaders Award* given by the Association of Ontario Health Centres, believes that in the next few years, the Centre will have an even greater impact on the communities it serves. He is confident that this can be achieved by transforming into a research and evaluation driven Centre of Excellence that develops and engages in best practices in working with the African-Canadian communities.

For more information on TAIBU Community Health Centre, visit its website and social networks at <http://www.taibuchc.ca/>; [http://www.Twitter.com/TAIBU\\_CHC](http://www.Twitter.com/TAIBU_CHC) <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Taibu-Community-Health-Centre/390225041012331>

Social Worker Therapist, **Racquel Hamlet**, chatting with African Immigrant Magazine in her office.



Liben Gebremikael

Below, Liben and staff moments after being awarded the prestigious *Emerging Leaders Award* by the Association of Ontario Health Centres, June 7, 2012.



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- Dinner, Entertainment & Socializing

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# ASMA KHALIL

Canada Through the Eyes of a Young Sudanese Immigrant

BY AMAKA EKENKWO



...after completing her undergraduate studies, she plans to further her education in Medical school.”

However, met with a welcoming and tightly knit Sudanese community upon arrival, the difficulty of settling down, for her family, was mitigated. Asma lauded the Sudanese community as outgoing with regards to the needs of new Sudanese immigrants, and as instrumental in helping her family and her stay both connected and grounded. Now fully settled, Asma spends a lot of her free time doing volunteer work, and being involved within the community. She is also active within the Sudanese community in Toronto, and as a result, she expressed that she has never been in fear of losing her culture. Asma is very passionate about science.

Therefore, after completing her undergraduate studies, she plans to further her education in Medical school. She also seeks to go back to Sudan with all she has learnt to open a clinic, and aid in enhancing her community. “I know there's so much work I have to put in until I get there, but it's something that keeps me motivated.” Of course, as an African immigrant, Asma has not been exempted of her share of challenges. However, she calmly stated: “To be honest, there are so many stereotypes about Africa and people of African descent. I find that people

here have such crazy notions about our culture as a whole – my friends included! But, at the same time I consider it a nuisance – nothing more. It's not going to stop me from achieving my dreams, and I'm not going to let it bring me down. Being African, as well as Muslim, I'm bound to encounter discrimination, but at the end of the day, I don't let any of it affect my goals.” Like most of us, as African immigrants, Asma greatly misses her extended family – none of who are in Canada.

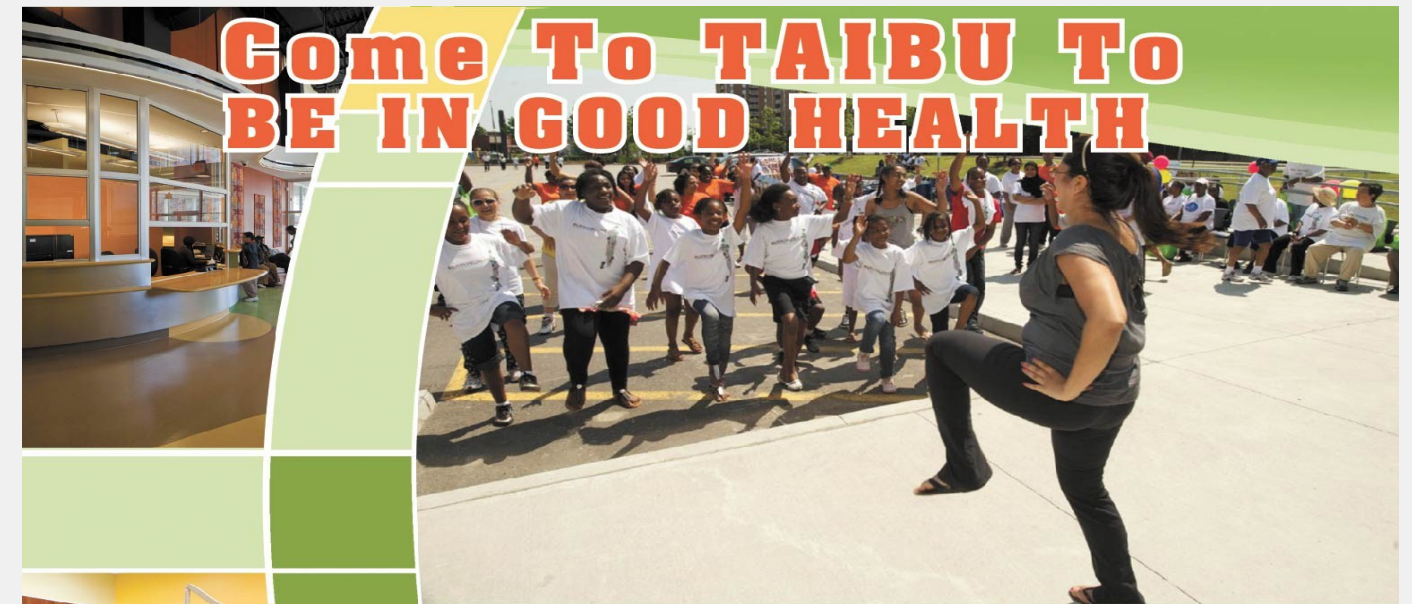
With a nostalgic smile, she reminisced about the numerous beautiful moments she shared with her relatives back in Sudan, describing it all as irreplaceable. “I've only gone back three times since I moved to Canada,” she said. “It hurts. I'd love to go more, but plane tickets are way too expensive!” Lastly, giving advice to new, young African immigrants, she said: “I'd urge them to go out and get as involved in their community as possible! I used to sit at home and complain about how “IF” I was in Sudan, I could be doing so much. But the truth is, there are a lot of opportunities here to help you feel like you're part of a whole – this is the feeling I attribute to Sudan.”

