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travel to contain
yellow fever spread**



The ISS is more than 250 miles above the Earth

NASA opens space station to tourists

Private astronauts will be able to travel to the International Space Station starting next year, NASA has announced. The US space agency said the commercial spaceflights will last up to 30 days, and those taken into orbit will perform duties that "fall into approved commercial and marketing activities". The estimated cost of a round-trip is \$58m (£45,500,000), with each night's accommodation coming in at about \$35,000 (£27,500). If there is enough demand, NASA said there will be two privately funded trips a year. The astronauts will travel on a US spacecraft and will have to meet the agency's strict medical standards.



Located in the hinterland, Curdi was once a thriving village

Indian village that emerges once a year

A village in the western Indian state of Goa is only visible for one month in a year - for the remaining 11 months, it disappears under water. The village of Curdi was nestled between two hills in the Western Ghats with the Salaulim river a tributary of one of the major rivers in Goa running through it. It was once a thriving village in south-eastern Goa. In 1986, the village as its residents knew it ceased to exist. The state's first dam was constructed and, as a consequence, the village was completely submerged.

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Intertek renews contract with Uganda gov't for its pre-export verification

By Gloria Mbabazi

Intertek, a Total Quality Assurance provider to industries worldwide, has extended its contract with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) to continue to manage its Pre-Export Verification of Conformity to Standards Programme (PVoC) for exports to the country. The programme verifies the conformity of all regulated products in the respective exporting countries within a range of sectors, including: food, chemicals, electricals and electronics, textiles, health and beauty products, machinery, building products and toys. This ensures they comply with the applicable Ugandan technical regulations and quality standards, assuring Uganda's citizens of the quality and reliability of imported goods. Intertek has been supporting the programme since its inception in 2012. Thomas Kordick,

Global Business Line Leader, Government and Trade Services, Intertek said: "We are delighted to continue to work with UNBS in supporting them with the ongoing success of the PVoC, giving Uganda's consumers the assurance they need when buying imported goods and protecting them from sub-standard products.

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Exporters to Uganda are required to provide a Certificate of Conformity for Customs clearance in accordance with Government regulation.

PVoC's, giving exporters to East Africa a better service by taking advantage of the synergies of using one provider for their certification needs.

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and with our network of more than 1,000 laboratories and offices and over 44,000 people in more than 100 countries, delivers innovative and bespoke Assurance, Testing, Inspection and Certification solutions for our customers' operations and supply chains.

Emirates beat EU as leading market for regional exports

By Allan Kaggwa

United Arab Emirates remain the leading destination markets for commodities exported from East Africa hitting \$98 million in 2017, figures in a report titled State of Commodity Dependence 2019 compiled by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. These

exports surpassed by \$2 million, the \$96 million exports sent to the 28-nation European Union, even as some of the countries in the region clamour for renegotiations of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Europe. Burundi was the biggest exporter of commodities to the UAE at \$50 million, followed by Rwanda with \$19 million worth of



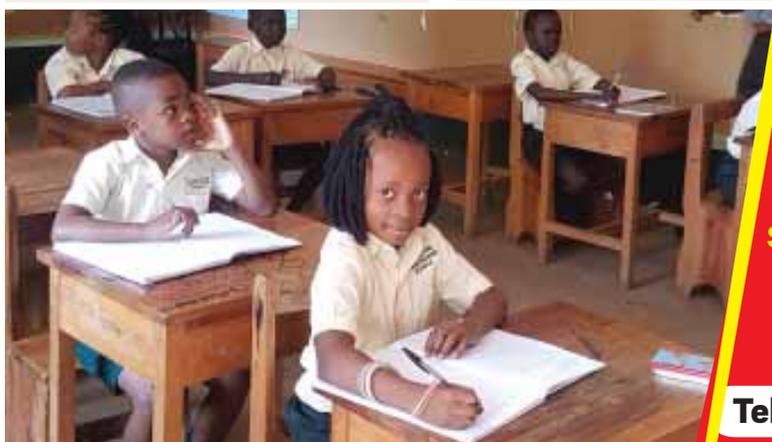
Rwanda grows, processes and exports some of the best coffee in the world. Their main exports this year, however, proved to be ores, metals and precious stones.

exports. Uganda and Tanzania each sold \$11 million, while the region's largest economy Kenya was last with \$7 million.

