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Uganda Becomes First Country in Africa to Meet WHO Goal of Tackling Hepatitis B. **page 7**

The Cranes Make Nation Proud with Spirited Performances



Uganda cranes players Denis Onyango, Khalid Aucho, Taddeo Lwanga, Hassan Wasswa and staff celebrating victory against DR Congo (File photo).....read page 2



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**Standard Chartered
accelerates momentum
of its digital strategy
across Africa**



This illustration shows NASA's Dragonfly rotorcraft-lander approaching a site on Saturn's exotic moon, Titan.

NASA's new mission, Dragonfly, will explore Saturn's moon Titan

NASA announced the latest mission in its New Frontiers program, called Dragonfly, which will explore Saturn's largest moon, Titan. It's the only moon in our solar system that has an atmosphere. Before it ended in 2017, the Cassini mission flew by Titan while studying Saturn. The data provided by the Huygens probe, which was part of the Cassini mission, suggested that Titan was the perfect candidate for further exploration. "It's the first drone lander and it can fly over 100 miles through Titan's thick atmosphere," said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine in a statement.



"Titan is most comparable to early Earth. Dragonfly's instruments will help evaluate organic chemistry and the chemical signatures of past or present life. We will launch Dragonfly to explore the frontiers of human knowledge for the benefit of all humanity." The New Frontiers program has also included the Juno mission to Jupiter, the New Horizons probe that visited Pluto in 2015 and distant Kuiper Belt Object Ultima Thule on January 1.

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Uganda Researchers Turn to Fish By-Products for Better Nutrition

By Gloria Mbabazi

A collaborative team of researchers have launched a project that seeks to increase the consumption of small fish and fish by-products in the country.

Dubbed 'harnessing dietary nutrients of under-utilised fish and fish processing by-products to reduce micro-nutrients deficiencies in Uganda', researchers from Makerere University, National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI), McGill University, Canada and some private sector players seek to use fish to tame malnutrition estimated at 53 per cent among children. "Fish is a key source of micro-nutrients. Despite this, [big] fish stocks are on the decline but small fish are abundant," Dr Jackson Efitre, a senior researcher from Makerere University and principal researcher of the project, said last week in Kampala. He said the decline in big fish species such as the Nile Perch, tilapia, among others, is attributed to the increased fish exports, poor fishing methods and poor post-harvest

handling methods. Researchers are now turning to small species such as miziri and ragogi, mainly in Lake Albert, mukene in Lake Victoria, Kyoga and Nabugabo and frames of processed big fish species to come up with nutritious food products to address malnutrition. Mr Philip Borel, a member of the Uganda Fish Processors and Exporters Association, estimated that factories produce up to 17,000 tonnes of fish by-products such as heads and frames, which are exported mainly to the DR Congo.

Dr Anthony Taabu Munyaho, the director of NaFIRRI, said the project, funded by Cultivate Africa's Future Fund programme and International Development Research Centre at Can\$2.5m (about Shs7b), is timely. Dr Munyaho said the three-year project, will help researchers know the small fish stocks in the said three lakes, carry out research on fish nutritional value, market fish products and also come up with best models to sustainably manage small fish stocks. "We want to get the value and quantity in the lakes and then we come up with the best



Researchers have launched a project that seeks to increase the consumption of small fish and fish by-products in the country

models of managing fish stocks," he said. Dr Esther Babirekere, from Mulago hospital's Mwana Mugimu nutrition section, applauded the project, saying if well implemented, it will help mothers and their children to get nutrients filled foods. "Fish contains nutrients such as zinc, calcium good for the development of the baby," she said

Statistics. Finance Minister Matia Kasajja during the budget speech two weeks ago said 53 per cent of Ugandan children under five years "are malnourished and hence anaemic, and 29 per cent of them are stunted or wasted" "Many women of reproductive age are also malnourished, with 32 per cent of them being anaemic," he said.