I had a huge fit at the airport in Sudan when I realized my grandmother wasn't coming along. I remember being super tired when I got to Canada, and thinking it was way too cold – even though it was July. It was dark by the time we got home, and I had a yoghurt before going to bed. I remember telling my siblings that it tasted funny.

Everything was weird to me at that point.” That was during the summer of 1999, and it marked the beginning of Asma Khalil's experience as an African immigrant in Toronto, Canada. She emigrated from Khartoum Sudan, her birth city, with her immediate family. Like most immigrants, they came in search of better opportunities. Thirteen years have passed since then.

Now, Asma is flipping through the last few pages of her chapter as a high school student, with an eagerness to delve into the planned, yet unwritten, pages of a new chapter that will begin in September, featuring her as an undergraduate student studying Kinesiology at the University of Toronto. Recounting her biggest culture shock experience, she laughed as she said: “I'd say it was the clothes.

It was really strange seeing the way people were dressed. Sudan is a predominantly Muslim country, and I was used to seeing women wearing hijabs and long dresses, or Tobes [African wraps], so arriving here and seeing people in shorts, it all seemed very confusing to me. Especially because I thought it was cold, but people were scantily clad! And the weather! Oh my! I came in the summer, yet I was always cold!”



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## Ghanaian Immigrant Among Canada's Top 25 Immigrants

*AN Inspiring Journey*

It's a long way from a city housing project at Jane and Finch to the swank digs at One King West Hotel and Residence where Francis Atta attended a reception for winners of the fourth annual Top 25 Canadian Immigrants awards. The 26-year-old child and youth worker and motivational speaker is the youngest person to date to get the award. Some winners

this year are famous Canadians, like hip-hop artist K'naan, MP Olivia Chow and Olympic wrestling legend Daniel Igali. Others aren't household names but have gained a reputation for achievement and local community involvement. The awards are presented by Canadian Immigrant magazine and sponsored by the Royal Bank. More than 550 nominations were received and 75 finalists shortlisted by a panel of judges comprised of previous



Francis Atta, 26, has been selected as one of the Top 25 Canadian Immigrants for 2012. Atta came from Ghana when he was 4 and grew up in Jane and Finch, one of 14 children. He lost 10 friends to violence but turned his own life

winners. More than 28,000 Canadians then voted online for their top choices. "Even though this is our fourth annual awards, there is no shortage of immigrants deserving to be recognized for their contribution to Canada," said Margaret Jetelina, editor of Canadian Immigrant magazine. And for some of those immigrants, like Atta, the path to achievement had a humble start.

The middle child in a family of 14 children, Atta came from Ghana at the age of 4 and grew up in one of the city's toughest areas. He admits not caring much about school, even though his factory-worker father tried to impress on him, and his siblings, the importance of education. Atta concentrated on basketball where he showed great talent. After graduating, however, knee surgery cut short his athletic dreams and he started hanging out with the wrong crowd. At the same time, he couldn't get a job. Some of his friends were drawn into gang life and lost their lives. But Atta then had a couple of lucky breaks which changed his life. He became friends with some young women

who were involved in a church and that led to his own religious commitment. And he won a scholarship which he used for the youth and child worker program at George Brown College. He recently graduated at the top of his class.

He's been giving his time for years to numerous youth organizations in the neighbourhood he grew up in, coaching basketball teams, helping kids with homework, mentoring, and sometimes, just listening. "I know what these kids are going through, I've been there," he said. "I came from the bottom. . . . I want them to know that they can succeed." In addition to working as a child and youth worker at Covenant House, Atta gives motivational talks through an organization he started, K.E.Y.S. — Knowledge and Effort Yield Success — to encourage people to never give up. All of the Top 25 Immigrants of 2012 get commemorative certificates and a \$500 donation toward a registered Canadian charity of their choice. The awards program is also supported by the Toronto Star, Metro, Suhaag and Sing Tao. (Story courtesy of Toronto Star)

# African IMMIGRANT

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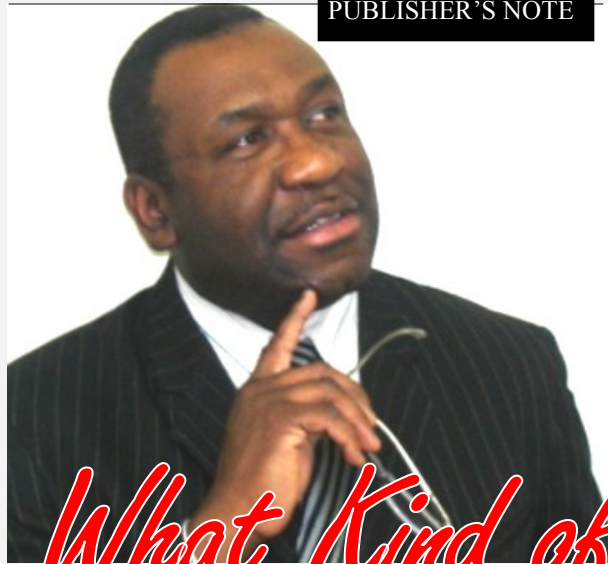
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# What Kind of Father are You?

