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AUGUST 2012



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Citizenship and Passport



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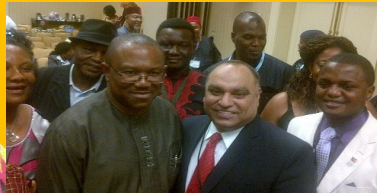
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## Three Canadian Cities in Top 5 World's Most Livable Cities



Three Canadian cities are among the world's top five most livable cities. Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary made The Economist magazine's 2012 list released earlier this week. The survey ranks 140 cities based on a number of factors, including health care, stability, culture and environment, education and infrastructure — with a score of up to 100. Vancouver was the highest-ranked Canadian city, coming in third with an overall score of 97.3; Toronto came in fourth at 97.2, and Calgary tied for fifth place with Adelaide, Australia, at 96.6. Melbourne, Australia topped the list with a score of 97.5, followed by Vienna, which scored 97.4. It is the second year in a row that Melbourne, dubbed the cultural capital of Australia, has been declared the world's best place to live. The cities were measured as **acceptable, tolerable, uncomfortable, undesirable or intolerable** under each of the categories. The magazine says the rankings show that mid-sized cities in wealthy countries with low populations tend to score the highest year after year. The survey's authors say they only looked at places where people would want to live or visit. They also noted that existing conflict or the possibility of one brought down the scores of many cities and pointed to the Arab Spring, the civil war in Libya and economic unrest in Greece as examples. According to the survey, Dhaka, Bangladesh is the world's least livable city, coming in last with a score of 38.7. (Yahoonews)

## Receiving a Criminal Conviction While Already in Canada

What happens when a Temporary Foreign Worker is convicted of a crime while living and working in Canada? The answer may surprise you. CIC News recently came across one such case. An individual who was already working in Canada was convicted of drunk driving. This began a long process for himself and his legal representatives, as they fought for his right to remain in Canada. The process has helped shed light on the intricacies of Canadian immigration law and how it pertains to issues of criminal inadmissibility. It also underscores the importance of taking decisive action and finding a knowledgeable representative to assist in understanding these intricacies. Any person with a criminal conviction has the potential to be considered inadmissible to Canada on the grounds of security, pursuant to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and Regulations. Individuals who wish to reside in Canada on a temporary or permanent basis, and who have been convicted of a criminal offense, must take steps to address this before entering Canada.

There are a number of ways to address criminal inadmissibility. The way in which it is addressed is determined by the nature of the offense, number of offenses committed, and when the conviction occurred. If less than 5 years have elapsed since the completion of the sentence, an application for a Temporary Resident Permit (TRP) must be filed with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and a TRP must be received, before coming to the country. The different ways to address issues of criminal inadmissibility will be outlined in future editions of CIC News. Individuals who commit a crime while living in Canada have additional issues to address. Depending on the severity of the offense, they may face the possibility of having their status in Canada revoked and/or being served with a deportation order. Because they are already in Canada, the overall situation is likely to be more complex.



## Settlement

### CIC Continues to Expand Settlement Programs

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has recently issued a call for proposals for new language training, settlement, and resettlement services. Such programs are integral to helping immigrants integrate into their new homes. Proposals will be accepted for projects that will begin in 2013. The projects can be local, regional, national, or international in scope. Settlement funds are directed towards new immigrants, while resettlement funds are set aside for refugees. CIC has stated that "Services [will] include language training, information/referrals, help finding employment that matches newcomers' skills and education, and help establishing networks/contacts in their communities". Funds for such services have nearly tripled in the last 7 years, rising from about \$200 million in 2005-06 to almost \$600 million this year. These figures do not include similar services in the Province of Quebec. Most provinces operate federally-directed settlement programs. However, Quebec, Manitoba, and British Columbia provide these services at a provincial level. Regardless, organizations from any province are welcome to apply provided their projects intend to address issues of national or international scope.