The Cranes Make Nation Proud with Spirited Performances

By Shafik Kiyaga

The high fist pump into the air at the final whistle of the Uganda vs Zimbabwe game at the Cairo international stadium last week showed

how much a point picked up meant to the Uganda Cranes and specifically head coach Sebastien Desabre. Going into the tournament, few goals gave Uganda a chance of producing the kind of performances



Uganda Cranes Players celebrate a goal against DR Congo

they have had in Egypt with many believing that the best they did was picking up a single point and that was against fellow minnows Zimbabwe. Two games into the tournament, the Cranes beat up DR Congo in their opening game, and picked up a morale boosting draw against Zimbabwe scoring three goals in the process and conceding just once. And no man can be happier than Desabre about his team's new found level of performance. In 2017, when the Cranes ended a 39-year-old wait to return to the top level of African football and went on to be voted as the African team of the year, they exited the AFCON tournament in Gabon with their heads low as they had picked up just a single point scoring just a single goal. The argument could be that Uganda Cranes were handed a harder draw in 2017 than this time round. But the Cranes have shown character,

zeal, belief and mental strength in both their games thus far. For example, Against Congo they had to dig deeper, find the belief against all odds and assert their authority on the game for the 2-0 win while against Zimbabwe, with their backs against the wall for most of the game, they still had to show character and zeal to hold on for the crucial point. "We played under big pressure. I wished we could have been more organized but I'm proud of my players. It is still a positive result and I am confident we can progress." Was Desabre's assessment of his team. There are four slots available at the round of 16 for four of the best third placed teams in all the six groups. The last time Uganda made it out of the group stages, they made it to the finals before losing to Ghana. It is still a long way to the finals but with the current points tally, the Cranes are all but through to the next round.

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NOTE FROM CEO

Benefits of rural electrification



KING CEASOR AUGUSTUS MULENGA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
LEADING SOCIETY TRANSFORMATION

As Government embarks to ensure all rural areas access electricity, its important rural people take advantage of this to boost their income. Apart from electricity serving as a source of light during the night hours, it can also serve as a source of boosting small scale business ventures. These include salons for women and men, welding activities, refrigeration of soft-drinks, milk and perishable foodstuffs among others. Thus, rural electrification has enormous advantages; in as far as uplifting the economy of a nation is concerned. Electrification of the rural areas will curb the rampant rural to urban migration of youth in search of white color jobs. In addition, many investors will prefer to take their Agro processing and value addition industries to rural areas, due to abundance of arable land, thereby creating employment for the rural unemployed youth. Rural electrification also helps to decongest urban cities of vehicles and people in search of social amenities; such as electricity to operate their various businesses. As a result, the urban cities will be free of pollution hazards brought about by industrial and vehicle fumes. It's important for Ugandans to embrace rural electrification, because majority Ugandans are based in the rural areas and should be utilized to engage in productive ventures instead of being idle.

Farmer-to Farmer Digital Network Sets Foot in Tanzania

By Allan Kaggwa

A farmer-to farmer digital network, has expanded operations in Tanzania after helping more than 1.5 million small scale farmers in Kenya and Uganda to share information and knowledge about farming activities. The General Manager of the digital network platform, Nicholas John said in Dar es Salaam last week that they would officially launch their operations in Tanzania after a successful brief period of trials in Iringa, Njombe and Songwe regions. "We got a very good response from the government. We were insisted on sustainability. The minister (of Agriculture, Japhet Hasunga) was very keen on our modal," he said at a meeting with editors of mainstream media. The General Manager said they expected to expand to other regions after the launching event and were optimistic of registering between 40,000 and 50,000 new members every month in Tanzania. "We have set a month target of between 40,000 and 50,000 new members and we hope by the end of the year we will have 300,000 farmers in our ecosystem," he said. We farm vision is to create an ecosystem for global smallholder agriculture, connecting farmers to the information,



Farmers digital network sets foot in Tanzania

agricultural inputs, goods, services and ultimately markets they want, he said. Wefarm has more than 1.5 farmers in Kenya and Uganda who connect with one another to solve problems, share ideas and spread innovation, through SMS without needing an internet connection. Aimed at small-scale farmers, Wefarm is a USSD enabled platform that allows growers to share information for free, in their own language and without any internet. Its network allows farmers to ask one another agriculture related question and share ideas. Wefarm Head of Field in Tanzania, Cyrila Antony said farmers share more than 40,000 questions and answers every day in four languages and

the questions takes a maximum of 13 minutes to get an answer. "Utilising the latest machine learning technology, Wefarm's service gets bespoke, crowd sourced information to help farmers increase yields, gain insight into pricing, tackle the effects of climate change, source the best quality seeds, fertilizer and loans and diversify their agricultural interests," she said. Since its founding in 2015, Wefarm has been named one of Africa's Most Innovative Companies by Fast Company and has won Google's Impact Challenge Award, TechCrunch's Europas Tech for Good Award and the European Union Commission's Ideas from Europe prize, among others.