PROF. PHIL TAM-AL ALALIBO

**W**ith Fathers' Day lurking around, it is important we salute fathers all over the world and acknowledge the enormous task with which they are saddled. Being a father, especially, in these parts presents intractable challenges that often seem insurmountable, and when one examines all the inherent responsibilities in Canada and the rest of the Western world, it becomes even more imperative for us to draw the clear distinction between being a father and a daddy. There are many that are content by just being a father or perhaps, they are consigned to this un-fancied role due to circumstances. They are passive when it comes to the welfare of their children dangerously abdicating the responsibility of raising them to the mother who may be saddled with her own

professional responsibilities. These fathers fulfill the barest minimum required of them. If their children are sick, they are hardly aware, if they need new shoes, books, etc, they are often the last to know, they remain clueless about their progress in school and the homework they bring. A few months ago, I visited a family and asked the father what grade the child was in – much to my chagrin, he was utterly oblivious and appeared as if I had asked an unanswerable question. The gentleman had to seek the assistance of the child before he proudly announced that he was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Had this gentleman had five children or so, he would have been easily forgiven, but this was his only child and that is worrisome. I reckon it is easy to assume the role of a “father” and not a “daddy” in the face of daunting financial burdens and obligations that place enormous demands on a father's time. Most are either sole or

major bread winners of their families and therefore must leave home early in the morning and return quite late. Regrettably, when this happens, it often means the dearth of quality time with the family transforming the father into a mythical figure who is talked about but hardly seen. Such abnormal home situations could be traumatic to children who may become adults without a father figure in their lives. Later in life, this could very well be the conduit for a marred father-child relationship. With the children at the centre of their lives, parents, and fathers in particular, should endeavor to be daddies by allotting quality time for their children and spouse. In spite of the odds, it will be prudent and beneficial for every father to take a more active role in the lives of their children before they become adults and have other priorities. Happy Fathers' Day.

## COMING NEXT ISSUE

### JULY 2012:

- Health Tips
  - Summer Fun Travels for the Kids
  - Getting the Best out of Your Education
  - The Best Jobs in Canada
- .....and much more, DON'T MISS IT

### OUR WRITERS

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EKENKWO



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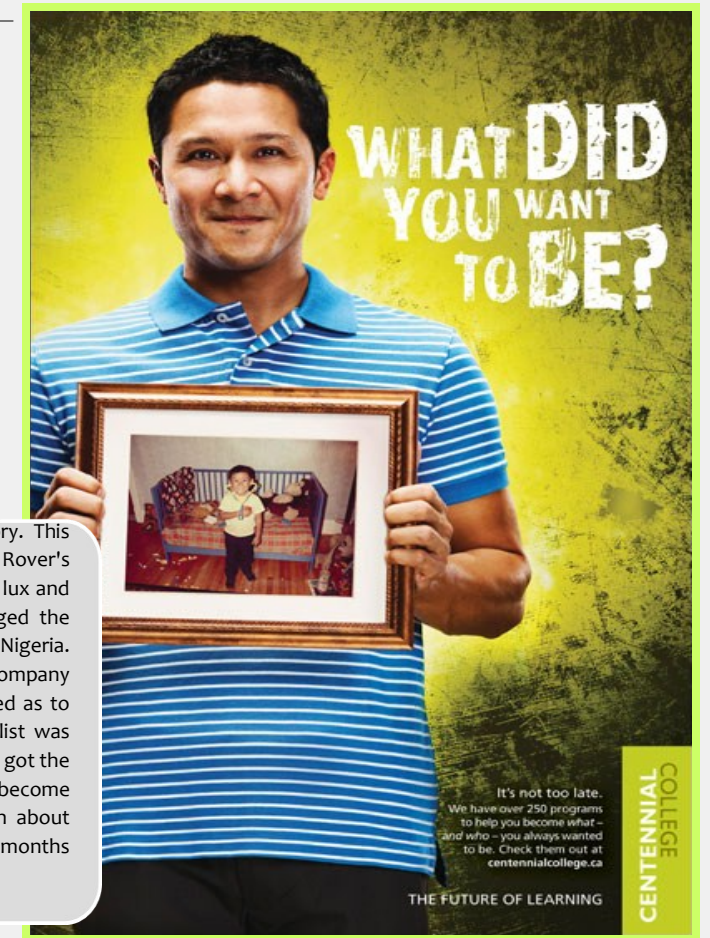
CHRISTOPHER  
ODUGBEMI



