



AFRICA'S HOPE FOR COVID-19 VACCINES ACCESS

• Global initiative seeks to raise US\$2 billion to help poor countries access vaccines



Noncommunicable diseases increase risk of dying from COVID-19 in Africa

page 3

COVID-19 genome sequencing laboratory network launches in Africa

page 4

Botswana's Lebanna nominated for Women's Choice Awards Africa

page 12



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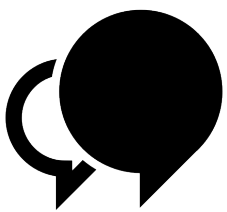
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Africa's hope for COVID-19 vaccines access

The global race to find effective COVID-19 vaccines is ongoing, but concerns have been raised that poor countries in Africa may not have access to the vaccines when they eventually get rolled out. This has prompted the World Health Organisation to start an initiative aimed at raising funding that will help poor countries acquire vaccines.

World Health Organisation Africa regional director Matshidiso Moeti has revealed that the global efforts to secure funding for the purchase of future COVID-19 vaccines for poor countries need to be stepped up. Matshidiso said in her weekly online address on Thursday that so far, the initiative has raised 700 million US dollars from international donors.

The money raised so far is less than half of the initial target of securing US\$ 2 billion seed funding from high-income donor countries, as well as private sector and philanthropists by the end of 2020.

"Up to today, what has been mobilised so far is \$700 million. So, there is a great deal of work to be done to diversify the possible sources of funding," Moeti said.

The initiative, which is coordinated by COVAX Facility, seeks to ensure vaccine access for both higher and middle-income countries which will self-finance their own participation, and lower-middle income and low-income countries which

will have their participation supported by the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC). COVAX is co-led by the GAVI Vaccine Alliance, the WHO and the CEPI Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. Its aim is to deliver 2 billion doses of effective, approved COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2021.

According to Moeti, so far only eight African countries have agreed to self-finance access to the vaccine, including South

Africa, Gabon, Namibia and Equatorial Guinea Moeti said.

"COVAX is a ground-breaking global initiative which will include African countries and ensure they are not left at the back of the queue for COVID-19 vaccines," Moeti has previously said.

"By reaching beyond the continent to work together with other governments and manufacturers on a global scale

and pooling buying power, countries can protect the people most vulnerable to the disease in Africa."

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said last month the continent had started to slowly "bend the curve" of COVID-19 infections as measures like mask-wearing and social distancing slow the spread of the pandemic.



Noncommunicable diseases increase risk of dying from COVID-19 in Africa

There is increasing evidence that Africans living with noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension and diabetes are more likely to suffer severe cases of COVID-19 and die.

In South Africa, which accounts for nearly half of all cases and deaths on the continent, 61% of the COVID-19 patients in hospitals had hypertension and 52% had diabetes. And 45% of people aged 60-69 who died from COVID-19 also had hypertension. In Kenya, around half of COVID-19 deaths occurred in people with NCDs, while in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, such patients accounted for 85% of all COVID-19 deaths. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) preliminary analysis of 14 countries in the African region, hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and asthma are the co-morbidities most associated with COVID-19 patients. These chronic conditions require continuous treatment, but as governments address the ongoing pandemic, health services for NCDs have been severely disrupted.

“Millions of Africans living with noncommunicable diseases are at greater risk of complications or dying from COVID-19,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. “So, it is very concerning to find that just when people with hypertension and other chronic conditions most need support, many are being left out in the cold.”

In a WHO survey of 41 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, 22% of countries reported that only emergency inpatient care for chronic conditions is available, while 37% of countries reported that outpatient care is limited. Hypertension management has been disrupted in 59% of the countries, while diabetic complications management has been disrupted in 56% of the countries.

The closure or slowdown in services is likely to further aggravate the underlying conditions of patients, leading to more severe cases of NCDs. It also exacerbates the susceptibility of people living with chronic conditions to COVID-19. WHO is working with countries to identify the challenges associated with providing essential services for people with NCDs and is supporting governments to implement strategies to increase service availability. WHO has assisted Member States in devising alternative approaches to providing health services, including increased use of telemedicine.

Additionally, WHO has helped restore screenings for chronic conditions and has provided the basic equipment needed for diabetes and hypertension care in seven Member States. WHO is also working to increase public

knowledge about the strong link between chronic conditions and COVID-19. In moving forward, WHO recommends controlling the use of tobacco and alcohol because both increase the risk

of NCDs. It is also important to ensure quality primary care and referral systems to help people obtain the right treatment at the right time. There should also be a range of medicines and techniques available to support early diagnosis and treatment of NCDs. Even prior to the current pandemic, NCDs were a major health challenge, impacting a growing number of Africans. In 2015, NCDs killed 3.1 million

people in the African region up from 2.4 million in 2010.



2020 – The Year of Uncertainty!



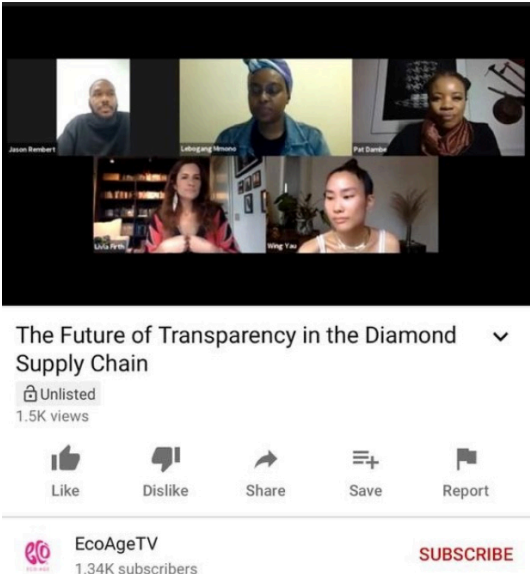
Amidst the global pandemic and the world economic downturn; Alumni of the Stanford Go-to-Market Program (GTM) have taken a stand and found this time to be an opportunity for them to put all learnings from the GTM Botswana bootcamp to action.

Lebogang Mmono – CEO of Just Ginger who was in the first Cohort of the Stanford program, a partnership between De Beers Group and Stanford Graduate School of Business in 2018, speaks about her business journey navigating through 2020.

In an interview with Lebo this week, she shared how difficult it has been for her company to flourish, as most of her

revenue streamed from events and bulk orders for corporate events. She has had to cut down on staff and do everything herself with just 3 people remaining.