## Survey: Canadians Richer Than Americans

A new study has revealed that median household income in Canada is now higher than in the United States. Environics Analytics WealthScapes reported that, as of the beginning of 2012, average median household income in Canada rose to around \$363,202. For the first time, this is higher than the median income of homes in the US, which is currently only \$319,970. Several factors may have contributed to this general rise in Canadian's wealth. The Canadian dollar, once worth less than the US dollar, has now drawn more or less even in terms of purchasing power. The Canadian job market is also booming in many fields, leading to a lower rate of unemployment. One factor that has helped Canadians financially has been the housing market. The average Canadian's home is more than \$140,000 more valuable than an American's, according to the Globe and Mail. This is because Canada did not feel the full impact of the 'housing bubble' crisis, which has been driving down the value of US homes significantly since 2007

# CANADIAN VISA BLUES

By MUYIWA ADETIBA

**J**his, before some one starts to say 'not again', is not about me. Its about my egbon. Mr Mac Ovbigele, a foremost advertising practitioner, and I dare say, one of the best in his generation—likes to do things by the book. I should know since I have known him for almost 40 years and I have used him as a sounding board for many of my projects.

True to type, when he realized he needed to travel to Canada, he started preparing early. By January, he had booked his ticket for a wedding that was to take place towards the end of July. On May 4, he took his passport with all the necessary documents to the Canadian Embassy. Although the Embassy said the applicants should give an allowance of 30 working days for processing, he was prepared to give more.

When he got to the Embassy, he met three ladies he had known for a long time. One of them was his contemporary at the University of Ibadan. Everybody was confident that they had made early preparations and acted responsibly. But had they? Three weeks later, one of

them had an all expenses paid offer for a three-day trip to Dubai for a board meeting. But she didn't go because her passport was in the Canadian Embassy vaults. Another of the ladies thought it would be a good opportunity to cross over to the US after her business in Canada. She wasn't sure if her visa would not have expired at that time and she wanted to book for an appointment at the US Embassy. But she could not because her passport was locked up in the vaults of the Canadian Embassy.

The third lady had what turned out to be a fortuitous experience. Her son had a bad back condition that needed to be operated on. The doctors advised a quick operation so that some nerves would not be damaged permanently. Again, her passport was locked up in the Canadian vault. But being an 'abiyamo' (an endearing Yoruba word for motherhood) she decided that her son's life was more important than going to Canada. When she made moves to retrieve her passport, she was told, ominously, that she would have to go to the bottom of the line and start all over again if she brought her passport back. She retrieved her passport any way and flew to the UK with her son.

The operation was timely and was successful. What's more, she put in for the Canadian visa in the UK. To her surprise, her application was granted in 24 hours. Please note. It was the same woman, the same passport and the same documents. You want to ask. What is it about Nigeria that sets these Western countries on edge? And why should any country lock up any body's passport for any length of time in this day and age? Back to my big brother, Mr Ovbigele. Sensing that he might not be able to make his earlier booking, he wanted a new date. He was asked by his travel agency to cough up an extra two hundred thousand naira for something that was definitely not his fault. So he did what any reasonable man would in the circumstances. He took the 'aso -ebi' and all the wedding things in his possession and couriered them to Canada — at a considerable cost of course—and cancelled his booking. As we speak, more than three months after, none of these three people has had their visa or their passport returned to them. P.S. Now, I have just been told that a friend's wife (and also my wife's friend) has just been refused a UK Visa. Reason?

She didn't show 'sufficient attachment' either to the US where she resides, or to Nigeria, her country of birth. Now, this lady is close to 60. She is a grandmother who has been travelling to the UK for at least 30 years. She has a green card which entitles her to live and work in the US. She and her husband have a beautiful home in the US, and beautiful homes in Nigeria. All her children had their tertiary education in the US. A couple are back in Nigeria and the others comfortably settled in the US. No child lives in the UK. And they say she doesn't have 'sufficient attachment' to Nigeria or the US All she wanted was to be able to attend the wedding of her niece slated for early August. And as at the time she applied, she had a five-year visa which was about to expire. Now tell me. What pull does UK have over the US and Nigeria where she has her family, her home, and her businesses? And if it was her intention to disappear into the thin (or wet) UK air, why did she have to wait for her five year visa to expire? Doesn't make much sense does it? PS 2 I am sure there are many ridiculous and sometimes ludicrous visa experiences out there. I'd like to hear (and maybe air) them. I told you of mine six months ago at the US Embassy. To their credit, they responded and corrected what many considered to be an anomaly.

