

Forbes

AFRICA

woman

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2017

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What's
Trending
IN 2017

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The
INNOVATORS

Jessica O. Matthews
CEO & FOUNDER, UNCHARTED PLAY

ONLY IN ORANIA:
Life In Africa's
ALL-White Town

+

AFRICA'S
BILLIONAIRES

The Future Issue
Rise Of The
ROBOTS

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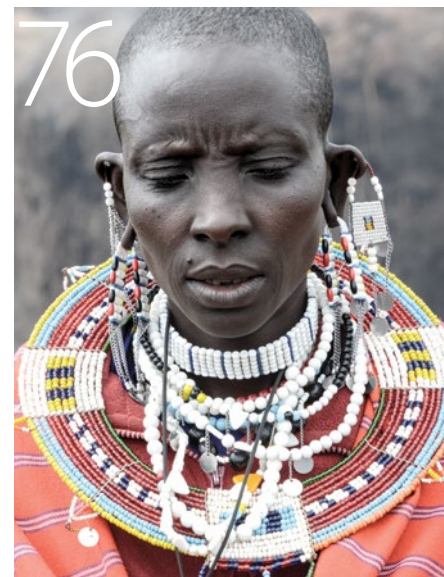
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PEACE OF MIND SHOULD NEVER BE OPTIONAL



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DIANA ODERO

A Kenyan culture and lifestyle writer, she has an appetite for wanderlust, uses her travels to inspire her work, and aims to bring the underdog to light. A recent MA graduate from Westminster University, she uses her skills to better her community by giving readers stories that inspire them to do more.

“My piece in this issue on trends for 2017 sheds light on three very important things. One, women are becoming more powerful by the day, utilizing democracy to fight for equality. Two, societal polarization may make or break parts of this world and we as a people are not ready for the latter. Three, the travel industry that usually catered to the wealthy with clichéd itineraries will soon become all-rounded creating cultural awareness in different parts of the world.”

Read her analysis of trends for 2017 on page40.



ANCILLAR MANGENA

A journalist who believes in the power of objective storytelling to make an impact, last year, she won the CNN MultiChoice Young Journalist of the Year Award and Sanlam Excellence in Financial Journalism Young Journalist of the Year Award. As a child, this University of Johannesburg graduate would spend hours glued to TV news channels.

“The feature on robotics is one of the most important stories I have ever told. Robotics is ‘the next revolution’. It will change the way businesses operate, how children are taught and our everyday life. Sceptics say Africa will miss this revolution but this article tells of top brains in Africa working hard to prove them wrong. Remember their names; they will change Africa as we know it.”

Read her cover story on page28.



YONELA MGWALI

A graduate of Walter Sisulu University in South Africa’s Eastern Cape province, he penned his first article in 2014 as an intern with a local newspaper. Journalism is what he lives for. He says his work at FORBES AFRICA and FORBES WOMAN AFRICA has allowed him to learn from the young and successful.

“Covering the memorial of one of the greatest songstresses of Africa, Thandi Klaasen, and hearing the sad and hilarious stories her fellow musicians related about her, was so inspiring. When a young woman sang Klaasen’s hit, *Sophiatown* and I heard the audience singing along, it gave me the chills. I’m sure Klaasen would have given anything to be there.”

Read his report of Klaasen’s memorial on page14.



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Gastro-sommelier Hannah Bellemare has turned the science of food and wine pairing into a delectable art form.



On The Cover

Jessica O. Matthews and Ayorkor Korsah

Photo: George Okwong

Stylist: Mobos Fashion, exclusive retailer of VR, Nigeria

When The Fourth Estate Meets The Fourth Industrial Revolution

I once spent an entire day in jail.

This was as a news reporter covering a story on inmates turning entrepreneurs with their own brand of breads and biscuits they sold to stores outside the prison walls.

Those were the days when as a journalist on the city beat, you would go from the marvellous to the macabre on the same day; from covering the nation's mighty business elite to throwing yourself into messy courtroom battles or as in this case, the gritty corridors of prison.

I was visiting Tihar Jail, one of Asia's biggest and most notorious prisons, also famous for its prison reforms, in New Delhi. Also working on a cover story on rape, I was escorted past the formidable walls and guarded towers to where the rape-convicts were housed. There was not a smidgen of remorse in these cells; if they had a chance to break free, they would run amuck here too.

I also spent time in the jail's female wing, taken aback by the green courtyards where the prisoners played sport and their toddlers hung about eating bread off dented aluminium plates. There was a beauty parlor even, where some of the prison's VIP inmates styled themselves before expensive court hearings.

But in one of the squalid cells, I won't forget the young Nigerian woman I met, who had reportedly been caught peddling drugs on a visit to India. She

wore a cotton petticoat that contrasted with the color of her skin, and sat awkwardly on the dirty cement floor.

Holding my hand, she pleaded in English: "I have children back home in Nigeria. The loos stink here and I can't sleep. Please help me, I was framed."

How many times has this job presented me with moments such as this? When as a journalist, you are amongst the first to be approached in trouble and turmoil; but when situations call for courage, tact and better judgment. I have always valued the times I have had to double as a 'therapy journalist' when a bona fide occasion demanded.

But then in the face of increasing automation and the ubiquitous robots on the radar, I do ask myself: can these machines match these roles? Xiao Nan, the robot-reporter in China, may write stories at the speed of light but will it have the emotional connect so crucial to good old-fashioned story-telling?

That surreal moment when the Fourth Estate meets the Fourth Industrial Revolution will be a moment worth looking out for – and writing about.



METHIL RENUKA, EDITOR



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MTN Business and FORBES WOMAN AFRICA look forward to hosting African powerhouses to the second edition of our Leading Women Summit 2017 on March 8, International Women's Day. The theme for this year will be 'Disrupting The Norm', which will be a candid exchange of ideas and experiences with panel sessions and stellar keynote speakers who will explore the underlying theme of disruption. This follows the success of our inaugural summit last year, themed 'Rise of the female millennial'. Follow the conversation using #LWS2017, or visit www.leadingwomensummit.co.za

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YOUR TWITTER COMMENTS ON OUR DECEMBER/JANUARY 2016 ISSUE WITH RWANDA'S FIRST LADY, JEANNETTE KAGAME ON THE COVER:

BPG Alumni [Network@BPGalumni](#) All we needed! Our very own [@FirstLadyRwanda](#) graciously on [@ForbesWomanAfri](#) cover & revealing her efforts in building stronger communities.

William [@WilliamMugabo](#) [@FirstLadyRwanda](#) [@ForbesWomanAfri](#) she is the best first lady in the world #we need Kagame family back 2017#

nzaramba claude [@ClaudeNzaramba](#) [@FirstLadyRwanda](#) [@ForbesWomanAfri](#) very interesting we like that.

munyaneza [@bakevuga](#) [@FirstLadyRwanda](#) [@ForbesWomanAfri](#) she's the mother of mothers in the world. I love the family for our president

Fungai Ndemera [@fungaindem](#) [@ForbesWomanAfri](#) [@forbesafrica](#) One of my favorite First lady doing great things in Africa.

Stephen KALINDA [@kalinda_stephen](#) [@FirstLadyRwanda](#) [@ForbesWomanAfri](#) Am proud of her Excellency

Adv Thuli Madonsela [@ThuliMadonsela3](#) Thanks [@ForbesWomanAfri](#) for a delightful article on my last day in office as [@PublicProtector](#)



YOUR FACEBOOK COMMENTS ON OUR DECEMBER/JANUARY 2016 ISSUE WITH RWANDA'S FIRST LADY, JEANNETTE KAGAME ON THE COVER:

Thando Mniki

Bought my copy last week.so many interesting stories to read and a bonus copy. Thank you guys.

Jayee Mugira

With the way you [First Lady Kagame] are tackling some issues Madame you can make Africa great if given that opportunity



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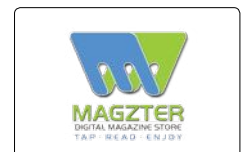
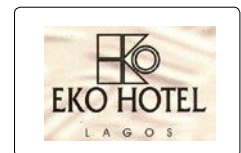


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Africa at WEF Davos

One hundred and twenty leaders from Africa attended this year's World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. Elsie Kanza, WEF head for Africa, said Africa's positive response to the period of growth and expansion for pre-existing and new industries was interesting.

[Source: www.enca.com]



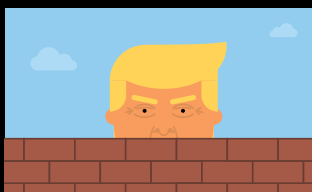
Serena ousts Venus

Tennis star Serena Williams won her 23rd Grand Slam singles title beating sister Venus at the Australian Open. This was her 7th Australian Open victory, against her older sister. The two were all smiles and compliments in the post-match ceremony.



Trump's wall

US President Donald Trump has signed two executive orders for the construction of a wall on the US-Mexico border. "The United States of America gets back control of its borders," he said.



Trump's travel ban

Trump's order limiting Muslim entry into the US; he also ordered closing borders for at least 90 days to travelers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Several travelers from the targeted countries were suddenly trapped at airports.

[The Huffington Post]



Chad foreign minister new AU Commission Chief

The heavily contested battle to chair the African Union Commission was won by Chad's Foreign Minister and former Prime Minister Moussa Faki. The 56-year-old beat two strong women contenders to replace South African-born Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the first woman to lead the continental organization. The Chadian was voted in at a summit of the 54-nation body in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on January 30.

Faki beat four other candidates to the post. Among them Amina Mohamed, Kenya's Foreign Minister who has had a

diplomatic career of over three decades, Abdoulaye Bathily, Senegalese diplomat and politician, Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi, Botswana's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Equatorial Guinea's Mba Mokuy, the third contender who was a Foreign Minister and the youngest contestant.

Faki's main rival in the last round of voting at summit was Mohamed.



CALL FOR LEGAL ABORTION SERVICES

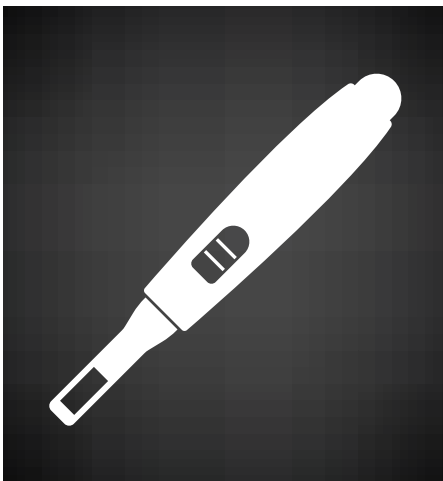
Due to persistent barriers to legal abortion services, women and girls risk unsafe abortions that can lead to serious health complications, and even death. This is according to research by Amnesty International and the Women's Health Research Unit of the School of Public Health and Family Medicine at the University of Cape Town.

The brief highlights how despite South Africa having one of the world's most progressive legal frameworks for abortion, many women and girls, especially those in the poorest and most marginalized communities, struggle to access safe abortion services.

Under the right to Freedom of Conscience in the South African Constitution, healthcare professionals are understood to have the right to refuse to perform an abortion in certain cases, but never in emergencies, or where the woman or girl's life is at risk.

One case mentioned in the report is of a 19-year-old student from Johannesburg who died in 2016 following complications from an unsafe abortion.

According to the Department of Health, of the 505 health facilities designated to provide termination of pregnancy services, only 264 currently provide first and second trimester termination services.



DE LILLE RESIGNS AS DA PROVINCIAL LEADER

Late January, Cape Town mayor Patricia De Lille turned in her resignation as the Democratic Alliance's (DA) Western Cape leader. De Lille says she's taking time out to focus on her mayoral role, more so on the new Organisational Development and Transformation Plan. She believes that those in government and other spheres have a duty to build the DA. She handed over her letter of resignation to party leader Mmusi Maimane thanking him for his support.

[Source: eNCA]



BLACK WOMEN DOMINATE OSCARS' CATEGORY

The announcement of the 2017 Oscar nominations saw black women as three of the five nominees for the best supporting actress category, including Viola Davis for *Fences*, Naomi Harris for *Moonlight* and Octavia Spencer for *Hidden Figures*.

Davis has made history as she is the first black actress to receive three Oscar nominations. In *Fences*, she acts alongside fellow nominee Denzel Washington. *Hidden Figures* tells the story of three brilliant African-American women who served at NASA.

The 89th Academy Awards will be held on February 26 in Hollywood.

KENYAN WOMEN URGED TO DENY SEX IN VOTE DRIVE



A Kenyan MP has urged women to abstain from sex during the period leading up to voting registrations for the national elections that are to take place on August 8.

Mishi Mboko, who is also the women's representative for the city of Mombasa in Kenya, says the strategy will encourage husbands to register as voters for the national elections.

"Women, this is the strategy you should adopt. It is the best. Deny them sex until they show you their voter's card," she said.

[Source: BBC]

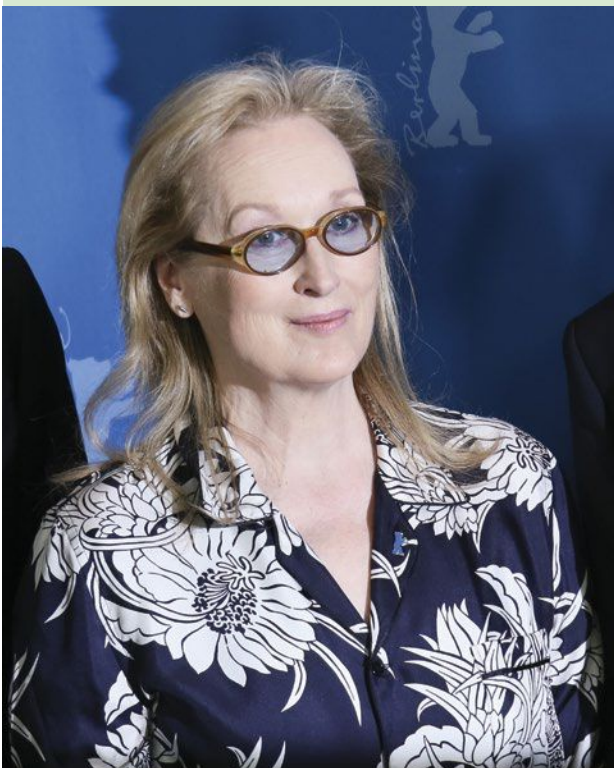
MERYL STREEP'S WINNING SPEECH

A thumbs-up to American actress Meryl Streep for her speech after receiving the lifetime award at the 2017 Golden Globe awards in Hollywood. Streep turned the attention away from her by using the platform to address and call out US President Donald Trump, in a reference to Trump's apparent mockery of a disabled reporter in 2015.

"It was that moment when the person asking to sit in the most respected seat in our country imitated a disabled reporter. Someone he outranked in privilege, power and the capacity to fight back."

Streep went on to stress how "disrespect invites disrespect, violence incites violence". Spectators were on the fence with her speech but the awards room gave her a cheer and applause.

[Source: The New York Times]



SA WINES AT WEF DAVOS

Brand South Africa showcased its stellar wine range at the World Economic Forum in Davos to attendees and global leaders. In global wine production, there has been at least 10% growth per year towards the GDP according to a 2015 study commissioned by the SA Wine Industry Information and Systems, and South African wine is ranked eighth in overall production.



FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN CREWMEMBER ON THE ISS

Jeanette Epps will become the first African-American crewmember on the International Space Station. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced Epps, together with veteran astronaut Andrew Fustel, and she will be in orbit for the first time.

Epps says when she was a nine-year-old growing up in her hometown of Syracuse, New York, after coming home with great grades, her brother told her and her twin sister they would become aerospace engineers or even astronauts one day. Her career took off when she obtained a master's degree and a doctorate in aerospace engineering during the time she also worked as a fellow NASA Graduate Student Researchers Project.

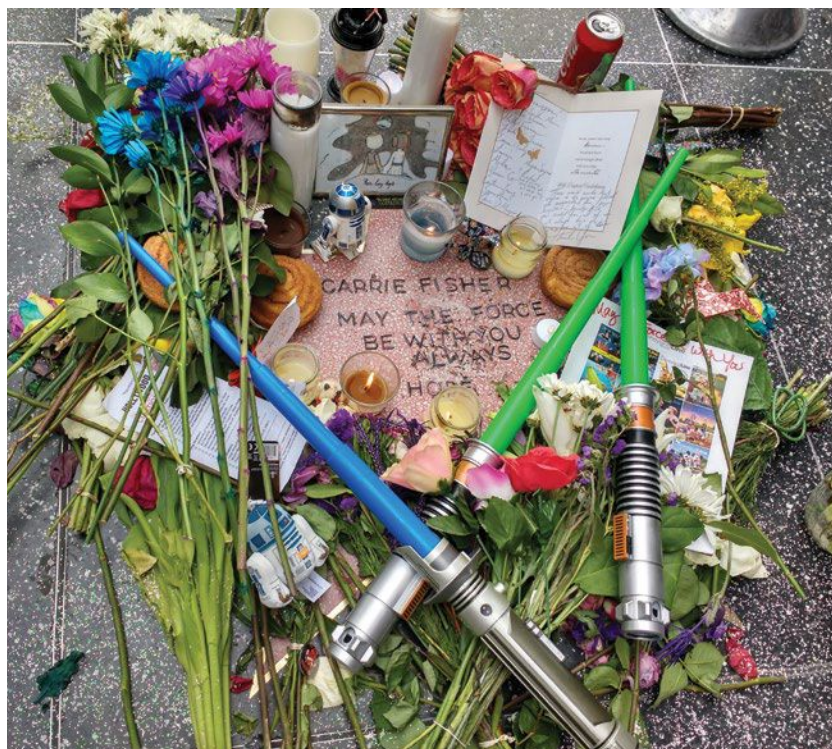
[Source: Glamour]

CHARLIZE AT WOMEN'S MARCH

Around one million women and men took to the streets in cities across America on President Trump's first day in office; amongst them South African Charlize Theron. The Oscar-winning actress says the only way the march can be solidified is through momentum.

"It doesn't matter where it is, as long as we're a united front. The images I saw turning on the television shows, we're united. There is no denying what's happening and I think that says so much," she said. The #MarchOnMain organizers created the platform for political change.





HOLLYWOOD'S TRIBUTE TO CARRIE FISHER



Tributes for *Star Wars* actress Carrie Fisher poured in from Hollywood co-stars William Shatner and Whoopi Goldberg who shared their messages on social media. Fisher died on December 28, 2016, in Los Angeles. She reportedly suffered a heart attack on a flight and died two days later. A day after her death, Carrie's mother, Debbie Reynolds, suffered a severe stroke and passed away. Five years ago, the mother and daughter had been invited to Oprah Winfrey's show and had expressed on screen their love for each other. Reynolds was also an actress, known for her role in the sitcom *Will & Grace*.

TEXAS WOMAN TAMES GODZILLA

Godzilla, a 900-pound alligator was caught in a Texas shopping center by a 30-year-old woman named Christy Kroboth, who tamed the prowling 13-foot gator. The Houston-based Gator Squad trapper is an animal lover and often underestimated by police departments or animal control because she is a woman working in a male-dominated industry. "Whenever I show up on the scene, the police department or animal control always says, 'You're the alligator trapper? We were expecting some guy!'" she says. Duct tape was used to tie up the alligator and it was then moved into the back of a truck.



FINTECH EMPOWERING AFRICAN WOMEN

Financial inclusion in Africa is becoming a pressing issue economically, as more than 80% of adults are unbanked. This has drastically impacted the development of lives and communities. Lelemba Phiri was born and raised in Zambia, and from an early age saw how financial inclusion could change people's lives for the better. When Zoona, a leading innovator in the financial technology space, approached her, she grabbed it. Zoona is a model of empowering community entrepreneurs to provide financial services to their communities. Now, as Chief Marketing Officer for Zoona, she has had the privilege of working with thousands of women in Africa, as well as engaging with them through books, workshops and speaking sessions. She firmly believes empowering women entrepreneurs to earn an income by providing key financial services to their communities is a perfect illustration of social entrepreneurship. Her dedication has led her to being selected as one of three Cordes Fellows chosen from Africa in 2016.

LOCKDOWN GRITTY PRISON DRAMA

The craft of telling authentic women stories has been transferred onto the South African stage as a compelling female prison drama series. Mzansi Magic's *Lockdown* has been received well by viewers since its debut. It is a

break from male-dominated prison stories, as it explores the lives of female prisoners. It has a stellar South African cast featuring well-known dancer Lorcia Cooper.

[Source: The New Age]

ROYAL BRUNEI'S FIRST ALL-FEMALE CREW LANDS PLANE IN SAUDI

Royal Brunei Airlines operated a plane from Brunei to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, for the first time with an all-female flight deck crew. Although making history, the cabin crew landed in a country where women are not permitted to drive or operate motion machinery. Captain Sharifah Czarena and senior first officers Sariana Nordin and Dk Nadiyah Pg Khashiem were the pilots. This was to commemorate Brunei National Day, which marks the state's full independence from the UK in 1984.



Fisher & Reynolds photos by Helga Esteb / Shutterstock, Inc; Royal Brunei photo by Mike Fuchslocher / Shutterstock, Inc



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What December Will Tell

Former African Union Commission chair Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma has a critical year ahead as the ANC prepares to elect a new candidate to lead what promises to be a stormy election. Will the scales tip in her favor?

WORDS VUYO MVOKO

On Friday January 27, her 68th birthday, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma ended her four-and-a-half year tenure as the first woman chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission. She didn't seek a second term, many assume, so she could devote energy to her bid to become South Africa's first woman state president.

With incumbent President Jacob Zuma, her ex-husband, serving his final term, the ruling African National Congress (ANC) must elect a new candidate to lead it into the teeth of what is likely to be a stormy election in 2019. That person will be named at the party's 54th national elective conference in December.

Dlamini-Zuma's campaign got a shot in the arm a day before the party's 105th birthday, on January 7, when she was the first candidate to be endorsed by a party structure.

"Her capacity, experience and credentials are second to none," says the African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) executive. This was bold talk, in a party



that doesn't like to talk about succession (at least until the leadership says it's ok).

That Dlamini-Zuma's backers endorsed her with alacrity is telling. With ANC women, youth and veterans' leagues renowned for punting candidates they know will find favor with the prevailing faction, it can be assumed that the former AU Commission chair has the tacit support of both President Zuma and the powerful so-called 'Premier League', a coterie of ANC provincial chairpersons who are also Premiers of the three provinces of the Free State, North West and Mpumalanga.

"It is no longer a discussion in the ANC whether a woman can take a high leadership position or not. The ANC is ready for that. In fact, the party has been ready for some time; it will depend on the integrity that she possesses and whether members see her fit for the position," hinted President Zuma days after the ANCWL pronouncements.

There's no doubting her intelligence and incredible work ethic; often overshadowed by her dour, moody personality.

As the first post-apartheid health minister, from 1994 to 1999, Dlamini-Zuma laid the foundation for a universal health-care system; against vehement opposition from the private healthcare industry. In fact, she was the one who took on the might of powerful multinational pharmaceutical companies, forcing them to lower the prices of anti-retroviral drugs and to accept generics. There were a couple of disasters: the expensive AIDS awareness play: *Sarafina 2*, that flopped, and her overzealous backing of a home-grown antiretroviral drug (*Virodene*) that never was.

Her stint as foreign minister, from 1999 to 2009, saw South Africa elevate its profile. As home affairs minister, from 2009 to 2012, she ushered in a maiden clean audit.

While her stint as AU Commission chair will help her campaign, she drew as much criticism as praise.

But then, as history has shown, a person's CV or temperament means little in ANC politics. It's the faction you embrace and whether its machinery can grind you through the party's hazardous politics in which she could be seen as merely her former husband's anointed.

The other candidate, of course, is Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, the former businessman, an alternative around whom many, not so keen on Dlamini-Zuma, can rally. Posters circulated by his supporters on social media say he will combat corruption, nepotism and tribalism in uniting the party.

But Ramaphosa lacks drive, his critics say. "He is timid and reluctant," says analyst Karima Brown. "He has been slow off the blocks, he had to be brow-beaten to get his campaign off the ground."

Other potential candidates include party Treasurer and medical practitioner Dr Zweli Mkhize, whose political cunning and subtlety has seen him duck slings and arrows. A couple of times he fell out of favor with President Zuma, only to claw his way back. ANC policy chief and minister in the presidency Jeff Radebe's hat is also in the ring.

A critical factor over the next 10 months will be the power President Zuma holds over the process. If it wanes, so may the power of the leagues including the 'Premier League'. All of this could upset Dlamini-Zuma's chances.

"Her capacity, experience and credentials are second to none."

Those seeking an alternative are fearful that master strategist President Zuma could use state machinery to tip the scales in Dlamini-Zuma's favor.

The alternative brigade bank on the belief that President Zuma has offended so many, who can't wait to see his back, that they will do anything to stop him. That, after all, is how President Zuma dealt with former president Thabo Mbeki by getting disgruntled groupings to bury their differences and oust the man in power.

Perhaps the real predicament facing any oncoming ANC president is that, the party that once stood for all good things of this world, winning almost two thirds of the national vote in one election, is now courting unpopularity. For the first time, since taking over from the white minority regime almost 23 years ago, resentful voters saw it losing to opposition coalitions in three of the country's biggest municipalities that were, not so long ago, ANC strongholds: Johannesburg; Tshwane and Nelson Mandela.

So far, there's been no evidence that the ANC sees its 2016 electoral losses as a crisis that warrants extraordinary thinking and intervention. It's business as usual – with pretty much the same thinking and usual rhetoric. Much to its own detriment, the party has been refusing to acknowledge, much less deal with, the cause of rising voter disaffection.

Can Dlamini-Zuma change this cavalier attitude? Tough job; nothing happened when the highest court in the land, the Constitutional Court, found that President Zuma, failed to uphold the constitution in the Nkandla saga over taxpayers' money spent on his home.

"Where was Dlamini-Zuma, Ramaphosa, Mbete, Mkhize, Radebe?" asks Brown.

"There's a mismatch between what the ANC can do, and its capacity to do it," says analyst and researcher Aubrey Matshiqi. He doubts the ANC's insistence that it still has the ability to self-correct for another election victory in 2019.