Nonetheless, in this period, Lebo has come up with 3 new product lines of ginger. She now has multiple flavours available; such as blue citrus and pink chai, she has an alcoholic beverage which is a blend of Gin and ginger, as well as a low sugar ginger option as a healthy alternative for consumers. As soon as the 2nd lockdown was lifted in Botswana, Lebo launched the new flavours and sold out instantly.



In addition to the success of the launch, Lebo was invited to speak on a webinar with Livia Firth of EcoAgeTV along with De Beers Global Sightholder Sales Vice-President, Corporate Affairs and Government Relations Pat Dambe on the topic **Diamonds, Fashion and Sustainability**.

Following the discussion on EcoAgeTV, Lebo expressed that “considering that Just Ginger is an environmentally conscious brand, I walked away with a lot of insight regarding the importance of mindful supply chain choices. If we are to be fully environmental and socially sustainable, we have to make sure that all our suppliers, partners and collaborators are also deliberately mindful of their environmental and social impact”.

Just Ginger is set to expand operations by opening up for export out of Botswana, through another local business – Skymart, an e-commerce platform for vendors to sell and deliver their products. Skymart is also an alumni of the Stanford Go-to-Market Program, from the 2nd cohort in 2019.

Synergies of this nature enhance the entire objective of having the program offered in Botswana.





COVID-19 genome sequencing laboratory network launches in Africa

With several African countries now expanding COVID-19 testing, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) have launched a network of laboratories to reinforce genome sequencing of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes COVID-19, in Africa.

Twelve specialized and regional reference laboratories in the network will provide sequencing, data analysis and other technical support services to the countries where they are located as well as to neighbouring countries and countries in their sub-regions.

“As we continue to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa, being able to not only track its evolution, but also assess the possible mutation of the virus is crucial to mounting an effective response,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. “Through this new laboratory network dedicated to genome sequencing we can better develop vaccines and treatment which are tailored to Africans

and eventually bring COVID-19 under control.”

Ongoing sequencing is already providing crucial information for determining the type of SARS-CoV-2 lineage circulating in some countries. It has shown that most of SARS-CoV-2 genomes circulating in Africa are assigned to the B.1 lineage which emerged from the epidemic in Europe.

In Africa ten lineages have been identified and more than 80,000 sequences have been produced globally.

Grouping viruses from different countries into the same lineage or sub-lineage has indicated a linkage or importation of viruses between countries. Countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and South Africa are experiencing localized transmission, while there is also importation of cases in the DRC from Ghana, Morocco and Senegal.

“In 2019, Africa CDC launched the Institute for Pathogen Genomics to support the integration of pathogen genomics and bioinformatics into public

health surveillance, outbreak detection and investigations, and improve disease control and prevention in Africa. The establishment of the COVID-19 sequencing network will help improve surveillance in the continent and help countries to effectively manage and control the pandemic.

As the COVID-19 pandemic curve flattens in Africa, we must be prepared for a possible

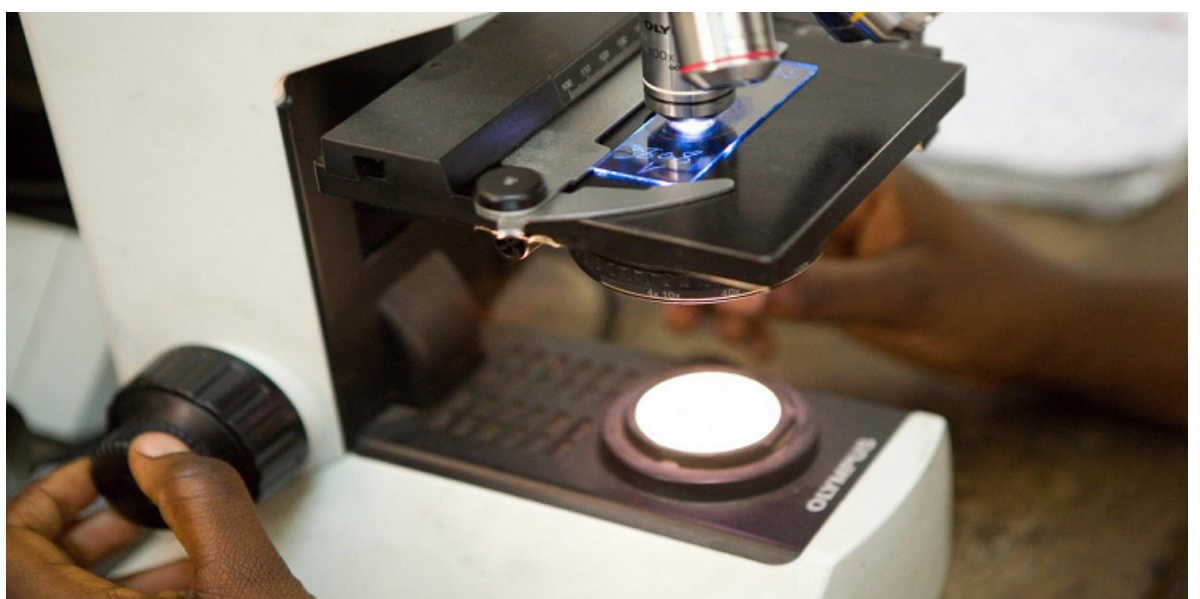
resurgence as already observed in some countries. With genomic sequencing we can have a better understanding of the pandemic through more precise identification of transmission clusters,” said Dr John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC.

Africa CDC and WHO together with other partners, are providing Member States with sequencing equipment, reagents and

technical support to accelerate SARS-CoV-2 sequencing in Africa. A total of 2016 sequences from 18 countries – Algeria, Benin Republic, Cameroon, DRC, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia – have already been generated.

This WHO and Africa CDC partnership to establish a COVID-19 sequencing laboratory network is very important in determining the response to a given SARS-CoV-2 strain and in helping countries manage localized or imported transmission.

(WHO Africanews)



Botswana Life kicks-off new season of Money Life

Botswana Life Insurance Limited has announced the premiere of its financial literacy show, Money Life, which is on its fourth season. The first episode will be live on air on Tuesday (tomorrow).

Hosted by savvy financial expert, Lorato Akpata, the show will take place every Tuesday at 13h30 on RB2 and will cover a variety of topics centered around financial literacy and insurance advisory matters. This comes as part of the legacy company’s efforts to empower Batswana to make sound financial choices to secure their futures and those of their loved ones.