## COMING NEXT ISSUE

### SEPTEMBER 2012:

- Your Health, Your Choice
  - An Immigrant Journey
  - Engaging Your Kids in Sports
  - Into the Kitchen
- .....and much more, DON'T MISS IT



PROF. PHIL TAM-AL ALALIBO

## Back to School - Is Your Child Ready?

In a few weeks school is back in session after a long holiday for the kids and that means the restive and recreational days of the summer are over and aptly replaced by the stress and hassle of the usually arduous school days. For many kids in elementary and secondary schools, the new school year presents an opportunity to make new friends and rekindle old friendship made in previous years. For some it also brings a relief from the monotony of the summer days and the influence of overbearing parents and older siblings. But for parents, the challenges are markedly different and are manifest in different ways—foremost is the challenge of buying the laundry list of “back to school” items to adequately prepare the kids for the new school year. Then comes the peculiar responsibilities of maintaining discipline in the home to ensure that the kids are timely with their homework and chores and go to bed at the appropriate time so they may get sufficient rest. For children, this is imperative as

they require longer sleeping hours to function at school. Children require at least 10 to 12 hours of sleep each night to ensure steady growth and attentiveness at school. This is one of the areas parents cannot compromise as laxity may adversely affect the child's performance at school. Additionally, parents must be very vigilant to know the type of friends their children are making for not all children have appropriate home upbringing and as such may negatively influence your kids with what they say or with some of their vulgar gestures. With many competing interests that pervade the scene these days, children are easily distracted from what is important, it is therefore the role of the parents to ensure that they never lose their moral compass, that they keep faith with their homework

and chores. In this day and age it has become compulsory for parents to get involved in their children's lives for that is the only way trust can be built and information shared. By the same token, it is also imperative for parents to be actively involved in their children's education to have a firm understanding of what is required and how they may assist them with their homework. It also sends a message to the teacher that the parents are involved and often times it means a careful assessment of the child's test and exams. To further ensure that their child is adequately and fairly assessed by their teacher, parents should not hesitate to ask questions and schedule meetings with the teacher to get a good sense of his/her progress and what the teacher requires of the child.

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# UGANDA'S GOLD AFRICA'S GLORY



## Stephen Kiprotich

**FROM PRISON WARDER TO INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC STAR**

By PROF PHIL TAM-AL ALALIBO

**S**tephen Kiprotich's Olympic gold victory ended one of the longest gold medal draughts in Olympics history. In 2 hours, 8 minutes and 1 second, the lanky marathon runner had altered the Olympic fortunes of his native Uganda

by giving it its first gold in forty years and first medal of any variety since 1996. Born in Kapchorwa District, the 23 year old was a surprise winner of the event as chance was not part of his draw. Even more ironic was the fact that the runner did not believe in his abilities to win the race given the quality and reputation of his competitors. Running behind two worthy Kenyans, Abel Kirui, a world champion twice over and Kipsang Kiprotich, known for his undisputed exploits as owner of the second fastest mara-

thon time in history at 2:03:42, Ugandans and spectators alike had given up on the runner when he suddenly found his magic leaving his opponents to grapple with his shadow. In affirmation of his self-doubt, Kiprotich told reporters after his victory, "I didn't believe I could win the race. I couldn't believe that I was leading, so when I crossed the finish line that's when I believed it," he noted.

His unlikely win, in spite of the challenges, for a country once crippled by civil war with little resources allocated to sports is expected to energize the country with a view of cultivating a sporting culture. "It will energize the country to a new sporting reality" said Stephen Ruhinda, a Ugandan immigrant and professional based in the GTA when asked by *African Immigrant* of the significance of Kiprotich's conquest. "With this victory we expect that more attention will be paid to sports and the youth would be encouraged to engage in sporting activities of their interest to ultimately represent the country at such high profile global events," noted Ruhinda contentedly. Achieving such lofty heights at global sports events as suggested by Ruhinda comes with

a price that Uganda and all countries with such aspiration must be willing to pay. Kiprotich's feat is even more laudable as he spent most of his time training in neighboring Kenya with competitors due to the dearth of sporting facilities in eastern Uganda where he resides. Therefore, the transformation of sports in Uganda must commence now against the backdrop of the victory of a young prison warder who defied all odds to make his country and Africa proud.

With only two other African countries, Tunisia and Algeria, winning gold medals in the London games, Kiprotich's victory must be put in perspective and given due recognition. "This victory is special for many reasons," noted Ruhinda. "It is coming at the heels of a very important historic landmark for our country, the 50<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary. When we celebrate our country's golden anniversary," Ruhinda further noted, "we'll have more to celebrate." Indeed, Ugandans will have more to celebrate. Congratulations!

# CARIBANA

Steelpans will be all over the parade route and Toronto's Caribana attracts some of North America's most skillful players.