In December, we will know who is likely to lead that tough election fight. **FW**

TRIBUTE - THANDI KLAASEN

Farewell To



Photo by Gallo Images / Getty Images

Jazz icon Thandi Klaasen, who embodied the artistic soul of Sophiatown, was given a fitting send-off by those who knew her silky voice, and the suffering and sorrows that spurred her on.

WORDS YONELA MGWALI

African jazz legend Thandi Klaasen saw and sang through it all; many years of hunger, oppression and an acid bomb thrown into her face.

When she surrendered to life, her memorial drew the finest of the last 50

Romance

years – many of whom listened to her rich voice as children.

On a chilly afternoon in Johannesburg, a hall of mourners – musicians, politicians, family and supporters of Klaasen – gathered at the Germiston City Hall, to tell her stories. Strangely, there was not even a single tear. It was a hall filled with

“She was Thandiwe all the way you like or not. She was never apologetic about who she was.”

clapping and laughter.

There were rows of chairs, in the middle front seated the family wearing white t-shirts with Klaasen’s face printed on them. Baroque floral arrangements flanked the stage, and scores of reporters filled the hallway.

Klaasen died of pancreatic cancer on January 15, at the age of 86 after being admitted to Thelle Mogoerane Hospital in Vosloorus, east of Johannesburg, on December 9, 2016.

To the world, she was known as a music giant with a golden voice, a sense of humor and Tsotsi Taal, a township slang, the language of Sophiatown, where she was born. To her children, she was a mom who loved sharing her stories.

Her daughter Lorraine, also a musician, took to the podium sporting a hat and black and white brogues. The clothes were her mom’s favorite.

She started her five-minute eulogy by greeting the audience: “Sanibonani, dumelang, hoe gaan dit, hoezit?”, a way that Klaasen greeted people.

“My chest is so tight and it’s like somebody put a rope around my throat,” said Lorraine.

“Music made my mom very happy. It was not about how she sang the songs but how the audience reacted.”

Lorraine likened her mom to a rose that looks pretty, but if not watered, wilts and dies.

“Every time my mom visited me in Canada, I took her to schools, senior citizens’ homes and HIV/AIDS foundations; every place where my mom could speak and inspire people I took my mom and so she became alive. But when we came back home, I noticed she was withering away musically.”

It was the end of a story that began in 1931 when the world was in the throes of depression.

Born to a shoemaker father and a domestic worker mother, Klaasen started her career as a teenager, singing in churches for a handful of coins. She decided to become a singer after seeing a jazz group perform at her school.

Not many knew she was also a tap dancer.

Klaasen knew poverty, apartheid and hardship and poured it into her work.

*“I had no chance to say goodbye to romance
I had no time to leave it all behind
It was the place I knew
Where my dreams came true
Until they broke it down
Sophiatown”*

These are the lyrics from her popular song, *Sophiatown*, narrating a sad tale of how black people were removed from the cosmopolitan suburb of Johannesburg.

In 1977, the star was attacked with an acid bomb that disfigured her face and put her in hospital for a year. It is said that a rival hired thugs to assault the singer; to this day, no one knows who it was.

Klaasen used to say: “They have burned the face but not the voice.”

Sadly, the great voice is no more.

She was also well-known for her role in the international musical, *King Kong*, by composer Todd Matshikiza singing alongside great voices, such as Dorothy Masuka, Dolly Rathebe and Miriam Makeba.

Fellow musician Don Mattera, leaning on a stick, described Klaasen as a queen who never needed protection.

With a career that spanned over five decades, she has received a string of awards, including: The Woman of



Minister of Communications Faith Muthambi



Babsy Mlangeni (left) with fellow musician Blondie Makhene

TRIBUTE - THANDI KLAASEN



Kubeka (center) and Masuka

so she cooked this mutton and it happened that a dish cloth fell into the pot and she wasn't aware. So she dished up for the husband, so as he was eating with a fork, he noticed a dish cloth. He then asked 'Thandi, what have you cooked?'

Her response was "Ag man, Lucas jy het gese jy soek mutton curry (no man, Lucas you said you wanted mutton curry)", and then Lucas said "ja mutton curry maar die is 'n dish cloth curry die (yes, mutton



Lorraine posing for a picture at the memorial service of her mother, Thandi Klaasen

curry, but this is a dish cloth curry)".

"Rest in peace, Thandi, and don't cook mutton cloth or dish curry again," Kubeka said, before getting back to her seat next to Masuka.

Kubeka described Klaasen as a courageous woman who stood up in the face of the apartheid regime.

"She was so brave you took her to London and she was Thandiwe all the way you like or not. She was never apologetic about who she was," she said.

Zanele Dlamini, 38, who played a young Klaasen at the Market Theatre, a tribute to jazz legends, performed *Sophiatown*.

"When I first heard that she passed away I was hurt a lot. Playing mama Klaasen wasn't easy but she helped me a lot even though she wasn't fine health-wise. I last saw her in August, but before her death, I used to communicate with Lorraine, who told me she wasn't talking anymore. I wanted her to see herself in me. Even though she was sick I wasn't ready for her death," said Dlamini.

"She lived her life; a life of tragedy and finally she's in peace," said Lorraine.

To these musicians, she lives on; her song will never die. **FW**

Distinction Award, in Canada in 1999, and a Lifetime Achievement Award at the South African Music Awards.

Many said they'll remember Klaasen for her humor, feisty personality and conviviality.

"She had the special gift of making wine disappear in seconds," said Nandi Ndlovu, a granddaughter, as the hall erupted in laughter.

Legendary musician Abigail Kubeka

“She had the special gift of making wine disappear in seconds.”

said Klaasen was a lady of style.

"I remember when she was still married to her husband, Lucas; she once told me that 'hey Abi, I once cooked because Lucas had asked for a mutton curry', and as you know she used to love her wine,

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Why The Richest And Most Powerful Go To Davos

WORDS MONIQUE VANEK

For years, I've been a silent observer of the World Economic Forum (WEF), reading about it on the internet, editing reams of copy on it or watching it on TV. But one question has always remained in my mind. What drives thousands of people each year to a small alpine town in Switzerland to live out Professor Klaus Schwab's dream, who founded the forum in 1971?

After traveling almost 13,000 kilometers from the tip of Africa to Davos, a semblance of an answer began to emerge.

The answer was not to be found in the sub-zero temperatures that left the entire body numb with cold nor in *Responsive and Responsible Leadership*, the theme driving the WEF Annual Meeting 2017. Instead it was to be found in the Congress Centre, or on the streets and hotels of Davos-Klosters.

It was to be found among the people – the 3,000 delegates that gathered for the event and the thousands of support staff.

The draw card – the opportunity to mingle and be seen with the most influential and powerful people in the world. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, crossed my path several times at Davos. Mauritius President Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, after sharing her plans for attracting investors to her country on a cold winter's night, agreed to a photo with me.

Singer and songwriter Shakira shared her passion for early child development advising us that “today's babies will drive tomorrow's business. Their capacity to contribute will shape tomorrow's societies, will solve tomorrow's problems”.

Anne-Sophie Mutter, one of the world's most famous violinists, entertained the crowds. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, former Finance Minister of Nigeria and Board Chair of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, discussed plans to immunize up to 300



Vanek (right) with Gurib-Fakim at WEF Davos 2017

million more children all over the world by 2020.

The allure of Davos is that it gives delegates a platform to discuss the most pressing issues of our time, such as the refugee crisis, climate change and can-women-have-it-all?

It offers an arena to do business deals with the richest, to form new contacts and exchange business cards. It provides purveyors a glimpse into where the world stands, shifts in geopolitics and the ironies and contradictions of the world. It allows those present to see who controls the vast majority of wealth and intellectual capital and how this has changed.

WEF 2017 was a world in which the largest bankers, infamous for the financial crisis, such as JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs, could be heard offering their views on Trump making America and stock markets great again, while Ugandan-born Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director at

Oxfam was decrying that eight men own the same wealth as the 3.6 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity, according to a new report published by the agency.

It was an arena that brought into stark contrast the plight of Africa, and the developed world when simultaneously it hosted a panel discussion with *CNBC Africa* on Powering Africa, while meters away, some of the leading minds in technology were debating what role artificial intelligence should play in our futures; and that the 48 countries that make up sub-Saharan Africa generate almost the same amount of electricity as Spain.

Davos 2017 was a gathering where UK's Prime Minister Theresa May declared that Britain's decision to leave the European Union was not a rejection of its friends in Europe but simply a vote to restore its “parliamentary democracy and national self-determination. A vote to take control and make decisions for ourselves”. Juxtapose this with Xi Jinping's attendance. Jinping, the first Chinese president to attend WEF, led the country's largest-ever delegation to the ski-resort town to make a statement that China wants to assume a global leadership role as the world struggles with isolationism, populism and polarization. In a speech at the event, he stated: “It is true that economic globalization has created new problems, but this is no justification to write economic globalization off completely. Rather, we should adapt to and guide economic globalization, cushion its negative impact, and deliver its benefits to all countries and all nations.” **FW**

– Vanek is news editor of *CNBC Africa* and *CNBCAfrica.com*; she lives and breathes business and financial news, and is now slowly developing a passion for artificial intelligence.



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Tales From A Tense Place

Two women, one country, one fear. The tales of Linda Masarira and Nyasha Musandu tell of the fear on the ground in Zimbabwe with its tottering economy. They are an unlikely duo, an activist and a communications strategist, but both have felt the hand of authority over them for speaking out, sitting in a park and asking questions.

WORDS ANCILLAR MANGENA

It is a hot, windy summer's day in Road Port, Harare. A Coca-Cola can blows merrily down the street. The can has freedom many others here envy. This place is seized by an oppressive gloom. It is filled by a crowd of people pushing, shoving, shouting, buying and selling. There is dirty water flowing down the street and litter fills the potholes. Yet, this grubby place is seeing more trade than Zimbabwe's biggest banks. Here, the

black market is king and the new bond notes are pawns.

"The bond notes came recently and we are business people so we have already seen an opportunity to make a bit of money. We don't see bond notes as having any sort of value, if you have 100 bond notes, I will give you US\$70," says Tapiwa Makoni, an informal money trader.

The Reserve Bank may say bond notes are 1:1 to the US dollar; the free market says no.

"People are already getting desperate for US dollars, especially when they are traveling out of the country. They are happy to get any real currency from us at whatever rate," he says.

It all began in May 2016, when the Reserve Bank Governor, John Mangudya, announced the bond note. Mangudya argued the notes would ease the cash crisis that saw the US dollar become scarce. It was going to come in gradually.



Photos by Thabani Mapfosa

“The Reserve Bank has established a US\$200 million foreign exchange and export incentive facility which is supported by the African Export-Import Bank to provide cushion on the high demand for foreign exchange and to provide an incentive facility of 5 percent on all foreign exchange receipts, including tobacco and gold sale proceeds,” says Mangudya.

The bond notes don’t seem to be helping much; as they too are restricted.

The withdrawal limit of bond notes is \$50 per day and \$150 per week.

Despite the introduction of the bond notes – that were touted by authorities as a solution to the liquidity crisis – there seems to be no significant improvement. Bond notes have been met with mounting anger and questions of legality. The city is full of protest banners mounted on brick walls, advertising billboards have #NoToBondNotes plastered all over

them. Peaceful protesters are thrown into jail.

This is the cherry on top of the fury and conflict that rages around Zimbabwe. It belies the peace and quiet Robert Mugabe promised on independence in 1980. In the next two pages, FORBES WOMAN AFRICA shares stories of two young women speaking up in the toughest of times. **FW**



ECONOMY – ZIMBABWE

do what they were hired to do. They beat me up, told me to stop demonstrating and then dropped me off at my house,” she recalls.

It didn’t stop her.

In 2015, she led yet another strike for non-payment of workers at NRZ. This time, it cost Masarira her job.

“With the regime we have in Zimbabwe, there are no rights, we are just made to work and the employer would say they will pay you whenever they get money. When you speak up, you become a target.”

She took them to the labor court and won.

“They were ordered to pay me everything they owed but to this day they haven’t paid.”

That’s not all. Abduction and unemployment didn’t stop her. In June 2016, she participated in the 16 Days of #OccupyAfricaUnitySquare in Harare to demand solutions to a hoard of economic challenges facing the Southern African country. Police arrested Masarira and fellow protestors and threw them into the cells where they were released two weeks later.

“We were taken to a place of safety where we stayed for another two weeks before we went home. I could feel something wasn’t right and it wasn’t safe for us to go back to our normal lives but people thought I was paranoid.”

Two days later, on July 6, she was arrested again.

“It was the day of the #ShutDownZimbabwe protest [planned by Pastor Evan Mawarire]. I was on my way to the city with my friend when three police cars stopped me. One officer came out of the car and severely attacked me with open fists... They carried me like a sack and took me to Marimba police station.”

Thirty hours later, according to Masarira, trumped up charges were filed.

“They said I was placing stones on the road and they charged me with obstruction of vehicles and pedestrians,” she says.

It meant 84 days in a maximum security prison and time away from her five children. She says prison was hell but while there, she fought for prisoners’ rights.

“That’s the best I could do to keep myself sane... They take away your dignity. There is nothing correctional they do. Instead, they make things worse. Prisoners are beaten sometimes and treated worse than a slave... Remand prisoners were being made to work yet that’s unlawful because they are not yet serving time.”

She staged a protest and according to Masarira, the prison’s response was to throw her into solitary confinement in the male section of Chikurubi maximum prison for 12 days. Her health deteriorated and her lawyers finally managed to get her out.

“I think the regime feels challenged to see a woman speak up like this. Over the years, it has been mostly men and now they wonder what impact this will have on other women. The struggle is real but we have to fight on until we remove this regime,” she says.

As Dr Martin Luther King Jr said, “History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamour of the bad people, but, the appalling silence of the good people.”

Masarira isn’t keeping quiet anytime soon. **FW**

The Activist

The love for your country can be painful and expensive. Linda Masarira’s fight against Robert Mugabe’s rule comes with excruciating consequences, but she vows to speak up despite being jailed, abducted, humiliated and penniless.

WORDS ANCILLAR MANGENA

The drive to interview Linda Masarira is unsettling on a Thursday afternoon; easier to shrink from than describe. We spotted a car following us for what felt like forever. We stop; and the car passes. Paranoia doesn’t. As we meet, Masarira is in hiding. Her painful journey of incarceration and vilification began with labor rights’ activism in Bulawayo in 2009.

Masarira says she led a demonstration against her employer, the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ), for not paying wages for almost a year. Protesters were arrested and many others assaulted.

“I was running away when I saw a Honda Fit driving by. I asked for a ride to flee from the chaos. When I got in, they closed my eyes and mouth and said ‘we have got you’.”

Masarira says they drove her to an unknown location where they kept her in a dark room and questioned her for three days.

“They were asking who was paying me to demonstrate. One of the guys felt sorry for me but the partner said they had to

The Park Sitter

The tale of a graduate, Nyasha Musandu, who left Canada to work in her country of birth, Zimbabwe, only to be arrested. Her crime: sitting in a park.

WORDS ANCILLAR MANGENA

It's a terrifying moment for a parent — a phone call that your daughter has been arrested. Nyasha Musandu's mother's heart must have pounded like a drum.

"My mother wasn't very happy; she was very worried and felt that it was a burden to carry. When they asked us to sign an admission of guilt, part of her was saying just sign it and let's go home," says Musandu.

Musandu says she didn't sign it because she had done nothing.

"It was painful because I saw what it did to my mother. She was at court the next day praying. But when she heard the state's case, she understood a little bit. While she understands, she feels like, why should it be me. If she knew I was talking to you right now, she would stop this interview abruptly," she says.

Musandu and her friends were arrested for sitting in a park in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital. On the day of the arrest, the #ThisFlag movement, started by Pastor Evan Mawarire early last year, had planned a march to demonstrate against

the introduction of bond notes. The march failed when key organizer, Patson Dzamara (brother of missing activist Itai Dzamara), was abducted and tortured the night before.

"I'm not an activist but an engaged citizen. I engage on issues with a personal resonance... At my age, given my background and education, I would expect a different quality of life than the life I am living now... My parents got their master's in their 40s and I got my master's in my 20s. I should at least be getting things like a mortgage, able to buy a brand new car but I can't. Those are the things that have made me speak up."

Problem is, according to Musandu, young educated Zimbabweans are not as engaged as they should be because of fear and selfishness.

"My wish is to see young people taking a part in this country and being active in ensuring we get the most out of our country. People now would rather put their heads down than fight. People think if you speak about politics you become a politician, it's not true."

Musandu warns lack of engagement will further harm the country. She says the same way people ask for accountability from the government and civil society, they must ask for accountability from themselves because if one is not part of the solution, they are part of the problem.

"I say to my parents, 'we are here because you said nothing'. I don't want my children to say the same. People used to compliment us by saying we are resilient but more and more I start to question that resilience as a positive thing. We have lost what it means to fight for life."

This is not the country Musandu imagined when she came back home after years of studying in Canada to become a communications strategist in Harare.

"On your own, you are a target but if we reach thousands of masses, we will see change. Fears people have are real but we should fear the future ahead of us even more," she says.

Charges against Musandu and friends have been dropped. She continues being involved in the country's welfare. Being

arrested and attending community meetings isn't enough. She now uses her communication skills for activism.

"I help those in different movements to communicate better so that our message is spread out and sounds more coherent," she says.

Just as Albert Einstein saw it, the world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything. Musandu is not willing to just stand and watch. **FW**

"Fears people have are real but we should fear the future ahead of us even more."

Nyasha Musandu



Africa's Billionaires

African billionaire fortunes have declined on the new FORBES list of the continent's richest.

WORDS KATE VINTON

The number of billionaires in Africa – and the size of their fortunes – continues to drop. On this year's list, FORBES is only including African billionaires living in Africa, instead of featuring Africa's 50 richest people. There are 21 billionaires on this year's list, worth a combined \$70 billion. On the November 2015 Africa Rich List, there were 23 African billionaires worth a combined \$79.8 billion. That in turn was down from 28 African billionaires in 2014.

Nigerian cement tycoon Aliko Dangote remains Africa's richest person for the sixth year running with a \$12.1 billion fortune, despite a nearly \$5 billion drop in his net worth for the second year in a row. Dangote is joined by just two other Nigerian billionaires on this year's list – telecom tycoon Mike Adenuga, who is Africa's third richest person with an estimated \$5.8 billion fortune, and oil billionaire Folorunsho Alakija, who has an estimated net worth of \$1.6 billion. Two Nigerians dropped off the Billionaires List this year – oil marketer Femi Otedola, whose net worth dropped from \$1.6 billion in November 2015 to just \$330 million today, and sugar billionaire Abdulsamad Rabiu, whose net worth dropped below \$1 billion in the wake of a weakened Nigerian currency. South Africa retains its dominance on the Africa List. While the country is tied with Egypt for the largest number of individual billionaires, South Africa's six billionaires are worth a combined \$22.7 billion – \$7 billion more than Egypt's six billionaires. The richest South African billionaire and the continent's second richest person is diamond magnate Nicky Oppenheimer, who has maintained a low profile since selling his family's stake in diamond giant De Beers to Anglo American for \$5.1 billion in cash in 2012. Luxury goods tycoon Johann Rupert and retail magnate

Christoffel Wiese are tied as South Africa's second richest and Africa's fourth richest billionaires, each with a \$5.5 billion fortune. Wiese's fortune has dropped \$1 billion since the November 2015 Africa list, while Rupert's net worth is down \$800 million.

Egypt's richest billionaire is Nassef Sawiris, whose \$5.3 billion fortune is up \$400 million since November 2015. Sawiris runs OCI, one of the world's largest nitrogen fertilizers. The country's next richest person is his brother Naguib Sawiris, who was Egypt's biggest gainer on the list. His net worth increased \$700 million to \$3.7 billion. In December 2016, Naguib Sawiris announced that he would be stepping down as CEO of his telecom company, Orasom Telecom Media & Technology.

FORBES counts only two female billionaires in Africa: Angola's Isabel dos Santos – Africa's richest woman with a \$3.2 billion fortune, and Nigeria's Alakija. Dos Santos is the daughter of Angola's president, who appointed her as head of Angola's state oil firm Sonangol in June 2016. Alakija is the vice chair of Nigerian oil exploration company, Famfa Oil.

At 41, Tanzanian Mohammed Dewji is Africa's youngest billionaire, well below the average age of 63. He is CEO of conglomerate METL, which his father founded in the 1970s. Eighty-six-year-old Onsi Sawiris of Egypt is the continent's oldest billionaire and the father of two other African billionaires – Nassef and Naguib Sawiris.

Thirteen out of Africa's 21 billionaires have self-made fortunes, while the other eight inherited their fortunes. The 21 billionaires hail from seven countries: South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Morocco (which has three billionaires), Algeria (one billionaire), Angola (one billionaire) and Tanzania (one billionaire). **FW**

#1 Aliko Dangote

\$12.1 billion

NIGERIA

Cement, sugar, flour

Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man, founded and chairs Dangote Cement, the continent's largest cement producer. In 2015 Dangote Cement launched new plants in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Zambia and Tanzania. The company produces more than 30 million metric tons annually, and plans to double capacity by 2018. Dangote owns about 90% of publicly-traded Dangote Cement through a holding company; this percentage exceeds the 80% ownership ceiling set by the Nigerian Stock Exchange. Other companies in the Dangote Group, which is active in 15 African countries, include publicly-traded salt, sugar and flour manufacturing companies. His net worth dropped during 2016 as Nigeria's currency weakened and its economy struggled.

#2 Nicky Oppenheimer & family

\$7 billion

SOUTH AFRICA

Diamonds

De Beers diamond heir Nicky Oppenheimer keeps a lower profile today than the diamonds that bear his family name. In May 2016, the rare Oppenheimer Blue diamond, once owned by his uncle Philip, was sold for \$57.5 million, setting a record for the most expensive diamond sold at auction. For 85 years, the Oppenheimer family occupied a controlling spot in the world's diamond trade; in 2012, Nicky sold his 40% stake in De Beers to mining conglomerate Anglo American for \$5.1 billion in cash. Anglo American, which Nicky's grandfather founded, controls 85% of De Beers; the government of Botswana owns the remaining 15%. Nicky Oppenheimer served on Anglo American's board for 37 years through 2011, and retains an estimated 1% stake in the company. His E. Oppenheimer & Son entity controls investment firms Stockdale Street Capital and Tana Africa Capital, a joint venture with Singapore government-owned investment firm Temasek. Tana Africa Capital holds minority interests in African food manufacturers Promasidor and Regina.

#3 Mike Adenuga

\$5.8 billion

NIGERIA

Telecom, oil

Mike Adenuga, Nigeria's second richest man, built his fortune in telecom and oil production. His mobile phone network, Globacom, is the second largest operator in Nigeria with 36 million subscribers; it also has operations in Ghana and the Republic of Benin. His exploration outfit, Conoil Producing, operates six oil blocks in the Niger Delta. He also owns real estate firm Proline Investments, which has hundreds of properties throughout Nigeria. Adenuga studied in the United States, getting an MBA at Pace University in New York, where he worked as a taxi driver to support

himself. He returned to Nigeria and made his first fortune trading lace and Coca-Cola. Along the way he made friends with Nigerian military bigwigs who awarded him lucrative state contracts; those formed the foundation of his fortune. His estimated net worth is lower this year due to the drop in value of Nigeria's currency, challenges in the oil sector, and overall weakness in Nigeria's economy.

#4 Johann Rupert & family

\$5.5 billion

SOUTH AFRICA

Luxury goods

Johann Rupert is chairman of Swiss luxury goods firm Compagnie Financière Richemont. Best known for the brands Cartier and Montblanc, the company was formed in 1998 by spinning off international assets owned by Rembrandt Group Limited (now Remgro Limited), a South African company his father Anton founded in the 1940s as a tobacco manufacturer. Rupert owns a 7% stake in diversified investment firm Remgro, which he chairs, as well as 25% of Reinet, an investment holding company based in Luxembourg that has a stake in British American Tobacco. He also owns part of the Saracens English rugby team and Anthonij Rupert Wines, named after his deceased brother. In recent years, Rupert has been a vocal opponent of plans to allow fracking in the Karoo, a region of South Africa where he owns land. Rupert says his biggest regret was not buying half of Gucci when he had the opportunity to do so for just \$175 million, adding that his advice to entrepreneurs is to "follow your gut".

#5 Christoffel Wiese

\$5.5 billion

SOUTH AFRICA

Retail

Christoffel Wiese built a retail empire by capitalizing on bargain prices in South Africa, and has expanded its geographic footprint. In December 2015, Wiese's furniture and home goods retailer Steinhoff moved its listing from the Johannesburg Stock Exchange to the Frankfurt Stock Exchange to focus on the European market. In August 2016, Steinhoff entered the US market, announcing plans to buy Mattress Firm Holding Corp., which owns Sleepy's, a chain with 1,000 mattress stores, for \$2.4 billion. His other investments include 15% of publicly-traded Shoprite Holdings, which has supermarkets, furniture stores and fast food outlets in 15 countries across Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands; and stakes in private equity firm Brait, industrial products company Invicta Holdings and mining-sector investor Pallinghurst.

#6 Nassef Sawiris

\$5.3 billion

EGYPT

Construction, chemicals

Egypt's richest businessman, Nassef Sawiris,

runs OCI, one of the largest nitrogen fertilizer producers in the world. It has plants in Texas, and is building facilities in Iowa. Originally Orascom Construction Industries, Sawiris split the company into two entities in 2015. Orascom Construction now trades on Egypt's exchange and Nasdaq Dubai, while OCI, the fertilizer and chemicals business, trades on the Euronext Amsterdam exchange. Sawiris also owns nearly 5% of cement giant LafargeHolcim, and 7% of Adidas. A University of Chicago graduate, he donated \$20 million to the school in 2015 to establish a scholarship program named after his father, Onsi. The funds benefit Egyptian students.

#7 Naguib Sawiris

\$3.7 billion

EGYPT

Telecom

Naguib Sawiris captured world headlines in 2015 when he offered to buy an island from Greece or Italy to settle refugees fleeing the war in Syria. "I am serious with my intentions," he told FORBES. Neither country took up his offer. Sawiris, who built his fortune in telecom, announced in December 2016 he was stepping down as CEO of Cairo-based Orascom Telecom Media & Technology (OTMT). The company's efforts to acquire an investment bank in March 2016 were stymied by Egypt's financial regulators, who accused OTMT of breaches pertaining to a five-year-old demerger of telecom assets. OTMT claims that the government has as a result hampered its ability to grow. In 2015, it exited the cell phone business in Egypt when it sold its stake in Mobinil to France's Orange. In North Korea, OTMT operates Koryolink, the country's only 3G mobile telecom firm, but lost financial control over the operator due to the government's manoeuvres. Since 2013, Sawiris has built major stakes in gold mining companies that operate in Canada, Australia and Africa.