Said Botswana Life Public Relations, Communications and Marketing Manager, Gabriel Tlagae, “Money Life has been a platform designed to empower our customers and indeed Batswana on insurance and financial matters in an effort to help them secure their futures.

As a leading insurer, with a future-forward outlook, we constantly seek new and innovative ways to provide sound financial advisory that makes a meaningful difference where it matters most. Every episode is built to address the needs and concerns of Batswana as they navigate through their life journeys. Our unwavering commitment to being a true partner to Batswana remains a core focus of all that we do.”

The leading insurer has reiterated its committed to creating solutions through co-creation and collaboration, sourcing new and local talent to carry the show forward. In light of this, they have announced that Lorato Akpata will be the new host for the financial literacy show. An experienced financial advisor, Lorato has a wealth of in the financial services sector.

She is the Founder and Managing Director of Suero Consulting, an Accounting and Business Development Advisory Services Firm. Her roles and experiences range from the preparation of financial statements and management of accounts to Corporate Financial Literacy Training and Tax Compliance and Advisory for SMMEs.

“As Botswana Life, we have the privilege and the honour of playing a strong role in driving socio-economic prosperity of our country and our fellow Batswana. We have embarked on a number of initiatives that are designed to offer our clients

superior value and access to unique experiences that make a meaningful difference in their lives. This platform is yet another demonstration of our unwavering commitment to

being a true partner to Batswana, strongly committed to growing further, together,” concluded Tlagae.



Rethabile Konopo

Stanford GTM – Botswana 2019’

Bosslady in Legal Technology – Ms. Konopo was part of the Stanford Go-to-Market Botswana Program, which forms part of the De Beers Group’s major Social Impact initiative for young entrepreneurs in Botswana.

Rethabile is a Legal practitioner with a Post Graduate Degree in Labour Law and an Honours in Paralegal. She started her own Labour Law Consultancy Firm called Konopo and Partner, originally designed for low income earners in need of legal services.

Subsequent to the GTM program she expanded from offering services to low income earners and pro-bono work, to offering labour advisory for construction companies, fashion institutions, engineers and other industries. Her pricing model improved, leaving her with a confident

feeling not less of a 9 -5 lawyer.

In an interview with Rethabile this week, we have learnt of her exciting journey post the Go-to-Market bootcamp in March 2019. She boasts of how the Stanford bootcamp was rigorous and thought provoking. Rethabile acknowledges that for some time she was shy to admit her business was struggling, until she was in an ecosystem where hustlers were the target market and it was in the same space that she learnt humility and boosted her confidence. Furthermore, she mentions how she gained clarity on the direction she needed to remodel her brand positioning tactics through the Business Model Canvas presented in the Bootcamp. Rethabile’s biggest takeaway was the pricing model and market research, which enabled her business to flourish.



Law & Tech
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Ms. Konopo branched into Legal Technology, a platform she describes as the next best solution; providing electronic legal billing tools that monitor all documents which legal practitioners write to ensure fair billing.

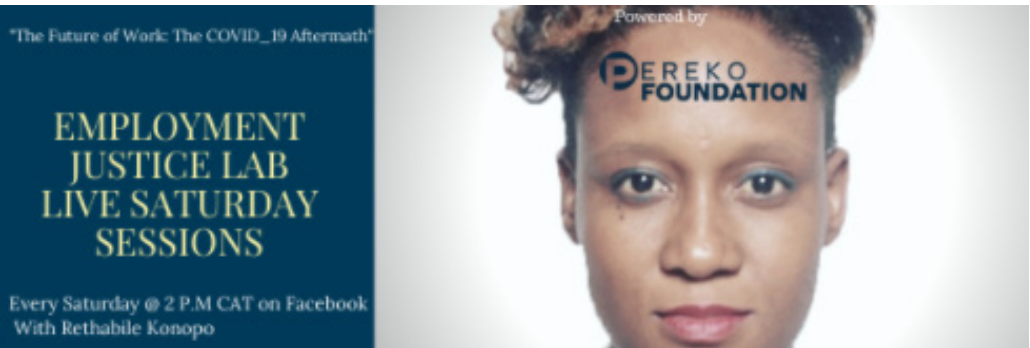
Konopo and Partner also introduced a contract software to make contract drafting more affordable and available to people.

During the COVID-19 pandemic Rethabile facilitated a global legal design program online, where various legal practitioners around the world attended to engage on vital legal issues worldwide.

During the month of July 2020, she launched the Future Lab Magazine, which is an online platform for subscribers to read about various justice systems, legal solutions, employment acts around the world, case outcomes around the world, pricing strategies, copyright laws and various legal technology trends.

Within a period of 2 weeks, the magazine had gained 900 subscribers from all over the world and she hopes to bring more legal writers together to publish on her platform.

#WOMANONAMMISSION





Temo Boswa Milling and Packaging Company

Mpho Thato Orapeleng-Gaobolae.

Facebook: Temo Boswa Milling Company
WhatsApp number: 74671461
Contact number: 73231762



family, now I am advancing to feed the nation if not the whole world,” emphasized Mpho.
“LEA helped us to gain market from Square Mart and Choppies stores, and they continue to provide mentorship and facilitate for us to get additional markets such as wholesalers and retail stores.”

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Situated in Gaborone West Industrial Site, the company registered with LEA in 2016 as a business idea then, and was assisted to develop a business plan which was funded by Ministry of Youth Empowerment Sport and Culture Development in 2018, through the Youth Development Fund.

Then LEA went ahead to assist the Temo Boswa Milling to start business operations, source relevant machinery, carry out product testing and compliance at NFTRC as well as branding and bar coding.

Furthermore, LEA has facilitated Temo Boswa Milling products exposure at trade fairs such as Global Expo, Youth Expo and Gender Affairs Expo. The business also benefits from other LEA services that include among others business advisory, coaching & on-site monitoring and mentoring services.

Full business operations started in 2020, with specialization on milling and packaging of the following products:
-Ntlatlawane
-Mosutlhwane Lebelebele
-Bopi jwa Korong

They also produce Bopi jwa Korong and Bopi jwa Mabele specific for kids, which differentiates Temo Boswa from other millers.

The Business also packages the following products:
-Letlhodi (Green moong beans),
-Black eye beans,
-Tswana beans,
-Jugo beans (Ditloo),
Sugar beans and other products as per request.