SEACOM to explore fibre opportunity in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania

By Gloria Mbabazi

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) has awarded a grant to Pan-African service provider, SEACOM for a feasibility study to evaluate the market for fiber telecommunications services in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda. The grant will provide SEACOM with

analysis to determine where to expand infrastructure in the target countries and recommend related investments, such as fiber optic cabling and network equipment to increase and improve access to services across East Africa. The project will provide affordable, reliable high-speed connections across East Africa, enhancing business growth

and spurring innovation and productivity in the region. "USTDA is pleased to build on its partnership with SEACOM to support this important project," said Director (Acting) Thomas R. Hardy. "We are responding to a growing demand for affordable and reliable high-speed connections in the region and in a way that expands opportunities for U.S. companies." "USTDA has been a valued partner to SEACOM since its early beginnings and has been fundamental to the launch and growth of the Internet in Africa. Their continued support through this project will enable critical research on enterprise markets in East Africa, and produce related investment recommendations. SEACOM looks forward to continuing this partnership and the project's success," said Suveer Ramdhani, Chief Strategy Officer of SEACOM.



SEACOM looks forward to continuing this partnership and the project's success



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iPhone designer Jony Ive to leave Apple

By ABCAfrica reporter

Sir Jonathan, designer of the iMac, iPod and iPhone, leaves later this year to start a creative firm, LoveFrom, with Apple as its first client. "This just seems like a natural and gentle time to make this change," he said. Apple boss Tim Cook said his "role in Apple's revival cannot be overstated". But the departure comes at a time of wider change at the tech giant. Retail chief Angela Ahrendts left in April and investors have been worried about falling iPhone sales.

Sir Jonathan said in a statement: "After nearly 30 years and countless projects, I am most proud of the lasting work we have done to create a design team, process and culture at Apple that is without peer." Little is known about LoveFrom, but it will be based in California and there are re-

ports one area of focus will be wearable technology. News of his departure broke in an exclusive interview in the Financial Times.

In the article, Sir Jonathan said Marc Newson, a friend and collaborator at Apple, would also join the new firm. There would also be "a collection of creatives" spanning several different disciplines beyond design, he said. He became head of Apple's design studio in 1996, when the company was in poor financial health and cutting jobs. The turnaround began with Sir Jonathan's iMac in 1998, and the iPod in 2001. Apple's founder, the late Steve Jobs, once said of Sir Jonathan: "If I had a spiritual partner at Apple, it's Jony." One of Sir Jonathan's most recent projects was finishing Apple's new corporate headquarters, Apple Park, an ultra-modern complex designed in

partnership with British architects Foster +Partners. Ben Bajarin, analyst with Creative Strategies, said: "It's the most significant departure of somebody who was a core part of the growth story" under Mr Jobs. Sir Jonathan, knighted by the Queen in 2012, will not have an immediate successor. Since 2012, he has overseen design for both hardware and software at Apple, roles that had previously been separate.

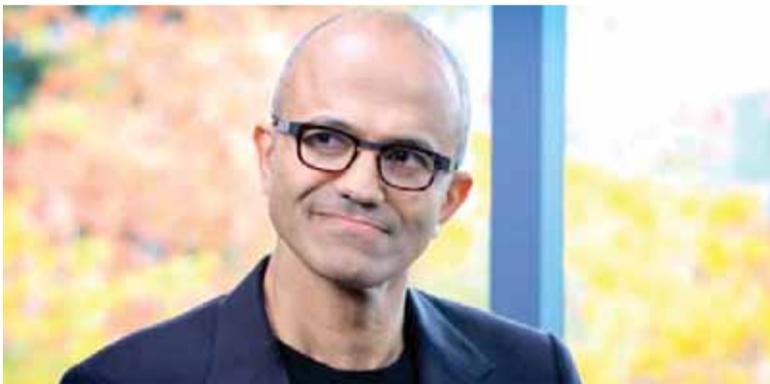
The departure of the "thoughtful" Sir Jonathan for his own company will be a loss for Apple, which is already facing challenges. From the "ground-breaking" iMac to Apple's ambitious new Apple Park campus, he has helped to shape one of the world's most successful companies. "Jony is a singular figure in the design world and his role in Apple's revival cannot be overstated," said Tim Cook,