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The Caribana parties and events are great but the main attraction of Toronto's Caribbean Carnival is the Grand Parade (North America's largest Caribbean Parade). With over a million people set to attend, this year's Caribbean Carnival Parade will start off inside Exhibition Place as the competing Masquerade Bands (also known as Mas Bands) will fill the stadium with live Soca, Calypso and Steeplan music! The elaborate costumes, props and lively dancers bring everything to life and add to this incredible experience that happens only once a year. You can of course catch the Parade free of charge by lining up along the Lakeshore Parade route. However, if you want a comfortable seat within Exhibition Place (200 Princes' Blvd.) where you can catch the whole performance up close, tickets are affordable (\$20 before tax) and considering the parade's length (approx 4-6 hours), it is definitely worth it. The Caribbean calypso beat has been a staple at the Toronto Caribbean Carnival Parade since the festival's debut in 1967.

Soca is newer to the scene, popping up about 15 years ago. For those not familiar with this sexier cousin of Calypso, its sound is faster and lyrically can be sexually charged or just plain comedic, depending on the song. Steelpans will be all over the parade route and Toronto's Caribana attracts some of North America's most skillful players. Don't forget to catch the King & Queen Show on August 2, 2012 at Lamport Stadium to get a glimpse of some of the most elaborate costumes and dynamic performances that will highlight the Official 2012 Caribana Parade. The most important and biggest event of the Caribana weekend is the Caribbean Carnival Parade and it kicks off August 4th, 2012 starting at 10am and ends at 6pm (just enough time to get ready for one of Saturday's many Caribana nightlife celebrations). The Parade route begins at Exhibition Place, travelling down Lakeshore Blvd West and ends at Lakeshore and Parkside Drive (approximately 4.5 kilometres).

## -Entrepreneurship-

# Nigerian Saheed Adepoju's Low-Cost Tablet Computer Gains Popularity



hopes to sell it to the Nigerian government in the hopes that there will be at least one computer in each local government area. Adepoju was featured on the BBC series African Dream where he said, "The Inye is a mobile internet device. It gives you access to the internet; it allows you to play media files and watch movies. What we have is an 8-inch device, a device that is half-way between a laptop and a mobile phone," he told the BBC's series African Dream. You have the standard software applications that come pre-installed and then you have the ones that we are working with various local developers to bundle on." There are also apps that raise awareness about HIV, water safety and sanitation. This brilliant young Nigerian was educated first in Nigeria, where he completed a first degree in mathematics and computer science, then finished a degree in computer science in the U.K. at Bournemouth University. After being fired from his first job, he borrowed about \$60,000 from friends and family with the goal of building an affordable iPad-related product for the African marketplace. Adepoju also told the BBC that there was no budget for marketing and as a result early advertising was by word of mouth and social media. Hopefully this young Nigerian's product will succeed in the competitive tablet market not just in Nigeria, but worldwide. (Face 2 Face Africa).

**A** 29-year-old Nigerian has invented a low-cost tablet computer. Saheed Adepoju, the creator of the Inye tablet, says he was funded by his parents who gave him £40,000 to start with. The young entrepreneur, who has a background in software development and is a Sun-certified Java programmer, also says that the Inye's low cost is its key selling point in contrast to Apple's \$700+ iPad. The Inye tablet runs on Google's Android system and Adepoju



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## “Help Your Country” Governor Advises Nigerians in Toronto

BY PROF. PHIL TAM-AL ALALIBO

Governor Peter Obi addressing members of the Anambra State Progressive Association (ASP) at its annual convention in Toronto, urged Nigerians to be good ambassadors in their adopted country, to be selfless and assist their fatherland at every opportunity. The two-term governor related at the immense contributions of ASPA to the development of the state, averred, “I was compelled to come to Canada to attend your occasion because of the fine work ASPA is doing in Anambra. You have sent books and computers to needy schools in an effort to build capacity.”

The governor spoke extensively about the achievements of his administration in the health, education and trade sectors noting its ability to secure international donors’ assistance in the developmental effort to bring Anambra to national and international reckoning. He acknowledged the difficulties the state encountered when he assumed the helm of affairs over six years ago when several donors assisting the state financially pulled out due to



Gov. Peter Obi, (L) with Jag Farmaha, (right, in black Suit), President of Canreach Immigration Consultants, based in Mississauga, Canada’s leading immigration consultants

the mismanagement of their funds by the previous administration. But with due diligence undertaken by his administration, the governor noted, most of the donors such as UNDP, UNICEF, etc, have since returned positing the state as one of their model states in financial prudence. “You will find Anambra in the top three performing states on our donors’ list,” the governor boasted.