Currently the business has four full time employees and engages temporary workers during peak periods.

“What inspired me to do this business is that during our young age, we were raised by our grandmother who reared livestock and ploughed the field. In order for us to eat we had to grind sorghum the traditional way using mortar and pestle, a process that was able to feed our family members. I got inspired the same way we used to feed our

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“Mogwebi, re go tlhoma kwa pele.”



African Development Bank funds the African Union’s COVID-19 response initiative

The African Development Bank has approved \$27.33 million in grants to boost the African Union’s (AU) efforts to mobilize a continental response to curb the COVID-19 pandemic.

The approval follows a meeting of the extended Bureau of the Conference of Heads of State and Government with Africa’s private, at which the Bank’s President, Akinwumi Adesina, pledged strong support for the AU’s COVID-19 initiative.

The AU Bureau meeting called for contributions to the African Union’s COVID-19 Response Fund established by the AU Commission chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat, in March 2020.

“With this financing package, we are reaffirming our strong commitment to a coordinated African response in the face of COVID-19. Most importantly, we are sending a strong signal that collectively, the continent can address the pandemic, which is straining health systems and causing unprecedented socio-economic impacts on the continent,” Adesina said,

The Bank’s grant financing will support the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in providing technical assistance and building capacity for 37 African Development Fund (ADF) eligible countries, particularly the Transition States, to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate its impact. The ADF is the Bank’s concessional window.

The two grants will support the implementation of Africa CDC’s COVID-19 Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan through strengthening surveillance at various points of entry in African countries: building sub-regional and national capacity for epidemiological surveillance; and ensuring the availability of testing materials and personal protective equipment for frontline workers deployed in hotspots.

The operation will also facilitate collection of gender-disaggregated data and adequate staffing for Africa CDC’s emergency operations center.

At the beginning of February 2020, only two reference laboratories in Senegal and in South Africa run tests for COVID-19 on the continent. The Africa CDC, working with governments, the World Health Organization, and several

development partners and public health institutes, have increased this capacity to 44 countries currently.

Despite this progress, Africa’s testing capacity remains low, with the 37 ADF-eligible

countries accounting for only 40% of completed COVID-19 tests to date.

“Our response today and support to the African Union is timely and will play a crucial role in helping Africa look inward

for solutions to build resilience to this pandemic and future outbreaks,” said Gichuri, Vice President, Agriculture, Human and Social Development.


This support will complement various national and sub-

regional operations financed by the African Development Bank under its COVID-19 Response Facility to support African countries to contain and mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.





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#GrowingGreatMinds





Africa’s National Development Plan – COVID-19 Refresh

By Emmanuel Allotey

The African continent is home to many underdeveloped and developing nations, with each country striving to improve its position through strategically crafted National Development Plans. The invention of COVID-19 is threatening to reverse years of growth and development of African nations if immediate

mitigants are put in place. Africa’s largest economies are anticipating a contraction in economic activity and have downgraded their domestic outlooks. Recent World Bank reports indicate that economic activity in Sub Saharan Africa is on course to contract by more than 2.8% in 2020. This is an aggregated average, with sharper deterioration in individual

African states. The continued decline in economic activity will lead to the worst recession in Africa’s history. National Development plans are the roadmaps to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals. Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to

end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. Africa as a continent faces a mammoth task to transform itself from poverty stricken to an affluent continent. The implementation of different economic interventions to mitigate the impact of COVID 19 by African governments will come at a cost. Economic

policies, including monetary and fiscal policies introduced by governments are designed to sustain the functioning of essential sectors and support of the economy. The deployment of these economic interventions will be stretching an already constricted budget. Budgeted projects will have to be suspend or deferred to the detriment of national development progress. COVID-19 has uncovered the primary drivers of economic growth and national development. The impact of COVID-19 on global trade, travel movement has exposed weaknesses in over-reliance on Foreign Direct Investment, International Tourism and commodity exports as drivers of economic growth. Policy makers are now forced to review their National Development Plans and reprioritise the investment in neglected essential sectors identified during COVID-19. The African Continental Free Trade Area project once implemented will create the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating. The pact connects 1.3 billion people across 55 countries with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) valued at US\$3.4 trillion. African nations need to refresh their National Development plans to protect local business and drive organic economic growth a new priority accentuated by COVID-19.



Weathering Financial storms during COVID-19: Debt Consolidation

By Emmanuel Allotey

Individuals are facing an unprecedented shakeup in

their financial position since the dawn of COVID-19. Economic activity has come to a halt affecting both employers and

employees alike. Individuals are faced with servicing existing loan obligations with reduced income placing them under

financial strain. Some Financial Institutions have offered debt relief programs to assist albeit as a temporary reprieve. Debt consolidation when applied correctly is an effective option in weathering financial storms. Economic intervention by Governments such as monetary and fiscal policy are aimed at mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. Wage subsidies, debt relief, reduction in interest rates are some of the interventions implemented to keep debt delinquency from spiking and stimulate economic growth. The reduction in interest rates provides a further advantage to individuals considering consolidation of debt. According to reports, household debt is expected to rise as incomes decline leading to increased borrowing of money during COVID-19. Non-performing loans is expected to deteriorate further as incomes further decline. The impact of Covid-19 may lead to a wave of loan defaults and bankruptcies depending on whether government support and payment relief offered by Financial Institutions last long enough to see households through to a recovery. To effectively benefit from debt consolidation the following

conditions need to be met: High interest rate debt: debt consolidation is especially effective for high-interest debt such as credit cards and personal loans. Debt consolidation can assist in reducing the monthly payment by lowering the interest rate on your debts, making it easier to pay off the debt. Multiple sources of debt: the debt consolidation option untangles the complexities facing individuals every month trying to keep up with multiple payments to multiple companies with multiple deadlines. Instead, there is one payment to one source, once a month. However, it is important to note that debt consolidation is not debt elimination or debt settlement. This means you are obligated to continue servicing the loan till its fully repaid. Debt consolidation works when it lowers the interest rate and reduces the monthly payment to an affordable rate. If the interest rate you get for a debt consolidation facility not lower than the average interest rate you already were paying, then the debt consolidation option would not provide the desired results. Contact your nearest certified Financial Planner to explore options.