Sir Jony Ive, the Briton who over two decades helped turn Apple into the world's most valuable company, is leaving to set up his own venture.

Apple's chief executive. Apple said on Thursday the roles would again be split, with design team leaders Evans Hankey taking over as vice-president of industrial design and Alan Dye becoming vice-president of human interface design. Ms Hankey is the first

woman to lead Apple's industrial design team. Steve Jobs and Jony Ive, the Lennon and McCartney of Apple - it's impossible to see the company becoming what it is today without the most creative partnership in recent business history.



Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft

By Jordan Novet

In late 2017, Microsoft invested in an experimental health-care company called Adaptive Biotechnolo-

gies, hoping to put its advanced cloud technology to work in life sciences while also making money as a significant shareholder. As of Thursday, Microsoft appears poised to do

Microsoft is cashing in on the biggest biotech IPO of 2019

both. Adaptive, which is developing what it calls an "immune medicine platform" to change how we treat various diseases, soared in its public market debut. The stock doubled during intra-day trading on Thursday, closing at \$40.30 after the company sold shares Wednesday night at \$20 a piece.

The pop means the value of Microsoft's \$45 million investment at \$10.67 a share has almost quadrupled. As the world's most valuable public company, with a market cap over \$1 trillion, Microsoft has many ways to generate profits. Start-up investments represent one avenue, though the software maker has been

far less active than many other large tech companies like Alphabet, which has multiple venture groups for early and late-stage deals, and Sales force, which has been a big investor in cloud software and recently launched specific funds in Canada, Japan and Australia. With Adaptive, there's much more at stake for Microsoft than just an investment in the biggest biotech IPO of 2019 so far. Microsoft's Azure unit, which is second in the cloud infrastructure market behind Amazon Web Services, gets to test out its artificial intelligence tools in an industry that promises to be highly lucrative in the coming years as more emerging health-relat-

ed companies turn to software in the cloud for heavy workloads. According to Orbis Research, the global immunology market will grow to \$74.1 billion in 2022 from \$57.7 billion in 2015. Adaptive has agreed to spend a minimum of \$12 million on Azure over seven years, according to its IPO prospectus, and Microsoft is the exclusive provider of cloud services during that period. "We believe deeply in the potential for this partnership with Adaptive and have made a substantial financial investment in the company," Peter Lee, Microsoft's corporate vice president of AI and research, wrote in a blog post when the agreement was announced.

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Standard Chartered accelerates momentum of its digital strategy across Africa

By Gloria Mbabazi

Standard Chartered has announced launch of social banking solution for Africa in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana and Tanzania. Digital banks are now available in Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe as part of the Bank's digital transformation strategy for Africa. Standard Chartered (SC.com) last week announced yet another multi-market launch of its digital bank in Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe as part of its digital transformation strategy in Africa. The next wave of digital-only banks follows launches in Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana and Kenya in the first quarter of the year and Côte d'Ivoire in 2018. The expansion in Africa comes at a time when the continent, with a growing economy and population, is

demanding wider access to digital services. The digital banking solution provides Standard Chartered customers across the eight markets with affordable, convenient, fast and easily accessible banking services. The first-of-its-kind digital bank in Botswana and Zambia offers a truly end-to-end digital account opening experience which has been developed following client feedback to offer a convenient platform to service all their banking needs. Commenting on the launch, Sunil Kaushal, Regional CEO, Africa and Middle East said: "This is a significant achievement for the Bank having now launched digital banks in 8 markets in 15 months of our initial launch in Côte d'Ivoire. The growing population of Africa is demanding faster and more convenient banking and

it has been very rewarding to witness increased acceptance and a growing demand for our digital products across the continent. We have an exciting pipeline of product launches on this platform which will position us as the premier digital bank in our markets of choice." By digitalising the entire banking experience, customers will be able to enjoy simple, secure, and affordable banking anytime, anywhere.