Burundi's exports were largely agricultural products worth \$48 million. The products consisted of coffee and coffee substitutes worth \$23 million, and Tea and Mate valued at \$13 million. Rwanda's exports consisted of ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold worth \$51 million followed by agricultural products worth \$31 million and fuels worth \$8 million. Rwanda's three leading commodity exports were ores and concentrates of base metals, n.e.s. worth \$20 million, non-monetary gold (excluding gold ores and concentrates worth \$29 million, and coffee and coffee substitutes valued at \$9 million.

Uganda's top exports were agricultural worth \$63 million, followed by ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold valued at \$15 million and fuels coming third at \$4 million. Tanzania's agriculture sector exported products worth \$45

million, followed by ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold exports valued at \$39 million and fuels of \$2 million. The three leading products exported were gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates worth \$29 million, followed by fruits and nuts (excluding oil nuts), fresh or dried worth \$12 million, unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse was third with exports worth \$6 million. Kenya exported agricultural products worth \$61 million, followed by ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold worth \$6 million and fuels worth \$5 million. Its three leading commodity exports were tea and maté worth \$24 million, followed by crude vegetable materials at \$13 million, and petroleum oils and bituminous minerals worth \$5 million. Kenya imported products worth \$24 million from India, the UAE, worth \$12 million. It also imported products worth \$9 million from Saudi Arabia, \$8 million from the EU and others valued at \$7 million from Indonesia.



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NOTE FROM CEO**Why Ugandans should invest more in education**

KING CEASOR AUGUSTUS MULENGA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
LEADING SOCIETY TRANSFORMATION

Investing in education would improve enrollment and the quality of learning in Ugandan schools, raising the human capital necessary to sustain productivity and economic growth. The report, "Economic Development and Human Capital in Uganda: A Case for Investing More in Education," shows Uganda's current budget expenditure on education is among lowest in the region. During last five years, education expenditure as a share of the national budget was declining in Uganda reaching 10% in 2017/18 while average for Sub-Saharan Africa is 16% and has been steadily increasing over the same period. Education remains a cornerstone of success and is critical for attaining the knowledge and skills necessary for one to find a job or get into self-employment. As the job market becomes more technology-driven and disruptive, requiring high levels of social and life skills, education is shifting to keep up with the changing world of work, and Uganda must keep up as well. A World Bank study found that in Africa, each year of schooling raises average earnings by 11.3% for males and 14.5% for females. Attending pre-school for one year also enhances cognitive skills during early childhood, improves academic skills during elementary school, and increases earnings by 5%. Significant additional public investments are required for Uganda to achieve educational outcomes comparable to the neighboring countries. Such investments need to be made in a sustainable and efficient manner with strong focus on resolving key stumbling blocks for education development. The report therefore, proposes a three pronged strategy for Uganda to improve its HCI by 2025. Improving the quality and completion rate of primary education, expanding access to secondary education, while improving its quality, equity and efficiency, and devising ways to sustainably finance such efforts. These actions will raise efficiency of public spending, receive better value for money from the private sector and achieve better educational results, according to the report, and are crucial to reducing poverty, boosting shared prosperity and economic growth as Uganda enters a new phase of economic development.

Kadaga to intervene in HIV/AIDS funding gap

By Gloria Mbabazi

The fight against HIV/AIDS may well get a financial boost following a pledge by the Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga to intervene. In a meeting with officials from the Uganda Aids Commission led by Chairperson Dr Eddie Mukoyo on Friday, 7 June 2019, Kadaga said there has been a noticeable drop in the public awareness campaigns against the scourge. "I have not got a satisfactory explanation from the Ministry of Finance when we resume, I am going to put the Finance Minister to task to explain why they are not doing much to raise funds," said Kadaga. Kadaga asked the Commission to screen Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working against HIV/AIDS, who she says are discriminatory and money inclined. "The treatment of HIV has become a business [by some NGOs] when you go to check on output, it is not there this kind of arrangement disadvantages some parts of the country," she said, in relation to how some NGOs pick out which parts of the country they can operate in. She said the Commission has to bank on religious institutions to ensure



Kadaga has asked the Commission to screen NGOs working against HIV/AIDS

messages are disseminated to raise awareness against HIV/AIDS. "I think as a country, we have lost the momentum it is a long time since I last heard the adverts and jingles on radio stations," she said.