Kutla Incubation Graduates Bakery And Confectionery Trainees



LEA Kutla incubation center has graduated nine trainees marking the completion a completion of a Bakery and Confectionery Training. The training programme took 3 months covered courses on operating baking machines through safe methods, the science of baking bread, quality assurance, maintenance of housekeeping standards and standardization of baking. Standardization is in line with Botswana Bureau of Standards.

The training is tailor made to empower entrepreneurs and introduce enterprise development as an alternative to formal employment, as well as to equip participants with necessary knowledge and skills to efficiently manage their enterprises.

The nine graduates completed the three months training at Kutla incubation center where members of the media were given a tour to demonstrate the various projects that are ongoing.

LEA Chief Finance Officer, Godfrey Molefe reiterated LEA’s intention to continue to the support of the graduates and said the graduates would fit well into the new agenda of Botswana’s baking industry as the sole suppliers of baked goods following the ban on imported baked goods.

Speaking about the prospects of the graduates Fana Kelebogile said “After this graduation we continue to monitor you so that wherever there are gaps we are available with our specialists to continue guiding you. If you want to start something or expand, we are available to guide you for free in terms of business plans.”

The Kutla Incubation Center hosts a number of promising startups that include the bakery with advanced ovens and other machines that assist with various aspects of baking.

There is also Shedol Fragrances, a proudly Botswana company that crafts perfumes, body scrubs and body creams. In their products Shedol blends flavors such as oats, moringa, tea tree, and moringa and shea butter.

The other promising startup incubated at Kutla is Maungo Craft that produces a variety of mixed jams such as morula, banana and coconut jam which is called nana jam, smoked morula, chilies and ginger jam known as mara mara jam. Maungo Craft also crafts hot sauce including a new variety,

which is roasted chilies, garlic and morula hot sauce.

These incubated startups at Kutla are assisted with a variety of business operations that actively higher employees. Initially

there were 12 incubated manufacturing businesses.

Expansion of these businesses to grow and gain more capital is a part of the incubation setup,

particularly assistance with business plans for further funding that can allow entrepreneurs to instead focus on day to day operations.



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Stanbic Bank to facilitate importation of goods and services by CEDA clients

The Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Stanbic Bank Botswana to facilitate seamless importation

of goods and services from China by CEDA-funded clients. Stanbic Bank Botswana, a member of the Standard Bank Group, has an all-encompassing solution for Africa China cross-

border trade that enables the matching of buyers from Africa with suppliers or manufacturers in China. The solution is facilitated through the Africa China

Agent Proposition (ACAP), which provides buyers from Africa with exclusive access to accredited trade agents in China. The partnership with Stanbic Bank Botswana will enable CEDA clients to source their inputs, raw materials and machinery from China with reduced risks and challenges.

Stanbic Bank Botswana will use the ACAP facility to provide solutions to challenges that CEDA-funded projects encounter when importing goods and services from China. Such problems include language barriers, price negotiations, non-delivery of goods and supplies of sub-standard goods.

“Through this agreement, CEDA-funded projects will be able to connect with reputable suppliers to ensure seamless trade. In the past, we have had very unpleasant experiences where CEDA funded projects struggled with non-delivery or poor-quality goods from suppliers in China,” said CEDA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Thabo Thamane.

The partnership comes at a time when the new CEDA guidelines compel the Agency to take security over assets financed for special sectors such as manufacturing, mining, construction, transport, energy, tourism, agriculture and tourism. Thamane added that it is critical to ensure that assets purchased through CEDA funded projects are delivered in the right specifications, quality and quantity to minimise the

Agency’s exposure in case of default.

Stanbic Bank Botswana’s ACAP offering aims to assist CEDA clients to source and validate quality goods safely and efficiently from the most competitive suppliers in China. The facility will also empower clients with sight and control of the entire importing and logistics process.

Operating through accredited trade agents from China will grant CEDA clients access to thousands of suppliers who will provide them with better quality goods and favourable terms. Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive, Samuel Minta, said clients will deal directly with the Bank regarding the status of their ordered goods.

Moreover, he said, clients will get favourable trade terms which will enhance their cash flows and minimise the risk of non-delivery or substandard goods. “The trade agent will facilitate travel to China if clients need to meet with suppliers.

In cases where suppliers need upfront payment, the Agent will take full responsibility of ensuring that goods that meet specifications in terms of quality and quantity are delivered to CEDA clients,” said Minta. Through the MoU, Stanbic Bank Botswana will also facilitate procurement of goods from other markets such as South Africa and India by issuing guarantee/a letter of credit for payments on behalf of CEDA clients.

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Wildlife tourism in southern Africa uses scarce water

Wildlife tourism is a major source of income and livelihood for many rural communities across southern Africa. But it also presents a potential threat to water resources.

Many wildlife tourism lodges in the region are in remote locations where little or no infrastructure exists. They depend on natural sources such as rivers, dams and boreholes for their water needs.

The lack of infrastructure such as housing, roads and public transport in these remote places also means that the staff employed at lodges often reside on the tourism properties. Lodges thus need water not only for tourism operations but for the domestic use of staff members.

But rural residents too need water to secure their livelihoods, such as raising cattle. Lodges' water use should not be to the detriment of the local communities.

In Southern Africa water resources are becoming stretched because of growing population numbers as well as the reduction in the volume of available good quality water as a result of environmental

degradation, erratic rainfall and climatic variability brought on by the effects of climate change.

Tourism ventures need to balance the needs of guests and staff with the needs of surrounding communities. Imbalances in a water-stressed region like southern African could lead to conflict around water use, similar to what has already been experienced in many island states.

Working with wildlife tourism industry role players, our research team recently completed a multi-year study that reviewed the per capita water consumption of guests and staff at more than 30 exclusive luxury wildlife lodges across Namibia, Botswana and South Africa.

Wildlife tourism companies approached the researchers to do an independent review of water quantity and quality across their southern African operations. The results were made available to industry participants. This view of the existing situation would be used to set benchmarks for comparison across the industry.

The research

Our research used the international standard unit of

measurement for guest water use namely litres per guest per night. Consumption includes all the activities associated with the lodge operations such as bathing, cleaning, cooking, laundry, gardening and swimming pools.

The average guest consumption across the three countries was 2,073 litres per guest per night. This average consumption is three to four times that of hotels in other countries.

We found that the international standard wasn't suitable for the wildlife tourism industry in southern African. This is because of the large number of staff who reside on the lodge premises. They add a lot to the total volume of water consumption at the tourist establishments. According to our research, the average water consumption per bed or per capita, when staff consumption is included, was 503 litres per bed per night.