## Genevieve Nnaji is Brand Ambassador for Range Rover SUV

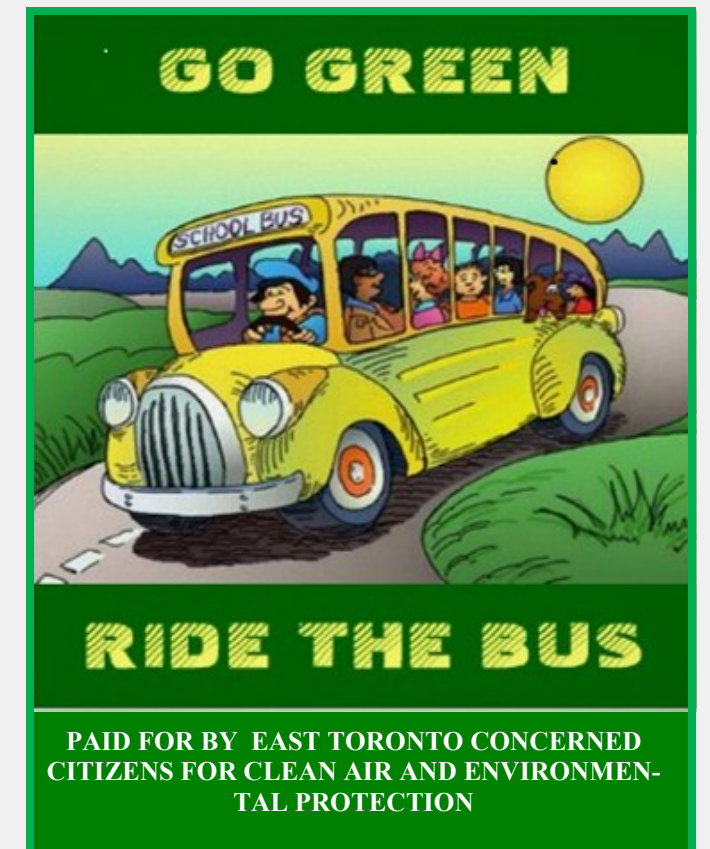


**A**ctress Genevieve Nnaji has made another history. This time, she has sealed a multi-million naira Range Rover's deal. The pretty actress who was one time face of lux and currently the face of MUD cosmetics has emerged the brand ambassador of Range Rovers SUV brands in Nigeria. Information filtered out during the week that the company represented in the country by Coscharis was undecided as to who will be the brand representative and top on their list was Genevieve Nnaji and Desmond Elliot. But at last, Genevieve got the deal. No doubt, the popular actress is steadily growing to become a global brand. HVP gathered that the actress will earn about \$100,000 in the first six months of the deal. Subsequent months would make her about \$250,000 richer. (Vanguard)



## Nigerian –born Olympic gold medalist, Daniel Igali, inducted into Hall of Fame

**W**restler Daniel Igali is one of seven inductees into the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame, announced by the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC). Igali, raised in Nigeria before coming to Canada as a refugee at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, won a gold medal for his adopted country at the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. It was the first gold medal in wrestling won by a Canadian. He also won gold at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England. (Surrey Leaders)





## Govt. of Canada Closes Nineteen Visa Offices



nineteen Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) local offices are closed as of June 1, 2012. In addition, front counter services will be eliminated at the remaining open offices. Counter services will be eliminated at the remaining open offices. Offices at the following locations are now closed: Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George, Victoria, Lethbridge, Regina, Barrie, Kingston, Oshawa, Sault Ste-Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Gatineau, Quebec City, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivieres, Saint John, Moncton, and Charlottetown.

Individuals wishing to receive services from the remaining open offices can only do so by appointment. Signs have been posted at all offices inviting individuals to access CIC services through the CIC website or by contacting CIC's call centre. As of June 1, 2012, new applications that would normally be sent to an office that is now closed will be referred according to the table. Please note that the CIC in Moncton will continue to receive and process files until October 2012 while remaining fully closed to the public. In October 2012, all processing will be transferred to CIC Fredericton.

	Office Closing	PR Cards and Investigation Referrals will be transferred to	CPC-V Referral Files will be transferred to	Citizenship Files will be transferred to
BC	CIC Kelowna	CIC Expo Office in Vancouver	CIC Vancouver	CIC Vancouver
	CIC Nanaimo	CIC Expo office in Vancouver	CIC Vancouver	CIC Vancouver
	CIC Prince George	CIC Expo Office in Vancouver	CIC Vancouver	CIC Vancouver
	CIC Victoria	CIC Expo Office in Vancouver	CIC Vancouver	CIC Vancouver
AB	CIC Lethbridge	CIC Calgary	CIC Calgary	CIC Calgary
SK	CIC Regina	CIC Saskatoon	CIC Saskatoon	CIC Saskatoon
ON	CIC Barrie	CIC St. Clair	CIC Etobicoke	CIC Scarborough
	CIC Kingston	CIC Ottawa	CIC Ottawa	CIC Ottawa
	CIC Oshawa	CIC St. Clair	CIC Scarborough	CIC Scarborough
	CIC Sault Ste. Marie	CIC St. Clair	CIC Etobicoke	CIC Mississauga
	CIC Sudbury	CIC St. Clair	CIC Etobicoke	CIC Mississauga
	CIC Thunder Bay	CIC St. Clair	CIC Etobicoke	CIC Mississauga
QC	CIC Gatineau	CIC Ottawa	CIC Montréal	CIC Ottawa
	CIC Quebec City	CIC Montréal	CIC Montréal	CIC Montréal
	CIC Sherbrooke	CIC Montréal	CIC Montréal	CIC Montréal
	CIC Trois Rivières	CIC Montréal	CIC Montréal	CIC Montréal
NB	CIC Moncton	CIC Moncton1	CIC Moncton1	CIC Moncton1
	CIC Saint John	CIC Fredericton	CIC Fredericton	CIC Moncton1
PEI	CIC Charlottetown	CIC Halifax	CIC Halifax	CIC Moncton1

## Zuckerberg, Facebook & the Y Generation

By DR. JIDEOFOR ADIBE

There is something about Mark Zuckerberg, co-founder – or more appropriately the main founder of Facebook – the eponymous social networking website- which I find very fascinating. Zuckerberg is both an affirmation and a negation of the debate in some Western countries on whether college (university) education really matters. An embodiment of the generation Y, a portraiture of Zuckerberg immediately beams a searchlight on the Nigerian youths and the impediments that militate against the emergence of such prodigies in our dear country. Born on May 14 1984, Mark Elliot Zuckerberg was brought up in Dobbs Ferry, New York, USA, and raised Jewish. His father was a dentist who ran his practice from home while his mother was a psychiatrist. At Ardley High School, Zuckerberg excelled in the classics before transferring to Phillips Exeter Academy where he also won prizes in mathematics, astronomy and physics.