Dr Mukoyo said the Commission had lined up several action points but are cash-strapped. He feared that the sensitisation drive, which is geared at having an HIV free generation by 2030, could be negatively impacted. "Our budget for the next financial year is Shs 25 billion. Unfortunately, we got Shs 8.7 billion, which cannot fund

our strategic plan," said Dr Mukoyo. Kadaga said whereas the Commission has been doing well, they should give special attention to minority groups and fishing communities, which face the highest risk of infection. "I want to know what you are doing about small communities like the Batwa. I also want to know whether you have a special arrangement for fishing communities," she said. The Commission's Director General, Dr Nelson Musoba, said: "I believe they are at a disadvantage we will take interest and compile a report which, we will deliver to you."

Gov't to introduce another poverty alleviation program

By Deo Kwizera

Government is set to introduce another poverty alleviation program to support development and wealth creation among Ugandan citizens, President Museveni has revealed. Museveni made

the remarks on Sunday while delivering his speech during the 30th Heroes Day commemorations held at Kasanje War Memorial Grounds in Wakiso district. He noted that the new program is set to be unveiled during the national budget reading session on June 13. Musev-

eni explained that although there are many several other poverty alleviation programs running across the country, the new program will finally offer the magic bullet to get out of poverty. However, for that to happen, Museveni said Ugandans must stop being mere spectators in poverty alleviation efforts set up by his government. Museveni says that as Uganda remembers the heroes that brought peace, citizens must embrace the presence of peace to lift their own livelihood standards by engaging in wealth creation projects and utilize the development and infrastructure put in place by his government. Since when the National Resistance Movement (NRM) assumed power in 1986, the government has experimented and implemented a number of poverty alleviation programs including the rural farmers scheme, modernization of agriculture, poverty eradication plan and prosperity for all.



Museveni in Kisanje during Heroes Day celebrations



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Top Uganda Tech Companies gear up for the Tech Expo at the Africa Blockchain Conference 2019

By Gloria Mbabazi

Renown Uganda and Global tech companies will gather at the Kampala Serena Conference Center for a two-day tech expo that will coincide with the 2nd edition of the Africa Blockchain Conference on 3rd and 4th July. Organized by CryptoSavannah and the Blockchain Association of Uganda, working in collaboration with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, the tech expo will bring together developers, brands, marketers, technology providers, designers, innovators and tech evangelists looking to set the pace in the world of technology. Some of the Uganda companies set to participate in the tech expo will be showcasing the next generation of technology and innovation; Ubuntu group, Yo Uganda,

KLF Coin, Kwixy, Century Group, Huobi, giving them an opportunity to show off their work to consumers, investors, press and the public. Kwixy serves as a global-market 'digital mall' for on demand services, allows users to make quick and easy payments both locally and internationally, as well as giving them the opportunity to communicate with contacts, businesses. The app is available on Google Play and the Apple App store, the app allows use of various currencies and is available in over 30 countries. Yo Uganda Limited (Yo!) is an award winning technology solutions company based in Uganda that develops solutions to leverage various mobile platforms such as Mobile Money, SMS, USSD and IVR to deliver value to our customers. The company's solutions deliver signifi-

cant operational benefits to its customers such as increased efficiency in processes, reduced costs, accelerated growth and increased profitability. KLF Coin is a crypto currency built for everyone. KLF Coin originates from South Korea and is built on the Blockchain technology backed by KL Standard Finance. KLF Coin offers its users financial freedom to trade on a large network freely. "The tech expo will provide inspiration for many people as well as an education platform on how technology is evolving and how it can impact businesses for greater growth. As the conference focuses on preparing Africa for the 4th Industrial Revolution, we will also run the Africa 4.0 Tech Expo which will showcase an experiential virtual tour and practical demonstrations of 4IR technologies under one