When only guest consumption was considered, the average water use was outrageously high compared to destinations such as Greece, Morocco, Zanzibar, Germany and the USA. But when staff use is included, the average water consumption was similar to the majority of other countries

around the world.

We found that water consumption rates by guests and staff at the lodges were excessive compared to the consumption of local communities. For the three southern Africa countries in the study, water consumption by the local communities varied between 88 and 371 litres per person per day, according to The International Benchmarking Network for Water and Sanitation Utilities.

The tourism ventures could be depleting scarce water resources to the detriment of local communities and the wildlife attractions that brought tourism there in the first place.

Going forward

The study proposes water-use benchmarks for the wildlife tourism industry in southern Africa, namely 2,073 litres per guest per night or 503 litres per bed per night. This is based on the average consumption recorded during the study across all the investigated tourism ventures. These benchmarks would need to be reviewed in future as consumption rates come down. The proposed benchmarks, which would be a first, provide targets for the wildlife tourism industry in southern African to aim for.

The benchmarks also serve as a planning tool for future wildlife tourism developments. Developers would be able to ensure that the type and size of

developments are appropriate for the available water resources.

Although the proposed benchmarks won't be monitored or regulated by government at this stage, it's important for the industry to adhere to them in an attempt to reduce water consumption.

Even though the proposed benchmarks provide some form of water use reduction, wildlife lodges across southern Africa will need to improve their water management in order to reduce their consumption drastically and avert possible water conflict situations in local communities. Wildlife lodges may in the future need to scale down or even close operations during water scarce times to ensure equitable water availability.

The tourism lodges that are relatively well resourced compared to the host rural communities will need to find new ways to reduce, recycle and use alternative sources of water such as rain water harvesting. This may require capital investments.

Guest and staff awareness and education on water use should also become a standard for the tourism industry. Luxury wildlife lodges should always manage their water usage with the local community's needs in mind.

(The Conversation.)



Internal Advert

Finance & Administration Manager

Life Gaborone Hospital



Introduction:

A vacancy exists for a **Finance and Administration Manager** at **Life Gaborone Hospital** reporting to the **Hospital Manager, Mpho Gabonewe**. The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall financial management of the business in line with accounting standards and within corporate governance protocols in support of Life Healthcare objectives and strategy.

Critical Outputs:

Effective people management

- Demonstrate visible leadership in respect of Life values, operating model and strategy.
- Actively sponsor Life initiatives and projects as it relates to hospital.
- Actively participate in Hospital MANCO meetings, Credit and Patient Services meetings and forums
- Actively lead and manage finance & administration and HOD feedback meetings and ensure participation from all parties to achieve strategic objectives
- Recruit, retain, motivate and develop staff according to Life people policies and practices. Accurate financial reporting & analysis
- Responsibility for managing people and processes to adhere to reporting deadlines
- Support to Hospital, Nursing and Pharmacy Manager with regard to financial analysis and reporting

Effective budgeting

- Participate in hospital strategic planning to identify capex projects, developing financial models for proposed plans with local management and enabling functions and assist hospital manager in developing motivations for capex projects
- Prepare variance to budget as compared to prior year analysis, report on hospital performance, identify problem areas and take remedial action with staff and enabling functions as required
- Develop operating budget, ensure final budget presented matches approved parameters, ensure sign off of budget by management and communicate approved budget to all units
- Ensure final working capital budget presented reflects the requirements of the operating budget, ensure sign off by management and communicate approved budget to all units

Effective management of internal controls

- Administration of minority companies i.e. preparation of board meetings, checking board packs, liaising with company secretariat etc.
- Prepare annual review checklists and manage the internal control environment within the hospital
- Effective patient services management
- Ensure all credit management targets are met (i.e. internal and external debtors' days, etc.)
- Manage and minimize risk and achieve LHC targets regarding rejections, bad debts, case management write offs and reimbursement codes
- Oversee pre-admission trends with relevant manager and manage appropriately
- Identify problems and take remedial actions with relevant stakeholders
- Effective governance and risk management
- Manage compliance to the executive constraints per corporate governance, report deviations and take action where necessary
- Manage data integrity and compliance to LHC protocols



Internal Advert

Effective quality management and customer relations

- Achieve and improve quality metrics, continuously monitor and measure processes to maintain and actively promote LHC quality drive
- Develop and maintain relationships with various internal and external stakeholders, conduct feedback surveys in order to monitor relationships and service levels, identify trends and implement remedial actions

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting or relevant degree with completed articles, ACCA, CA (SA) would be an advantage
- Minimum of 3 years' relevant experience and/or insight into hospital operations/industry knowledge
- SAP and Advanced Excel / MS Office Skills
- 3 – 5 years' managerial experience
- Ability to interact and present information at senior level management required

Competencies:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| • Problem-solving and analysis | • Building relationships |
| • Engaging diversity | • Customer responsiveness |
| • Verbal & written communication and presentation | • Organisational awareness |
| • Influencing | • Leading by example |
| • Excellence orientation | • Motivating and developing people |
| • Drive & energy | • Resilience |
| | • Ethical behaviour |

Closing date:

Interested candidates who meet the requirements are invited to apply by forwarding a comprehensive CV to Nthabiseng Mthembu by **24 September 2020**.
Email: Nthabiseng.Mthembu@lifehealthcare.co.za
Fax: 0866 829 411

Before making application, you are requested to discuss your application with your line manager.

Life Healthcare is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
External candidates will also be considered.

Thank you for your interest in this opportunity. Kindly note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applicants who have not been contacted within two weeks of the closing date of this advert, should consider their application as unsuccessful.



Wildlife populations in Free fall as forests cut to Grow food



The average size of wildlife populations has plummeted by two-thirds worldwide since 1970 as forests were felled to grow food. This has been revealed by the green group WWF said which has also warned that harming ecosystems hikes the risk to humans of infectious diseases like COVID-19.

Land conversion for farming and the wildlife trade were key reasons for the 68% average drop across thousands of populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish between 1970 and 2016, according to WWF's Living Planet Report 2020.

"Deforestation and in the larger sense, habitat loss - which is driven by how we produce and consume food - is the main cause of this dramatic decline," said Fran Price, leader of the global forest practice at WWF International.