Active customers of the digital bank will also be eligible to receive loyalty benefits and promotions. In just under 15 months, Standard Chartered has launched its digital banks in eight markets across Sub-Saharan Africa with impressive results. In Côte d'Ivoire the digital bank has exceeded initial expectations with 18,000 new account openings, in Uganda the Bank has seen an eight-fold increase in new account openings, whilst in Tanzania the Bank has signed up more new customers since launching in March this year than in the whole of 2018.

The Bank is expected to continue its digital expansion in African markets with another launch planned in September for Nigeria. In its continued efforts to meet the rising demands of Africa's young and digitally-savvy population, Standard Chartered has also launched SC Keyboard, which allows customers to access a variety of financial services from within any social or messaging platform without having to open the Banking app.



Standard Chartered has announced launch of social banking solution for Africa



Libyan architect Seham Saleh makes drawings to sell through the internet

Libyan women set up businesses against the odds

By ABCAfrica reporter

When inflation began eating into her state-paid salary Libyan architect and assistant professor Seham Saleh started selling drawings over the internet to help pay the bills. She joins a growing number of Libyan women launching start-ups in the conservative Arab country, where many still think a woman's place is in the home but where the strains on personal and family income following years' of political chaos have forced women to look for more work. Libya has only a tiny private sector, which means there is a market for locally-produced goods. The economy is dominated by the state, which employs most adults under a structure set up by Muammar Gaddafi, who was toppled in 2011. Men are the traditional breadwinners, although around 30 percent of women were in the labor force as of 2015, according to a U.N. report. "I cannot live on my assistant professor salary of 1,000 dinars (\$256) even if it is paid out," said Saleh. She has been selling drawings of people in Libyan dress or book marks she created on a computer. "Thank God people wanted to buy the products," she said. She also does freelance work as an architect. Once one of the richest countries in the region, the chaos and civil war that ensued after the fall of Gaddafi has seen Libya's living standards erode. Little is now produced in Libya other than oil, even milk is imported from Europe. Cumulative inflation over the last four years has seen real incomes lose more than half of their purchasing power, and the government effectively devalued the dinar last September. A cash crisis means public servants often do not get their salaries paid out in full. Lenders have no cash deposits as the rich prefer to hold their cash themselves, rather than deposit it in a bank. Women rarely had jobs outside of sectors such as teaching, although the need for more family income has changed the situation, said Jasmin Khoja, head of a women's business support venture.

Rwanda scoops five awards at tea forum in Kampala

By Gloria Mbabazi

Rwandan companies have won five awards at a regional meeting of tea stakeholders underway in Kampala, Uganda. Rwanda also produced the winner of the overall award at the 4th African Tea Convention on Wednesday. The firms including Rwanda Mountain Tea (overall winner), Kitabi BP 1, Nyabihu PF1, Gisovu PD, and Kitabi D1. The companies were recognised for their "best quality tea" after shinning in a recent East African team

competition. The convention was organised by the East African Tea Traders Association and attracted participants from mainly across Africa. The meeting was opened by Uganda Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda last week on Wednesday. Rwandan tea is traded in Mombasa, Kenya and has continuously outperformed other regional teas during auctions, fetching as high as US\$5 a kilogramme. Participants at the forum discussed developments in the tea value chain, including factors affecting tea farmers and other key players.



Rwandan tea companies won awards in Kampala, Uganda last week.