#8 Isabel dos Santos

\$3.2 billion

ANGOLA

Investments

Isabel dos Santos is the oldest daughter of Angola's long-time president and, by virtue of her investments in Portugal and Angola, Africa's richest woman. Though her representatives deny that her holdings have any connection to her father, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, FORBES research found that he transferred stakes in several Angolan companies to her. In June 2016, he appointed her the head of Sonangol, Angola's state oil firm. Her assets in Angola include 25% of Unitel, the country's largest mobile phone network, and 42% of a bank, Banco BIC. In Portugal she owns nearly 6% of oil and gas firm Galp Energia (alongside Portuguese billionaire Americo Amorim), and nearly 19% of Banco BPI, the country's fourth-largest bank. She is also a controlling

shareholder of Portuguese cable TV and telecom firm Nos SGPS (formerly called Zon). In June 2015, media reported that she spent slightly more than \$200 million to buy a stake in Portuguese electric power equipment firm Efaced Power Solutions. In October 2015, four members of the European Parliament publicly called for an investigation into her investments in Portugal, questioning their legality, saying that the method of payment – a transfer of funds by the Angolan government – "raises the possibility the Angolan State is indirectly and illegally financing private investments of his daughter Isabel dos Santos." A spokesperson for Dos Santos told FORBES that "Isabel dos Santos is an independent businesswoman and a private investor representing solely her own interests. Her investments in Angolan and/or in Portuguese companies are transparent and have been conducted through arms length's transactions involving external entities such as reputed banks and law firms."

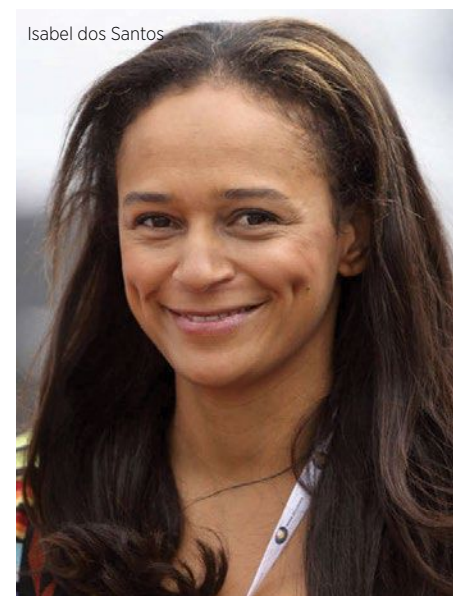
#9 Issad Rebrab & family

\$3.1 billion

ALGERIA

Food

Issad Rebrab founded Algeria's biggest privately held conglomerate, Cevital. It owns one of the largest sugar refineries in the world, with an annual output of 1.6 million tons; it also produces vegetable oil and margarine. In 2014, he acquired (for an undisclosed amount) Groupe Brandt, a large French-based maker of appliances that had filed for bankruptcy protection. Cevital has invested more than \$200 million to build a Brandt plant in Algeria that will employ 7,500 people. Rebrab was reportedly a customer of Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca, which helped him set up offshore firms to register a Swiss bank account in defiance of Algerian laws. Rebrab, whose five children work at the company, is the son of militants who fought for Algeria's independence from France.



Isabel dos Santos

AFRICA'S BILLIONAIRES



Folorunsho Alakija

Photo by TY Bello

the family's private equity investments.

#11 Koos Bekker

\$2 billion

SOUTH AFRICA

Media, investments
Koos Bekker is revered as an astute executive who transformed South African newspaper publisher Naspers into a digital media powerhouse, primarily due to his 2001 bet on Chinese internet and media firm Tencent. During his tenure as CEO, which began in 1997, Bekker oversaw a rise in the market capitalization of Naspers from about \$600 million to \$45 billion, while drawing no salary, bonus, or benefits. He was compensated via stock option grants that vested over time. Bekker, who retired as the CEO of Naspers in March 2014, returned as chairman in April 2015. Over the summer of 2015 he sold more than 70% of his Naspers shares. His Babylonstoren estate, which features architecture dating back to 1690, stretches across nearly 600 acres in South Africa's Western Cape region and includes a farm, orchard, vineyard, a 14-room hotel and a restaurant.

#12 Othman Benjelloun

\$1.9 billion

MOROCCO

Banking, insurance
Othman Benjelloun's father was a large shareholder in a small Moroccan insurance company. Benjelloun took over in 1988, and built it into privately held RMA Watanya, a leading insurance company. He then used it to expand into banking. Today he is chairman of BMCE Bank, Africa's second largest bank with operations in 20 African countries, including Senegal, Kenya and Congo. Through his holding company FinanceCom, he is also the majority shareholder of RMA Watanya and has a minority stake in Mediatecom, Morocco's second largest mobile phone operator. His Paris-based money management firm, FinanceCom Asset Management, invests in companies in Nigeria, South Africa, and Ghana, among other countries. To house BMCE's new headquarters, Benjelloun is building a 30-story rocket-shaped tower that will loom over Casablanca. He co-owns a ranch (Ranch Adarouch), where he raises livestock and keeps race horses.

#13 Yasseen Mansour

\$1.8 billion

EGYPT

Diversified
Yasseen Mansour and his billionaire brothers, Youssef and Mohammed, run Mansour Group, which owns the sole rights for Caterpillar dealerships in Egypt, Russia and several African countries, as well as General Motors dealerships in Egypt and Iraq. In Egypt the group also operates supermarkets and McDonald's restaurants, and distributes tobacco brands Davidoff and Gauloises. Mansour is a founder and chairman of publicly-traded Palm Hills Developments, one of Egypt's biggest real estate developers. In 2014, US private equity firm Ripplewood bought a 2.3% stake in Palm Hills for an undisclosed amount, and Ripplewood's CEO was appointed vice chairman.

#14 Folorunsho Alakija

\$1.6 billion

NIGERIA

Oil
Folorunsho Alakija is the vice chair of Fama Oil, a Nigerian oil exploration company that has a 60% participating interest in block OML 127, part of Agbami field, one of Nigeria's largest deepwater discoveries. Its partners include Chevron and Petrobras. Her first company was a fashion label that catered to Nigeria's elite women, including the wife of former military president, Ibrahim Babangida, who awarded Alakija's company an oil prospecting license.

#14 Patrice Motsepe

\$1.6 billion

SOUTH AFRICA

Mining
Africa's first black billionaire, African Rainbow Minerals founder and chairman Patrice Motsepe, launched a new private equity firm focused on investing in Africa in April 2016. Called African Rainbow Capital, it is a subsidiary of Motsepe's Ubuntu-Botho Investments. Motsepe also has a stake in Sanlam, a listed financial services firm, and is the president and owner of the Mamelodi Sundowns Football Club. He became the first black partner at law firm Bowman Gilfillan in Johannesburg, and then started a contracting business doing mine scut work. In 1994, he bought low-producing gold mine shafts and turned them profitable. South Africa's Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) laws, which mandate that companies be at least 26% black-owned in order to get a government mining license, benefited Motsepe. In 2013, the mining magnate was the first African to sign Bill Gates' and Warren Buffett's Giving Pledge, in which he promised to give at least half his fortune to charity.

#10 Mohamed Mansour

\$2.7 billion

EGYPT

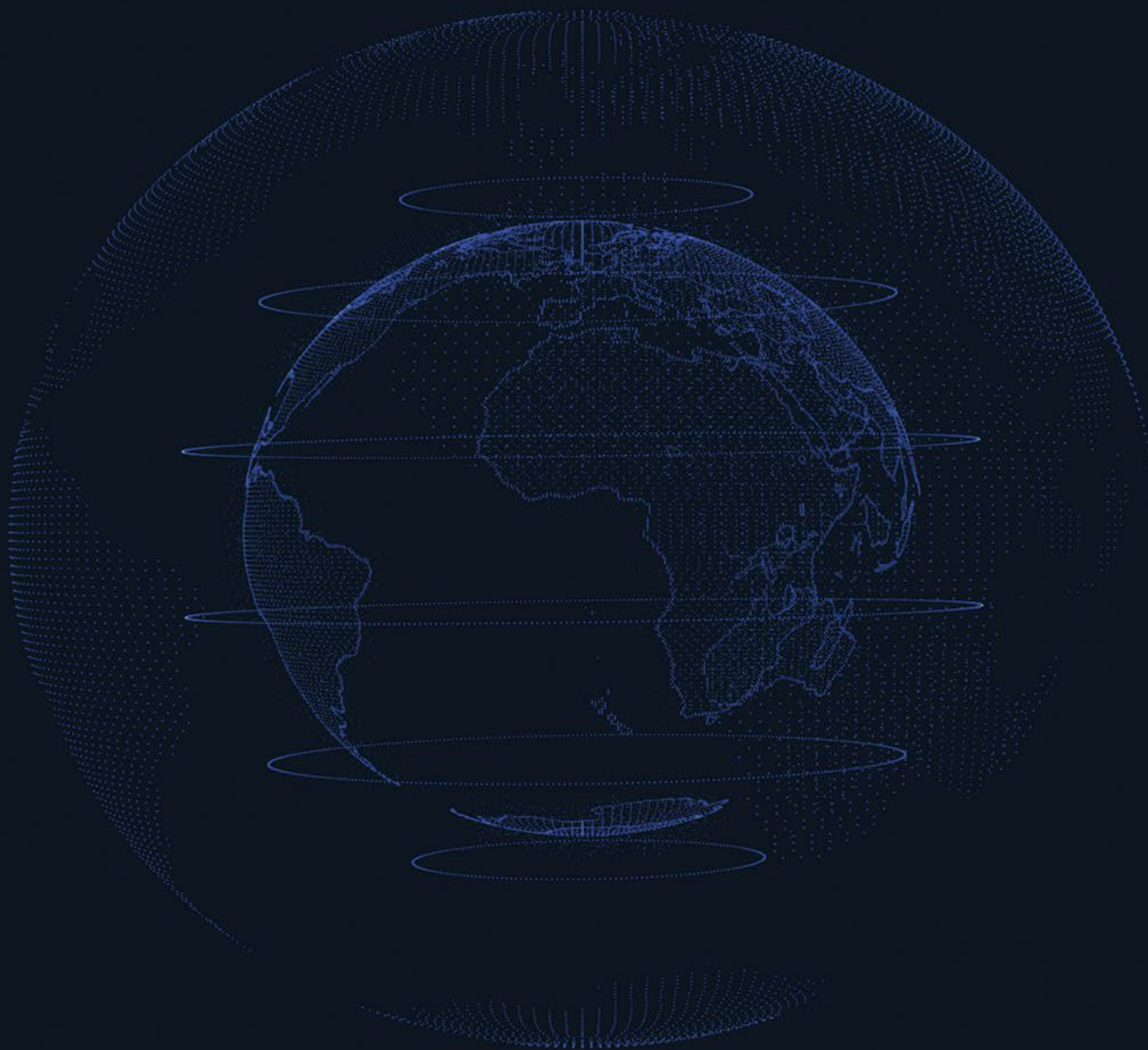
Diversified
Mohamed Mansour oversees conglomerate Mansour Group, which has sole distribution rights in Egypt for GM vehicles, Caterpillar equipment and has the McDonald's franchise. However, the group generates the bulk of its revenues from outside the country. Mansour and his brothers Yasseen and Youssef, all billionaires, have the exclusive rights to Caterpillar sales in Russia and six African countries. Through its private equity arm, it also has more than \$500 million in investments in such places as Dubai, Africa and the US, where they own a logistics company in California. Mohamed has real estate in Missouri. His son Loutfy oversees

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Will Robotics Leave Africa Behind?

The world is taking great strides in robotics technology, but in Africa, the chink in the armor is a lack of skills and resources. In a continent where jobs are scarce, the prospect of machine over man is daunting.

WORDS ANCILLAR MANGENA



Charles Darwin must be turning in his grave.

He certainly didn't see the robots coming when he scripted the theory of evolution through natural selection in his seminal work *On The Origin Of Species* in 1859.

The robots are here, and even as the term 'natural selection' is getting a spiffy new definition in science journals, the prospect of machines replacing man – at least in the work environment – is a not-too-distant inevitability.

Take Nadine, the robot-receptionist the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore developed with real hair, soft skin and a voice. Her lips move when she talks, she can reach out to greet, remembers previous conversations and even uses body language to display emotion.

And don't miss the century-old stereotype herein – even if a robot, the receptionist *has* to be female.

As I write this, I read about a robot-reporter in China, Xiao Nan, who can perhaps pen this entire article in seconds.

Elsewhere in the media world, even Trevor Noah has competition. RoboThespian, a life-sized humanoid robot with 'a funny bone', can crack jokes and make people laugh.

'Robo-advisers' like SigFig are replacing financial advisers and planners. It's only a matter of time before these clever computers outwit man.

Eugene, a chatbot designed by Russian-born Vladimir Veselov, duped humans into thinking it was a 13-year-old boy. Eugene was the first machine to pass the Turing test, an experiment to probe whether people can detect if they are talking to man or machine. Eugene is light years from a computer becoming completely human. But he comes close.

All this is daunting for a continent where jobs are scarce, pockets are empty, power is wanting, and technology, like this, expensive.

South African entrepreneur Ryan Beech thinks robots will make our economy stronger. He has turned his hobby into a business and in Johannesburg, runs his two-year-old company, Ryonix Robotics. He designs and manufactures robots for export.

"Automation is coming whether people or unions like it or not. We can't compete with products from overseas that are made with robots using expensive labor. It will end up being cheaper to import everything and then our economy will fall flat locally," says Beech.

The question is: will robots complement humans, or boot them out of their jobs? The Fourth Industrial Revolution is surely wasting no time to answer.

"There will certainly be job losses but this is not the first time. Even during the industrial revolutions, people had the same fears and were afraid of job losses but with every industrial revolution, there were other jobs that came about. It is going to be the same here. Every job lost will be replaced by other jobs in the robotics industry. It's not just about the engineering and designing of robots in this industry but we need people to maintain the robots, service them and a host of other roles," opines Beech.

A 300-page report released by Merrill Lynch predicts 47% of jobs are at risk in the next 20 years. Another report by

Forrester, a market research company, says robots will have eliminated 6% of all jobs in the US alone in the next five years.

“The issue we would face is the replacement of lower-skilled workers with higher-skilled workers. But what must be taken into account is in-house development. If we merely import pre-made solutions to replace our workers, then the job creation is not necessarily happening in our country,” says Tracy Booysen, Electro-Mechanical Engineering lecturer at the University Of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa.

According to Booysen, even in a country like South Africa, importing skilled workers, artisans, designers and parts can be a drag.

“The large fluctuation in exchange rate can push a project far over budget. That can contribute to long delays as we have to wait until additional funding comes along to complete the work. It can be difficult to obtain funding for research in Africa, however, if you can find collaboration with overseas universities then this can become easier,” she says.

About 8,194 kilometers from Booysen in the other corner of Africa is Ayorkor Korsah, another woman who has dedicated her life to robotics education and is a robotics lecturer at Ashesi University College in Ghana. She warns people often focus on the negative impact robots might have on the job market, neglecting new opportunities that the field opens up.

“Being a scribe was once a viable profession, but this profession became obsolete with the invention of the printing press. However, a whole industry with many different career opportunities developed out of the invention of the printing press. Similarly, I do think we will lose several types of jobs when robots become more prevalent. However, I think new opportunities will open up and the challenge facing our societies is to ensure there is equality in access to educational opportunities so that all people can take advantage of these opportunities.”

Robots may take your job, but they may also save your life.

South Africa is home to the world's deepest mines. Miners go as deep as four kilometers underground, risking their lives to contribute some R263 billion (\$20 billion) to the GDP, yet the road to Lily

Mine in Mpumalanga, 300 kilometers from Johannesburg, is a picture of poverty and sorrow.

It has been a year since the mine collapse. Yvonne Mnisi, Pretty Nkambule and Solomon Nyarende were buried 80 meters underground on February 5, 2016, in a steel container where a crown pillar collapsed at the open pit gold mine. Attempts to retrieve the bodies, using all technology, failed. They remain buried in the rubble. Their families are left without breadwinners and another 600 workers without jobs.

This is just one of many stories in hundreds of African mining disasters that have left families hopeless.

But some women in Africa have buckled up to change the narrative.

In Pretoria, a mere 268 kilometers from this site of horror, is the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), a world-class research facility working tirelessly on new technology to improve the quality of life. When we meet her, Natasha Govender, a principal researcher here, walks us through two buildings dedicated to robotics research. They are big and full of state-of-the-art robots and raw material. These machines, she says, can help in sectors like mining.

“Miners blast mines with dynamite and there is a three- to four-hour period when they can't get in because of toxic fumes and also because they don't know how loose the rocks are after a blast. At the moment, they hit the rocks with a crowbar to determine if it's safe or not based on the sound it makes, which is dangerous,” says Govender.

Govender and the CSIR have created a robot to do the dirty work. The robot can extend its arm to determine whether or not it is safe to proceed. It has laser sensors, cameras and can navigate and map its surroundings.

“We are thinking of using this in search and rescue operations. For example, when there is a fire, it is dangerous for first responders but we can use robots to map and inform us if there is a person inside a room and if it's safe to go inside.”

Govender says the CSIR also wants to use robots that can go into Africa's unmined mines to help increase Africa's commodities sector.

“If a reef is less than a meter, we don't



“Every job lost will be replaced by other jobs in the robotics industry.”

– Ryan Beech

mine it because it's too difficult for miners in terms of the heat at that level and heights. We could use robots to get into these unmined mines with gold worth trillions of dollars,” she says.

Building robots like this may be relatively easy for government-funded companies like the CSIR, but a nightmare for Africa. Sceptics say the robotics era will leave Africa behind.

Thus missing out on a piece of a \$14 to \$33 trillion pie, that according to McKinsey Global Institute, this industry could be making in the next 15 years.

The problem is Africa does not have the right skills, money and technology to steer us to the right direction.

In South Africa, for example, in the first nine months of 2015 alone, 47,000 skilled professionals left the country, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Africa has to focus on training and retaining its skilled workforce if it is to join the world in the robotics' bandwagon. This will require a lot.

In the US, Asia, Europe and Australia, children learn robotics in their classrooms at a young age; the UK has just overhauled its school curriculum to include an extensive use of robotics and over 250,000 American kids go on to participate in robotics competitions at the national level annually.

In Africa, South Africa and Egypt are ahead of the curve with active communities of robotics researchers; Kenya has

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universities that offer undergraduate majors in mechatronics or robotics, whereas countries like Ghana don't have full majors in these fields; many African schools are lagging behind.

In South Africa, pupils struggle to achieve satisfactory results in IT, science and mathematics. In a 2012 study published by the University of Stellenbosch, 71% of children in grade six were functionally literate and only 58.6% could be considered functionally numerate.

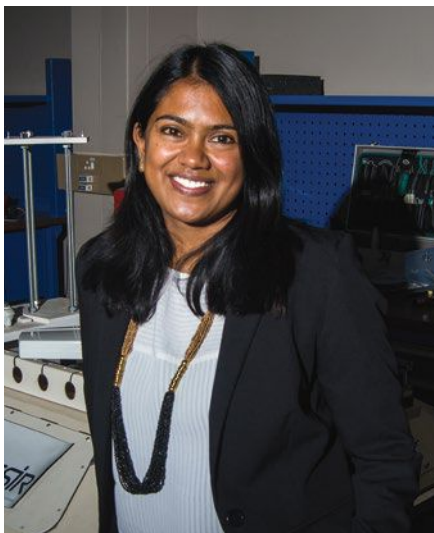
Maths and physical science pass rates, in matric level, have also seen a continuous downward trend since 2014, going from 59.1% in 2013 to 53.5% in 2014 to 49.1% in 2015 for maths, and from 67.4% in 2013 to 61.5% in 2014 to 58.5% in 2015 for physics. To make matters worse, the South African government recently made an executive decision to allow Grade 7, 8 and 9 pupils to obtain as little as 20% in mathematics and still progress to the next year of learning, making it even more difficult to train students in this field.

"We have taken it upon ourselves to do skills training and development. Most of our staff have no background in robotics but we employed them and we are trying to create enough skills in our country because we need it," says Beech.

In Nigeria, 7,714 kilometers from Beech in Johannesburg, is Olaoluwa Balogun, founder of Tanteeta, a company that grooms the next generation of innovators, who says the problem is not in South Africa alone.

"Africa has a dearth of innovators in STEM fields and it is a consuming continent brimming with robust energy and unlimited potential. A large chunk of our over 1.1 billion population is under the age of 35. What do you think will happen if all African kids and young people are equipped with the skills to create digitally? We need to carefully and diligently invest in our young ones with skills necessary to innovate and create jobs in the future," he says.

A big chunk of the biggest tech companies in the world are all located in the US. These top tech companies are run by brains and talent. This is not by mistake. Seven out of the top 10 best universities in the world are also in the US. They were



"We could use robots to get into these unmined mines with gold worth trillions of dollars."

– Natasha Govender

trained and groomed to be innovators.

"If Africa wants to lead the world in anything worthwhile and wants to export to the rest of the world, then we need to take the education of our young ones more seriously. We need to diligently invest to develop the capacities of our young people to be innovators in the future."

Affordable robotic platforms are also a problem. For example, one of the most capable educational robotics platforms, the Lego Mindstorms kit, costs almost \$400 per kit, that's out of the reach of many schools and educational programs on the continent.

"Building these professionally is expensive too. To build an industrial robotic arm, it can cost anything between \$3,000 and \$200,000 depending on the specifications, size and application," says Beech.

To develop a much more affordable educational robotics platform, Korsah and Ken Goldberg launched the African Robotics Network (AFRON) Challenge seeking designs for \$10 robots.

There's a great difference across the continent about how enabling the environment is for this kind of work.

In a country like Ghana, although the software industry is growing rapidly, the electronics industry is still lagging behind. It is not that easy to obtain the components needed for electronics, hardware development and robotics projects.

"Many things need to be ordered from outside the country. Although this is improving very gradually, things are developing more rapidly in countries like South Africa and Kenya which seem to have stronger industrial support," says Korsah.

It's not yet clear what the most useful or successful applications of robotics in Africa will be, but according to Korsah, the future of robotics in Africa is going to be created by the young people learning about robotics and related fields now.

"I was recently inspired by a 2016 graduate from Ashesi University College, Dan Poku, who, for his pre-graduation capstone project, created a system using drones and image processing to help farmers assess the health of their farms. In one of his tests, his system was able to help a farmer harvest crops just in time to save them from an imminent pest infestation which he had not yet noticed, but which was picked up by Dan's system. I am excited that we're moving towards a time when we have more young people in Africa being empowered to solve real, relevant problems in this way," says Korsah.

For robotics to work, regulation is needed, otherwise hackers and thieves would do backflips. Korsah warns regulators should be cautious though about trying to over-regulate the industry as this could stifle development.

"The importance of the conversation being well-informed cannot be over-emphasized, because coming up with regulations based on misinformation or misunderstanding of what robotics is and what is or is not currently possible with robotics could end up causing more harm than good."

The future is in robots. If Africa doesn't want to be left behind, it has to invest more in education and research. If we don't join the trend, fast, its already struggling economy will sink. With or without us, the robots are coming. **EW**

Doctor Who?

Africa still has a long way to go but robots can transform healthcare and make money too – even if surgeries conducted by them cost an arm and a leg.

WORDS ANCILLAR MANGENA

It's a sweltering summer's day in Johannesburg, South Africa. As we arrive at Netcare Waterfall City Hospital, tar black clouds gather in the sky. Inside, a 62-year-old man, with a prostate stricken with cancer, lies bare in theater, in the hope of waking up without it.

We are about to witness robots in action. When we were born, no one ever thought it possible; a robot saving a life and making money for its masters. This is futuristic; a 20th century man treated by a 21st century robot.

Instead of big incisions, hours on his feet, using hand-held rigid instruments while looking away to a 2D video monitor to see the target anatomy, the man in charge of this surgery, Dr Greg Boustead, Specialist Urologist & Robotic Surgeon, makes tiny incisions to put a camera and robotic arms inside the patient. When the arms ease into his body, they open a whole new world in surgery.

Dressed in navy blue scrubs, Boustead sits comfortably, by the console, about two meters from the patient. His surgical team stands next to the patient checking his vitals and condition on the many screens in the room. The patient's anatomy appears on the viewer in a magnified 3D image. Boustead controls, calmly, every surgical manoeuvre. The system can't act without his input.

"The robot doesn't work autonomously. It sits between the surgeon and the patient. It is computer enhanced which improves vision, increases access and eliminates weaknesses like tremors," he says.

As if playing a video game, Boustead uses controls to move the robotic arms and camera. The machine gives him movement better than hand



motion. The camera lets him zoom in, rotate, or change the image visualization. In real time, the system translates Boustead's movements inside the body. He makes cuts on the bladder neck and urethra to free the prostate. Once removed, he uses a catheter to guide him and reattach the bladder.

According to Boustead, with the da Vinci® Surgical System robotic surgery, the patient loses a few hundred millilitres

A robotic surgery allows for a less invasive surgery which reduces recovery time, decreases long-term post-operative complications and makes surgery easier in difficult-to-access spaces.

COVER STORY - RISE OF THE ROBOTS

of blood; at most, leaving the blood transfusion rate at 1%; compared to an open operation which has a transfusion rate of 50% to 60%.

This operation also costs less blood.

Dr Claire Hennessy, a Specialist Anaesthesiologist and Integrative Medicine, agrees a robotic surgery allows for a less invasive surgery which reduces recovery time, decreases long-term post-operative complications and makes surgery easier in difficult-to-access spaces.

There are six of these robots in Africa. Making money out of them is the trick. It's a bit like owning a Boeing 747 and parking it on the runway. You have to keep it in the air as much as you can to make money.

"China, for example, has 26 robots but they do a massive number of surgeries. With efficiency like that, you bring down the cost. There, each robot does 600 cases a year and our robots do about 250 cases a year. They are not run at full capacity," says Boustead who has been performing robotic surgeries since 2008.