In college, he was known for reciting lines from epic poems such as *The Iliad*. In addition to English he could read and write French, Hebrew, Latin and ancient Greek. Zuckerberg began using computers and writing software as a child. In the 1990s, his father, noticing that he had a passion for computers, taught him Atari Basic Programming and later hired a developer to tutor him privately. So much was his passion for computers that while still in High school, he took a graduate course in programming at Mercy College near his home. One of the early programmes he built was software he called 'ZuckNet' which allowed the computers in their home to communicate with the ones in the part of their home that served as his father's dental practice.

ZuckNet was considered a primitive version of AOL's Instant Messaging Service, which came out the following year. While still in High school, he also built a music player called Synapse Media Player, which used artificial intelligence to learn the user's listening habits. AOL tried to buy Synapse and recruit Zuckerberg but he declined the offers and chose to enroll at Harvard University in September 2002. By the time he began classes at Harvard – in psychology and computer science – he had already achieved a reputation as a programming prodigy. While a freshman he created a programme known Face-mash, – just to have fun with his fellow students. The site had books called 'Face Books', which included the names and pictures of every-

one who lived in the student dorms. Here Zuckerberg would place two pictures or pictures of two males and two females and urged visitors to the site to choose who was "hotter". Though several students complained that their photos were used without permission, the site proved so popular that students began requesting that the university should develop an internal website that would include similar photos and contact details.

It was said that when Zuckerberg learnt of the demand by some students, he decided that if the university would not accede to the students' request, he would build a site that would be even better than what the university could offer. Zuckerberg launched Facebook from his Harvard dormitory room on February 4, 2004. Though it started off as just a "Harvard thing", Zuckerberg later decided, with the help of his roommate Dustin Moskovitz, to spread it to other schools, starting with other Ivy League Universities – Stanford, Dartmouth, Columbia, New York University, Cornell, Pennsylvania, Brown and Yale. Zuckerberg later moved to Palo Alto, California – headquarters to a number of Silicon Valley high-technology companies – with Moskovitz and some friends. There they leased a small house that served as an office.

Over the summer, Zuckerberg met Peter Thiel, the German-born American entrepreneur and co-founder of the online payment system Paypal who invested in the company. Despite the controversies that dogged Facebook's recent IPO, there are several important lessons from the story of Zuckerberg. One, Zuckerberg typifies those known in the West as the 'Generation Y' (also variously called the Millennial Generation, Millennials, Generation Next, the Net Generation or the Echo Boomers). Though there is no unanimity about when Generation Y starts and ends, most definitions of the concept include at least those born between 1981 and 1989. Members of Generation Y are believed to be incredibly sophisticated and technology-wise, having been born and grown up in the era of Cable TV channels, satellite, the Internet and e-zines. The generation is also more racially diverse and more tolerant of diversities. Though they believe in success and education, it is not exactly in the same way the preceding Generation X did. Though Generation X is often said - **Continued on page 10**

From page 9

to be the best educated generation, it is equally said to exude unacceptably high levels of scepticisms with 'what is in it for me' attitudes. What can we say of the Nigerian youths who fall within the age-bracket of the Y Generation? My personal opinion is that while many can use mobile phones better than their elders, they also seem to suffer the sort of existential crisis their elders at home and peers abroad are largely immune from.

With most of them being unemployed or under-employed amid generalised insecurity and identity issues in the country, most Nigerians in the age bracket of the Generation Y are still at the level of struggling to 'liberate their stomachs', and therefore are unable to manifest the traits that produce the likes of Mark Zuckerberg. Two, Zuckerberg, who dropped out of Harvard without earning a degree, has through his Facebook impacted on the world more than most people with a chain of degrees. By joining the seemingly endless list of people who have 'changed the world' without a college (university) degree, Zuckerberg im-

mediately re-opens the debate about the value of college (university) education. The list of people who 'changed' the world without formal qualifications include: Bill Gates of Microsoft (who dropped out of Harvard); Amadeo Peter Giannini, founder of Bank of America (dropped out of high school); Andrew Carnegie, famous industrialist and philanthropist and one of the first megabillionaires in the US (dropped out of primary school); George Eastman, founder of Kodak (dropped out of high school); Henry Ford, founder of Ford Motors (did not attend college), John D Rockefeller, billionaire founder of Standard Oil (dropped out of high school just two months to graduation), Michael Dell, founder of Dell Computers (dropped out of College) Ray Kroc, founder of McDonald's (dropped out of high school), Walt Disney, founder of the Walt Disney (dropped out of high school), Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Atlantic and more (dropped out of high school), Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple (did not complete college) and

Simon Cowell, TV producer and music judge of American Idol, the X Factor and Britain's Got Talent (dropped out of High school). The point of the above is not to encourage people to drop out of school but a statement that we all have different talents and not everyone may be cut out for university education. This will help temper the current situation in Nigeria where people believe that they need degrees – even though they could more meaningfully have used the time in trying to discover or polishing their God-given talents.

If Zuckerberg had been a Nigerian, he would most likely have been derided for dropping out of school, banks and potential investors will stick it to his face that he couldn't even complete a University education and his parents would have done 'whatever it takes' to make sure he gets a degree or even a master's degree, preferably in prestige disciplines like law and medicine, even if his talents and aptitude lie somewhere else. I have come across many postgraduate students I honestly believe have no business 'wasting' their time in something that they are obviously not cut out for. Yet, such students believe they will 'somehow' pass. To find out one's true talent is often a tough undertaking and many never manage to do so before returning to their maker. Zuckerberg was given a good foundation, including private education. That quality education was the foundation of his genius. But he was also allowed to be himself – as Bill Gates- was when he realized the University had become a waste of his time.