Price pointed the finger at large-scale commercial agriculture mainly in the tropics and sub-tropics, including the production of palm oil, soy and beef.

In 2019, tropical rainforests - whose preservation is considered crucial to curbing climate change - disappeared at a rate of one football pitch every six seconds, according to data from monitoring service Global Forest Watch.

Environmentalists say conserving existing forests and restoring damaged ones reduces the risk of flooding, helps limit global warming by storing more carbon and protects biodiversity.

The WWF report, with contributions from about 125 experts, tracked almost 21,000 populations of nearly 4,400

vertebrate species, giving an overview of the state of the natural world.

Those that live in freshwater suffered an 84% decline, it noted. Other worst-hit wildlife included Eastern lowland gorillas in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the African grey parrot in Ghana, said Price.

"These serious declines in wildlife species populations are an indicator that nature is unravelling and that our planet is flashing red warning signs of systems failure," WWF director general Marco Lambertini said in a statement.

FOREST BUFFERS

Scientists say the rapid pace of deforestation is also a major factor in the spread of zoonotic diseases - which are passed from animals to humans - such as the new coronavirus.

"With deforestation and increased wildlife, livestock-human interactions, there is more of a chance of spillover of zoonotic diseases like Ebola, like COVID-19," Price told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"Forests really act as buffers to keep those diseases away from humans - and the more we destroy them, the more chances there are that we are going to unleash something that can have dire impacts on humanity."

If the world continues with business-as-usual over the next decade, the losses in wildlife would take decades to reverse and populations are less likely to be revived, said Price.

She urged bolder commitments and efforts by governments and corporations to make global

supply chains more sustainable.

Consumers also need to understand the impacts of their purchasing habits on nature and buy more responsibly, she added.

Separately, researchers at the University of Oxford said on Thursday that nature-based solutions - such as restoring forests and mangroves - are key to reducing climate change impacts.

In what they said was the first systematic review of evidence on nature-based solutions around the world, they found that almost 60% of them alleviated climate-related pressures such as flooding, soil erosion and loss of food production.

"It's not just about tree-planting and greenhouse gas removal," said Alexandre Chausson, the study author.

"In many cases, nature-based interventions can help communities adapt to the wave

of climate change impacts we've seen over the past months, from record-breaking heatwaves to wildfires and hurricanes," she said in a statement.

The WWF report included 20 essays by experts from China to Mexico, ranging from young activists, authors and academics to business leaders, journalists and indigenous leaders, writing on how they perceive a healthy planet for people and nature.

Among them, respected British naturalist David Attenborough urged people to "work with nature rather than against it".

The time for a pure focus on national interests had passed, and internationalism was now the approach needed to achieve a better balance for the planet, the veteran broadcaster wrote.

"The wealthier nations have taken a lot and the time has now come to give," he added.



Botswana's Lebanna nominated for Women's Choice Awards Africa



The African Committee of Women nominates a group of women who represent and market Africa to the rest of the world through the Women's Choice Awards Africa on annual basis. The Women's Choice African is an initiative produced by Global Ovations to "translate the collective voice of women into a highly objective and consistent methodology."

The awards honor women and men who passionately advocate for the empowerment of girls and women. This year Botswana's own Tebbie Lebanna, director and CEO of Little Miss Princess of the World was nominated among a prestigious group of women to vie for the ultimate prize.

Lebanna hails from Kanye and has an MBA and is a graduate of Business Enterprise from the University of Derby in the United Kingdom. Lebanna is a winner of Botswana Change Makers 2016 and a finalist of Africa Youth Awards 2017.

Little Miss Princess of the World is a pageant for young girls aimed at promoting tourism, culture, talent, love and friendship among children of different nationalities building international relations with other countries from all across the world.

Lebanna developed a passion for pageantry but noticed Botswana was not doing well

in international pageants.

"After I realised that Botswana does not perform well in international pageants, I had to study the global market, and what countries do well to be ahead all the time. I realised that they do well because they start when they are young and in Botswana we start participating in global pageants at an older age and those countries therefore have an advantage to make it."

The awards honor women and men who passionately advocate for the empowerment of girls and women. This year Botswana's own Tebbie Lebanna, director and CEO of Little Miss Princess of the World was nominated among a prestigious group of women to vie for the ultimate prize.

Unfortunately, in 2020 the scheduled event was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have so far brought 16 world crowns to Botswana since it started in 2015," Lebanna said. She said of the nomination "being nominated for this award means a lot to me as it shows that my efforts and hard work are now being discovered by the continent and the world at large."

Tebbie Lebanna was nominated in the discovery of the year category. Other categories include woman CEO of the year, most promising corporate lady of the year, entrepreneur of the year and superwoman of the year.

The awards ceremony will be hosted in Accra, Ghana at the Plush - Kempinski Hotel when current travel restrictions are relaxed. Lebanna said that about winning the competition, "winning will mean a lot to me, it will mean my sweat and sleepless nights were not in vain".





eBotswana partners with Mascom to broadcast the English Premier League

Mascom and eBotswana have partnered to showcase the richest and most watched football league on Earth.

On eBotswana’s free-to-air platform Batswana will have the opportunity to be entertained by at least one premier league

game every weekend over the coming ten months. Prior to the weekend there will also be a preview show, which will

present some analysis of the forthcoming games. These are delighting news for football fans as the English

Premier League kicked off yesterday, After the conclusion of the weekend games will follow a post-weekend analysis showing the goals and the drama of the weekend games. The move presents an opportunity to develop and inspire the skills of sports analysts and journalists in Botswana in order to augment international in studio pre-match, half-time and post-match analysis with by some of Botswana’s own journalists. This partnership between the two pioneering local brands will provide the lens to some of the world’s most talented players. Given the spectacular action of the previous season, all the transfer rumors, kit changes, and the subsequent and unexpected halt of play caused by the initial response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, football fans are excited to welcome the return of the most-watched sports league in the world. As the new season begins each of the 20 teams will face off against one another playing 38 games both home and away to contend for the title of England’s best. This partnership between Mascom and eBotswana provides the potential to inspire youth engagement in sports and much required entertainment during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Oghiabekhva makes history in UEFA Women’s Champions League