On financial management, he explained why Anambra does not have a presidential lodge in Awka, the state capital, for visiting dignitaries unlike other neighboring states. Gov. Obi told the gathering at the Toronto Marriot Hotel Convention Centre how he volunteered his family home for visiting dignitaries from Abuja during Obasanjo’s visit to his state. “I asked them to inspect my home; they liked it so I gave them the keys. They stayed for one week,” said the Chief Executive. This act alone, he hurriedly pointed out, saved the state millions of naira in hotel bills for the distinguished visitors.

The Anambra governor seized the opportunity to respond to critics that allege he does not have projects of his own since taking office; that all he had done was to complete the unfinished projects started by previous administrations. To this, he responded almost gleefully, “Those that start new projects when there are unfinished ones want to steal money under the guise of new projects.” He questioned the wis-

dom in spending time and resources in starting new programs while there are still unfinished ones with government funds already invested.

Still on financial prudence, the governor told a keen audience of how he rebuffed friends, colleagues and business/political associates that wanted to spend millions of naira to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2011. Instead, he persuaded them to donate the funds to schools to buy computers, science equipment, books and buses. With one and half years left in office, the governor told the enthusiastic audience that he hopes his successor will be better than him and will improve on his gains.

A deeply religious man from a strong Christian family, the governor admitted the grave temptation in managing huge sums of money, but seemingly adjudged himself to being up to the challenge. “I pray daily for God to grant me wisdom to do right for Anambra,” he said with a calculated measure of piety. Responding to Gov. Obi’s admonition, the Chairman of the occasion, Dr. Fidelis Ezemenari, thanked the governor for his words of wisdom and judicious management of the state’s resources. He reminded his kinsmen of the vast improvement in the area of security witnessed on the watch of the current governor, a reference to the perilous security environment and chaotic leadership situation that preceded Obi’s arrival.

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## LETTERS

Dear Editor

I am a fairly new immigrant in Canada and I understand completely the challenges that currently face Africans as I am currently going through some of them and know quite a few Africans in my community in Ontario who are also experiencing the same challenges. In my case, I am a trained Pharmacist from Kenya and owned a store in Nairobi for more than twelve years before immigrating to Canada in 2006. I was doing well by Kenyan standards, a home and a car and had nine employees in the pharmacy and three domestic help. My sons attended private schools as the public schools in Kenya are not up to my standards. My husband and I decided to immigrate to give our sons the educational opportunity in the West. Since getting here, it has been difficult for us to re-establish ourselves professional and get back on track. My husband

TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — EMAIL PUBLISHER@AFRICANIMMIGRANT.CA

studied accountancy in the university and has been able to finally work as an accountant after a couple of years of doing survival jobs. But for me, it is usually one hurdle after the other and at one point, I considered returning to Kenya to pick up the pieces. But one has to be determined because the good things in life do not always come easy. Thank you.

Susan K (Kenya)  
Toronto

Dear Susan:

Thanks you for sharing your story with African Immigrant and we certainly understand the frustration. Keep trying and you will succeed as many immigrants before you have. Never give up! We wish you all the best. Editor!

## ON THE FLY

### NOLLYWOOD WATCH

## Dakore Egbuson returns to Nollywood as Katherine Edoho Debuts



able to watch Dakore dazzle, as she stars alongside Nse Ikpe-Etim, Carol King, Kalu Ikeagwu, Femi Bra-inard, Femi Jacobs, Chris Attoh, Katherine Obiang Edoho, Tosin Sido and Ashionye in a new big-budget movie currently being shot in Lagos. 'Journey to self' is an intense story of friendship, sacrifice, empowerment and self-respect'. It tells the story of four friends, Nse (Nse Ikpe-Etim), Regina (Ashionye Michelle-Raccah), Alex (Dakore Akande) and Rume (Katherine Obiang Edoho) who lost a mutual childhood friend, Uche (Tosin Sido). Uche speaks through a series of letters stirring her friends to a journey of self-discovery... a 'Journey to Self'. The project, we're told, will mark the Nollywood debut of **Katherine Edoho**, a radio/TV presenter-producer who recently separated from "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" presenter, **Frank Edoho**. 'The movie has taken 13 months to make and we are proud of what we achieved in that time', Ashionye Michelle Raccah, writer and producer of the movie says. It was produced by Fressia Entertainment and co-produced by Tosin Sido for Fressia Entertainment. The movie will be premiered this year.