Three, how would Nigerians of Zuckerberg's age have handled the prodigy's initial successes, including offers to buy out his Synapse Media Player by AOL? My suspicion is that most Nigerians would have sold the company and used the money to take titles or run for political offices. Zuckerberg held on to his dream. Today Zuckerberg is the largest individual shareholder in Facebook Inc, with 28.4 percent of the ordinary shares and 56.9 percent of the voting power. His personal wealth is estimated at more than \$19.1 billion, making him one of the world's youngest billionaires and one of the 30 richest people on Earth. In 2010 Zuckerberg was named as Time magazine's Person of the Year, in 2011 he was also named as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

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# preparing for university: WHAT YOU MUST KNOW

Campus Starter



If you are considering applying directly from high school to a university in Canada, your post-secondary planning process should begin early. Universities—or particular programs within a university—can be competitive; therefore, it's important to plan your high school courses accordingly. Your area of interest will determine what you should take. If you are considering a science or technology-based program, you should load up on courses in math, chemistry, physics and computers to ensure that you are well prepared for the schools that make your list. If your school offers courses in electronics, mechanics or other areas of technology, those are also recommended. Communication skills are always important in technical fields, so don't forget your English! In general, English and math are the most-often required courses for all fields of study at university.

If you are going into a more general program—or don't know yet what you plan to study—then go for breadth: take courses across the curriculum in science, social science, humanities, fine arts and technology. Find out what the university's policy is on pre-requisites, because if you are missing a required course, some universities will offer specific courses to allow you to complete what's needed. Taking the required courses, though, isn't necessarily enough; you should also be sure to keep your grades up. Most universities in Canada have a minimum cut-off average for general admission, which is usually between 60-70%. Quota or other highly competitive programs may require a competitive grade

point average of up to 85%. The competitive GPA can change from year to year as it is based on the quality of the applicant pool and space available in the specific program. In addition to your academics, there are several additional things you can do to prepare for success in your university application: Undertake to read and study independently. This is a good way to develop interests, expand your knowledge and improve your vocabulary and reading comprehension skills needed for your program.

This will also help you if admission requirements include an interview, since you will be able to impress the interviewer or committee with the knowledge you have built up of terms and issues specific to your area or program of interest: University admissions committees are often interested in a student's personal qualities, which can be developed through participating in extracurricular activities. Consider joining or even starting school clubs, whether related to your area of interest or not (of course if it is related to your proposed field of study, all the better!). This is also a good way to develop demonstrated leadership skills, which are an important aspect of any application. Prove your work ethic. University study takes a lot of commitment and plain old hard work. Therefore, work experience – paid or volunteer – is an achievement often regarded highly by admissions committees. Any work experience related to your chosen field is extremely beneficial: university programs are competitive and being able to show the admissions committee that you have some experience in the field.

# IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS

## Challenges of Self-Employment

**R**ecent research has found that immigrants are by definition “risk takers” who are willing to try new things and are highly motivated to succeed, often for the sake of their families. Interviews with dozens of successful immigrant entrepreneurs found that they all shared the following traits: keen sense of adventure, reverence for education, love and respect for family, eagerness to collaborate, tolerance for risk and failure, passion often born of desperation, and a tendency to dream. Most scholars in the field of immigrant entrepreneurship now agree that immigrants choose to be self-employed due to a variety of factors of choice and constraint as opposed to one single factor.



**“Becoming an entrepreneur in Canada, however, is not always an easy option to pursue.”**

Factors such as barriers to employment (“blocked mobility”), the costs of immigration, language, racism and discrimination, and less access to traditional forms of capital may each push immigrants to start their own businesses. There is no doubt that entrepreneurship can be a survival strategy that may emerge in response to labour market discrimination. Also, self-employment may provide a supplemental income that can act as an important aid to settlement. Becoming an entrepreneur in Canada, however, is not always an easy option to pursue. Interviews with entrepreneurs in Vancouver found barriers in terms of cross-national differences in the processes required to establish and maintain a business. Learning about business regulations, financing, suppliers and marketing in Vancouver took them a considerable amount of time and energy, though failure to do so can easily lead to business failure. American research has found that most immigrant entrepreneurs did not come to the USA with the intention to start a business. More than half came to earn an advanced university degree. This finding has direct relevance for Can-

ada as the new Canadian Experience Class seeks specifically to retain international students who have come to Canada to pursue higher education. This program alleviates the US problem in which many foreign students with American science and math degrees are unable to obtain visas to stay in the country. The Canadian Experience Class could be a promising means of attracting and retaining international talent. Existing research gives us some clues as to characteristics of immigrant entrepreneurs. Using the Longitudinal Immigration Data Base in Canada for 1980 to 1995, Dr. Peter Li identified characteristics of immigrants that yield a higher or lower propensity to self-employment. He found that gender, the year of immigration, and duration of stay in Canada impacted self-employment. Arrival in better economic years, longer residence in Canada, higher educational levels, older immigrants, and immigrants selected for human capital have higher odds of self-employment. Using 1996 Census data, Dr. Dan Hiebert found evi-

dence that linked propensity for self-employment among immigrants to their occupation. Immigrants who were drawn to niches that offer few opportunities for self-employment had low rates of entrepreneurship and, conversely, those who were over-represented in niches with considerable scope for self-employment were inclined to establish their own businesses. This shows that the propensity for self-employment is, to an important degree, determined in the regular labour market as opposed to being an intrinsically cultural phenomenon (i.e. that certain groups are “naturally” entrepreneurial).