CryptoSavannah Director Noah Baalesanvu

roof" said CryptoSavannah Director, Noah Baalesanvu. The Dome will be the centerpiece of the Tech Expo where visitors will experience IoT functioning within a smart home, the speed of 5G connectivity, the impact of artificial intelligence in our everyday lives, how drones and robotics

are changing the fields of agriculture and manufacturing, how augmented reality and virtual reality are changing healthcare, and the utility of autonomous vehicles in our lives, and much more. The tech expo is open to all members of the public with an entrance fee of UGX 15,000.



MTN Group launches Africa's first AI service for mobile money

By Gloria Mbabazi

MTN Group has launched Africa's first Mobile Money (MoMo) artificial intelligence service or "chatbot". The chatbot went live in Ivory Coast in May and will be rolled out across MTN's MoMo footprint in the next few months. The artificial intelligence mobile money "assistant" enables customers to engage with MTN's MoMo services, including payments, on various social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger, and via SMS. The service will also be included over

time, in MTN's own newly released advanced instant messaging service "Ayoba". The chatbot is an artificial intelligence guide that assists users to navigate MTN's MoMo services and provide other useful information. This innovation leverages messaging and artificial intelligence to drive customer engagement and enhance their MTN MoMo experience. Commenting on the launch, MTN Group President and CEO, Rob Shuter said, "We are passionate about bringing the power of our mobile money solutions to more than 60 million customers across Africa over the next few

years. Harnessing modern technologies like artificial intelligence can improve in scale, how MTN interacts with customers, enabling them to reach us anytime and anywhere, through a variety of channels including social networks and messaging applications. We can also harness the power of artificial intelligence to provide our customers with the right answers to their questions at the right time." Shuter added, "We are committed to improving financial inclusion with a range of solutions aimed at addressing the needs of various market segments.

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Uganda plans to restore old railway at \$205m

By ABCAfrica reporter

Uganda will invest \$205 million in restoring an old railway line linking Kampala to Malaba on the Kenyan border following delays in securing funding for the standard gauge railway. The upgraded meter gauge railway line is expected to boost monthly freight capacity to 120,000 metric tonnes from the current 20,000 tonnes by 2026, Stanley

Sendegeya, Uganda Railways Corporation's chief financial officer, said in an interview. "We keep turning down customers because with the little money from government, amounting to \$2 million annually, we can't handle much business," he said. "Customers opt to use trucks."

The SGR opened to passengers in May 2017, and to freight in January 2018. It is now uncertain whether Uganda's joint plan with

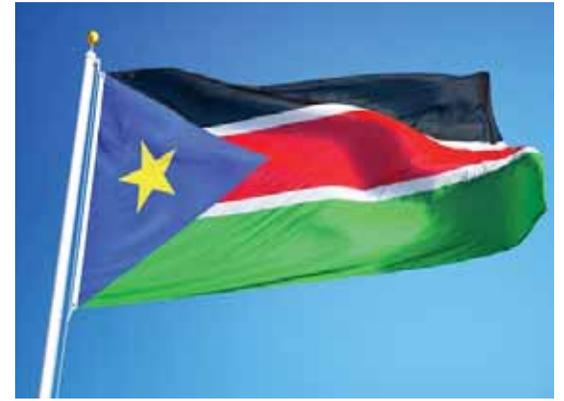
Kenya and Rwanda, conceived six years ago, to build a standard gauge railway (SGR) that connects East Africa's land-locked nations to the Kenyan port of Mombasa, will come to fruition.

In recent months, the SGR project has faced major financing challenges after the Chinese Exim-Bank, its major benefactor, delayed financing of the third and last segment of the Kenyan section from Naivasha in the heart of the Rift Valley to Malaba on the border with Uganda. Uganda has also experienced delays to the funding of the \$2.3 billion Kampala-Malaba segment of the standard-gauge railway that the Export-Import Bank of China was expected to foot 85 per cent of the budget. The Kampala section of the SGR project was to be built simultaneously with the third phase of the Kenyan section.