Problem is, these robots are not made in Africa; they are not cheap either. The system is worth about R20 million (\$1.5 million). For a procedure like this, a patient coughs up about R45,000 (\$3,300) more than they would for an open surgery. It is a controversial issue to have expensive technology like this in countries where healthcare is scarce.

There are 400 million people in the world who do not have access to essential health services and 6% of people in low- and middle-income countries are pushed into extreme poverty because of health spending, according to a World Health Organisation study. The health problems in Africa are bigger.

It's a familiar scene on a hot day in Accra, the capital of Ghana, just 8,954 kilometers from Johannesburg where cutting-edge robotic technology is being used to save lives. The alleys are packed with women, carrying children on their backs, selling vegetables and fake Louis Vuitton bags while men sell anything they can get their hands on. Here, you could be sold a drug that could kill you. The danger is counterfeit drugs that



masquerade as healers but threaten to do the opposite.

Victoria Amponsah claims fake drugs almost robbed her of her unborn child, like a thief in the night. The day she was diagnosed with malaria, she also learned she was two months pregnant. She went to the nearest pharmacy, in Accra, and bought prescribed anti-malarial drugs she thought would save her and her child.

"That evening, I took the medicine. After about two to three hours, I started shaking and vomiting. I felt weak. I called a co-tenant and showed her the drug and she said 'I know this drug, it's ok'. But when she [took out the pills from the box] she said 'this is not the drug that is supposed to be in this box'," Amponsah told the NGO, United States Pharmacopeia (USP).

She was rushed to the hospital where a doctor confirmed the drug she took was fake. She managed to complete her pregnancy, but this was not the end of her struggle.

Near the end of her pregnancy, she almost died from a fake version of oxytocin, disguised in convincing packaging. Within 30 minutes of administration, Amponsah was sweating, shaking, vomiting and bleeding.

"I was bleeding so bad. [The doctors] were scared and didn't want me to move," she says.



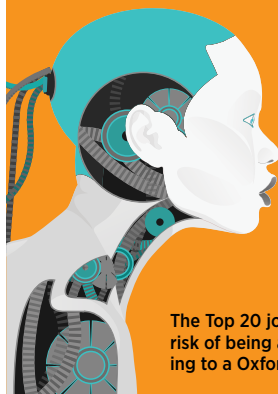
She nearly lost her baby and was hospitalized for two days. For months later, she had to return to the hospital often, for checks. It is the poor, like Amponsah, that suffer.

A study published in the International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease found one in every six pills in Africa to be fake. Furthermore, a survey conducted by the National Institute of Health, which examined over 2,600 malaria drug samples across 21 sub-Saharan African countries, found 20% of these drugs were fake and a third were of poor quality.

In 2009, 84 Nigerian children were killed by toxic chemicals that were laced with teething medications for babies. In 2012, Angolan custom agents busted counterfeiters importing what turned out to be one of the largest fake medicine imports in history, when containers shipped from China to Luanda, the capital of Angola, were filled with over 1.4 million packets of a fake version of the antimalarial drug, Coartem. One would argue Africa has bigger battles, like these, to fight in the healthcare industry first before looking into the future of robotics.

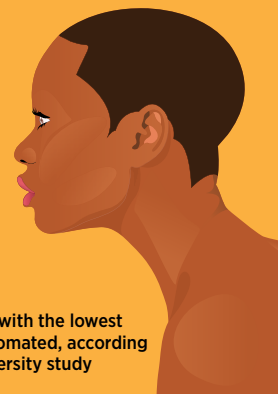
In Ghana, where healthcare problems are rife, entrepreneur Bright Simons says robotics, science and technology can be used to fix problems in the healthcare sector. Simons walks the talk. He has used technology to develop a program that is helping to curb the counterfeit drugs.

In 2007, Simons launched mPedigree, a company that has created software manufacturers can use



The Top 20 jobs with the highest risk of being automated, according to a Oxford University study

- Telemarketers
- Title examiners, abstractors and searchers
- Hand sewers
- Mathematical technicians
- Insurance underwriters
- Watch repairers
- Cargo and freight agents
- Tax preparers
- Photographic process workers and processing machine operators
- New account clerks
- Library technicians
- Data entry keyers
- Timing device assemblers and adjusters
- Insurance claims processing and policy clerks
- Brokerage clerks
- Order clerks
- Loan officers
- Insurance appraisers
- Umpires, referees and other sports officials
- Tellers



The Top 20 jobs with the lowest risk of being automated, according to a Oxford University study

- Recreational therapists
- First-line supervisors of mechanics, installers and repairers
- Emergency management directors
- Mental health and substance abuse social workers
- Audiologists
- Occupational therapists
- Orthoptists and prosthetists
- Healthcare social workers
- Oral and maxillofacial surgeons
- First-line supervisors of fire-fighting and prevention workers
- Dietitians and nutritionists
- Lodging managers
- Choreographers
- Sales engineers
- Physicians and surgeons
- Instructional coordinators
- Psychologists
- First-line supervisors of police and detectives
- Dentists (general)
- Elementary school teachers (except special education)

to label their product packaging with a random code hidden beneath a scratch-off covering. If a consumer wants to know if their product is fake or not, they can just scratch off the covering and SMS the code to a toll-free number. They will then be notified whether the product is authentic.

Simons claims his services are used by around 100 million people per year in 12 countries, from India to Uganda.

“Our biggest frontier now is predictive analytics, in particular the use of our EarlySensor technology to predict hotspots and flashpoints of emerging counterfeit activity by looking at large data sets across time and space. If we can predict retail points that are likely to be targeted by counterfeiters by disrupting upstream distribution networks, we can actually stop counterfeiting from even getting to the level of the consumer,” he says.

Entrepreneurs like Simons say they will die trying to make sure robotics transform healthcare in Africa.

In Nigeria, Olaoluwa Balogun, founder of Tanteeta, a company that grooms the next generation of innovators, says,

internationally, the healthcare industry has had its fair share of innovations like in cardiac, urological, and gynaecologic procedures where robots operate with up to 99% precision. He agrees Africa has a long way to go.

“We can’t think of having industries that mass produce robots and drones in Africa without first tackling the problem of power supply. This has been the major threat to industries in Africa. We can’t really achieve much without addressing that first,” he says.

Balogun says in Africa, one of the interesting areas to employ robotics to make healthcare accessible to many is in the delivery of medical supplies, like during the Ebola crisis.

“Logistics is a huge problem in Africa because of the bad road network. The use of drones to deliver medical supplies to hospitals and homes would be a great boost in the effort to make healthcare more accessible to more people,” says Balogun who started his company in 2011 while in university.

There is no doubt robots are on the march, even if it’s an expensive march to the hospitals of Africa. **FW**





Photo by George Okwong.

Africa, Here She Comes

Jessica O. Matthews was only 19 when she invented an energy-generating soccer ball. She now runs a renewable energy company specializing in motion-based, miniaturized power systems, and has big plans for Africa.

WORDS PEACE HYDE

Harvard University, one of the most prestigious institutions in the world, boasts among its laurels, 47 Nobel laureates, 32 heads of state and 48 Pulitzer Prize winners.

Competition for a place in the school is fierce. A staggering number of students around the world apply to enter Harvard, few secure admission. So when Jessica O. Matthews was asked to leave this elite establishment due to poor grades, it's little wonder her world came crashing down.

"I would have been prepared to go to jail than to have the look my mum gave me when I told her I had to leave Harvard. She didn't even speak, it was just a stare and that drives me to this day, I never want to let her down again," says Matthews, today, the Founder and CEO of Uncharted Play, a hardware technology company in the United States (US).

As Matthews looks back on that experience, she can pinpoint the exact moment things went wrong.

"For the first 18 years of my life, I thought I had everything figured out. I ran track, I played tennis and I did well on the SATs. I didn't place as much value in understanding the role that my parents had played in my life. They had created an invisible guiding force so when I left home it was a mess. My whole goal was to do well to get into university and I had no other goals apart from that. I was like 'look I made it', I thought everybody there was smarter than me because I didn't go to an expensive high school," says Matthews, in an interview with FORBES WOMAN AFRICA in Lagos in September last year.

The New York-based entrepreneur born to Nigerian parents, featured in FORBES 30 Under 30 list in 2014.

Growing up, her parents wanted her to be a doctor, lawyer or engineer. Matthews wanted to build things.

"I wanted to be an inventor. I would do a lot of experiments, I would ask for microscopes, I went to all the science fairs, I wanted to be a scientist but when you combine that interest with science and logic with still a belief in magic you come up with something amazing."

And that is exactly what Matthews did. She refocused and set herself new

goals. She took five courses to catch up and graduated with a 3.7 grade point average. One of those classes would be the catalyst for a renewable energy revolution.

“One of the things I did was to take a class that led to the invention of the SOCKET ball and I think that even after going to school, it’s been a case of pushing myself to see what I can do and what started as a class turned into an energy business,” she says.

The journey began two years before that class when Matthews visited her hometown in Nigeria for her aunt’s birthday.

“We lost power and we brought in a diesel [generator] to keep things going and the fumes were so much that I was complaining and my cousin said ‘don’t worry you will get used to it’. That stuck with me because they were asking me to get used to dying. It seemed there would be no solution to our energy problem beyond pretending that it wasn’t a problem. The only time they were passionate and felt like everything is possible was when they were playing soccer,” says Matthews.

So when she was asked in her innovation class to come up with a product that combined art and science, she came up with a product that addressed the short-term need for power and the long-term need to get people engaged in the struggle of thinking about innovations that help our world.

The SOCKET ball was created to address this need.

“I am passionate about innovations that make people better. When you use play and things that are popular like soccer or a jumping rope to introduce ideas around technology, it makes it a little bit more palatable, tangible and easier for people to engage especially in places where a lot of people are scared to engage with science and technology or energy because it seems like such a big space. That’s really the role that SOCKET and the Pulse, which is our jump rope product, played.”

‘The Next Einstein Will Be A Woman’

Jessica O. Matthews was at the World Economic Forum in Rwanda in May 2016, when she participated in panel discussions and even hosted an event showcasing her energy products at the Hotel des Mille Collines in Kigali, attended by none other than Rwanda’s President Paul Kagame and First Lady Jeannette Kagame. That’s when she told FORBES WOMAN AFRICA: “The next Einstein is going to be a woman!” Africa is big on her agenda.

At the event, her proud Abuja-based dad Idoni Matthews, also a scientist, spoke to us about his daughter’s passion for science.

“Even at the tender age of three, she would open up things to see how they worked, like she once opened up a chandelier. Her science projects always took top priority, and am so proud of her.”

we spoke to her, said she had just completed the largest Series-A funding round making her the 13th black woman to ever raise more than \$1 million in a fundraising round.

For her, the company’s focus is more than making a profit.

“I had to ask myself what is the most impactful thing? Do we keep making play products or energy-generating products and partnering with different companies to integrate our core technology into their products? We shrunk the size of our micro-generator over four years by 95%, we got the cost down and started thinking of how to integrate these into a product and have it be something you can use. Why just look at play when you can put it into products, floor panels, and suitcases; anything you can think of that can be used on a daily basis in our lives,” says this MBA graduate from Harvard Business School.

With the new investment, the company aims to build out the team and better equip itself to support the new partners. There is still a long way to go for Matthews.

“I don’t know how to swim, I just know how to not drown because that is the best way I can explain how I have survived,” she says.

You can Google and understand robotics and understand mechanics but according to Matthews, what is missing is an understanding of the humanistic element of the people you are trying to help and that is exactly what her new innovations are seeking to do, to disrupt the renewable energy space and provide playful solutions to everyday problems. **FW**

Both products use a technology Matthews developed called M.O.R.E., an acronym for Motion-based Off-Grid Renewable Energy.

“The concept we have devised is a system for customizing micro-generators that can be integrated into everything that moves to harness the ambient kinetic energy which is the energy of motion that is generated during that normal use and you can use that power to do anything.”

She created Uncharted Play and when

African Innovators You Should Know



1. Thérèse Izay Kirongozi

Kirongozi developed humanoid robots to regulate heavy traffic in Kinshasa in the DRC. By 2015, she had five of these robots. Her first robot was developed in June 2013. The 2.5-meter-high robots can lift its arms to direct traffic. They are also programmed to speak and tell pedestrians when to cross the road. Kirongozi is an industrial engineer in electronics, and the head of Women’s Technology (Wotech), the association building these robots.

2. Regina Agyare Honu

Honu is founder of Soronko Solutions, a software company that uses technology to drive human potential. The company leverages on developing innovative technology solutions across different channels such as Web, Mobile, POS and ATM to help Small and medium scale enterprises in Ghana create visibility and grow their business with technology. She also launched a campaign #stylewithcode to encourage girls to pursue their dreams and learn new skills by learning to code.



3. Natalie Bitature

Bitature developed Musana Carts, environmentally-friendly solar-powered vending carts made for micro-entrepreneurs in Kampala. They have fridges, sockets and mobile money terminals and sell at \$400 each. It is estimated that each cart saves 3,000 tons of carbon emissions. Beyond its features, the company gives vendors finance.

4. Nneile Nkholise

Nkholise is the founder of iMED Tech, a company that manufactures custom-made facial and breast prosthesis for cancer and burn victims, using computer-aided design techniques and Additive Manufacturing technologies.



The Woman Who Brought Robots To Ghana

The tale of a Dartmouth graduate who wanted to change the world by going to space only to revolutionize it teaching African youth all about robots.

WORDS ANCILLAR MANGENA

Our ancestors couldn't even have imagined it. A world where women not only go to school but vote, rule boardrooms, are presidents and are the brains and faces behind a futuristic industry that will rule the world's economy.

Although she wouldn't take the opportunity now, as a child, Ayorkor Korsah wanted to go to space. At the time of her birth, very few women had jobs outside the home, but Korsah was surrounded by inspiration. Both her Ghanaian parents were architects and worked at a university in Ile-Ife in Nigeria, where she was born. It meant a lot of reading. She lost herself in books and wouldn't hear if someone called.

Her journey into the futuristic world of robotics started not in the Dartmouth College classrooms, where she got her degree, but was born from this inspirational quote from the writings of the Bahá'í Faith: "Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom."

"As such, I had a strong understanding of the value of education, a belief that we all have great potential waiting to be unleashed, and a recognition that the purpose of achieving one's potential is to benefit not only oneself, but others," says Korsah.

While studying, she became interested in understanding systems in which technology interacted with the physical world. One robotics seminar, late in her undergraduate education, steered her to studying robotics.

"The first robot I programmed was an educational robot used in an introductory robotics course that I took at Dartmouth College...The first 'real' robot on which I had the opportunity to evaluate my proposed algorithms was a research platform called Zöe."

Zöe is a solar-powered robot, developed at Carnegie Mellon University, for 'Life in the Atacama Project', a research project that used robotic technology to find forms of life in the Atacama desert, as an analogue to the process of finding life on Mars.

The Bahá'í Faith quote stayed with her. She wanted to make the world better through teaching. She completed her master's degree and spent a year teaching at Ashesi University College in Ghana, which had been established just the year before. There was a gap.

"I realized that, because computer science was a fledgling field in Ghana, some of the students had a very limited vision of what they could accomplish with it," says Korsah.

So, while pursuing her PhD in robotic algorithms to help NASA's robots explore Mars more efficiently, at the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon, she proposed a robotics course at Ashesi. The work didn't stop here.

With a team of Ashesi faculty, Korsah created the annual Ashesi Innovation Experience (AIX) for high school students, which, every August, brings students to their campus for two weeks of deep immersion in design-thinking, leadership training, entrepreneurship, engineering and robotics.

"It tends to be an experience unlike any they have ever had, and gets them to think differently about how they can impact the world. A participant from the Northern Region of Ghana spoke to me on the last day of the program last year about how the way she views problems has been transformed. She said, 'I won't even call them problems anymore - I'll call them opportunities'."

This means robotics education can't end in formal university lecture rooms.

"I find working with students at all



Photo by George Okwong

levels very fulfilling and inspiring. It gives me great hope in the future of Africa," says Korsah who is now the head of the computer science department at Ashesi.

In 2012, she co-founded the African Robotics Network (AFRON), an electronic community that promotes communication and collaboration for people involved in robotics research and education, with Ken Goldberg, an American inventor and researcher in robotics and automation.

"I have always had an interest in education, and hence in the role of robotics and other technology education in empowering young people to become creators and problem-solvers," she says.

AFRON occasionally hosts design challenges to galvanize the community around a common problem. Their work won them a Tribeca Disruptive Innovation Award in 2013 for their work in a \$10 robot challenge.

Korsah was also honored with the Ideas 2012 Award in Ghana, recognizing "Ghanaians under the age of 40 who invest significantly in a project or organization that enriches the lives of Ghanaians".

She may not be going to space but Korsah's contribution in Africa's robotics industry may help send you there. **EW**

'What's Going To Happen To Your Jobs?'

WORDS DION CHANG

It's somewhat ironic the sequel of the iconic 1982 sci-fi movie, *Blade Runner*, is due for release later this year. The original *Blade Runner* movie was set in 2019, while the sequel is set in 2049. For a movie made 35 years ago, the original *Blade Runner* was remarkably accurate with some of the "future" technologies we now use in 2017. In one scene, Harrison Ford interacts with a machine, issuing instructions by simply speaking to it.

2017 is being dubbed, "The year of Voice", by the tech world as voice-activated IPAs (intelligent personal assistants) reach a commercial tipping point. All the major tech players have their version: Apple has Siri, Amazon has Echo, Google has Google Home and Microsoft has Cortana, and all of them do what the machine in *Blade Runner* does.

The original movie also centers around androids (human-like robots). While we don't quite have androids walking amongst us (yet), we are also reaching a tipping point of 'service bots'. Service bots are essentially robots that can move and navigate at will, assisting with deliveries or providing customer information via their touch screens. I've already seen service bots 'at work' in the hospitality and retail industries, and they already speak multiple languages.

In digitized (and disruptive) businesses, like Uber, the term 'algorithmic management' is becoming the norm. In e-commerce, or on social media platforms, algorithms are used to track consumer behavior for targeted advertising, as well as pre-empt purchases.

Algorithmic management is the use of those same algorithms, but instead of tracking consumer behavior, it is now being used to track the productivity of a workforce.

The machines are rising, and with AI



(artificial intelligence), they are learning more about us.

For businesses, this type of technology is pivotal, especially for the manufacturing industry. It allows businesses to produce more, and produce more effectively and efficiently, and that inevitably means that machines will replace humans. One of the most frequently-asked questions I receive is, "What's going to happen to your jobs when the machines take over?"

It is a difficult question to answer because the loss of jobs is real and is already happening. For emerging markets, and a continent like Africa, the concept of 'premature de-industrialization' is one we need to face.

In the last century, the industrial revolution created factories and jobs, and as a result it pulled masses of people out of poverty. Fast forward to the 21st century and the scenario changes as this new wave of technology replaces jobs, rather than creates them.

'Premature de-industrialisation' is the process where the use of industrial

robotics eliminates the up-liftment process, which the previous industrial revolution created. This is already evident in China where the cheap labor market is fast being replaced by industrial robotics. Not only do factory owners cite a more effective production process, but the return on investment for the robots is both shorter, as well as greater.

But not all is lost. In most cases, when an industry is disrupted by digitization or automation, there is an eventual displacement of that workforce into a new service

industry, aligned to the original industry (eg: the repair and maintenance of those machines). However, this displacement requires technical skills, and many workers – like mine workers – do not have the technical skills to be displaced.

For this, I advocate a rethink of every company's CSI policy. To mitigate the inevitable loss of jobs to mechanization, the new role of CSI should not only be outward-looking, but also inward-looking. A program of continual internal skills development will ensure your workforce is technically upskilled, which will not only improve your business, but also provide a safety net if/when they lose their jobs to automation. They will have a fighting chance of finding a new job armed with technical skills.

It's the least you can do. In the near future, all businesses will grapple with the dilemma of choosing between some kind of automation, and their human capital. **FW**

– Chang is the founder of Flux Trends

A close-up photograph of a Golden Monkey (Rhinopithecus roosevelti) perched on a moss-covered tree branch. The monkey has a dark face, a white beard, and a reddish-brown body. It is looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred forest scene.

GOLDEN MOMENTS

Golden moments happen all the time on a trip through Rwanda. This is a the highly endangered Golden Monkey, only found on the same slopes as Rwanda's other popular primates – the Mountain Gorilla.

Rwanda is remarkable not just because of its wildlife, but also due to the amazing birds, breathtaking and varied scenery, plus its unique culture and fascinating history. Rwanda also provides an uplifting view of Africa's potential future.

Plan *your* remarkable journey full of golden moments.



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Scenic View from Akagera National Park. Photo by John Dickens



The Canopy Walkway in Nyungwe National Park. Photo by David Toovey



Red-collared Mountain Babbler in Nyungwe National Park Forest, Rwanda. Photo by John Caddick

SAMPLING RWANDA'S **TOP 5** TOUR DESTINATIONS

The Volcanoes National Park

About two and a half hours from Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda, Gorillas make their homes in and amongst the bamboo covered slopes of the Virunga Mountains in the Volcanoes National Park in northern Rwanda. Gorilla trekking in Rwanda is often described as "life changing" and with good reason. With only an estimated 880 gorillas left in the world, seeing these gentle creatures in their natural habitat is a truly unique experience.

Trek to see them and you will be introduced by your expert trackers and guides to one of the fully-habituated families of mountain gorilla and you can stay with them for an awe-inspiring hour, often crouching just a few feet away, whilst the gorillas go about the daily lives.

Hikes in the mountains can last anywhere from just 30 minutes to 4 hours depending on the family allocated to your group and their location.

Lake Kivu

Lake Kivu is one of the Africa's Great Lakes, surrounded by magnificent mountains and has deep emerald green waters. The lake is dotted with oft uninhabited islands and from both land and water, the scenery is simply stunning.

It provides the perfect location to relax and enjoy lakeside recreation during a tour of Rwanda. With a surface area of some 2,730 km², Lake Kivu sits at almost 1,500m above sea level. Perfectly safe to swim in, the water has a warm temperature of 23-27°C all year round. Sports and activities include fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing and overnight and day boat experiences

Nyungwe National Forest

Nyungwe National Park is located in the South West of Rwanda about 4-5 hours drive from Kigali. It is believed to be one of Africa's oldest forests, staying green even through the Ice Age, which explains its diversity. Often referred to as the bird's paradise, Nyungwe National Park is home to over 300 species of birds such as the Red-Collared Mountain Babbler, Rwenzori Turaco, Stuhlman's Double-collared Sunbird, the exquisite Purple-breasted Sunbird, Kungwe Apalis, Paradise Flycatcher and the White Headed Wood-Hoopoe.

It is also home to chimpanzees, 12 other primate species such as the Black and White Colobus monkeys. Nyungwe is surely one of the world's most beautiful and pristine mountain rainforests with a canopy walkway 70 m above the ground that give you an exhilarating view of the rainforest. It's believed to be one of Africa's oldest forests, staying green even through the Ice Age, which explains its diversity.

Akagera National Park

It is named after the Akagera River that flows along its eastern boundary and feeds into a labyrinth of lakes of which the largest is Lake Ihema. The forest fringed lakes, papyrus swamps, savannah plains and rolling highlands combine to make Akagera amongst the most scenic of reserves anywhere in Africa. Akagera National Park is located in the north-east of Rwanda, combining well with Nyungwe and the Volcanoes NP to create a great safari circuit, as it is home to many large plains game species as well as species restricted to the papyrus swamps such as the Sitatunga and the much sought-after Shoebill Stork. Notable plains game include elephant, buffalo, topi, zebra, waterbuck, roan antelope and eland. Other antelope are duiker, oribi, bohor reedbuck, klipspringer, bushbuck and impala. Of the primates, olive baboons, vervets and the secretive blue monkey are seen during the day, with bushbabies often seen on night drives.

Of the larger predators only leopard, hyaena and side-striped jackal are currently still present – but exciting plans are underway to reintroduce lions, as well as black rhino in 2015, which will restore Akagera's 'Big 5' status.

Cultural Experiences

The arts play an important role in the traditions of Rwandans. Performances range from demonstrations of bravery and excellence, to humorous dance styles and lyrics, to artistry and poetic based in traditional roots.

A combination of music, dance and crafts leaves you with something to take home.

For more information visit: www.rwandatourism.com

Remarkable Rwanda – Let's Talk Business

Rwanda is increasingly becoming a destination of choice by international conference and event organisers.

Rwanda's tourism industry, a key pillar in the country's Vision 2020, is one of the country's largest employers and foreign exchange earners.

Rwanda is a remarkable tourism and conference destination. The country has successfully hosted a number of high-level conferences such as the Transform Africa Summit in October 2013 (1500 delegates), the recent Africa Development Bank General Assembly (2,500 delegates) in May 2014 as well as numerous others such as the Africa Insurance Summit (800 delegates) in June and ITC's World Export Development Forum (800 delegates) in September 2014.

Rwanda's capital city is preparing to unveil the new US\$ 300 million Kigali Convention Centre (KCC) due to open in first quarter of 2016. Positioned on a hilltop in the heart of Kigali near Parliament, the development is set to become one of the most recognized modern structures in Africa. Encompassing a translucent dome modelled on a traditional King's Palace, a multi-functional hall with a maximum capacity of 2,600, the KCC will help position Rwanda as the leading MICE destination in East Africa.

“In tandem with the Kigali Convention Centre a number of international 4 and 5-star hotel brands are currently under development (i.e. Radisson Blu, Marriott, Park Inn, Sheraton, Kempinski, Protea, Golden Tulip) with over 1,000 high-end rooms coming onto the market in the foreseeable future.”

In tandem with the Kigali Convention Centre a number of international 4 and 5-star hotel brands are currently under development (i.e. Radisson Blu, Marriott, Park Inn, Sheraton, Kempinski, Protea, Golden Tulip) with over 1,000 high-end rooms coming onto the market in the foreseeable future.

In recognizing the huge potential that Rwanda holds for tourism the Government has invested in feasibility studies that have established opportunities and projects able to provide a strong return-on-investment for potential investors.

Just 10 minutes from the city centre, the Kigali International Airport (KIA) upgrade has been upgraded to handle 1,500,000 passengers annually (from its prior capacity of 500,000 passengers). The nation's flag carrier RwandAir is one of the fastest growing airlines on the African continent connecting to business hubs in East Africa, West Africa, South Africa, the Middle East and Europe, positioning the country as a strong contender for growth in the MICE sector as well as opening trade linkages and facilitating investment.