UBC Geographer David Ley interviewed 90 entrepreneur-class immigrants to Canada and found that many of them endured financial losses and ran mediocre businesses, including a heavy reliance on franchise operations. More than half lost money or broke even. In the end, many moved back to their native countries. He cautioned Canada to expect a loss of skills immigrants in the near term, fuelled by economic growth in Asia.(Wise5.ca)

## Impact of Immigration on the Spread of HIV in the African Community



**Edith Wambayi, Ph.D  
Health Consultant**  
Edith is the Executive Director of **Health and Life Promotion**, a Research Consultancy in Toronto. Its services include: proposal and report writing, research, training/ educational workshops and capacity building.

**L**ast month we addressed the issue of HIV infection rates among vulnerable communities in Canada. As mentioned, African communities are among the most affected accounting for about 12% of the infections. The major question is why this trend? As we continue to seek answers to this question we need to explore some of the key drivers of this trend. In this issue we will examine the impact of immigration on the continued spread of HIV among African communities. Both internal migration within countries and external between countries is a continuous process which adversely impacts populations around the world. The impact of migration on the spread of communicable diseases such as HIV is very profound and is at the core of national health programs around the world including Canada.

HIV infection in Canada mainly due to negative publicity by media about the disease being more prevalent in African countries than in other countries especially developed countries like Canada. With this misconception, many people live in ignorance. They do not access the true facts about the spread and prevention of HIV. Consequently, many people who had tested negative for HIV end up contracting it after immigration. Coupled with this, families have been separated due to long waiting periods of the immigration process. Delayed family reunion may lead to infidelity which has resulted in contracting sexually transmitted infections including HIV. The African social structure maintains a wider kinship system where members provide social supports for each other beyond the traditional African family. Due to immigration, many African stressors have implications, families lack this support as people adopt the Canadian culture and Afri-

can social networks are weakened. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the society to respond to the needs of those infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. As well, social supports to resolve family disputes are rare leading to family break ups. In some instances, Children Aid Society intervention in family disputes has created problems when children are removed from their family homes to institutions or foster homes cutting family ties. All these to the spread of HIV when some children have been abused emotionally, physically and sexually while in their new institutions of care. Some of these children resort to social behaviours such as drug abuse and street crimes that have left them vulnerable to contracting HIV. Those who end up incarcerated are at risk of contracting HIV while in custody.

Of particular concern to African communities in Canada is the issue of Criminalization of sexual exposure to HIV without disclosure. In Canada, if a person living with HIV is alleged to have transmitted HIV or exposed a sexual partner to the risk of infection without disclosing HIV-positive status it is considered a crime. It is important that people are well informed of their rights. There are many resources to help people access information and support. For more information visit the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange at [www.catie.ca](http://www.catie.ca)

Immigration and settlement processes are a major barrier accessing services for new comers to Canada as they generate stress related conditions that affect the wellbeing of many immigrants. Among the many stressors African immigrants are faced with are related to settlement. There is a whole range of stressors including financial limitations, poor or no housing, discrimination, exclusion as well as limitations in settlement policies and services for new comers. The consequences of exposure to these stressors include isolation and lack of access to information during acculturation to Canada. As a result, people lack the correct information on HIV. Many people believe they are safe from

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Toronto to Ethiopia is about to feel a lot closer. Ossington Mimi Mart owner Stephanos Yeshanew displays berbere, Ethiopian chili pepper powder already mixed with spice. Yeshanew plans to bring more products to his store using a new direct flight from Toronto to Addis Ababa.

FEATURES

fresher products on the shelf. Yeshanew's family mini mart on Bloor St. near Ossington Ave. sells Ethiopian coffee, cardamom seeds and berbere, chili pepper powder already mixed with spice. He's considering making a trip to Addis Ababa before a \$1,000 round-trip deal expires in August to start bringing in smaller items like a roasted barley snack known as kolo. Regular flight prices will range from \$1,600 to \$2,000, about the same cost as the indirect flights available now. Tsegereda Assgedom has been the distributor of Ethiopian products to local stores for the last 10 years. After hearing about the direct flight, she is considering bringing new items. "There are many more things Ethiopia can offer Canada," said Assgedom, who mentioned importing flowers and freshly baked injera, the teff-based gluten-free flat bread that is gaining popularity among health conscious Canadians.

Assegedom said processing short shelf life items would cost a lot less in Ethiopia, and with shorter traveling time, the products can be in the Canadian market the next day. Other business owners would likely use the flight to tap into the East African market, according to Lucien Bradet, a trade expert at the Canadian Council for Africa. "Canadian investors like to go where it's easy to go," he said. "They want to save time and money." With the African Union headquarters now based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia is fast becoming "Africa's Brussels," said Bradet, who added that a good diplomatic base is an asset for foreign investment. Ethiopian Airlines will kick off the new route with two departures from Toronto per week but plans to increase flights soon. Air Maroc has frequent direct flights to Casablanca from Montreal, while South African and Tunisian Airlines also fly to the continent occasionally. (The Star.com)

## Ethiopia-Canada Trade Could Soar with New Direct Flight from Toronto

Nola Kianza makes a business trip to Ethiopia every other month, spending up to 48 gruelling hours in-transit each time. But starting July 17, the Toronto investor will cut his trip to 14 hours as a new Ethiopian Airlines route is set to make Africa just a flight away from Toronto. The first regular, non-stop flight between Toronto and Addis Ababa boosts trade ties between Canada and Ethiopia, one of Africa's largest markets with a population of over 80 million. "My first reaction when I got to there was how come we didn't know about this country?" said Kianza, who is a co-founder of the Canadian Council on Africa. Had he known about business prospects in Ethiopia, Kianza said he could have started his gold mining exploration project sooner.