We've heard little from her since she tied the knot with Olumide Akande on January 16, 2011. Now, **Dakore Egbuson Akande** is back. Back on your screens very soon! All thanks to singer-actress Ashionye's new movie 'Journey to Self', fans will once again be able to

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CANADA



## TIT BITS

## 211 Service: Your Way to Connecting With Numerous Services in Your Community

211 is fast becoming the most effective way for Ontario residents to get information and connect to the best available community resources. In September, over one million more people will be able to dial the easy-to-recall 2-1-1 phone number or use [211ontario.ca](http://211ontario.ca) to find information about the full range of community, social, government and health related programs and services.

By the end of September, the number of Ontario residents with access to 211 will surpass 8.5 million or 70 per cent of the population, "Bringing together information on agencies and programs is creating customized solutions for each community," said Bill Morris, Executive Director, Ontario 211 Services Corporation. "Working with different groups, 211 is helping school boards map services to specific challenges, to registering families for backpacks for school, tracking shelter beds and freeing up front line public health staff by answering basic H1N1 clinic and vaccination information."

The idea for simplifying access to social services with 211 was born in the U.S. in 1997. In 2002, United Way Canada - Centraide Canada and other partners won approval from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to use 211 for community, social, government and health information in Canada.

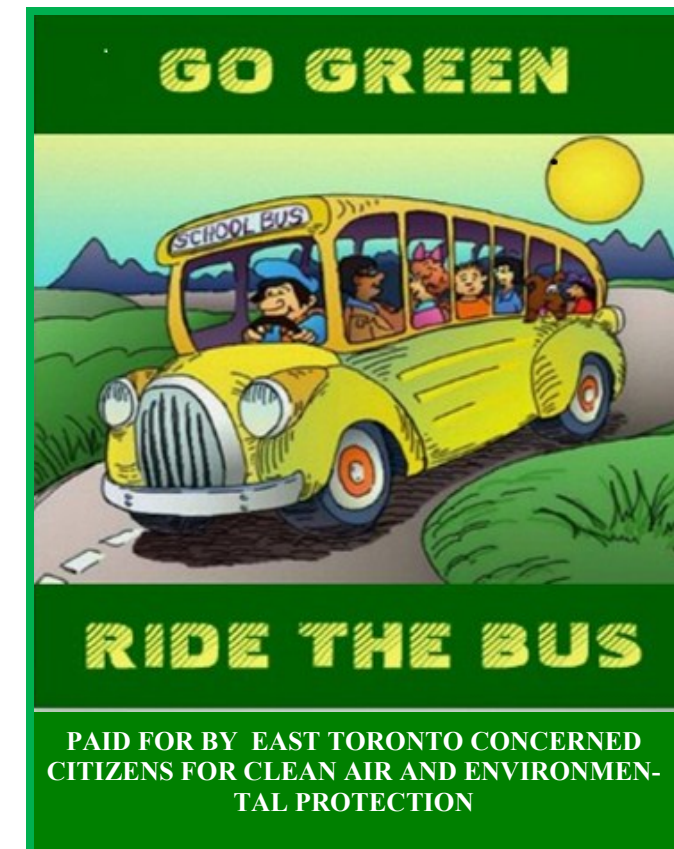
"211 has changed the way Ontarians access information," said Rosanna Thoms, Executive Director, 211 Central South Region and President, Inform Canada. "Instead of annoying phone menus or impersonal automatic attendants, 211 callers speak directly to a Certified Information and Referral Specialist. By combining the human touch of live answer with modern phone and web technology, 211 is able to provide callers with award-winning high quality customer service."

Recognizing the benefits of 211, the Provincial government invested \$13 million over four years to expand 211 to the entire province by March 2012. The Province also committed ongoing funding to sustain 211 for all Ontarians as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

211 is also funded by Ontario's United Ways, some municipalities, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Anyone can call 211. But 211 is especially useful to those who face barriers related to language, mobility and isolation who are seeking support. By connecting families and individuals with the help they need more quickly, 211 prevents situations from escalating into a crisis. It also helps human service professionals improve their referrals to clients.