For more information visit: www.rwandaconventionbureau.rw

THE YEAR AHEAD

Top 5 Trends for 2017

From smart cribs and virtual reality advertising to societal polarization and more determined women's marches.

WORDS DIANA ODERO

2016 was a most interesting year in all respects, the proverbial cherry on top being the unexpected results of the United States' elections in November. We saw people get more involved in not only politics but in travel, technology advancement and branding innovations that got better with each bespoke product/service launched. As we delve into 2017, some trends have been left by the wayside while others are becoming more mainstream with new ones making their debut. Below is a curated list of some of the innovative trends we think will be taking over this year:

Feminism

2016 was a great year for women and feminists all around beginning with Hillary Clinton's presidential nomination, the first woman to be nominated for the US Presidency, and ending with more women being elected into the US Senate than ever before. Back on the continent, where women account for more than half of Africa's total population, some of the

highlights of female empowerment were; the nomination of Kenya's Foreign Affairs Minister, Ambassador Amina Mohamed, for the position of AU Commission Chairperson and the recent decision by Zimbabwe's constitutional court to outlaw marriage for anyone under the age of 18.

Feminism with focus on women's rights in the corporate and political world will be the key trend in 2017 and beyond as African women work towards gaining rights to own and inherit property, own their own businesses and hold top managerial positions in both the public and private sectors. This comes at a perfect time, as the world just witnessed 2.9 million women make history during the Women's March protest on January 21, a day after the inauguration of President Donald Trump. The main march was held in Washington DC and several other states in the US, and other cities in the world including London, Barcelona and Nairobi held their own marches in solidarity with the Americans.

Societal Polarization

The World Economic Forum (WEF) named societal polarization as one of the top three trends that will shape global developments in the next decade in their *2017 Global Risks Report*. 2016 was a monumental year in politics in the Global North – England's vote to leave the EU, and in the US, President Trump's victory in the recent elections. Both scenarios have had a major impact on traditional patterns of affiliation and community, broadening the generation gaps as well as disintegrating the little support they may have had from mainstream political parties.

Societal polarization in Africa is already being witnessed in various nations such as Gambia where only recently the country's citizens plus the military of neighboring countries came together to oust former President and dictator Yahya Jammeh after he refused to concede defeat to newly-elected Adama Barrow. In South Africa last year,





the xenophobia cases grew between South Africans, Zimbabweans and Botswana nationals primarily over jobs. In Kenya, the constant tension between Somalis, Somali-Kenyans and Kenyans has left an unsettling air in the country. More concerning, doctors and medical officers in Kenya have been on strike for over a month, demanding better pay and better working conditions.

This paralyzed the healthcare industry and compromised the lives of innocent patients. The government threatened to sack said doctors and have them replaced but that only fueled the fire, sparking a divide between the Kenyan community that depends on these doctors and nurses for their health and the Kenyan government who now look like ‘bullies’ for denying hard-working civilians their due.

The larger demographic within the country consists of mostly millennials and those from generation Z, a group of people who are not inclined to stick to the status

quo as much as their older generation. Says Nairobi Governor Dr. Evans Kidero: “It is going to get worse before it starts getting better. It will take time before people realize that they need to work with each other and live with each other instead of making himself/herself the victim.”

We will see a change in decision-making and law-making with more societies and communities demanding to have their voices heard and these demands met by governments that may still be fixed in their ways.

Technology

In the realm of technology, we have seen everything from the hoverboards, to autonomous gadgets such as drones being introduced into everyday life as well as virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and cognitive technology trends taking over gaming and entertainment. Now it looks like technology will be focusing more on its youngest consumers – babies.

The BabyTech Summit held annually at the Consumer Electronics Trade show in Las Vegas had a variety of infant-related smart monitoring devices on display in 2016. Items included tech that assists with everything from conception to feeding and sleeping. This year, the J. Walter Thompson Intelligence Group predicts a lot more on the baby market including a smart crib that can rock agitated babies back to sleep on its own, courtesy of Silicon Valley designer Yves Behar.

The evolution of the drone in day-to-day life is particularly one to watch; Amazon completed their first successful delivery on December 7, 2016, in Cambridge, England.

Rwanda has also been successful in their attempt to use drones for delivery services of blood and plasma to hospitals within the rural areas of the country through a government-funded initiative known as Zipline.

Nomadness Travel Tribe



“It will take time before people realize that they need to work with each other and live with each other instead of making himself/herself the victim.”

Travel

Travel in the past year was all about making it more of an experience than just a vacation. People wanted to skip all the ‘touristy’ destinations and live like the locals. This trend caught on especially with urban travel groups and companies, such as Travel Noire and The Nomadness Travel Tribe, to name a few, providing curated experiences. These groups motivated young minority groups, particularly from the West to embrace a life of wanderlust and adventure more. This type of travel experience encourages people to embrace new cultures and engage in different experiences such as attending local art exhibitions or running marathons.

Experiential travel is going to get bigger and better this year as more people invest their time and money into travel

experiences as opposed to material things. Nomadness founder, Evita Robinson, was interviewed by the J. Walter Thompson Intelligence Group and gave her thoughts about the future of travel and her company, saying that it’s one thing to go to a country and immerse yourself in the culture, but it’s another to combine different cultures together and have people learn from each other. She plans on doing this by having international pop-up events in various destinations.

“Now, we can go to Johannesburg, take over an art gallery, and bridge cultures between the people that live there and the members that we’ve had fly in. It’s a real cultural immersion for that evening.”

Another aspect of travel taking prominence this year is Halal tourism. According to research by the J. Walter Thompson

Intelligence Group, Muslim business travel is expected to be a \$22 billion market by 2020, while Muslim travel overall will be worth \$220 billion. Most continents, Europe and Asia in particular, are catering to the Muslim traveler whose spending power accounts for 87% of the tourism market. Being fairly new in 2016, the idea did not resonate with most destinations but the bigger the number of Muslim travelers got, the higher the demand for Muslim engagement. Thailand has taken initiative by opening its first Halal hotel, Al Meroz, as well as developing an app that would help Muslims locate Halal restaurants. Hospitality brands and culinary fiends should tap into this burgeoning group armed with spending power and benefit from profits and customers whilst also increasing their diversity portfolio.



Amina Mohamed



Brands and Marketing

Virtual reality advertising or VR ads may be one aspect of the future for marketing as VR technology is gradually accepted into the mainstream consumer market. Greenlight Industries, a leader in market insights for virtual and augmented reality, projects that the VR industry is likely to rake in a whopping \$38 billion revenue by the year 2026.

In Africa, the brand and marketing forecast is also looking bright with brands placing more emphasis on the growing middle class in various nations. For instance in Kenya, where the middle class make up about 50% of the population, brand ambassadors are looking to tap into this market by focusing on health products and services due to the growing quest for fitter, healthier lifestyles.

Trendwatching.com, an extensive trend tracking site, adds that brands will work on providing helpful solutions to some of Africa's issues such as lack of electricity, clean water and provision of internet services.

"In 2017, savvy brands will address these fundamental issues by maximizing the purposes of their offerings, and minimizing wasted resources. These brands will creatively unlock new sources

of value from what would otherwise be an underused (or dormant) product and service element."

These are just some of the many trends that will continuously evolve as the year progresses. All in all, it seems like 2017 will be a great year for even more innovation, bigger marketing campaigns, more experiential ways to travel and definitely a year to watch for women in power and the political sphere in general. **FW**

The Rainbow Nation's Whites-Only Town

Separatism and seclusion in South Africa's all-white enclave Orania, where an Afrikaner community keeps to itself. We make the crossover to discover their life behind the invisible walls.

WORDS THANDI XABA

PHOTOGRAPHS MOTLABANA MONNAKGOTLA

Besides white, perhaps the only other color that gets mentioned in Orania is orange.

Orania, a whites-only town flanked by the majestic and breathtaking Orange River, is about 160 kilometers outside Kimberly in South Africa's Northern Cape province.

South Africa may have entered its 23rd year of democracy, yet this Afrikaner town has no desire whatsoever to be a part of the 'Rainbow Nation'.

Orania is secluded, separated and solo.

And so on a sunny Tuesday morning, I drive to Orania with my colleague from Soweto, photojournalist Motlabana Monnakgotla. Like him, I am black South African, from Harrismith in the Free State.

Who knew we would one day pull up into the streets of this arid town?

A rusty signboard greets us about 10 kilometers before Orania. We approach with trepidation, not knowing what to



expect from South Africa's only town with no black residents.

There are no walls, security or gates preceding Orania. No grim militarized borders – a la Donald Trump's proposed Mexico wall – so now that's a big relief.

Instead, next to a grocery store and the town's petrol station is a wall rife with color, a festive reminder to the locals of the fun fair taking place later in the year.

Our contact is Orania's Communications and Marketing Director James Kemp, who has agreed to meet us at this location.

The desolate gas station has two dusty petrol tanks; a young white attendant waits idly for the next customer.

While we wait for Kemp in our rented car, some of the locals stare at us, making us aware we are quite conspicuous.

Kemp arrives in a white Mercedes-Benz, and we follow him to a restaurant in a resort located in a leafy part of Orania. As we drive up, the locals we pass wave at us. Their welcome comes as a surprise.

The resort is Aan-die-Oewer, Afrikaans for 'On-The-Banks' – situated on the banks of the Orange River. Kemp tells us the area attracts holiday-goers and families through the year because of activities like bird-watching and fishing.

According to the information compiled in Orania's tourism booklet, the town attracts almost 30,000 visitors annually. An increasing interest in Orania has helped the tourism sector and businesses such as guesthouses, restaurants and a spa have since opened.

We receive a warm welcome at the restaurant and I marvel at the captivating beauty of the Orange River, the largest river in the country.

Even though this self-styled 8,000-hectare enclave is isolated from the rest of South Africa, the community of Orania denies they live in remoteness.

Instead, they say they have chosen to embrace the community made up

of Afrikaners only, in order to remain true to Afrikaans' tradition and culture.

Dr Sonwabile Mnwana, a sociologist and Deputy Director and Senior Researcher at the Society, Work and Development Institute (SWOP) at the University of the Witwatersrand explains Orania was established after Afrikaners felt threatened by issues such as poverty in urban areas and political defeat in the wake of a liberated South Africa.

In order to understand why a community like Orania came into being, Professor Kwandiwe Kondlo, a professor in Political Economy at the University of Johannesburg, says the political and historical context of South Africa needs to be taken into consideration.



Large letters spelling out Orania at the entrance of the town

LIFE IN ORANIA

In the 1990s, when the idea of a new government was taking shape, Kondlo says negotiations for national liberation were compromised.

“We had a situation in South Africa where the oppressor and the oppressed were declared both victors at the negotiation table, and that never works in the long run. The liberation movement [African National Congress] negotiated with its back against the wall,” he says.

The outcome of these negotiations was the country’s first democratic elections. And the elections saw a black president, Nelson Mandela, elected for the first time and a black-run government, the African National Congress (ANC), helm the country.

The 1994 elections had been long overdue. In 1989, the former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wrote a firm one-paragraph telegram to then South African President F.W. de Klerk to provide a date for Mandela’s release from prison. The White House supported this request and pressure mounted on the Afrikaans leadership to free Mandela.

“On the 10th February, 1990, F.W. de Klerk announced in Parliament that on the 11th February, 1990, Nelson Mandela will be released from prison. This announcement came as a surprise to everyone. Not even his friends in cabinet knew about it. The ANC likes to boast about many things... the old man [Mandela] could have died in prison if the Boers were not put under pressure,” says Kondlo.

Economists like Kondlo call the 1990s the New Phase of Financial Globalization, which pushed for a borderless world. However, after 2015, the global political economy started shifting again.

He says that is why, for example, Americans voted for President Trump, as a way of “applying brakes to the wave of globalization”.

A security valve

Orania was established in those turbulent years, in the early 1990s, when South Africa was pushing for unity with every race in the country.

“Orania is a security valve for Afrikaners in a negotiated democracy,” says Kondlo.

However, the notion of separatism and self-determination that Orania has been famously documented for isn’t unusual.

Dr. Frans Cronjé, CEO of the Institute of Race Relations (IRR), says people that have actually “exited South Africa” and decided to live in seclusion, are those who live on golf estates and private housing establishments and not just in Orania.

“Even though in Orania, there is just over a thousand people, hundreds of thousands of South Africans have actually made the same decision of going to live in relative seclusion,” he says.

According to Kemp, anyone can move and live in Orania, provided they can fully adopt and express the Afrikaans culture and way of living.

Max du Preez is a veteran Afrikaans



“When people move to Orania, the important questions we ask are ‘what are your intentions, aspirations and ideas for the future’.”

– Carel Boshoff (junior)

journalist and columnist who, in the apartheid years, founded *Vrye Weekblad*, an Afrikaans-language weekly and the first anti-apartheid Afrikaans newspaper.

“Orania is practicing separatism because they are motivated by fear of being swamped by the majority black society, fear that they may lose their language and culture, and fear of crime. Most Afrikaners don’t share their fears to the same extent. I cannot see modern, urban and professional Afrikaners ever feeling at home in Orania,” notes Du Preez.

However, Kondlo says the elite Afrikaners could “surprise everyone” and move to Orania if the South African government collapses in the years to come.

In the 1980s, the founder of Orania, Professor Carel Boshoff, was chairman of the Afrikaner-Broederbond, a movement known to be the Afrikaner think-tank.

“The Afrikaners are very forward-thinking people. Orania was established as a tactical strategic exit for the Afrikaner, should the new South Africa run into serious crisis. They will then have a place to preserve themselves,” says Kondlo.



Municipal workers in a van enroute to work

In 1991, as the country headed towards a democracy, which Archbishop Desmond Tutu referred to as the Rainbow Nation, a group of 40 Afrikaner families led by Boshoff proceeded to start their own state in the Karoo.

Even though it was established in 1991, the land Orania sits on was initially built in 1963 by the Department of Water Affairs and known as Vluytjeskraal, referring to the place where the town was established. Colored workers lived there, whilst working on building irrigation canals connected to the Vanderkloof Dam.

As the wheels of change started to roll, Boshoff, who is former South African Prime Minister Dr Hendrik Verwoerd's son-in-law, bought the abandoned 500-hectare land, which has since expanded to 8,000 hectares, for R1.5 million (approx. \$521,000 at the time).

He envisioned tens of thousands of people occupying it, yet today, 26 years later, Orania is home to only about 1,300 residents.

Cronjé says this low number shows there isn't a high demand for an establishment like Orania amongst other South Africans.

Orania's annual population growth is reportedly about 10% and over the years, political leaders like Mandela, Jacob Zuma and EFF President Julius Malema have visited the community.

"The ANC is moved by numbers and due to a slow rise in Orania's population, they [ANC] don't see them as a threat. But remember, an elephant can be killed by an ant," says Kondlo.

Whether Orania is a community that only has self-preservation at its core or if it's indeed an enclave for Afrikaners should South Africa experience crisis, remains a burning question.

Boshoff's son and the current president of Orania, Carel Boshoff (junior), says his father was attracted to the idea of "a sort-of Commonwealth South Africa" and in the 1970s, he had the impression that the idea of a white minority government was unsustainable.

"He did not see a white minority government being replaced by a black majority government very attractive, because [to him] it was just turning the picture around," he says.

In 2011, after 10 years of leading the community of Orania, Professor Boshoff died aged 83 from cancer. He is buried next to his mother-in-law, Betsie Verwoerd, in a small cemetery in Orania.

The cemetery has several simple tombstones of people who once lived in Orania. A pointy tower rests atop a round tombstone located at a higher point in the big yard, which serves as a monument for Verwoerd's late wife, Betsie, and Boshoff.

A stone's throw away is a decrepit water mill structure used in the 1960s. Overlooking the cemetery is a lush green maize field, giving the brown surroundings verdant appeal.

An intentional community

Agriculture is Orania's mainstay. The town has over 15,000 pecan nut trees as well as wheat and corn fields.

Self-sufficiency is the norm here. All labor in Orania is undertaken by residents and according to records on Orania's website, the unemployment rate is under 3%.

"If you are lazy and not willing to work for yourself, you will not survive in Orania," says Kemp, who lived in Pretoria before moving to Orania three years ago.

The residents do all the work such as building houses, service delivery, plumbing, fixing cars, administrative work at the municipal office, farming, legal matters, healthcare, teaching and construction.

A German who brews craft-beer is the only non-Afrikaner we meet in Orania. He moved here 18 months ago and sells his beer in Orania. Kemp says the beverage has proven to be a favorite among the locals.

A soft-spoken Carel (junior) says Orania carries the concept of an intentional community, which means, as a community they are not only looking back but forward as well.

"When people move to Orania, the important questions we ask are 'what are your intentions, aspirations and ideas for

An entrepreneur shows the Oranian currency, Ora



the future'. I am confident to say – in the broader sense – what my father had in mind when he bought Orania is what is still being done," he explains.

Be that as it may, Lindsay Maasdorp, national spokesperson of The Black First Land First movement, says he has nothing against people who want to preserve their language and culture, but feels differently about the residents of Orania.

"The people in Orania have the highest form of white arrogance," he says.

Maasdorp says areas like Orania destroy the idea of the Rainbow Nation and instead, its residents only practice racism.

"The idea that white people can cut themselves off the entire country, may seem like they do not want to interact with black people. It's a stigma attached to us [black people] and the only way we can break that is to take all the land back including Orania," he says.

A lingering question is how, in working towards a united South Africa, the right to self-determination and a self-governed community was granted to Orania's founders. Their support is a clause stipulated in Chapter 14, Section 235 of the Constitution of South Africa.

LIFE IN ORANIA

“[In it], the aspect of national self-termination is referred to in broad terms and does not speak specifically to historically-oppressed groups. This aspect was signed by both sides of leadership and the Afrikaner’s strategy was very calculated. That is why in terms of law and the constitution, it is very difficult to confront Orania,” says Kondlo.

The residents of Orania exude a sense of forced friendliness and appear used to the media attention their lifestyle, beliefs and livelihood attract.

Carel (junior) admits scores of journalists have visited Orania, and from his responses, it’s easy to see he knows his answers well.

“We are not multi-cultural activists, we look at our culture and the idea of the uniqueness of culture in a positive way,” he says.

Du Preez opines Orania is not threatening anyone and the community is not a burden on the state.

“I believe they should be left in peace. They’re not the first ethnic/cultural/language community in the world who wants to withdraw from broader society,” he says.

Orania’s entrepreneurs

Sarel Roets is a minister-turned-businessman who moved to Orania five years ago. He owns several businesses and properties here, including a commercial office park. It is modern and located with a perfect view of the Karoo’s brown and rocky plains.

Most of the infrastructure in Orania is stylish and up-to-date.

Roets grew up in a conservative Afrikaner home and says like most Afrikaners, were “originally pro-apartheid”.

He says Orania has exposed the Afrikaners to a life of self-reliance. Most of them had grown up with domestic workers and gardeners who did all the manual labor in and around their homes. Now they do it all on their own.

“We used black labor everywhere we went and had a black lady doing laundry in the house. That is legalized slavery,” he says.

One of the buildings on Roets’ property is Roelien de Klerk’s jewelry shop. Oranzi Pop sells offbeat jewelry, all handmade by

her and her assistant who sits at the back of the store. The shop also sells colorful scarves, bags, sunglasses and small, intricately-carved treasure boxes.

My colleague grabs a pair of small flower-shaped wooden earrings for his 10-year-old sister. I too am tempted to buy something, to serve as a souvenir from Orania, but think twice seeing some of the price-tags.

De Klerk has been living in Orania for over 20 years now and says her dream is to start a jewelry school. She desires to pass on her jewelry-making skills to the next generation since she knows there is a gap for such expertise in South Africa.

A majority of the jewelry in her store gets ‘exported’ into the rest of the country, which has helped grow her business and in a small way, contribute to the town’s economy.

Residents are proactive in making a living for themselves in Orania and the town prides itself in being eco-friendly. Every corner in town has clearly-marked bins with labels of what should be thrown in for recycling. Also, every building in Orania is required to have a solar panel.

This part of the country is dry and the sun is scorching, so around midday, all the laborers drop their tools and head indoors to cool off.



“In Orania, you need to do more than one thing in order to sustain yourself.”

– Annelize Kruger

We pass a swimming pool and see a mother and daughter walk out with towels around their waists. In front of the swimming pool is a large monument of a *koeksister*, a sugary deep-fried treat enjoyed mostly by the Afrikaners.

A street away from the pool is a contemporary white building with wide open wooden doors. A few cars are parked in a spacious parking bay on the side of the building. The building is a hair salon owned by Annelize Kruger.

“Oh I fixed my hair just for you guys,” she gushes as we enter her stylish salon. The burgundy walls are decorated with paintings of flowers and other eye-catching drawings. A petite woman sits behind the high counter, looking on silently with a smile.

Kruger says she moved to Orania from Pretoria three years ago because she could no longer take the traffic in the city.

“In Orania, it takes me five minutes to get to the shops, another five to go home and I would still have another 45 minutes to relax before coming back to work,” she says.

Kruger is bubbly and friendly. She says her hair salon is one of many in Orania, and in order to stay ahead, will be opening her own hair academy.

“In Orania, you need to do more than one thing in order to sustain yourself. I asked the Lord what else I can do here and He said I should use what I have. It has been a faith process,” she says.

Kruger says students can come from anywhere in the country. They would have to apply first and then come for interviews before training.

So far, she has one student and says she gets accreditation from the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations for the training.

Kruger willingly smiles for the camera and agrees to pose for the several angles my colleague suggests.

“You can come here all the way from Johannesburg and I can do your hair!” she jokes with me as we leave.

Orania also has its own currency, the Ora. According to Orania’s website, *Die Orania Beweging*, the Ora has been used since 2004 and was created to promote local spending. It operates like a coupon system whereby, if used to purchase goods in the town, residents are given discounts

on their purchases. The value of 1 Ora is equal to R1.

The community uses the Ora to keep their own cash in circulation, while their rands are placed in banks and accumulate interest.

“Since we don’t get funding from the government, we have international partners – called Friends of Orania – who help us with funding. Currently, there is R500 million [\$37 million] invested in Orania,” he says.

On their website, Friends of Orania is a group of people in Europe, working on creating an “autonomous European organization” with the aim of supporting the Afrikaans community.

Orania also has a community radio station, Radio Orania. The studio is located in the town’s municipal building and boasts basic audio equipment. It is accredited with the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) and its frequency stretches to a radius of about 40 kilometers.

Their programs range from community announcements, poetry and Afrikaans folk music. They don’t have frequent news slots or shows on current affairs. The town also has its own community magazine, *Voorgrond*.

A 10-minute drive from the radio station takes us to Monument Hill. Here, bust-statues of former Afrikaner leaders look down on the parched town.

Paul Kruger, JBM Hertzog, Verwoerd, DF Malan and JG Strijdom encircle the town’s totem, ‘Die Klein Reus’, Afrikaans for ‘The Little Giant’. It’s a statue of a young boy rolling up his sleeves, demonstrating his readiness to work.

Even though the original artwork of the boy was made by German-born South African artist Elly Holm and given to Verwoerd as a gift, the leaders of Orania have since made this piece of art their icon. Carel (junior) says the busts represent their heroes and choosing to keep them was the obvious thing to do.

“We can’t look at those leaders from the early stages and allow their busts to get buried under dust in store rooms. We need to be true about where we come from as well. It’s not to say they never made mistakes but we are owning up



Above: Volkskool Orania

This picture: Monument Hill where former Afrikaner leaders’ busts are displayed



to our history – bad and good. We don’t believe it was only bad,” he says.

In 1948, the National Party governed South Africa led by Verwoerd and because of his role in implementing the apartheid policies in the country, he is mostly called the ‘Architect of Apartheid’.

In a central part of Orania is Betsie Verwoerd’s house, now a museum. Joost Strydom, a Junior Communications Officer at Orania, takes us to it. It looks like any other home, except for Verwoerd’s bust at the front gate that reminds us this is a museum.

Along the pathway leading to the front door, my colleague and I pluck juicy grapes hanging off a steel arch. It feels strange eating from the Verwoerds’ vine.

The museum is filled ceiling to floor with Verwoerd’s pictures, clothing, gifts, collectables and everything else that belonged to him.

In one room, Betsie’s old-fashioned belongings hang from the cupboard knobs and family pictures crowd the small tables in the room.

Atop a doorway leading to the rest of the house, is Verwoerd’s fishing rod. Pictures around the rod show him revelling in his many fishing outings.

His portraits are on small, medium and large canvasses. Small sculptures of him fill almost every corner of the house. His pictures are all framed and one particular image of him is placed in a colorful round-glass bubble.

In one room, in a large glass case, lies the suit he was wearing when he died after being stabbed four times by Parliamentarian Service Officer Dimitri Tsafendas, in September 1966.

Next to the navy-grey suit are things that were in his possession at the time



of his death. In a little room next to the glass case, are piles of handmade wooden Basotho, Khoisan and African craft stacked on a counter.

Different kinds of bows and arrows and spears hang on the wall. We are told these were gifts he received from his black counterparts and leaders during his reign.

After 15 minutes at the house, we exit and walk into a warm afternoon.

For a moment, the pleasant weather makes us forget where we were.

Like the stillness around us, the community of Orania is content. They handle their own affairs and continue building their establishment.

However, internationally, in view of a re-igniting of right-wing populism and changes in the new world order, it can never be clearly known what a community like Orania can grow into, especially if the major state – South Africa – starts facing serious challenges, as Kondlo says.

The advantages that Orania could gain in that respect remain unknown. He avers while the majority of South Africans are pointing fingers at Orania, in hindsight, it is the rest of South Africa that is exposed and vulnerable.

A democratic South Africa could be “a fallacy created to stop bloodshed and apartheid”. Yet, in a place like Orania, it is what could have led to the establishment of “a secured, private enclosure

Professor Kwandiwe Kondlo says while the majority of South Africans are pointing fingers at Orania, in hindsight, it is the rest of South Africa that is exposed and vulnerable.



The founder of Die Eden Projek, Jaqui Gradwell

that will shield the minority group in the event of a greater crisis”.

For now, the people of Orania are going about their lives, solo and satisfied. **FW**

The Other Orania?

About five hours by road from Orania, the Die Eden Projek that didn't take off.