Uganda's latest decision came amid reports that Kenya revised downwards its reported earnings from the SGR between Mombasa and Nairobi. The latest figures raised concern over the profitability of the project, and the country's ability to repay the \$3.2bn it borrowed from China to build the railway. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics last month released data showing that the SGR generated sales of \$57 million in 2018, its first full year of operations, down nearly 45 per cent from the \$103 million figure that was reported in March, and far below the annual operating cost of \$120 million.



One of Rift Valley Railway's new trains at the Central Station in Kampala



South Sudan has a road network of over 20,000 kilometres, but only 200 kilometres is paved.

South Sudan inaugurates European Union-funded bridge in Warrap State

By Gloria Mbabazi

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the European Union (EU) officially handed over the completed Kwacjok Bridge to the Government of South Sudan that links Lunyaker, Kwacjok and Kangi regions for long separated by the Jur River. The 120-metre long bridge is part of a €20.3 million (US\$ 24.8 million) European Union-funded project to construct and maintain a total 100 kilometres of road infrastructure in Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal states. Built at a total cost of US\$6.5 million, the bridge will connect tens of thousands of people and is key not only for humanitarian operations but is expected to boost farm to market access and commercial activities in the region as well. "The project is more than just a bridge," says Rebecca Okwaci, Minister of Roads and Bridges. "This is an investment in various sectors of South Sudan including education, agriculture, health, transport and tourism." Construction, undertaken in phases since January 2018, consisted of a reinforced concrete substructure based on piled foundations, the supply and installation of the prefabricated bridges superstructure and development of seven kilometres of approach roads. Led by a construction firm under the supervision of WFP engineering teams, up to 80 local people were employed as workers, including electricians, welders, equipment operators, and drivers, creating much-needed job opportunities. "This bridge is part of a larger infrastructure investment programme which has been continuously supported by the European Union, since 2012, with a significant financial contribution of over €58 million," says EU Ambassador to South Sudan Dr Sinead Walsh.

Pope Francis intends to visit Iraq in 2020

By Deo Kwizera

Pope Francis said Monday he wants to visit Iraq as early as next year in spite of the security conditions. "An insistent thought accompanies me when I think about Iraq, where I want to go next year, so that it can look to the future through peaceful and shared participation in the construction of the common good," Francis told a Vatican audience.

The pope voiced hope that Iraq "does not return to the tensions which come from the never-ending conflicts between regional powers." Iraq has been a battleground for competing forces, including the jihadist Islamic State group, since the US-led ouster of president Saddam Hussein in 2003. Vatican number two Cardinal Pietro Parolin warned in January

that a papal trip to Iraq imposed a "minimum of conditions" that "are not currently met". Discussing terrorism, the Vatican secretary of state said the Iraqi authorities confirmed that "the roots of this phenomenon are still present".

Francis has made boosting ties between Christianity and Islam a cornerstone of his papacy. He has this year visited Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and Morocco. The pope has already visited several Muslim countries, including Turkey in 2014, Azerbaijan in 2016 and Egypt in 2017. Pope Francis moved quickly after his election in 2013 to make overtures to Jews and Muslims, inviting two old friends from Buenos Aires a rabbi and a Muslim professor on a trip to the Middle East where he condemned religious hatred.



Pope Francis

King Ceasor Chia Seeds



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No longer ruled by drug cartels, the wild west of Colombia is a bird watching paradise reborn