Trading opportunities exist in several sectors in Ethiopia, said Kianza, including mining, aircraft and information technology. But distance and lack of information have stalled Canadian investors from exploring the market, he said. "At least [the direct flight] removes the stigma that Africa is so far away, on another planet." Trade between Canada and Ethiopia hit its highest point in the last decade at \$190 million in 2010. In the same year, Canada minted the Ethiopian one-birr coin after the Royal Canadian Mint won a contract with the National Bank of Ethiopia. While Canadian mining in Ethiopia is on the rise, aircraft trade also been growing, with Ethiopian Airlines recently ordering five large Bombardier aircrafts at a cost of \$160 million. Though tech trade is rising, agricultural products such as spices and coffee make up the majority of imports from Ethiopia. For Toronto's Ethiopian spice merchants like Stephanos Yeshanew, the new flight will mean

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SPECIAL REPORT



## Shopping in Uganda: A Long Way from Loblaws

BY MARIA GRIFFIN-ANGUS

If you have the money, shopping in Uganda is done at western-style shopping malls. Garden City and Nakumatt Oasis are popular with expats. Most Ugandans, however, shop as they always have – from roadside vendors. Many vendors sell their wares from rudimentary stalls or just spread out on blankets. On Kira Road, by the Engen Gas Station, you can buy jeans, shoes, pineapples and dish soap. Bukoto Market usually has a healthy supply of chickens squawking indignantly from makeshift cages. But the great mother of all markets is Owino, home to over 50,000 vendors. Some claim the real number is maybe as high as half a million.

Owino Market is a sprawling mass of stalls jammed with second hand clothes dumped from North American charity shops, live chickens, dead chickens, and all manner of food hidden under haphazardly placed tarp ceilings. Getting to Owino is an adventure in itself; it is downtown, behind the taxi park where all the matatus (the mini-buses) congregate. The park is a mass of honking white vans and there are no sidewalks or pedestrian walkways. We thread our way – very slowly – often putting our hands on the side of vans to make sure they don't drive too close. In the midst of this are the men selling products to passengers in the buses. They sell the most random assortment of stuff: dish scrubbies, toothpaste, mosquito nets, and chewing gum. Ducking into the narrow entranceway of Owino, the rudimentary nature of the market is striking. The ground is muddy and uneven; there is no electricity. The only light comes from the sun peeking

through the holes in the tarp roof. The air smells of sweetly rotten fruit, musty clothes and something completely indiscernible. Although I can't distinguish any sort of order or logic to the market, my Ugandan friend manages to lead us through without any problem. Sellers must compete with thousands of others, so they shout, pull you into their tiny stalls, offer marriage proposals, anything to get your attention. "Mzungu! Mzungu! Jeans? You want jeans? I have jeans. Come see my jeans." "Ah! American! Marry me!" Owino is the backbone of commerce in Kampala.

It bypasses national chain stores and regional supermarkets. Everything is based on bartering and the intense push and shove of needy sellers and reluctant buyers. Owino has burnt down several times, but each time, it has sprung up again. It's not so much the phoenix rising from the ashes, but rather an intense desperation to make a living, that brings the ramshackle stalls back to life. After a 2009 fire that leveled the market, vendors took out loans to cover the loss of their merchandise and money. In 2011, the vendors lost everything again after a fire decimated the market; unfortunately, most of those vendors were still paying back the loans from the first fire. One group of vendors, the Twezimbe Parkyard Disabled Association, lost all records of their savings, loans and merchandise. For an already vulnerable population, these disasters are devastating. It is not surprising, however, that Owino has burnt down so often. The rickety wooden stalls, over-

crowded alleyways, and cheap products means that getting out alive would require a miracle. The further you go into the market, the more crowded and haphazard it becomes. Shoes are jumbled in a massive pile: finding a matching pair can be a Sisyphean task. Stall owners scrub away at the shoes, hoping to make them look new and clean. Jeans are stacked up in massive piles, often spilling over into the narrow pathway. At the very back of Owino is the food. The stench of dead fish, complemented by the incessant buzzing of flies, is overwhelming. Silvery fish heads are stacked upon a decrepit wooden table. It's dark and confusing, and I have to dodge to the right to avoid the boiling pot of meat.

Fresh mangos, pineapples and avocados are piled upon blankets on the ground, going for 500 Ugandan Shillings. Matooke (green bananas) are everywhere, the staple of the Ugandan diet. The market is a place of sensory overload. Turn right and you will see overflowing bags of rice, flour, beans and spices. I smell cardamom, peppercorn, cumin and cinnamon. My housemate barter with the vendor for some spices. I see another friend arguing over the prices of mangos. 3000 US\$ for one mango? Crazy! I try not to get flustered with all the vendors grabbing my arm and pulling me towards their merchandise; with the fires, loans and poverty, these people need to make a living. And if they can get a few extra dollars out of a muzungu, then all the better. It's chaos. It's overwhelming. But it is also a compelling expression of community and life. (Huffpost.ca)