King Ceasor Chia Seeds



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African Tourism: What it takes for a woman to make it

By Apollinari Tairo

Zainab Ansell stole her way to become the leading woman tourism entrepreneur in the male-dominated tourism industry in Tanzania and Africa. She is among the few women business leaders in tourism now, managing and running the biggest tour company in Tanzania. Working in her office at Zara Tours in Moshi town at the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, Zainab is proud to see her company ranking top on the list among local tourist companies established by Tanzanian citizens. Her company is the biggest ground tourist handling company for Mount Kilimanjaro climbing expeditions, also with a chain of tourist hotels and wildlife lodges. Zainab Ansell has built one of the most successful tourism companies in Africa, and this inspiring woman has succeeded in building tourist business from scratch and has overcome many odds as a woman in Africa. Her success story started in 1986 when she started her company after working as the Reservations and Sales officer for Air Tanzania Corporation (ATC), Tanzania's national airline. Narrating her success story, Zainab said that she was born in Hedaru in the Kilimanjaro region among a family of 12 children before moving to Moshi where she has been living. She had a dream to work as Air Hostess for the national airline before turning to ground tour operators and owner of a chain of hotels. "My dream was to become an Air Hostess for Air Tanzania Corporation, [and] then [I] got that job. My father was not in favor of my choice, but later I became Reservations and Sales Officer, the job I did for eight years," she said. "I had a passion. From a young age, I have always had a great sense of adventure. The opportunity to explore the world' learn and share about just how dynamic the world is life changing,"



Zainab Ansell

Zainab said. At the beginning of business, Zainab had to face challenges. She could not get business and had to operate with no profit for more than a year with no salaries for her staff. She struggled to get a license and accreditation by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and then the International Air Transport Association (IATA) for air ticket selling. "Getting the licenses and registration was not easy as the industry

was aggressive and male-dominated. It took me a whole year to be able to start operating. I started with a travel agency selling airline tickets as a non-IATA agent. "In 1986, I got my IATA registration marking the beginning of a promising era. I sold many airlines – KLM, Lufthansa to mention a few. However, within 3 years I started to see a decline in the business. I looked at the mountain and got inspired to sell it and safaris," she added. "One day I was taking

a cup of coffee, then saw the shining snows of Mount Kilimanjaro to come up with an idea to establish a tour company which is now Zara Tours for selling Mount Kilimanjaro climbing expeditions," she said. "Given the fact that technology was not as advanced, I relied on word of mouth to market my business. I would even go to bus stations to solicit clients. The clients I would get would often refer other clients. It is that drive to go the extra mile for my clients that earned me my reputation," Zainab said. There was no Internet nor modern communication services to support her business. She depended mostly on telex and telefax to communicate with clients and suppliers. "I feel humbled and excited to be able to shape people's adventures and contribute to various perspectives of global diversity by selling memorable experiences. I enjoy what I do, and I always look forward to creating unforgettable and exciting adventures for my clients," she added. From the beginning of her fortune, Zainab started her business from scratch as a travel agent in Northern Tanzania's tourist town of Moshi, selling air tickets for various airlines flying to Northern Tanzania. "I opened an office in Moshi, just selling tickets for the airlines, before coming up with an idea to establish a full-fledged tour company from scratch. It was a hard-going business in Moshi which is a highly male-dominated area in Tanzania," she said. Her company has evolved into Tanzania's largest Mount Kilimanjaro climbing outfitter and one of the largest safari operators in Northern Tanzania, the prime area for wildlife safaris in East Africa. The company is currently managing tourists hotels and tented camps, all located in the northern Tanzania tourist circuit, along with VIP trips, honeymoon and regular tours, airport transfer, city-to-city transfer, ground handling services, as well as groups

and corporations from all over the world.

"Being a lady has never stopped me. I am grateful to God for a very supportive family. I am very strong-willed, always ready to work hard and was determined to overlook the glass ceiling set by gender to realize my dreams," she said. While the setbacks were real and sometimes very challenging, it was her determination that always kept her afloat. In a male dominated industry, she sought to stand out as a hard-working woman. Over the years, she learned to embrace femininity as a competitive edge. Today, Zara is a one-stop shop for destination Tanzania, and the hotel launched in 2000, starting with just 3 cars, today the company has a fleet of over 70 four-wheel luxury safari vehicles and employs around 70 mountain guides and approximately 300 freelance porters who belong to their own associations. A significant number of guides and porters support their families and earn their livelihoods through working with her company. They are also provided with health insurance and helping them to open bank accounts to mention a few and capacity building training to equip them with better skills to serve the international class tourists. In 2009, Zara Charity was launched to give back to the community. During low tourism seasons, the company focuses on the charity through provision of free education to a marginalized community. About 90 Maasai children in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in Northern Tanzania are benefiting from the Zara Charity through free education. Zainab Ansell emerged last year among the top 100 women in Africa, honored for their excellence in tourism development on the continent during the Akwaaba African Travel Market in Nigeria. She received an award for Leaders, Pioneers, and Innovators in the Africa category.