By ABCAfrica reporter

Bird spotting, is the Next Big Thing in Colombian tourism. For decades, swathes of Colombia were off limits due to occupation by drug cartels and guerrillas. In recent years particularly since 2016, when the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia signed a peace accord the country has grown appreciably safer. Tourism has swiftly opened up. The newly beaten track involves gasping at the ciudad perdida of Teyuna, sipping single-estate coffee in Quindío and getting dolled up at Barranquilla's carnival. With narcoterrorism vanquished, the macabre-minded can get politically incorrect highs from "Narcos" tourism, ticking off Pablo Escobar's grave and other sites. Colombia's tourist board has more wholesome aspirations. It believes the country's biggest untapped riches to be its naturally wild side particularly its bird life. Colombia's ambition is simple: to become the world's top birdwatching destination. The country has much ground to make up. South American

neighbours are well established in ecotourism offerings. Ecuador has its Galapagos, Peru its Andean treks, Brazil its jaguars. But no nation does birds better than Colombia. The country covers only one per cent of the planet's land mass yet harbours almost a fifth of its feathered species. Nearly 1,900 types live here more than any other country. Well over 100 officially dice with extinction, almost all wood wren included occurring nowhere else on earth. In a world that values rarity and prizes exclusivity, this is manna from avian heaven for the binocular-toting brigade. From first footfall in Bogotá, Colombia's capital, the message is clear. Trudging through the airport, there are floor-to-ceiling photographs of Colombia's most colourful birds humming birds, parrots and unfamiliar yet alluring creatures. "Colombia is already the world's top country for birds," says Gloria Lentijo of Audubon. "Now we're preparing to become the top destination for birdwatchers. The Central Andes Birding Trail is part of that." She reckons the time is right for

tourists to roam freely around Colombia. Juan Pablo Echeverri, who offers bird watching days at his coffee farm, Hacienda Venecia, agrees. "The ceasefire changed everything," he says. "For decades Colombians have been too scared to tour our own country. Now we're infected with the travel bug and so, it seems, are foreigners." The enthusiasm for exploration is manifest at the bird fair. A thousand people have gathered to listen to talks, exchange information and go birdwatching. Andrea Beltrán is typical of this fresh generation. "I've always loved nature," she explains, "but only recently has it become safe to travel far from home." Andrea believes bird tourism is the future. "I love showing people wildlife and guiding helps me get to know my country." To make the point, she takes us to Maracay, a gated community in the humid lowlands that offers urban comforts in a rural setting. But owner Juan Angel is not content with merely housing the rich in style. He wants to rehouse birds and other animals too. Juan is restoring rainforest throughout his property, planting native trees on long-defunct pasture. Next year, he plans to build an ecolodge. Juan has already identified his local experts. Twenty-year-old Ginna Cardozo grew up here. She has always loved wildlife and is now making it her career. She proudly points out Maracay's star turn, an apical flycatcher achunky bird with an unashamed mohican. Maracay may be the future of Colombian bird tourism but its present is Montezuma Ecolodge in Tatamá national park. The needle-billed rainbows zip between feeders and flowers. The birds' names are as marvelous as their looks. Purple-bibbed whitetips bicker with Andean emeralds, while collared incas collapse on to branches to see out their sugar rush. Some take shortcuts, flying



The rolling hills of Quindio, famed for its coffee plantations

above tourist's dining tables and under the legs. A tourmaline sunangel every bit as bejewelled as its name suggests buzz their faces. Michelle Tapasco the godmother of "avitourism" in Colombia looks on appreciatively. Her Montezuma lodge was the first to welcome wildlife enthusiasts. Her daughters have followed their mother to become guides. "We all work with birds," Michelle says.

"It makes me happy to share this place with other people and be part of its conservation." The intensity of feathered tone is captured in the creatures' names: gold-ringed tanagers barge past purplish-mantled; beryl-spangled tanagers argue with glistening-green. It's hard to know where to look let alone remember all the names you give up and simply enjoy the multicoloured party.



The rufous-tailed hummingbird: Nearly 1,900 types of bird live in Colombia



Colombia's ambition is simple- to become the world's top bird watching destination



King Ceasor Game Reserve

King Ceasor Game Reserve is situated near Lake Mburo National Park, 21km from Kagate trading centre along Mbarara - Masaka highway. The game reserve has a variety of animals that is impala, zebra, buffalo, hippo, kobs, elland among others. Lake Kachera is part of the game reserve, it is used for fishing, transportation and a water source for both the people and some animals.