211 helps individuals find services and understand access requirements for programs like employment counselling, housing assistance, services for seniors, home support, legal assistance, child care, language classes and many other services. 211 is available 24/7, 365 days, in over 150 languages. [www.211ontario.ca](http://www.211ontario.ca) is a bilingual website with information on 56,000 programs and services. (<http://smr.newswire.ca>)





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### NEW IDEAS

## New Africa: the Ethiopian woman who made ethical sandals fashionable

By Lucy Siegle, The Observer



**Bethlehem Talahun Alemu, Founder of SoleRebels Shoe outfit showcasing her products.**

The idea for footwear label soleRebels popped into the brain of Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu in 2004. Looking around her native Addis Ababa, she caught sight of the ubiquitous simple sandals made from recycled tires and decided to turn them into an international brand. Twelve months later, soleRebels was launched in a local workshop with just five staff. Made from recycled content, and bringing work to the local community, who are then paid equitably, soleRebels is as ethical as it gets. It is the embodiment of the drive to use commerce to bring about social change, and Alemu is an articulate and passionate believer. (She has twice made the Forbes

“outstanding African businesswomen” list.) But if you think she wants to create a worthy product to sell at church fetes, think again. “Actually, I don’t even want to describe my brand in terms of Ethiopia. I want you to buy my shoe lines because they are fashionable and comfortable.” No wonder soleRebels has earned the soubriquet, the Nike of Ethiopia. This year, it will turn over \$2m and Alemu now employs 200 staff. Next month, soleRebels opens its first international store in Taiwan, and more are slated to follow. But Alemu has her eye on one place – New York. “If I can make it there, I can make it anywhere,” she laughs.

### BUSINESS

## Ethiopian Airlines’ Historic Maiden Flight to Toronto Touches Down at Pearson International Airport

With the commencement of this flight, which is the only direct connection between Toronto and Africa, Toronto will only be 12 hours direct flight away from Africa, thanks to Ethiopian B777-200 LR, the world’s longest range commercial aircraft, unique capabilities. At the ceremony, Mr. Tewelde Gebremariam, CEO of Ethiopian, said “From now on, passengers between Canada and Africa, whether they travel for business or leisure, will be relieved from the hassles of additional requirements of transit visa, security inspection, change of aircraft and long transit waiting time and enjoy our direct flights.” Passengers travelling from



major Canadian and US cities are now able to use fellow Star Alliance member carriers in North America such as Air Canada, United Airlines and US Airways, and find convenient connections, via Toronto, to 43 African cities served by Ethiopian through its Addis Ababa hub, while earning their miles on the flights. The introduction of this new service is incredibly important to Toronto. Regularly scheduled non-stop service from Toronto to the African continent marks a major milestone,” said Howard Eng, President and CEO of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority. “This service will help boost trade ties between Canada and Ethiopia, and will serve to connect the thousands of Ethiopians in the Toronto area with one of Africa’s largest markets with a population of more than 80 million people.” Ethiopian inaugural and consequent flights to Toronto are overbooked, which is a rare occurrence on new routes. “We are only given landing rights for two weekly flights. Considering the huge traffic that exists between Canada and Ethiopia/Africa, two weekly flights cannot adequately serve the travelling public,” added CEO Tewelde. “I hope we will be allowed more weekly landing rights in the coming few months so that we can serve the traveling public with better frequencies and more weekly capacity. Toronto’s addition to Ethiopian network is part of the airline’s route expansion plan set in its 15 year strategic roadmap, Vision 2025, of connecting Africa to the major economic, financial and industrial centers of the world. Ethiopian, the fastest growing airline in Africa, will continue to add more routes with flights including to Sao Paulo, the largest city in the southern hemisphere and Americas, planned before the end of 2012. (Ethiosports)

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# Barriers Faced By New African Immigrants

BC Centre for Safe Schools & Communities

**O**f the 280,636 people who choose to migrate to Canada, a proportion are from Africa (CIC, 2011). West and East Africans from Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritria, Congo, Uganda, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, as well as people from other countries, are often faced with a number of challenges as newcomers to Canada, such as housing,

language, credential recognition, health care, and education. Addressing these challenges in a comprehensive way would allow New Canadians to maximize their potential. For this reason, it is important for them to have immediate access to practical settlement services so they can successfully integrate and participate in their new community (Perry, 2011).