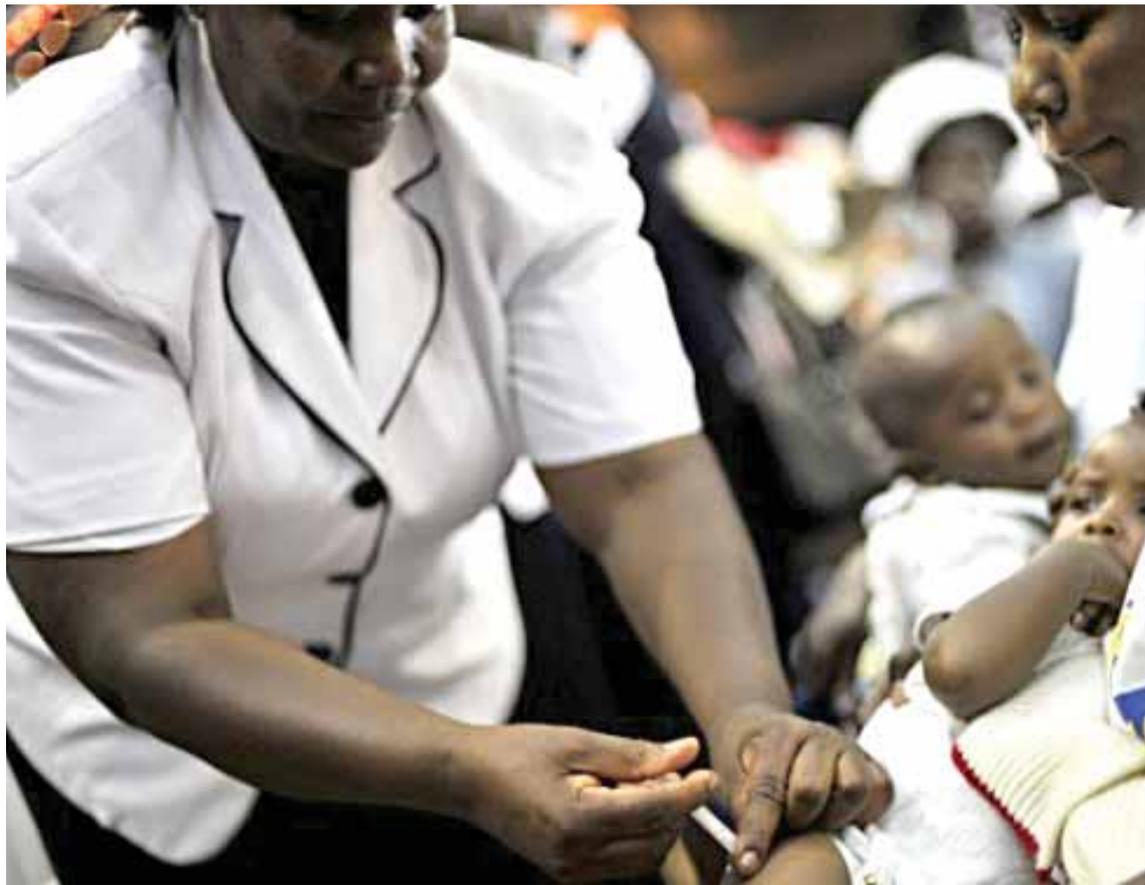
King Ceasor Game Reserve is situated near Lake Mbuoro National Park, 21km from Kagate trading centre along Mbarara - Masaka highway. The game reserve has a variety of animals that is impala, zebra, buffalo, hippo, kobs, elland among others. Lake Kachera is part of the game reserve, it is used for fishing,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

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Uganda Becomes First Country in Africa to Meet WHO Goal of Tackling Hepatitis B