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East Africa tightens travel to contain yellow fever spread

By Elizabeth Merab

It may soon be harder to cross the border into any East African country without a yellow fever certificate if a new policy to reintroduce the stringent measures of old is adopted. According to the new guidelines, East Africans planning to go to any of the six countries within the EAC will be required to show proof that they have been vaccinated against yellow fever 10 days before their actual travel date. This, therefore, means that anyone without a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate will be denied entry to either Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi or Sudan, explained Dr Michael Katende, the acting head of the health department at the East African Community Secretariat in Arusha. "We continue to have our surveillance system in place, and shall continue to insist on the yellow fever certificate especially if you are coming from a country which has been known to have few outbreaks," said Dr Katende. The request for the certificates and insistence on using the vaccination is for protection, Dr Katende said, was prompted by the recent increased in outbreaks in the region. "We are also alive to the fact that by virtue of the EAC region bordering DRC, a country with a huge forest cover and biodiversity, we need to heighten our surveillance," he said. Yellow fever is a viral infection spread by a type of mosquito. The infection is most common in Africa and South America, affecting travellers to and residents of those areas. Two weeks ago, Ugandan Health Ministry declared a yellow fever outbreak after laboratory test confirmed cases were reported from Koboko and Masaka districts, located in the northern and central regions of the country, according to a bulletin from the WHO African regional office. Officials identified two cases of yellow fever in March, when routine surveillance showed the virus in an 80-year-old woman and a 10-year-old girl, neither of whom had been vaccinated against it. "On May 14, the Ministry



East Africans planning to go to any of the six countries within the EAC will be required to show proof that they have been vaccinated against yellow fever

of Health notified WHO of a yellow fever outbreak in the Koboko and Masaka districts located in the Northern and Central region of the country respectively. The outbreak was declared in-country on May 6 following laboratory confirmations from the regional yellow fever reference laboratory, the Uganda Virus Research Institute," says the WHO status report. In mild cases, yellow fever causes a fever, headache, nausea and vomiting. But it can become more serious, causing heart, liver and kidney problems along with bleeding (haemorrhaging). Up to 50 per cent of people with the more severe form of yellow fever die of the disease. Although there is no specific treatment for yellow fever, getting vaccinated before travelling to an area in which the virus is known to exist can protect you from the disease. Rapid response teams were sent to the villages of both patients and found an additional seven cases of yellow

fever, and a "substantial population of unvaccinated individuals due to immigration and missing the yellow fever reactive vaccination campaign, which was conducted in 2016." "Although the occurrences are on and off, we still have outbreaks of the disease. We already have enough outbreaks within East Africa, prompting us to maintain their surveillance," added Dr Katende. The region has been on high alert since 2016 when there was an outbreak in Angola. Last year, the disease seemed to get inches closer after the deadly mosquito-borne disease killed 10 people in southwestern Ethiopia forcing the World Health Organisation to release more than a million doses of yellow fever vaccine from its emergency stockpile. In Africa, Tanzania and South Africa require a valid yellow fever certificate from all citizens and non-citizens (over one year of age) travelling from a yellow fever risk country.

In South Africa, if a traveller is unable to produce a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate at the point of entry, entry is denied and the traveller is placed under quarantine until they

are vaccinated. In East Africa, only Tanzania demands proof of vaccination against yellow fever from visitors upon arrival at the airport. Uganda, however, tightened its rules in 2016 following a WHO recommendation that the country review its yellow fever vaccination policy, and that people from high-risk countries show proof of vaccination. Kenya followed suit by putting the country on high alert. Vaccination certificates are routinely checked at points of entry for travellers arriving from countries designated as high risk for yellow fever transmission. Persons who have been in transit exceeding 12 hours through the airport of a country with high risk of yellow fever transmission are also required to produce proof of vaccination upon arrival. Travellers with an exemption certificate due to medical reasons will be allowed entry, but will be placed under quarantine and/or will be required to report any fever or other symptoms to health authorities. The WHO guidelines require countries at risk of yellow fever to obtain vaccination certificates from individuals travelling from areas determined by the WHO to be at risk; it also recommends disinfecting aircraft, ships, tyre-casing consignments and other modes of transportation coming from a risk area.



It may soon be harder to cross the border into any East African country without a yellow fever certificate



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