**Language:** Newcomers from Africa are faced with

language barriers. Many newcomers may choose to remain silent to avoid embarrassment and discrimination because of their accent (Blog at Word press, 2008, February). Offering assessment of language skills and having English speaking classes in communities would assist in transitioning new Canadians into their communities and may have the additional benefits of removing barriers to better employment opportunities (CIC, 2012). In addition, providing information in various languages, offering single points of contact, expanding services by French school boards, extending opportunities for immigrants to achieve a higher degree of language proficiency, including programs such as ESL (CIC, 2012), would support the arrival of francophone African immigrant families and youth.

#### Health Care

On average, newly arrived African immigrants tend to be healthier than native-born Canadians, although these levels may decline with time (CIC, 2012). This occurs because many immigrants face long waiting periods for a health care plan and some services are not accessible due to language barriers. This is especially the case when trying to find a family doctor who speaks the same language. A word-press.com blog (February 2008) outlined a study designed to understand problems related to the medical system. It concluded that 48% of doctors had interpreters, and that 70% of immigrants fully understood what their doctor's said. In addition, the cost of healthcare

plans can be prohibitive for newcomers (CIC, 2012). Given this, policies and practices supporting a more accessible medical system would be beneficial for integrating newcomers.

#### Education

Academic, economic, and psychological challenges affect children's resiliency and ability to cope as students (Kanu, 2008). A significant barrier facing black immigrant students in Canada is the systematic discrimination and differential treatment by administrators, teachers, and students who may inadvertently contribute to their lack of achievement (Codjoe, 2001). In a 2006 census, the educational outcomes of new African immigrant children were examined highlighting a distinct pattern related to school completion rates associated with age of arrival (Statistics Canada, 2011).

Children who migrated faced different challenges in attaining high school credentials stemming from sensitive periods in the acquisition of a second language and structure of the education system. The absence of an informed and targeted educational support system for immigrant children, together with forms of racism, appeared to contribute to social alienation and dramatic dropout rates in schools (Kanu, 2008). These challenges deprive children and youth from economic and social opportunities available to most Canadians (Kanu, 2008).

## ADEUS

### Ghanaians in Toronto Hold Memorial Service for Late President, Atta Mills



He was down to earth and accorded respect to everybody who came his way"

Ghanaian Presbyterian Church, 51 High Meadow Place Toronto, was the venue for the memorial service for the Late President John Evans Atta-Mills. The event was held on Sunday August 12, 2012 a day after the Late president was buried in Accra, Ghana. The Very Rev. De-Graft Semie Obiri the moderator for the service, offered the opening prayer followed by the reading of the profile of the Late President by Larry Kutuadu of Ghanaian-Canadian Association of Ontario after Eugene Kotey had given the purpose of gathering. Rev. Frank Adu of the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church delivered brief but powerful and solemn sermon.

He admonished the congregation to lead exemplary lives as death is inevitable, and that there is life after death. If we have Christ there is hope that we will live again. he added. Also a Christian should not mourn as if there is no hope. Our late president was a humble person and real believer. Rev. Adu, said, he the late president and that on his graduation from the seminary, he gave him a signed Bible as a present." He was down to earth and accorded respect to everybody who came his way" he concluded. Tributes were read by NPP Canada, NDC Canada, Ghanaian Canadian Association of Ontario representatives while the Consul-General of Ghana, Toronto, Mr. Kodjo Mawutor delivering the eulogy. (Ghanaweb)

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### Ghollywood: Martha Ankomah Voted Best Ghanaian Actress

**W**ell endowed, sexy and talented actress, Martha Ankomah, has emerged as Ghana's **Best Actress** according to a poll conducted by Ghana's leading entertainment radio station, Hitz 103.7 FM. The actress was chosen from a final selected group that included the likes of Jackie Appiah, Nadia Buari and Yvonne Nelson. Participants were polled in a Monthly Celebrity ratings by the station's drive time show Cruise Control on the social network, Facebook. The monthly polls sought to get the Facebook fans of the station to vote for their favorite showbiz personalities in different categories. The contest begun with a preliminary stage which required listeners to suggest which actress they thought was the best in Ghana. After several submissions, the top 5, Jackie Appiah, Nadia Buari, Martha Ankomah, Yvonne Okoro and Yvonne Nelson were selected and announced for a further voting to select the ultimate winner. The tight contest saw Martha Ankomah emerging winner with 15,295 votes, followed by Yvonne Okoro who had 13,958 votes. Jackie Appiah, Nadia Buari and Yvonne Nelson had 5,335, 4,887 and 2,753 votes respectively.

According to the station, even though it's the first edition, they are satisfied with the level participation and they believe that the prospects of future polls are high. (Wangoweb.com)