Besides Orania, in the African context, Professor Kwandiwe Kondlo, a professor in Political Economy at the University of Johannesburg, says there is currently a region in Kenya where a group of Somalis want to have their own state within Kenya.

This leads us to research other possible Oranias, and we find yet another – about five hours by road from Orania – that aspired to be a separatist state.

Jaqui Gradwell is the founder of an NGO called Die Eden Projek, Afrikaans for ‘The Eden Project’. Late last year, he was in the process of establishing his own version of Orania on a farm outside a small town called Willowmore in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa.

Gradwell grabbed headlines with his nine-minute YouTube video where he elaborates why Afrikaners need to establish an enclave occupied only by them. The video is swamped with graphic images of guns, blood and murdered farmers. Gradwell only speaks Afrikaans and tells viewers his actions are justified because of the genocide on white people in the country.

“White people don't kill white people... well not in high numbers anyway,” he says, when we meet him in Willowmore.

The community of Willowmore rejected Gradwell and his aspirations. His objectives were called “pie-in-the-sky” and

Gradwell's plans are yet to see the light of day.

However, contrary to reports, Gradwell remains adamant the concept of the Die Eden Projek is not inspired by racism.

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A Honey Trap For A Mammoth Problem

The remote village of Gazini in South Africa faces an ongoing challenge with crop-raiding elephants crossing from Mozambique. Mmabatho and Desmond Morudi came up with a small solution that stopped the giant invaders in their tracks.

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS JAY CABOZ



Mmabatho Morudi (right) teaches bee-keepers to look for honey on a beehive barrier built on the outskirts of Gazini, a village on the border of South Africa and Mozambique, on November 17, 2016

It was a very big problem – elephant thieves that raid crops in the dead of night. In the remote KwaZulu-Natal village of Gazini, a scatter of farms two kilometers from the border of Mozambique, it was a reality that struck terror in their homes and was too close for comfort.

This was until Mmabatho and Desmond Morudi, a married entrepreneur duo, came up with an unlikely solution – bees – to stop the tusked raiders in their tracks.

“Initially the guys were refusing that the elephants would stay away because of the bees... Even today, I don’t think they are convinced, it’s still a test to

see if it really, really works to deter the elephants,” says Mmabatho.

“That was an interesting discussion. We had it in the first training session. They said ‘elephants scared of bees – no ways’. When [the villagers] describe the terror of an elephant coming through in the village, it’s a scary experience for them. Hence it’s believable why they would believe such a large creature wouldn’t be scared of something so small,” says Desmond.

The Morudis believe that building 200 beehives, in a two-kilometer barrier, will not only fend off the elephants but also make money and help the people of Gazini sleep easy. The villagers could be forgiven for being sceptical.

“The thing that made [the threat] clear to me was when we did a trip along the border fence. There you can see exactly where the fence has been broken and where the elephants cross over. We could see the broken poles snapped in half like twigs,” says Desmond.

The Morudis have been working around this village since October 2016 convincing the villagers. A week before, a herd trampled through their vegetable patch. They woke to see elephants in their backyard peering through their door.

“The elephants also pose a danger to themselves. As the more herds come across, they stand more chance of being killed. One was killed, it’s meat stripped to the bone in



“When we moved into Winterfeldt, they would ask to speak to the man... they would refer to my husband as the boss. But it’s really the other way around.”

a matter of hours. It was probably attacked with just machetes,” says Mmabatho.

So far, the bee-keepers of Gazini have built 40 hives under the guidance of Mmabatho and Desmond. By January, the 11 from Gazini would have yielded R49,000 (\$3,600) with their first harvest.

“The challenge of 200 hives is quite a bit of a stretch, it means they have to run through other villages of people who don’t even know that the project is going on. There is also the issue of leaving space for cars driving past as well as border patrols. You don’t want to cut the elephants off totally. You just want to cordon off the sensitive areas and leave behind a path,” says Desmond.

The bee-keepers of Gazini start work early. The bees get aggressive as the day wears on. The hives hang on wooden poles, 10 meters apart, and linked by barbed wire. If touched by an elephant, the hives swing and stir up the bees.

The buzzing beehive fence is the brainchild of Dr Lucy King in Kenya, Head of the Human-Elephant Co-Existence Program for Save the Elephants, where she realized African elephants are scared of wild African honey bees (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) and will avoid beehives at all costs. The bees sting the elephants’ soft skin, their eyes, face, trunk and mouth.

“The idea of developing a beehive fence deterrent system started to evolve

when I saw just how much elephants were running away from disturbed bee sounds. Using this discovery, I designed and built a novel interlinking beehive fence around small farms who were worst affected by elephant crop-raiding,” says King from her project headquarters in Nairobi.

According to King and scientists, Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) is on the rise.

“During my study observing the factors that deter elephants from disturbed honeybees, we noticed that 94% of the elephants moved away from the source of the bee sounds within 80 seconds. Alarmed elephants also engage in head-shaking and dusting behaviors as if they want to knock the stinging insects out of the air and away from their face,” says King.

The fences have an 80% success rate, are cheap, costing between \$150 to \$500 per 100 meters, and made from local materials, says King. The beehive fences have proven to be so successful with HEC that 13 countries have adopted similar projects, one of them being the Morudi’s growing business, The Village Market.

“We’re obsessed over [King’s] manual and her work in Kenya. We would love to meet her. That’s how it came about. At the same time we were trying to find villages that we could work with. We had the skills, we had the knowledge, we needed the natural vegetation,” says Mmabatho.

The Morudis have taken King’s research one step further. They want to use beehive fences as part of a R2.5 million (\$184,682) dream to harvest, bottle and deliver wild high-quality honey to the suburban shopping aisles of Sandton in Johannesburg, South Africa.

“In general, our jars sell for R55 per 375g. Then we have Mmabatho’s baby, the raw high quality for R75 per 375g. We aim to develop a luxury brand. Bringing more orders to a premium market. We work on 35 kilograms per hive per harvest. Once every three months,” says Desmond.

It’s been a long journey to this odd business in the bush for Desmond and Mmabatho.

The idea was born in Mmabatho’s grandfather’s home in Winterveld, a rural town 68 kilometers northwest of Pretoria, in 2012.

“Bees would get into our ceiling and produce so much honey that it would cave in the ceiling. Like every other family, we

ECO-WARRIORS

would try and smoke them out and kill them. But they would always come back,” says Mmabatho.

Instead, her grandfather took the family on a bee-keeping course and Mmabatho was hooked. She started her own bee-keeping company called Iliju Bee Farm, which means honey.

“We moved to Winterveld after things started. Bought a small little house that used to be called the RDP house in the area. It was so tiny. We then built bee hives on the farm.”

Under Iliju, the couple forged a busy bee career that caught the attention of the media. Mmabatho shook hands with the likes of ministers, members of the top 100 entrepreneurs of Europe and dined with Richard Branson. In 2013, Mmabatho was selected as one of the brightest young minds in South Africa by BYM, and again as one of the emerging change-makers by Spark International.

Things got even busier and Desmond left the comfort of corporate accounting to help manage the business.

But success proved to be a devil in disguise. The business grew too quickly and couldn’t cope. They took on a bee expert who walked out on them at 3AM a year and a half later, and Iliju collapsed.

Then they started The Village Market at the end of 2014. The Morudis’ first challenge was a series of hives on the farms of Winterfeldt to help with crop pollination to improve the quality of yield and buy back the honey. They also trained the Itireleng community of the visually impaired in Ga-Rankuwa, 37 kilometers north of Pretoria.

One of the greatest challenges Mmabatho faced while starting the business was tackling gender inequality.

“When we moved into Winterfeldt, they would ask to speak to the man, the owner of the farm. It shocked me at first. But I’ve made my peace with it. It’s both our farm but they would refer to my husband as the boss. But it’s really the other way around,” says Mmabatho.

“It’s a huge contrast to urban areas. Something as simple as when you are working, the ladies would hang back in order to let the men lead. I remember in training one day, the guys were busy with



something and I wanted to show the ladies to do it, yet they were so hesitant to do it, to take the lead,” says Desmond.

The couple believe that deforestation, pesticides and insecticides also affect the bees. They instead plant strong-smelling plants and herbs like onions and spring onions to discourage pests and plant flowering vegetables like tomatoes to encourage pollination.

“Bee-keeping is a low start-up business – it doesn’t generate a lot of income. Hives can only be harvested once every three months. But we were trying to find ways to tackle unemployment and skills in villages,” says Mmabatho.

Beehive fences are not the only solution on the table for Gazini. In addition, Elephants Rhinos and People (ERP), the Morudis’ partner in Gazini, has also started chilli farms and drilled boreholes on the Mozambique side to discourage raids by thirsty elephants.

“At the beginning of the year, the crossings were getting quite significant. Previously it had just been bulls, but then we started seeing breeding herds coming through,” says Nonceba Lushaba, the KwaZulu-Natal Coordinator of ERP.

“From the elephant’s point of view, they have realized that there are easy pickings here. It’s kind of like a naughty child who



Lucy King



Photo by N.T. Hoenges

“We need the bees to focus all their energy on making the honey. As soon as invaders enter the hive, they expend all their energy getting it out, which of course affects production.”



Opposite page: Bee-keepers prepare vegetation for bee smokers

Above: Mmabatho and Desmond Morudi at the farm where the bee fence is being built

Left: 40 of the 200 hives have been colonized

“Another important issue is researching bee diseases. Bee health is important if we want to conserve them. Research needs to keep track of these growing issues,” says Mmabatho.

Threats like the Varroa mite that attacks bees in the hive, and contributes in part to Colony Collapse Disorder, are global concerns. This is why the couple have teamed up with the University of Pretoria (TUKS) Zoology and Entomology department’s Bee Group, that will add valuable research to elephant behavior, bee re-population and disease control.

Even though US and Europe honey bee colonies were under threat from Colony Collapse Disorder for almost 10 years, the African honey bee was safe from the impact of industrialized apiculture. This according to research by Robin Crew, professor of Entomology and leader of the Social Insects Research Group in the University of Pretoria’s Department of Zoology and Entomology.

The fact that Africa has the largest number of wild honey bee swarms in the world has contributed to wider genetic diversity and therefore populations are not as severely affected by disease, claims Crew.

The beepocolypse, as it was called, could even be resolved with recolonization with the African honey bee because of its resilience.

goes to pick sweets. There may be a need to tweak that behavior. Especially for an elephant that remembers absolutely everything.”

In Gazini, finding the bees is half the battle. Once the hives are built, in the closest town with electricity which is Manguzi and a 40-minute drive on sand, the bee-keepers take the hives to their homes in Gazini and attempt to colonize them.

Bees are fussy dwellers. They need sources of water, plenty of flowering plants, protective vegetation and to be out of direct sunlight. Once the bees have moved in, the keepers close the entrances at night and then transport the colony to the beehive fence. Work starts before dawn. In their bee suits, they walk with the hives on their heads to this farm. It is so remote you need a 4x4 to navigate the maze of bush trails to find it.

Their Gazini project has even caught the eyes of the African Union which gave them a \$15,000 grant to provide research around bee diseases, cross pollination and population to TUKS.

“It’s not just the sake of doing research for the sake of research, but using it to solve community problems; to help developed communities,” says Desmond.

On the morning of inspection, Mmabatho found suspicious larvae in one hive, which was not even two months old.

“We need the bees to focus all their energy on making the honey. As soon as invaders enter the hive, they expend all their energy getting it out, which of course affects production,” says Desmond.

Once the honey is ready, it is transported 600 kilometers to their bottling plant at the Riversands Incubation Hub in Fourways, Gauteng, that opened in September last year.

“The problem we have with honey in South Africa is a lot of it is imported. Because of important laws we need to irradiate it. You will see in the shops it will say it’s ionized by radiation in order to increase shelf life. The impact of that is that it takes away the good qualities from the honey.”

“There is also a lack of variation of honey in the market. We introduce some product differentiation; infusing honey with lemon or cinnamon.”

Raw honey is murky and beige in colour, a completely different experience from what you see in the shops.

“People are used to seeing this brown liquid here on the shelves, that’s what they associate with honey. They don’t appreciate the real raw product will crystallize,” says Mmabatho.

Honey also can be used in health and beauty products and is a natural anti-inflammatory. Scrubs, moisturizers and masks can all be made from the by-product of the comb.

This is one business that is helping a tiny village sleep easier at night and got a couple of bright African entrepreneurs buzzing. **EW**

ASSISTED DYING

After cancer had spread throughout her body, and death was inevitable, Patricia Ferguson decided she wanted to be in control of it. So, she went on a hunger strike.

“She had always said she would rather take an overdose than become a burden,” says her son, Sean Davison.

Having flown from Cape Town, South Africa, to Dunedin, New Zealand, to be with his mother during her final days in 2006, Davison was confronted with a horrific scenario and a decision that is hard to comprehend.

Unable to move her limbs, Ferguson was bedridden. Bruises and bed sores covered her body and her flesh was starting to rot. She wished her pain would end and no longer wanted to be a burden on her loved ones. She had starved herself for more than a month but her body refused to give in.

Finally, she pleaded for her son to give her a lethal dose of morphine pills that she had saved up over days. Witnessing her suffering for weeks, Davison sorrowfully agreed to help his mother.

“My instinct was to keep her alive. But I realized that this was what she wanted, and if I didn’t help her she would have suffered a lot more,” he says.

He crushed the pills, mixed them in a glass of water, and handed it to his mother. After about an hour she peacefully fell asleep.

Davison says this was an act of compassion; New Zealand authorities said it was a crime. He was arrested and later sentenced to five months house arrest.

Helping his mother die seemed to split society. Although many sympathized with Davison – including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who wrote a letter that helped prevent him spending time behind bars – others were appalled by his actions. While being kept as a prisoner in his mother’s house, Davison received two death threats.

In 2010, while awaiting his trial, Davison, now the Head of

Mercy Or Monster?

the Forensic DNA Laboratory at the University of the Western Cape, founded Dignity SA. It is an organization that is fighting to legalize assisted dying in South Africa.

“My mother would never have gone on that ill-fated hunger strike if she knew she had the option of an assisted death,” Davison wrote in a column in December last year.

But, just like he faced resistance in New Zealand, Davison has detractors in South Africa. Dr Albu van Eeden is the CEO of Doctors For Life, a group of doctors that campaigns against controversial issues, such as euthanasia, abortion and homosexuality. He claims suicide is an infectious disease.

“The concept of suicide contagion is a very well

established principle in psychology and psychiatry,” he says.

Suicide contagion is defined as the exposure to suicide or suicidal behaviors from family, friends, or media, and can result in an increase in suicidal behavior. Van Eeden believes that 99.9% of suffering can be effectively treated with medicine.

“It’s just erroneous now when we have the most effective pain treatment in the history of the world, now suddenly there is a need for assisted suicide,” he says.

Assisted suicide is when a doctor provides the medication and/or

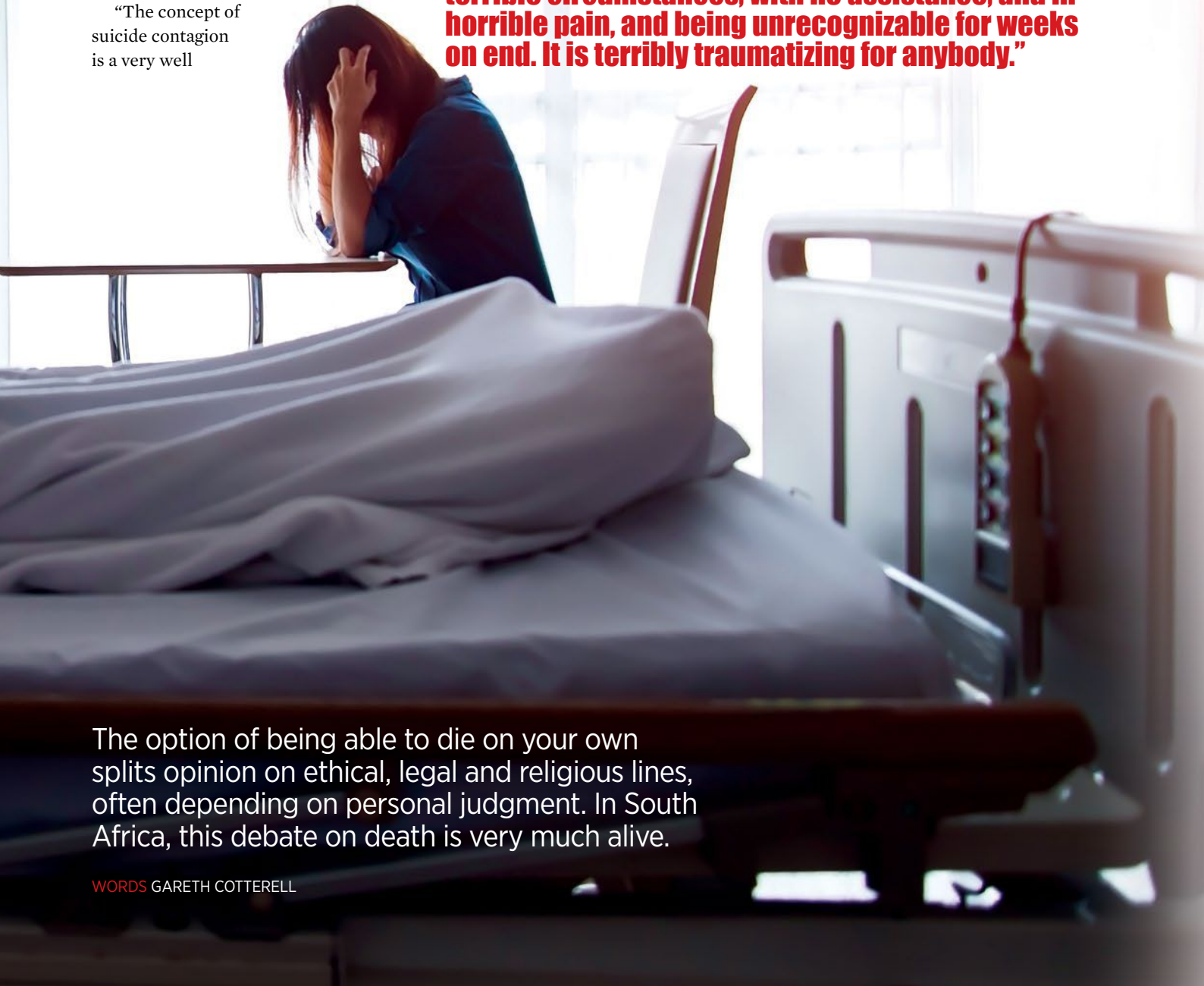
information for a terminally-ill patient to end their own life, while euthanasia involves a doctor administering the medication. Today, euthanasia is legal in the Netherlands, Belgium, Colombia, and Luxembourg. Assisted suicide is legal in Switzerland, Germany, Japan, Canada, and in the US states of Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Vermont, Montana, and California.

In South Africa, assisted dying is illegal but some are trying to change that in courts and Parliament. The most recent case is that of the well-known advocate Robin Stransham-Ford, who insisted

“I have had my own grandparents pass away under terrible circumstances, with no assistance, and in horrible pain, and being unrecognizable for weeks on end. It is terribly traumatizing for anybody.”

The option of being able to die on your own splits opinion on ethical, legal and religious lines, often depending on personal judgment. In South Africa, this debate on death is very much alive.

WORDS GARETH COTTERELL



“Holland was not able to keep its regulations... The limits are constantly being stretched.”

his cancer and kidney failure infringed on his constitutional right to dignity. In 2015, on the day Stransham-Ford succumbed to the cancer, the High Court ruled that a doctor could help him end his life. Numerous organizations, including the Department of Justice, the Department of Health, and Doctors For Life, asked the Supreme Court of Appeal to review this. In December 2016, the decision was overturned.

Aubrey Magerman, Attorney and Director at Magerman Attorneys, feels that assisted dying should be legalized; he says it is still a crime in South Africa.

“We’re back at square one, where we would be criminally culpable to assist someone in ending their life,” he says.

Magerman believes everyone should have a constitutional right to a dignified life and a dignified death.

“I have had my own grandparents pass away out in the rural Northern Cape under terrible circumstances, with no assistance, and in horrible pain, and being unrecognizable for weeks on end. It is terribly traumatizing for anybody. I wish, when it come to my time [to die], I will have the opportunity [to undergo assisted suicide].”

Magerman refers to the popular MP Mario Oriani-Ambrosini, who had stage-four lung cancer.

“One day he couldn’t take the pain anymore and he killed himself. His family found him with his brain and blood splattered all over the bedroom walls and on the bedding. So, I don’t think the State should tell us how to die,” he says.

Despite this, Van Eeden says assisted dying can have consequences beyond easing a person’s suffering.

“Once you allow it you are stretching man’s tendency to stretch the limit or the borders which makes the slippery slope happen,” he says.

“In Canada, they now want to make it possible for people who are asking for

euthanasia to donate their organs. Suicide was originally only meant for terminal illness, for people with unbearable suffering, until they said ‘on what basis is physical suffering worse than mental suffering?’

So then they said ‘ok, we’ll allow it for mental suffering as well.’”

“So now you find a person can go to their doctor and say ‘I’m depressed, I’m worthless’. Maybe he’s a disabled person or an old person, and he says I don’t mean anything for anybody, I’m a burden to society, to my children, I think I’m in the way. I want to rather commit suicide and please you’re the doctor, you must do it for me. Now they can say to him, ‘You know what? Your life is worthless but it can have purpose, you can give your organs for donation... And this just shows you what a monster suicide becomes.’”

Van Eeden is also worried about the regulation of the laws.

“Holland was not able to keep its regulations. Firstly, they said there would be a waiting time, and two or three doctors must agree with the decision, but all these things went out the door. Initially, it was only for patients above the age of 18, now it’s changed so that children above the age of 12 years old can ask for euthanasia without the consent of parents. The limits are constantly being stretched,” he says.

Magerman agrees that regulation is vital if assisted dying laws are introduced.

“What is required here is for the State to step in. It should be up to Parliament, which is the body charged with making legislation. It is not something that can be regulated in the courts.

“It creates absolute uncertainty. It is simply for Parliament to say we will for now on regulate assisted suicide or euthanasia and the parameters of that will be set.”

But Van Eeden has concern that State regulation opens the door for laws to be abused.

“It will always be cheaper to take a life than to treat a person and try and help him. So there’s a very strong financial incentive to any government once you start allowing assisted suicide.”

It’s a complex issue with many legal, ethical and religious variables to consider. Those against assisted dying say that it goes against the sanctity of life that is stressed by most religions.

One iconic religious leader defies this. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in October 2016, said he would like to have the option of assisted dying.

“I have prepared for my death and have made it clear that I do not wish to be kept alive at all costs. I hope I am treated with compassion and allowed to pass on to the next phase of life’s journey in the manner of my choice,” he wrote in the *Washington Post*.

“For those suffering unbearably and coming to the end of their lives, merely knowing that an assisted death is open to them can provide immeasurable comfort,” he added.

In 1998, South Africa’s President Nelson Mandela asked the Law Reform Commission to look into assisted dying.

The commission decided that assisted dying should be legalized, even writing a draft bill. Despite this, it was never debated in Parliament, and continues to gather dust.

In 2014, Tutu lambasted the way Mandela was used as a political prop days before his death, calling it ‘disgraceful’.

“My friend was no longer himself. It was an affront to Madiba’s dignity,” wrote Tutu, who is often referred to as South Africa’s moral conscience.

Would assisted dying legislation have allowed Mandela to die with more dignity? It’s impossible to answer definitively, but a sobering thought nonetheless. **FW**

“I have prepared for my death and have made it clear I do not wish to be kept alive at all costs.”

– Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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NKOANA

HEROES AMONG MEN

Two women showed extraordinary courage facing guns and gore as part of the South African mission in the Central African Republic in 2013. One risked her life saving the men around her, the other hiding the mission's money from the rebels.

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS MOTLABANA MONNAKGOTLA

It's a sunny Thursday, and I am at the Mobile Military Health Formation of the SA Military Health Service in Pretoria, South Africa's capital city, to meet Limpopo-born Molatelo Nkoana, a 31-year-old woman who has dodged more bullets than most.

Nkoana's running a little late, but then she arrives, sallying into the boardroom. She is on duty and in uniform, and proceeds to tell me about her life and the career she almost embarked on.

After completing her secondary education, Nkoana says she first went on to study and train as a nurse. But that wasn't to last long; she gave it up midway – to join the military, a decision she would never regret.

“Basically, it was about the money, I was young and wasn't getting enough money, so I went on the market,” says Nkoana.

The enthusiastic 22-year-old applied, and was recruited three months later, reporting to the Thaba Tshwane military base in Pretoria for basic training. She also trained in Kimberly, Bloemfontein and the Western Cape.

Nkoana had thought only the physically fit could join the military, but soon discovered it offered multiple careers one could explore. With her nursing background and experience, Nkoana chose to be a paramedic.

In March 2013, Nkoana was one of the 200 soldiers of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) selected to go to the Central African Republic (CAR) as part of South Africa's peace-keeping mission there.

They would go on to fight a series of battles outside Bangui in the CAR. And Nkoana was the only woman on the frontline.

Michel Djotodia, leader of the rebel alliance, Seleka, had declared himself the new president of CAR and forced the then serving president, François Bozizé, out of the country.

It wasn't going to be an easy task for the SANDF.

Nkoana takes me back to noon on that fateful Friday on March 22, 2013 when she first spotted the rebels; she remembers it all like it was yesterday.

She literally transports me to CAR with her vivid detailing of the series of events that unfolded. As she relates this story of death and danger, I hear the bullets, the gunshots and the rebels roar; I see the ravages of war in CAR.

Nkoana was amongst the first to see the rebels attack.

“We saw a civilian running away from those people, the rebels. I was at the gate of the base's duty room. I ran to the sick-bay as a medic and told the people

that the rebels are coming, the rebels are coming.”

When she reported it, nobody believed her. But she persisted, proceeding to gather her bulletproof vest, helmet, and weapon.

Her fellow soldiers only believed her when the Officer Commander (OC) ordered them to prepare and check what was happening outside the base. He tasked a team from the special force.

Around 5PM, this team was ambushed by the rebels, but they fought back tenaciously, and the rebels fled.

Three men of the special force team returned injured, one shot in the chest, the other had sustained a fracture in his femur and the third was wounded.