Victoria Azarenka stunned Serena Williams 1-6 6-3 6-3 in the semi-finals of the U.S. Open last week, denying the American the chance of winning a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title on home soil this year. Azarenka will play Japan’s Naomi Osaka on Saturday in her third final at Flushing Meadows, having lost the previous two to Williams in 2012 and 2013. Azarenka said her mental

game had been crucial in beating the 38-year-old Williams, who needed a medical timeout to have her left ankle re-taped in the third set due to Achilles trouble. “I have been working on finding a calm mind and keep the body going,” the Belarusian said in an on-court interview. “She dug me in a big hole in the first set. I needed to find energy to climb out of the hole and it wasn’t easy.” Williams, who has been stuck

on 23 Grand Slam titles since winning the 2017 Australian Open, said the defeat was “obviously disappointing”. “At the same time ... I did what I could today,” she added. “I feel like other times I’ve been close and I could have done better. Today I felt like I gave a lot.” Six-times U.S. Open champion Williams came out firing winners from all sides of the Arthur Ashe Stadium court while Azarenka struggled



with her serve, committing four double faults in the first set and winning just six of 15 first-serve points. She also had 10 unforced errors and appeared increasingly frustrated, with a mic catching her muttering a pair of expletives at herself before Williams took a 4-1 lead. Williams wrapped up the opening set in little more than half an hour but Azarenka seized momentum in the second frame, breaking the third seed’s serve with a pair of backhand winners from the baseline to take a 3-2 lead. Playing her first Grand Slam semi-final in seven years, Azarenka got the better of Williams in some explosive

exchanges of power-hitting while her serve also saw major improvement. The 31-year-old took the set to force a decider after winning nearly 75% of her first-serve points and committing just one unforced error. The twice Australian Open champion kept up the pressure in the third set and looked to be in a deep meditative state as Williams had her ankle taped, not even reacting as an insect landed on the bridge of her nose as she waited to resume the match. Azarenka then sealed her place in the final with an ace. (Reuters)



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Semenya Loses Appeal Against CAS ruling Over Testosterone Regulations



Double Olympic 800 metres champion Caster Semenya has lost her appeal to the Swiss

Federal Tribunal (SFT) to set aside a 2019 Court of Arbitration (CAS) ruling that female athletes

with high natural testosterone levels must take medication to reduce it.

But the South African has indicated that she may continue her battle in the European and domestic courts ahead of the Olympics in Tokyo next year, vowing to “fight for human rights”.

Semenya approached the tribunal in May last year after CAS, sport’s highest court, ruled that the regulations of the sport’s governing body World Athletics were necessary for athletes with differences in sexual development (DSDs) in races ranging from 400 metres to a mile to ensure fair competition.

The tribunal found that subjecting female athletes to drug or surgical interventions as a precondition to compete does not amount to a violation of Swiss public policy.

Testosterone increases muscle mass, strength and haemoglobin, which affects endurance.

Some competitors have said women with higher levels of the hormone have an unfair advantage.

“I am very disappointed by this ruling, but refuse to let World Athletics drug me or stop me from being who I am,” Semenya said in the statement on Tuesday.

“Excluding female athletes or endangering our health solely because of our natural abilities puts World Athletics on the wrong side of history.

“I will continue to fight for the human rights of female athletes, both on the track and off the track, until we can all run free the way we were born.”

World Athletics welcomed the ruling, which they said vindicates their stance in creating a level playing field for all athletes.

“Throughout this long battle, World Athletics has always maintained that its regulations are lawful and legitimate, and that

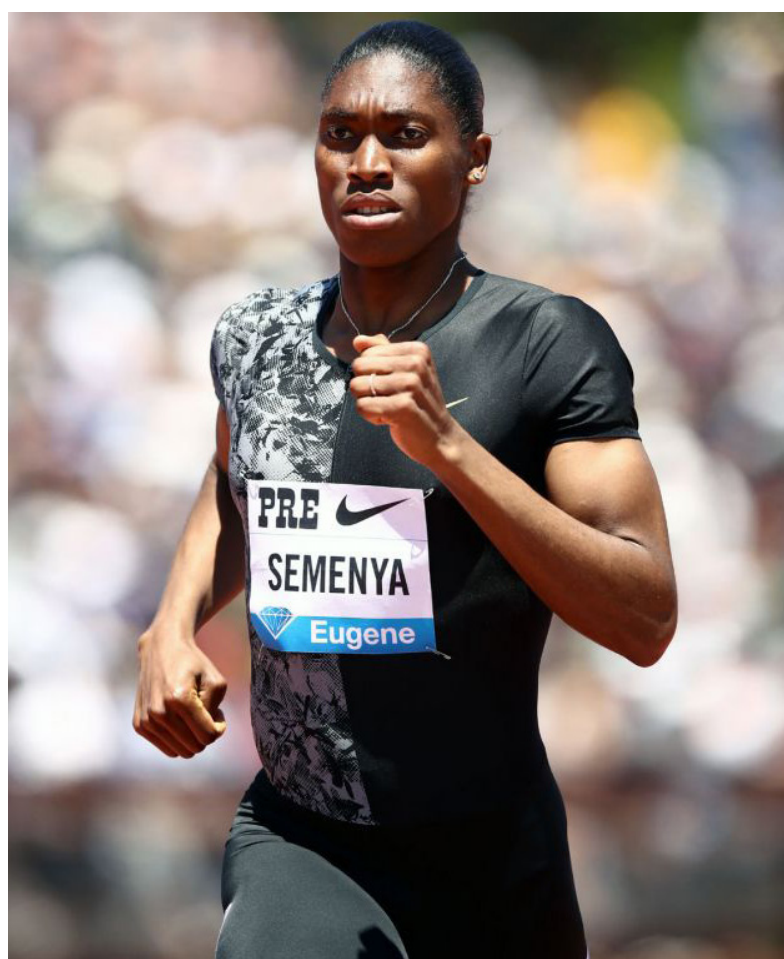
they represent a fair, necessary and proportionate means of ensuring the rights of all female athletes to participate on fair and equal terms,” the governing body said in a statement.

“We are very pleased that the highest court in Switzerland has now joined with the highest court in sport in endorsing World Athletics’ arguments.”

But Semenya’s lawyer, Greg Nott, suggested this was far from the end of the road for his client.

“This setback will not be the end of Caster’s story,” he said. “The international team (of lawyers) is considering the judgment and the options to challenge the findings in European and domestic courts.”

(Reuters).



“I am very disappointed by this ruling, but refuse to let World Athletics drug me or stop me from being who I am,” Semenya said in the statement on Tuesday.