By Gloria Mbabazi

Uganda is the first and only country in Africa to reach and surpass the World Health Organisation 2020 target of ensuring access, treatment and awareness creation of Hepatitis B, according to a new scorecard launched to track progress against the viral infection on the continent. WHO hopes that by 2020, some five million people will have received treatment for chronic Hepatitis B and that the number of new cases will have dropped to 30 per cent from those witnessed in 2015. Uganda has spent some \$3 million annually from 2015 on a free Hepatitis B screening programme and conducted a community mobilisation and sensitisation drive on the viral infection. More than four million people have been screened to date. "More than 30 per cent of the population who are infected with Hepatitis B are now aware of their status and can have access to free medical care, making Uganda the first country in Africa to surpass the 2020 target of 20 per cent," notes the WHO scorecard. Hepatitis B spreads through blood and bodily fluids including mother to child transmission. It attacks the liver and kills approximately 1.4 million people every year, across the globe, mostly through liver scarring (cirrhosis) and cancer. Hepatitis C, which also attacks the liver and has similar symptoms to Hepatitis B, usually spreads only through blood-to-blood contact. Kenya is among countries in Africa with a high prevalence of Hepatitis B. Uganda and Tanzania are among countries with more than 100,000 children with chronic Hepatitis B. Almost 50,000 children with chronic Hepatitis B virus (HBV) live in Kenya and Rwanda. Although most countries have Hepatitis B and C care at tertiary and specialist centres, eliminating the disease requires



WHO hopes that by 2020, some five million people will have received treatment for chronic Hepatitis B

a public health and decentralisation approach, the WHO notes. Uganda and Rwanda have made progress in this area. "Only Rwanda (Hepatitis C) and Uganda (Hepatitis B) have started free nationwide screening as a decentralised service, and are on track to reach the 2020 target for screening and community awareness," notes WHO. An increasing number of countries have small-scale demonstration projects or treatment access programmes with subsidised specific antiviral drugs for Hepatitis B or C. "You can live a full, dignified life with Hepatitis B, but the most important thing is prevention, especially vaccination in newborns. For adults, testing, linking to care, education and treatment as needed are

crucial as there is no cure, and treatment is often life long," said Kenneth Kabagambe, who founded Uganda's National Organisation for People Living with Hepatitis B in 2012. "Over the years, we've been working hard for more government support, and we're proud that Uganda is one of the first African nations to fund domestic action against Hepatitis B." He said that African nations must fund domestic efforts to prevent the spread of both Hepatitis B and C. "African governments must also swiftly start work on their own action plans at home, including awareness-raising, as you simply cannot prevent something you know nothing about," noted Kabagambe. Prof Olufunmi-layo Lesi, the Viral Hepatitis officer

for the WHO regional Office for Africa, said Uganda has a superb lesson to share, adding that "we support these important exchanges as they are helping to build evidence-based policies and promoting partnerships for more concerted action against viral Hepatitis across the region." Every year more than 200,000 people in Africa die from complications of viral Hepatitis B and C-related liver disease, including cirrhosis and liver cancer. Data shows that viral Hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV) affects more than 71 million people in sub-Saharan Africa. Hepatitis C affects 10 million people around the globe, while Hepatitis B affects more than 60 million people. Yet, only one in 10 infants in Africa

"Uganda has started free nationwide screening as a decentralised service, and are on track to reach the 2020 target for screening and community awareness," notes WHO

receives the Hepatitis B vaccine at birth, despite its low cost at less than \$0.20 per child. The scorecard the first to examine Hepatitis prevalence and response in the WHO African region, shows that only three of the 47 countries are on track to eliminate the disease that affects one in 15 people. "This analysis is the first to track each country in the region and to assess progress towards the goal of saving the lives of more than two million Africans who may develop progressive Hepatitis B or C liver disease in the next decade if countries fail to ramp up their efforts," said WHO regional director for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti. The scorecard provides vital information about the status of the regional Hepatitis response, measuring progress against the Framework for Action for the Prevention, Care and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis in the African Region (2016–2020). It was created as a guide for member states on the implementation of the Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis, which calls for the elimination of Hepatitis by 2030 (defined as a 90 per cent reduction in new cases and 65 per cent reduction in deaths).

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