For the first time, the base knew it was rough outside.

“As medic personnel, we took them to civilian hospitals outside to get other doctors to help us,” recalls Nkoana.

Around 10PM the following day, the rebels came back again firing bombs. The SANDF could hear the entire din from their base. The Sergeant Major asked Nkoana to go with them to replenish food for the soldiers who had been on night vigil.

She grabbed her medical bag, helmet, bulletproof vest, weapon and left with the men, not hesitating for a minute.

FIGHTING IN CAR

Seleka rebels on a pickup truck mounted with a machine gun leave the pillaged presidential palace of the deposed president in Bangui in 2013

It was around 12PM, when she along with the others drove 15-20 kilometers to the location of the stranded soldiers; it was quiet when they got there, but as soon as the rebels saw the SANDF vehicles, they started shooting again.

"We went out of the car and took cover, and then we started shooting back. While fighting, I managed to get one of the guys that was injured and suggested I take him back to the base because he could not run, fight or do anything," she says.

The OC opted otherwise and Nkoana and the injured men had to wait even as the bullets rained over their heads.

At 5PM, as they were heading back to camp, the squad was ambushed again. This was when a number of lives were lost, says Nkoana, for the first time sounding emotional.

They did what they did before: stop the vehicle, step out and take cover.

As Nkoana was taking cover, one of the soldiers had been shot in both legs and was screaming out for her. She bandaged him but the chaos was far from over; yet another soldier was calling for one of the two medics that were there. He had almost missed a bullet but it had grazed his neck.

By then, Nkoana and the other medic could see dead bodies all around them. The injured soldiers shouted to them to leave because they were going to die.

"We told them we can't leave. We are still alive and we can at least take cover with you. Let's move to a safer place; the guy that was shot in the legs said he couldn't walk and we should leave him there."

The team refused and carried him to safety.

Around midnight, the OC called from the base asking for Nkoana. Many of the soldiers were already back at the base, but the young woman had stayed on with the other fighters.

"When they called, I switched off my phone because it was loud and we could hear the voices of the rebels from where we were hiding.

"I switched the phone back on and sent a message telling them 'we are here, we are hiding, we've got two patients and we cannot get out of this cover'."

Nkoana had full faith she was going to return home to her son in Senwabarwana, her hometown in South Africa's Limpopo province. It kept her alive.

She thought she would be running on foot back to the camp because there was nothing that could rescue them.

Many soldiers died, but many of the rebels also died, so there was not going to be any mercy towards the SANDF.

Nkoana then received a text advising her and her patients to remain in hiding and stay calm. Around 4AM, she received a call asking if they were still undercover; they were then instructed to somehow make their way to the airport.

"The commander of the rebels was requesting the SANDF to go back to their country," she says.

But Nkoana and the injured soldiers had to travel another 15 kilometers to the airport; she was still unsure of their safety. Their hideout was next to a tar-road and the rebels were driving up and down firing bullets into the sky.

A peace agreement had been signed, so the soldiers could go back to camp; get their belongings and head home to safety.

"[But] we were not sure the people in the streets knew of the peace agreement because if they see us they will shoot us; the agreements were done at the base and not in the streets," says Nkoana.

They refused to come out of hiding.

They heard the Casspir (armed ambulance) that was sent to fetch them and the bodies of the dead soldiers, but they were still unsure if it was safe to surface. The vehicle went up and down, back and forth,

looking for them.

"Around 7AM, the next day, we decided to go. They sent me a message to just surrender; I then told the guys 'the Major says we should surrender'. I was the Corporal by then and the guys asked if we should shoot. I told them 'no, because if you shoot one bullet, they will kill all of us'."

Nkoana took command of the situation, complying with her superiors at the base.

The drama didn't end there though.

Just as they got on to the road, the rebels came after them

and took their weapons, bulletproof vests, ammunition and they were instructed to lie down. They then had to stand up and walk in a single file not knowing where they were being taken.

On the way, they climbed on to a bakkie (pickup truck) driven by other rebels which took them to their

base. The soldiers at the base had started packing, and they had to pack up too. They were all then taken to the airport to head back home to South Africa. Finally, it was all over.

Nkoana was a 27-year-old woman who defied death at the hands of the rebels. She was honored with a bravery medal, invited to the opening of Parliament in South Africa in 2014 and was given the Sword Of Peace.



"They opened my bag and asked what it was. I told them it was clothes and asked if I could keep it, but the bag of money was under the clothes."

– Susette Gates



Like Nkoana, another South African woman was also honored for her bravery fleeing the rebels in CAR, with an equivalent of R3 million (\$323,000 at the time) supporting the mission, in her bag.

Susette Gates, a mother of two sons, currently living in Pretoria, was deployed as the financial officer of the South African mission in CAR in charge of payroll. Before being employed by the SANDF, she had been a hairdresser, she says, laughing, when she speaks to us.

Like most people looking for jobs, she had applied for an open post at the Wonderboom military base and been accepted; she continues to work here.

I meet her at this base – she's not in uniform – and in her own office adorned with family portraits, certificates and medals.

She was the only other woman besides Nkoana selected for the CAR mission. Those fearful moments in CAR are forever etched in her memory.

When the rebels were attacking the SANDF, Gates was watching a horror movie on her laptop at the base. Little did she know the horrors unfolding around her.

Ironically, she was informed about the chaos in CAR on the phone by her sister in South Africa. Only then did she realize there was no electricity and people had left their homes at the camp.

She called out to everyone but was the only one left. She was later relocated to another place where she spent the night.

"The next morning, I went back to get my belongings. The next thing the rebels were in the base and they took everything, they even took the cars," she says.

"If they could grab food, clothes whatever. I had my money with me; they opened my bag and asked what it was. I told them it was clothes and asked if I could keep it, but the bag of money was under the clothes."

Gates was released and managed to get away with the R3 million; the money she had hidden under her clothes and that belonged to the SANDF.

The trip to the airport was grim because all she saw was a dry and dirty town, gunshots going off in the background. On the flight back home, she knew there were dead bodies of colleagues on the plane. Gates almost kissed the ground when she landed in South Africa, she says.

Both these women returned as heroes and were honored by South Africa's Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula in 2014. Of the 185 soldiers who survived the war, the two women stood out amongst the men. Today, there are other women fighting the rebels in the CAR like they did, risking their lives and saving the lives of the men around them. **FW**


‘Real Human Beings, Not Protoplasm Lying In A Box’

As opposed to incubators, Kangaroo Mother Care has clear benefits in increasing the survival rates of premature babies but why hasn't the world latched on?

WORDS PHILIPPA GARSON



Photo by Conrad Borman / Galo Images / Getty Images



Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), a low-tech option for stabilized premature babies where the tiny baby is swaddled skin-to-skin between its mother's breasts instead of languishing in an incubator, can save many of these babies' lives and improve their outcomes.

Premature birth is the leading cause of death of babies around the world. Of the 15 million babies born prematurely each year, around one million of them die, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Of those that survive, many experience cognitive deficits and other problems such as lack of fine motor coordination, attention deficit disorder, poor hearing and vision – problems that often go unnoticed and/or untreated in developing countries.

Yet, despite many studies that point to the benefits of KMC, where the premature baby is swaddled to the mother, father or helper, often in a special stretch cotton or lycra carrier, fed only breast milk where possible, and sent home earlier but with strict year-long follow up, the method has yet to replace more expensive, high-tech options as a mainstream method of care, even – or especially – in places where incubators, baby

warmers and other necessary equipment are often in short supply.

The question is why?

Experts point to several reasons why they believe the practice has been slow to catch on, even in poor countries where it could be so beneficial. A quest for hi-tech options, cultural resistance, a lack of scientific understanding and a failure of the imagination, are some of them.

But proponents of KMC are hopeful that recent findings, as well as new evidence on the developing brain, may trigger a sea change.

A recently-released study done in Colombia, where KMC originated 30 years ago due to a shortage of incubators, tracked down individuals 20 years after they were given KMC as premature babies.

According to pediatrician and lead researcher, Dr Nathalie Charpak, director of the Kangaroo Foundation in Bogotá, the findings, published in December 2016 in the journal *Pediatrics*, show that “Kangaroo Mother Care has significant, long-lasting social and behavioral protective effects 20 years after the intervention”.

The study found that the young adults given KMC were less likely to be aggressive, hyperactive or impulsive, and that they had bigger brains, than those in a comparison group that received traditional incubator care.

When the study was started in 1993, the death rate was twice as great in the comparison group. The study also showed that 20 years later, the KMC-raised babies had more

“The incubator is the primary cause of toxic stress.”

KANGAROO MOTHER CARE

supportive families, had performed better at work and school and were better adjusted socially. Although their IQs were only slightly higher than the comparison group, they had more brain matter in areas important for learning and storing information.

“Kangaroo Mother Care is not a Third World fix for infant mortality. This is something all babies around the world could benefit from.”

But doctors in hospitals in developing countries sometimes shun KMC as a “third rate” solution compared to the state-of-the-art incubators that wealthier hospitals can offer, says Charpak.

But in Africa, where 60% of women still give birth at home or in an informal setting, despite the push to get them to deliver in healthcare facilities, and where incubators in hospitals are often broken and in short supply, premature babies run the risk of infection and death due to these equipment problems according to Dr Nancy Sloan, an epidemiologist who has researched KMC globally. What’s more, delays in getting newborns into hospital increases the risk, as most newborn deaths occur on the first day of life.

Given that KMC does not require expensive drugs or machines, it is no surprise that pharmaceutical or other corporate giants are not queuing up to fund studies. But global development goals in recent decades have galvanized energy around preventing baby deaths and the WHO has promoted and published guidelines on KMC since 2003 as part of a strategy to accomplish this. Many studies, backed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the WHO and others, point to the clear benefits of KMC in survival rates and outcomes for premature and low-birth-weight babies.

Charpak is hopeful that the results of her study will help spread the message about the overwhelmingly positive benefits of KMC. Scandinavian countries have been pioneering the practice for years; there are big KMC movements in many other developed countries, including the US and Canada; and the method is being piloted in many developing countries

around the world, including in some African countries. In South Africa, there are several successful KMC programs in operation.

But, despite what the studies find, including one in Cameroon shown to almost halve death rates of premature babies, resistance persists. Charpak notes that this is particularly evident in some northern countries on the continent.

“We have failed in countries like Algeria, Morocco and Egypt and I don’t know exactly why.”

She suspects, however, that fathers in these countries may balk at the bigger role that KMC requires of them in nurturing the newborn.

KMC takes human resource dedication to teach mothers and their families exactly how to practice it and to follow up the babies at home for months afterwards. It is not just about putting the baby on the mother and ‘saying bye bye’,” as Charpak puts it. Yet it is less expensive than high-tech interventions. She laments that the intensive, hands-on time required is off-putting to many mothers in countries like the US, for example, where pressure to get back to work as soon as possible is great.

While Charpak believes that KMC should only be started after a premature baby has first been stabilized in an incubator, another group of scientists is keen to show that immediate KMC, directly after birth, could save more babies and improve their outcomes too.

Dr Nils Bergman, a perinatal neuroscientist who has been championing KMC for decades, is heading up a large study in Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania and India, which is set to begin in a few months. Also funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the study on 5,000 premature babies hopes to show that “immediate KMC” directly after birth, even on unstable babies, can improve survival rates.

In Bergman’s view, the reason that KMC hasn’t been taken up more widely, despite clear evidence that shows its benefits, is because there has not been enough scientific knowledge to explain why it works.

His research on 128 Zimbabwean infants 20 years ago using immediate KMC showed not only a dramatic improvement in their survival rate (50% up from 10%), he says, but that the babies behaved differently.

“They suckled well, their skin had a different texture and they grew twice as fast. They opened their eyes and looked at you in a focused way. They were real human beings, not protoplasm lying in a box.”

Now, Bergman says, new studies in neuroscience and epigenetics actually show the toxic effects of stress on the developing brain.

“For all mammals, separation from the mother is the greatest stressor known,” he says. Immediate skin-to-skin contact between mother and baby, whether premature or not, is crucial for the baby’s brain development and bonding, he believes, and in his view, “the incubator is the primary cause of toxic stress”.

“Kangaroo Mother Care is not a Third World fix for infant mortality,” he says. “This is something that all babies around the world could benefit from.”

Bergman would like to show not only that immediate KMC increases the chances of survival but that it improves the quality of that survival. He hopes that more funding will become available for follow-up research on the infants on the study.

Sloan also backs the idea of KMC for all babies, particularly on a continent where most women still give birth at home. In the home or community setting, information crucial to determining whether a baby is premature or not – exactly how old the baby is and how much it weighs – is often not known, even when a baby is admitted to a hospital.

Also, women are sometimes stigmatized for giving birth to premature babies, and KMC for them only could stigmatize them further, she says.

Research shows clear benefits for both stabilized premature babies and for healthy babies, Sloan says, and there is no evidence that it causes harm.

“We need to start promoting universal KMC for every baby,” she says. **EW**

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Lifting Hurdles Even A Crane Can't



Fortunate Mdanda swept aside racial and gender barriers to create a company where staff are also shareholders. Under the hard hat is a woman who crashed the glass ceiling with some pretty heavy manufacturing equipment.

WORDS JILL DE VILLIERS

The cool highveld breeze snaps the corner of her neon-yellow safety waistcoat as she steps out of the office building into the yard, the white hard hat sitting comfortably on her head.

Fortunate Mdanda takes confident strides in the male-dominated world of metal and machines. There are other women visible through the workshop doors, setting off sparks as they wield welders and grinders.

Under Mdanda's watchful eye as CEO of Smith Capital Equipment, there is an internship program for women, and the company actively recruits female engineers.

Her background is not in engineering, but her corporate experience in business strategy, process and finance has amply equipped her for the position. If you have a mind for business, there is no need to feel restricted to more traditionally female pursuits.

"I've never looked at industries based on gender. I've looked at what one can contribute. So it's a consolidated effort of all the right skills within the business that makes it successful," she says.

When she with her husband Sipho took ownership of Smith Capital Equipment on November 2, 2015, the management and workforce were in for a major culture change.

After over two decades of democratic governance in South Africa, the company was still caught up in an apartheid time warp, with separate amenities for the races.

With racial and gender barriers swept aside, there was yet another sweeping change. The company's 84 employees became shareholders.

"We created a shareholding for both management and staff, across race, across gender, so it's inclusive, it's a very exciting space for all of us at Smith Capital," says Mdanda.

But change always comes with some growing pains.

"I must admit at the beginning it is a new concept when people are told they are shareholders. It comes with excitement, but they're sort of sceptical. What does that bring? Is there money into our pocket immediately? So it took us a while to communicate the upside of being a shareholder and the responsibilities that come with being a shareholder," she says.

"But now we're at a space where we all really understand and are excited about being shareholders. People don't just come in, do their work and walk out. There is transparency, there is excitement in terms of where the business is going, everyone shares in everything, the strategies of the business, the prospects, and we all share in the excitement and the challenges that we face as a business."

The core business of this 43-year-old company is the manufacturing of on-road aerial platforms and drilling rigs used for water well and hard rock surface drilling in the mining industry and pole planting for new infrastructure. Equipment is locally designed and manufactured, with drilling rigs and aerial platforms boasting over 90% local content.

Then there is the import side of the business, with truck-mounted cranes brought in from Italy, as well as the ongoing service aspect of the business.

Through a recently-introduced rental division, the company encourages local contractors, who experience financial barriers to entry and cannot afford upfront procurement of the necessary capital equipment they need to deliver on contracts they obtain.

Repairs and maintenance as well as regular load-testing are other important facets of the business.

More black industrialists are emerging with encouragement from the government. The biggest barrier to entry has been funding.

"Now with the DFI [development finance institutions] being open to assisting entrepreneurs growing into being industrialists, I see endless opportunities being presented," she says.

What is important here is that it goes beyond more than purely facilitating funding, but in providing support in skills-training, and opening business opportunities and new markets.

"Sometimes you find you have the best product but you can't put it out there, you can't export it because you find every process when it comes to structured processes that you need to go through are actually barriers to making one successful."

The Gauteng Provincial Government and the City of Ekurhuleni, where Smith Capital Equipment is headquartered in South Africa, have made efforts to make it easier to do business.

Although the company had been exporting for years, it hadn't been a major strategy.

"Now we're turning that around, we're sending units into Africa, which is very impressive. We're getting enquiries, a lot as well, because our products are African products, not South African products. They are designed for the African terrain. It is different to sending a product anywhere in the world. So we understand what Africa is about, we understand the terrain and we understand our neighboring countries as well, so doing business with them is quite interesting and exciting and there is actually an increase in opportunities that are being presented."

Smith Capital Equipment falls under the umbrella of Isipho Capital Holdings, which is wholly owned by the husband-wife duo. Their first acquisition was

Kholeka Engineering, a manufacturer of truck bodies and trailers, based in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa.

"We funded it from our own savings. All we wanted to do was to have the skin in the game and to ensure that we can prove to ourselves that we can work hard

and turn the business around. That happened and then came the Smith Capital deal. A few other deals are in the pipeline, so it's quite exciting," says Mdanda.

Because Smith Capital Equipment required considerable investment, the Mdandas secured a loan of R41 million (around \$3 million) through the National Empowerment Fund (NEF). The company has since been identified as one of the 100 Black Industrialists by the Department of Trade and Industry, has established strong BEE credentials and is ISO 9001 registered.

Looking at the day-to-day operations of Smith Capital and the commitment and enthusiasm of their 84 shareholders, the dreams and plans for an expanding Isipho Capital Holdings seem bright and achievable. The future will tell if this is the birth of a new African business dynasty.

While there is much to do in running the business and creating and building an inclusive culture, there is much industry networking to be done as well.

"Sadly, engineer-run businesses are inward looking, that's how Smith Capital was. But, with our experiences from corporate, you learn that business doesn't come to you, you go look for business. You go make your presence felt."

While she has achieved much in the business arena, she defines as her biggest achievement her and Siphos two teenage children – 18-year-old son Luyanda and 15-year-old daughter Noluthando.

No doubt Mdanda is a great role model to Noluthando, as she actively supports the development of women in her industry. Her advice for young women wanting to break into any previously male-dominated industry is to be positive and prepared to learn.

"Open yourself to learning and embrace the opportunities. With anything you do there will be challenges, but if you're open-minded and positive about it and put in the hours in terms of the hard work, it works out well," says the CEO who has proven this mantra for success, time and again. **FW**

"I've never looked at industries based on gender. I've looked at what one can contribute."

They began selling skirts out of the boot of their VW Beetle car in 2000 to friends and family. Sixteen years later, their clothes have been worn at the best fashion shows in Atlanta, Washington, Nigeria, London and India.

It didn't come easy.

On a balmy Saturday morning, we arrive at the Sun Goddess boutique in Sandton City, a plush mall in Johannesburg, South Africa. What hits you in the face is a bunch of Afro-centric ethnic wear on the racks, a pride and fortune of husband and wife team, Thando and Vanya Mangaliso.

Behind the counter is Vanya; fashion design is her forte. This poised award-winning designer has a petite physique and a headwrap; she has a soft handshake and a striking smile.

Her husband and business partner, Thando, concentrates on retail.

Vanya, 43, was the only child at home, always surrounded by cousins, in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. She had a passion for reading.

"I grew up in a family of dreamers; grateful for the love of books instilled in me and I guess that continues to fuel my dreams.

'If I don't Sell A Skirt I Don't Eat'

There were many setbacks – a natural calamity that almost wiped out her store, an armed robbery at home and struggling businesses – but fashion entrepreneur Vanya Mangaliso fought adversity with attitude.

WORDS YONELA MGWALI

"The endless beauty in life, love, family, books, history, the future and our rich heritage. I'm also inspired by the idea of believing there is more and I tend to enjoy the sacrament of work; the desire to rise above mediocrity," says Vanya.

She worked in the corporate world, in Logistics for Transnet, traveling to different countries: Zambia, Congo and Nigeria, where she noticed that fashion dictated their culture.

"When I'd get off the aeroplane in Nigeria, I'd know I'm in Nigeria, because of their traditional wear. But in South Africa, it was not always the case because fashion didn't exist as we know it today. It wasn't always like this. It took a collective effort of community that was transitioning," says Vanya.

It was those trips that encouraged her to start her own business in fashion.

Vanya's biggest inspiration is her mother, who always wore Umbaco, a traditional outfit.

She always wondered why people didn't wear [traditional regalia] regularly. It's no surprise that she created a business out of this.

"We had to define what the South African aesthetic is. It is not merely taking a normal western t-shirt and put buttons, I mean at the end of the day you have to define the DNA of the South African look."

Even a good novelist couldn't have written her story.

The Mangalisos had five stores in Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg. Managing all shops wasn't easy. In 2009, they closed three.

"We didn't have a system that allowed us to manage a shop that was in Durban when we were in Johannesburg so we had to restructure our business. And we opted for the quality of the profit margin as opposed to the quantity," says Vanya.

They had 150 employees in retail and production but today they have only 20 employees.

The Mangalisos also faced a major setback in their career when their stock of fragrances worth





“When we started the business we never got a business loan. Having things easy deprives you of being enterprising.”

R2 million (\$150,000) got wiped out in one day as a result of a flood at their Rosebank store – a terrible moment.

“I tend not to take things personally at all. It was also a very special and interesting time, making great use of the antagonistic nature of things to rise to greater heights as people,” she says.

In addition to the bad luck she suffered because of nature, there was also an armed robbery at her home in Atholl in Johannesburg, in the middle of the night.

“As it happens you ask yourself how this story is going to end! So helpless, so vulnerable, terrified and sure they clean you out. You can only try to keep calm and be grateful for your lives,” says Vanya.

“I live in the now, fully aware [of living] every moment to the fullest; I tend not to

dwell on the dead past or fear the future. I’m also a great believer in letting go of pain once it has served you and so I’m an eternal optimist always looking ahead,” she says.

Even though the Mangalisos struggled with their business, they still believe a loan should be earned.

“When we started the business, we never got a business loan. Having things easy deprives you of being enterprising because as they say necessity is the mother of invention and I think my life is a testament to that,” says Vanya.

Even at their worst time in business, they were creating products to make money. They launched a range of African head gear.

“We’ve become very cut-throat, the business must make money; if it doesn’t



make money, we close it. It’s not about your pride; even a fashion line, if it doesn’t make money, we close it. We’ve driven costs down and continued to make sort of the same money,” says Thando.

“With us, it’s all or nothing. If I don’t sell a skirt I don’t eat,” says Vanya. **FW**

Something To Wine About

Gastro-sommelier Hannah Bellemare has turned the science of food and wine pairing into a delectable art form.

WORDS THOBILE HANS



When Hannah Bellemare was growing up in freezing-cold Skellefteå, a small picturesque town in Sweden known for its ice hockey, she was a lonely girl who chased insects in the garden and ate the wild berries she found. She would also spend hours learning to cook in her mother's kitchen, rustling up gourmet dishes for her family from the age of 11.

These days, she's one of the few gastro-sommeliers in the world, based in Philadelphia, in the United States (US), a far cry from her icy hometown. She works in fine dining restaurants around the world pairing wine and food.

"Growing up, I always wanted to taste everything, everything from insects, wild berries in the forest, wine or whatever I could get my hands on. I was curious to know what it would taste like... I bullied my mom out of our kitchen. I took over cooking for the family and wouldn't let my mom in the kitchen anymore," says

Bellemare in a telephone interview from the US with **FORBES WOMAN AFRICA**.

"I have always wanted to inspire passion for food, to share my knowledge of food and wine pairing, and to inspire others. I want the world to understand the science behind food and wine pairing."

Bellemare says she never planned on making a living out of cooking. But the passion developed gradually and as she grew older, she realized her never-ending affair with food and wine.

Graduating with a degree in gastronomy at Umeå University, in Sweden, she turned entrepreneur, launching her own company, Dalalva Wine Tastings, where she taught people all about food and wine pairing. Meanwhile, she studied for a sommelier diploma from The Swedish Restaurant Academy of Stockholm.

In 2013, Bellemare relocated to Philadelphia to stay with her husband, Pierre-Edouard Bellemare, a French professional ice hockey player. She taught for a short while at Drexel University, in

the US. She also changed the company's name to Dalalva Wine Education & Consultation, extending its services to corporate consultations. She also has a website where she posts her cooking videos and recipes.

"There are few people in the world with this specific title [gastro-sommelier] and expertise since most countries don't even offer gastronomy as a university degree. I would guess there are between 10 to 20 people in the world with this title, but I don't really know," she says.

"I create recipes around the wine that I want to use rather than creating a dish and then trying to pair a wine to it. You can change the recipe but you can't change the wine unless you are a wine-maker. My whole life I have been very determined never to let other people's ideas influence me, I trust my own ideas."

Bellemare is also writing a cookbook, to cater for those who prefer dining at home and spending quality time with loved ones.

"The recipes in the book are what I call fine dining at home, it's for people who want to learn about fun cooking techniques, beautiful plating. Some people don't want to go out and pay dining prices for something they could do at home."

Bellemare's work has taken her around the world, learning different cuisines whilst also imparting her knowledge to others.

And she loves coming to South Africa for its bountiful food and wine landscapes.

"South Africa is one of my favorite places in the world, I make any excuse to be there. I find the South African Chardonnays inspiring because they are such quality wines," she says.

Her recent month-long trip to South Africa was spent on the farms of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek; the farming towns with the oldest vineyards and Cape Dutch architecture in the Western Cape province.

From her mother's humble kitchen in a pretty Scandinavian town, Bellemare is sharing her rare culinary expertise with the world. **FW**



Photos by Kara Raudenbush

"My whole life I have been very determined never to let other people's ideas influence me."

The Chosen One

Striving to end social injustice and poverty, Nachilala Nkombo has her heart in the right place – and it beats for one Africa.

WORDS PEACE HYDE

It's obvious Nachilala Nkombo has an abiding passion for Africa.

Born and raised in Livingstone, Zambia, Nkombo's interest in development work was influenced by the 1980s when there was a lot of rhetoric in the media about the importance of a free Africa.

"South Africa was the last on the fight for freedom back then, so from time to time, our town would get bombed and the reason why South Africa was bombing us was because we were supporting the freedom fighters. So it got me to develop a sort of consciousness early on in terms of commitment to social justice and understanding our history and how as African people we had equal rights and capabilities contrary to what the system at the time was telling us," says Nkombo.

Her fight for social justice has seen Nkombo travel all over the world with a commitment to improve the lives of the underprivileged and the poor.

"I took the belief that we as Africans can change the world. When I was growing up, my role models at the time were politicians because they were doing great things and they were leading on big projects that were changing the communities."

After university, Nkombo's first role was an internship position in the United States with the Women's

International League for Peace and Freedom.

"It was like an organization focusing on human rights and it looked at areas where human rights were violated a lot, like the Middle East. Internally, we were challenging corporate personhood laws. In America, corporates had the same rights as individuals. And we were challenging this because there was no way a human being that was

finite can compete with a corporate whose resources are never-ending."

Then came her role with an American non-governmental organization back in Africa.

The role was to be part of the team going to set up the program in Africa and she was responsible for the pan-African women and youth program, which also had an element connecting with the United Nations.

"We developed curricula for young people in Africa that were leaders and we trained about 300 young activists from different parts of Africa who were already making a difference," she says.

Nkombo's continued passion for development work has led her to Denmark and Germany and today as the Executive Director of ONE Africa, her fight to combat social injustice wages on.

"As the ONE campaign, we have a plan that outlines the policy priorities that we are going to focus on in the next four years to deliver our mission that is to contribute to the end of extreme poverty and disease. My responsibility is two-fold, to lead the team in Africa to come up with strategies to deliver campaigns and advocacy that actually work in Africa but also my responsibility feeds into the global strategy so that what we are thinking about globally actually works and is relevant in Africa," says Nkombo.

The organization has expanded their work in recent months and has teamed up with the Dangote Foundation (spearheaded by Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote) to spread their work on advocacy in Nigeria. Nkombo believes making a stance to end social injustice is a mandate for all Africans and it is only by pulling together as one, that we can truly impact the future generation. **FW**



Heels On Wheels

Tiffini Wissing is in the business of transporting students safely – and she hires only female drivers.

At 23, when Tiffini Wissing dropped out of university, she had no money but decided to make the most of what she had. Little did she know then that she would run one of South Africa's best small businesses.

In 2009, she had started a home-based care agency with only one car to use for her duties.

It was during this time she noticed a gap in the market for safe and reliable transport for children, the elderly and people who cannot drive themselves.

Today, her company, Old School Cool, has a fleet of 30 vehicles operating in Sandton.

"I realized there was an overwhelming need. I had one car and was very young. I could not get finance and had zero capital. The business has built up entirely on its own merit... We have never taken business loans nor investments," says Wissing.

Her company only employs women because, as she explains, mothers are generally comfortable with other mothers or women caring for their children. She also adds that statistically, women are better drivers.

"The service we offer is more than just driving, it is looking after kids. Each of the ladies is hand-picked and must have not only experience driving, but must have worked with kids or are also moms."

As a businesswoman and mother, Wissing says one of the valuable lessons she learned is to be patient. "Rome wasn't built in a day and much of the day-to-day business takes time."

Her most invaluable possessions are her children, along with her staff, who she says puts in a great amount of work to keep the wheels turning... literally.

"I believe if women were allowed to run half the companies and countries in the world, we would see a much lower percentage of small business failures, not because business models would necessarily change, but primarily because women have staying power," she says.

Old School Cool won the Radio 702 and Sage One Small Business Awards last year after competing with over 400 entries.

Wissing, along with her team of about 40 women, have the drive to continue being the best in the business. **FW**

– Thandi Xaba

Wissing



Photo by Motlabana Mornakgotla

From Tech To Etiquette



Mbayo
Photo by Reze Bonna

Congolese businesswoman Lydia Mbayo moved to South Africa for a career in tech, instead veered to fashion and now wants her models to grace the catwalks of the world.

Lydia Mbayo arrived in South Africa from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) 15 years ago to study Information Technology (IT).

She had stars in her eyes and Johannesburg gave her a career far from tech.

The University of Johannesburg graduate and IT engineer is the owner of Fabulousdotcom Models, a modeling agency she started in South Africa in 2013.

Four years on, the agency has gained traction and Mbayo is talking about sending her models to international platforms like Paris Fashion Week and the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show.

"I have a girl I want to send to Victoria's Secret this year so I am crossing fingers for her. In the second year of starting the business, one of my models was booked for the SA Fashion Week and Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week by David Tlale. That was the first time I cried. Seeing my model walking made me emotional," she says.

Mbayo arrived in South Africa not knowing any English. She jokes about how in her country, her basic "hello, how are you?" led her to think she knew the language, until she arrived in South Africa where

she had to learn to communicate coherently.

Her dream to one day be in the beauty industry materialized during her stint as an IT engineer at Rosebank College. When the institute hosted student pageants, she took on the task of training contestants in pageant etiquette.

"They used to call me Diva IT, they urged me to train the girls and one of the girls I trained won," she says.

Even when well-known clients dismissed her for being new in the industry, she didn't let failure become a part of her vocabulary.

"They used to call me Diva IT."

From starting with only 10 models, Mbayo now works with over 50.

"Most of our clients want models with specific looks which might not be available locally," she says, so she sources them beyond South Africa.

Mbayo says her role models are Oprah Winfrey and former American model and now businesswoman Tyra Banks.

"Young girls should not be defined by their backgrounds. Never stop dreaming," says Mbayo. **FW**

– Thandi Xaba

What You Don't See In Travel Brochures

A recent find in Tanzania could well be the answer to the world's depleting helium reserves, but our seasoned travel writer observes the discovery may be negatively impacting the Maasai Mara.

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS RAMDAS IYER

With their colorful costumes and tall stature, the Maasai people of the Great Rift Valley region of East Africa are perhaps the most photographed tribe in the world. Their fierce adherence to an ancient way of life is glorified in coffee table books and travel magazines the world over. The Maasai people of East Africa live in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania along the Great Rift Valley on semi-arid and arid lands. The Maasai occupy a total land area of 160,000 square kilometers with a population of approximately 1.2 million people.

I visited the Maasai people of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in 2014. Whilst they live within the confines of the roles they play as glamorous tribals for visiting tourists, they are reportedly constantly

battling government initiatives that erode their way of life and meager livelihoods.

Indigenous people such as the Maasai worldwide are between 300-500 million, embody and nurture 80% of the world's cultural and biological diversity, and occupy 20% of the world's land surface. Some indigenous people strive to preserve traditional ways of life, and at the same time seek greater participation in current state structures.

But all is reportedly not well for these pastoral farmers since the land they grace has been under threat by mining and wildlife concessions for nearly 50 years. Local indigenous councils have been battling with authorities during this entire period: it seems like both their luck and existence are running out.

An additional problem for the Maasai apparently is the discovery of vast quantities of

helium in the Tanzanian East African Rift Valley. The *BBC News* in June 2016 reported this find as a “game-changer”, especially as previously-known world supplies are running out.

A group of researchers from Oxford and Durham universities in the United Kingdom, working with the Norwegian helium exploration company Helium One, have discovered what they believe is a vast supply of the element in an unlikely place.

“Their research shows that volcanic activity provides the intense heat necessary to release the gas from ancient, helium-bearing rocks,” according to a statement from the University of Oxford.

“Within the Tanzanian East African Rift Valley, volcanoes have released helium from ancient deep rocks and have trapped this helium in shallower gas fields.”

Robert Richardson, Professor of Physics from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, won the 1996 Nobel Prize for his work on “super fluidity of helium”, and has issued a warning that supplies of helium are being used at an unprecedented rate and could be depleted within a generation.

Professor Richardson warned the gas is not cheap because the supply is inexhaustible, but because of the Helium Privatization Act passed in 1996 by the US



Congress. The Act required the helium stores held underground near Amarillo in Texas be sold off at a fixed rate by 2015 regardless of the market value, to pay off the original cost of the reserve. The Amarillo Texas storage facility holds around half the earth's stocks of helium – around a billion cubic meters of the gas. The US currently supplies around 80% of the world's helium supplies.

Richardson said it has taken 4.7 billion years for Earth to accumulate the helium reserves; we will have exhausted them within about a hundred years of the US's National Helium Reserve having been established in 1925.

Helium is used in hospitals in MRI scanners as well as in spacecraft, telescopes, nuclear research and radiation monitors. Until now, the precious gas has been discovered only in small quantities during oil and gas drilling. Using a new exploration approach, researchers found large quantities of helium within the Tanzanian East African Rift Valley.

Prof Chris Ballentine of the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Oxford, said: "This is a game-changer for the future security of society's helium needs and similar finds in the future may not be far away."

The discovery was reported in the US journal *Popular Science*.

"To put this discovery into perspective," Prof Ballentine continued, "global consumption of helium is about 8 billion cubic feet per year and the United States Federal Helium Reserve, which is the world's largest supplier, has a current reserve of just 24.2 billion cubic feet."

The Tanzania find could reportedly thus be sufficient to meet global demand for nearly seven years, and may be more than twice as large as the US helium reserve.

This latest find, estimated at 54 billion cubic feet of helium (\$3.8 billion), is a major shot in the arm to global helium reserves which have been running dangerously low, with prices rising by 500% in the last 15 years, according to Global Risk Insights (GRI), which provides expert political risk news and analysis on events affecting business, investment, and economic climates worldwide.

While this scientific find has excited scientists the world over, the other side of the equation is the possible land-use stress to the Maasai people under whose land this discovery has been made. But the Maasai are no strangers to land grabs since the time they moved into the Rift Valley from South Sudan during the 15th century.

During the 16th century, their presence ranged from Lake Victoria to the Indian Ocean and from the highlands near Nairobi to the Serengeti plains in Tanzania. There they peacefully co-existed with other tribes and often times came to the aid of their neighbors during Arab slave raids. The British, who arrived in the late 18th century, saw the Maasai as a nuisance and negotiated a 1904 treaty to move the Maasai to a piece of land in the Rift Valley.

In the 1950s, in a deal that was very similar to the previous dealings, the British successfully convinced the Maasai to move out of the Serengeti land to the Ngorongoro highlands where fellow Maasai already lived in order



to create a better wildlife corridor. The Maasai lost the best dry-season rangeland in their area to the benefit of all the wildlife among which they had lived for so many years.

Realistically, the major priorities of the governments of Kenya and Tanzania are economic growth, and both have relied on tourism and other projects to obtain this.

"Modern society demands resources to maintain a standard of living commensurate with people's expectations, and a suitable level of environmental quality is inherent to this standard. Trade-offs are inevitably made between the activities that provide energy, minerals, timber, and food and the need and desire to preserve ecosystem services. Such trade-offs



are often highly controversial and politically volatile,” writes Lee Gerhard of Kansas Geological Survey, in a conference presentation entitled *Meeting Societal Resource and Environmental Requirements into the Twenty-First Century*.

The author, a chemical engineer by training, has investigated and determined that there is no chemical way of manufacturing helium, and that current supplies originated in the very slow radioactive alpha decay that occurs in rocks. Commercial helium is produced as a byproduct of natural gas processing. Most

be removed via “upgrading” to produce natural gas with an acceptable level of heat energy.

Once the helium has been separated from the natural gas, it undergoes further refining to bring it to 99.99+% purity for commercial use. The question remains if the helium found in Tanzania would require large operations for upgrading it.

This author also believes that the environmental impact of recovering the helium gas can be reduced by newer drilling technologies such as lateral drilling and gas fracking without disturbing the

natural gas deposits also contain smaller quantities of nitrogen, water vapor, carbon dioxide, helium, and other non-combustible materials that must

land above. In my opinion, the Tanzanian government needs to actively seek the cooperation of the Maasai society while trying to create a formula for sharing royalties.

These profits I believe should be invested into the Maasai society through a structured program to prepare them for modern society through vocational education and other cottage industry enterprises. An international NGO should be used as a vehicle for this equitable transfer. I envisage that in doing so all aspects of the helium issue can be attacked: global scientific progress, GDP growth, and most importantly, allowing the Maasai to earn royalties while holding on to their culture, which is a heritage that belongs to all of us globally.

During my planned travels through Maasai lands and the Rift Valley areas in the near future, instead of capturing images of their enactments of various ceremonies popularized by travel magazines, I am planning on spending time inquiring about their progress with the government agencies regarding the helium issue. Watch this space for more. **FW**

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AFRICA Forbes woman

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You wake up each morning but before getting out of bed you're already caught up with Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. By the time you've reached the office, you know exactly what's trending, which celeb made a faux pas, and what your virtual friends are wearing to work. Sound familiar?

According to the SA Social Media Landscape 2017 report issued by World Wide Worx and Ornico, there are 14 million South Africans on Facebook, 7.7 million on Twitter, 5.5 million on LinkedIn and 3.5 million on Instagram. It's unclear how many are on Snapchat as users themselves don't know what their follower count is; however, the last global estimate stood at 2% being South African.

Being on multiple social media platforms is the norm, but how has it changed our behavior? Gregory Eccles, a counselling psychologist practicing in Greenstone Hills, Johannesburg, says social media allows us to share far more of our lives with a large audience than we typically would have, creating opportunities for both greater inclusion of others in our lives, as well as for overshare or compromised privacy.

"Like any other communication tool, it gives us the power to affect change in our lives in good and bad ways, but it is our choice of how we use it that ultimately decides its impact," says Eccles.

"It also allows us to indulge our inherent narcissism more fully than we otherwise may have been able, but those are desires that were there prior to social media."

Saaleha Bamjee, a 33-year-old writer and photographer based in Johannesburg, who has since deleted her Snapchat account,

says she used to catch up on the network in the mornings and evenings, and when not busy, in the afternoons.

"I joined out of a sense of FOMO [fear of missing out], and at first, followed the popular accounts," she says. "It soon got tiresome, none of what people were sharing was of any value to me personally."

There have been reports over the years of people going into debt to maintain an online presence and image, while a fair amount of 'influencers' overseas have quit Instagram altogether because they couldn't keep up with the pressure of leading "fake" lives. Eccles says there is certainly pressure to maintain a certain type of social image, and the same applies to our social media presence.

"While some people may experience that pressure as quite overwhelming, it is ultimately still an action of choice for the most part as to how we present ourselves through social media."

Bamjee says she made purchases on cosmetics and haircare appliances based on the recommendation of a local beauty blogger, while other purchases were tied to being a photographer.

"On Instagram, if I want to be hired or promote my services effectively, I have to upload quality images; this often involves shopping for food ingredients and props."

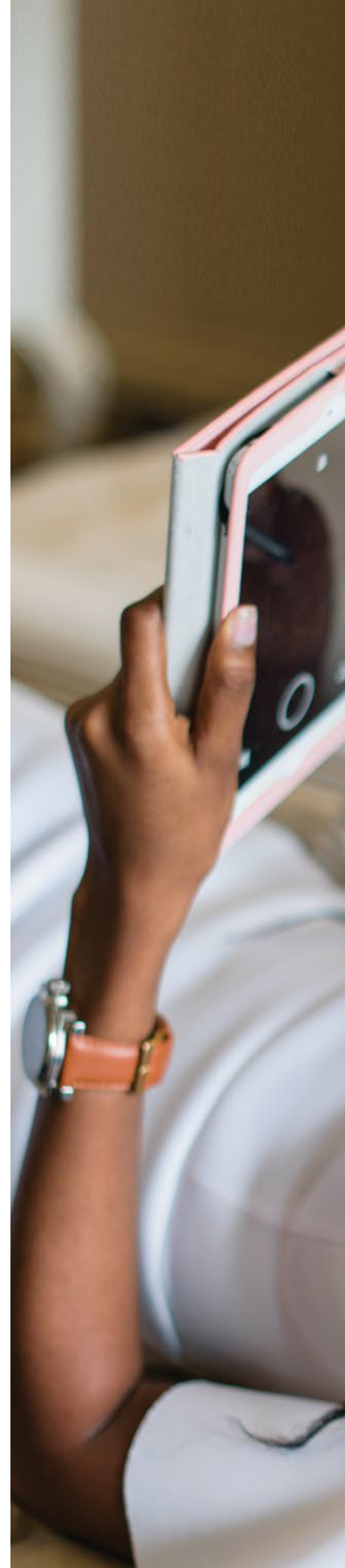
Eccles thinks that social media doesn't actively force us to make purchases. He says that the one aspect of social media when compared to other communication methods is that it allows us greater control over what we present, but we do not always take that into account when viewing posts from other people – an oversight which potentially mars our perspective of our status relative to others.

The Social Media

Disconnect

Is social media to blame for making us unsatisfied with our lives and becoming narcissists?

WORDS NAFISA AKABOR



While consumer culture has an influence on our need to be connected, the bigger influence are our own feelings of social connectedness or isolation.

Over the last couple of years, we've seen an increase in new hardware such as better technology in smartphones like higher megapixels on the front-facing cameras, and 360-degree cameras, which Facebook has been supporting for quite some time now. These technologies enable us to share more than ever because it's no longer just a photo; it's now full-on livestreams through Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat, and 360-degree photos and videos of every aspect of our lives.

While the availability of these sorts of tools can make it easier to indulge in our vices, Eccles maintains it is not the tools that are to blame.

"We need to look at our own motivations for why we use all of these tools the way we do, and think carefully about what other options we may have to achieve similar results (sense of

social connection) and what the consequences of each method are."

Eccles believes the problem is deeper than what it appears, and thinks that while consumer culture has an influence on our need to be connected all the time, the bigger influence are our own feelings of social connectedness or isolation.

"The truth is we all have a strong desire to connect socially with others, and social media is often the easiest way to do so. Unfortunately, our interactions through social media are quite superficial, forcing those who choose to fulfil their need for social interaction through social media to require more of it."

Bamjee subsequently stopped following Snapchat accounts that had a "sameness" about it – a preoccupation with affluence and image.

"I soon realized that I didn't want to see even more than what

was already being shared on Facebook or Instagram. I missed having a conversation where I could ask 'hey, what's new' and actually hear something I hadn't known about previously."

Perhaps it is time to re-evaluate our reasons for being on social media and the behavior it dictates. "We have a common urge to place blame outside ourselves – *Facebook does this to us or smartphones do this to us*, but while they often make it easier to behave in ways that may not be particularly healthy, such as ignoring the outside world in favour of spending all your time on your phone, we cannot ignore our own agency in all of this," concludes Eccles.

While her time is still being monopolised by other social media platforms, Bamjee says she is happier in the sense that she no longer feels she has to know what's going on with everyone all the time. **FW**

"It also allows us to indulge our inherent narcissism more fully than we otherwise may have been able..."



I, Me, Myself

Individualism and fashion that lets you stand out, on your own terms.

Celine wears:

Brocade dress: R1,599, Nicci Boutique

Neckpieces: R350, from Butter Jewellery

Shoes: R2,290, Europa Art Shoes



Love Your Look

Rejig your work wardrobe
with some creative twists
and a little romance.

'Audacity' is said to be the keyword in fashion circles in 2017. Hence, we approached our romantic theme with spirit and verve. Our location for this photoshoot was the St. Andrews Hotel and Spa. The luxe, Afro-chic boutique hotel in Johannesburg provided the perfect backdrop as we explored a rationally-relatable side of romantic fashion, going seamlessly from AM to PM.

Styling: Mahlatse James

Photographs: Motlabana Monnakgotla

Models: Celine and Enno, both from Fabulousdotcom Models

Make-Up: Malebo Moropa

Location Courtesy: St. Andrews Hotel and Spa, Johannesburg



Start With The Tone

The best fashion advice you will ever receive is to construct an outfit from a tonal base. There are no special tricks to this. First, you must pick a color and build around it with all the wonderful additions, including prints and geometric accessories.

Celine wears:

Shirt: R800, Judith @ Burgundy Fly

Aima Pants: R400, Kisua

Earrings: R250, MIS WAL

Shoes: R2,290, Europa Art Shoes

Go With The Flow

The combination of stronger fabrics alongside free-flowing cuts continues to rule. Contrary to age-old practice, this can be achieved by committing to color options in the same scheme from head to toe.

Celine (right) wears:

Vegan leather bolero: R1,099, Nicci Boutique

Beaded button-up shirt: 1,799, La Manché

Pants: R899.99, Judith @Burgundy Fly

Shoes: R2,490, Europa Art Shoes

Enno wears:

Dress: R899, La Manché

Neckpiece: R370, Butter Jewellery

Bracelets: R20 each, Butter Jewellery

Earrings: R260; Butter Jewellery



Clothes Encounters

The secret to showing up in style for even the smallest event is that moment in front of your wardrobe when you make your fashion decision. Be courageous enough to bring your personality to the fore.

Celine wears:

Vegan leather bolero: R1,099, Nicci Boutique

Dress: R999, Nicci Boutique

Accessories: Stylist's own

Shoes: R1,990, Europa Art Shoes



Retro Rewind

Audacity allows for brave fashion choices, thus the trusted alternative is to rediscover fashion from times bygone. A considerable twist of vintage, retro and what's coming next, is guaranteed to provide a clear lead.

Enno wears:

Shirt: R800, Judith @Burgundy Fly

Skirt: R899, La Manché

Belt: Stylist's own

Earrings: WAL Jewellery

STOCKISTS: Nicci Boutique: +27 11 325 4850, www.nicci.co.za; Burgundy Fly: +27 60 995 8334, www.burgundyfly.co.za; Europa Art Shoes: +27 11 447 4133, www.europagroup.co.za; MIS WAL Jewellery: www.miswal.com; Butter Jewellery: +27 72 540 5282, www.butterjewellery.com; La Manche: +27 11 326 4853, www.lamanche.co.za; St. Andrews Hotel and Spa: +27 11 453 4242, www.st-andrewshotel.co.za

ALL EYES ON THE ALL AFRICA BUSINESS LEADERS AWARDS™ 2017



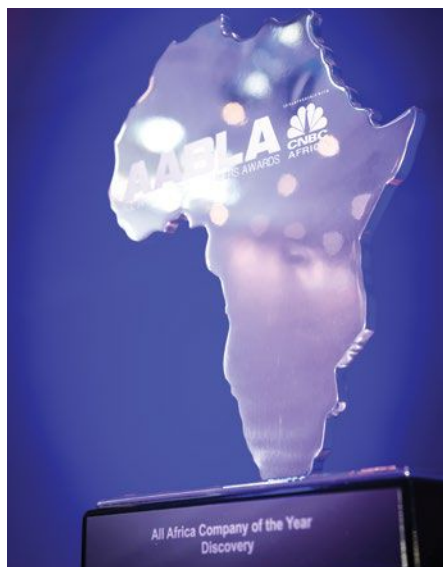
The All Africa Business Leaders Awards™ (AABLA™) is one of the most prestigious and respected pan-African award ceremonies targeted at business leaders who contribute and inspire Africans, not only across the continent, but across the globe. In 2010, AABLA™ was established in partnership with CNBC Africa, providing a platform that recognises business influencers who, through strength and innovation encourage progressive changes in Africa. Over the past six years,

AABLA™ has witnessed business titans, including Raymond Ackerman (Lifetime Achievement Award 2011); Mizinga Melu (Africa Business Woman of the Year 2013) as well as Aliko Dangote (Philanthropist of the Year 2016), adding the AABLA™ accolade to their list of noteworthy achievements. The AABLA™ journey has developed over the years becoming the continent's biggest and most recognisable awards ceremony, hosted across the continent from East, West and southern Africa. *FORBES AFRICA* deconstructed the judg-

ing processes when speaking to Alexander Leibner, head of ABN Event Productions, the events company that brings AABLA™ to life. "The awards ceremony goes through a stringent process from publicly suggested nominees to two different rounds of judging by the official AABLA™ judges as well as a research and reporting process by an AABLA™ associated business school."

A three-course gala dinner is hosted in each region, followed by live entertainment and the official awards ceremony.

The AABLA™ Finale ceremony is then hosted in South Africa where the esteemed AABLA™ trophy is presented to each category winner. The 2017 All Africa Business Leaders Awards™ in Partnership with CNBC Africa will once again travel to Lagos, Nairobi and Johannesburg, concluding in a Finale dinner, to determine an All Africa winner. This year's AABLA™



nominations open on March 1, 2017. For further information, please visit www.AABLAwards.com, follow the conversation using #AABLA2017 or purchase your March issue of FORBES AFRICA, on shelf February 27, 2017. **IFW**

RACK REVIEW

COMPILED BY SARAH MAELI

1

The super wide-leg trouser

This trend once again reigns supreme. Well-fitting wide trousers that start right at your waist or higher are super-slimming. The width of the pants' hemline and also wearing them with a belt will ensure your waist looks narrower. Pair with a neutral blouse or t-shirt to create a casual, contemporary look.

T by Alexandra Wang
(available at Luminance),
R9,700 (\$720)



LEARNING CURVES

Simple yet elegant silhouettes for the office and outdoors.



4

The sleeveless duster coat

The sleeveless jacket is the unsung hero of transitional dressing. Wear it with a sleeveless top in warmer weather and a sweater on cooler days. It is vital to pair this trend with a more streamlined bottom such as jeans or cigarette trousers.

Witchery, R2,299 (\$170)



2

The trapeze silhouette dress

Shapes are a guaranteed way of turning heads, and the ultra-edgy trapeze cut does just that. This is a great alternative to the sheath and shift dress.

Tiger of Sweden,
R3,599 (\$267)



3

The wrap-around dress

The dress silhouette which gained popularity in the 1970s thanks to Diane von Furstenberg, is perfect for the office or evening out. This consistently flattering frock seems to get better with age. Trim your waist, lengthen your neckline and compliment your curves. Try in a bold print or bold color to spice up your everyday look.

Kisua, R2,200 (\$163)



5

The long chiffon maxi skirt

The maxi skirt is one trend that will never die. I am smitten as it's versatile, ultra-feminine, easy to style and not to mention the most comfortable staple in your closet. Pair with a button-down shirt for a polished look. Or dare to transform a delicate, feminine maxi by substituting strappy heels with a pair of gladiator sandals.

Forever New, R1,199 (\$89)

STOCKISTS: Daniel Klein, +27 11 257 6000, www.danielkleinwatches.co.za; Luminance, Sandton City +27 11 326 7941, www.luminanceonline.com; Witchery, +27 21 405 4300; Jimmy Choo, Sandton City, 011 326 6658; Tiger of Sweden, 011 784 0561, www.tigerofsweden.co.za; Steve Madden, Sandton City, 011 784 0406; Forever New, Sandton City, 011 883 4585; www.forevernew.com.au; Kisua, 011 879 1954, www.kisua.com

1

There is no arguing fuchsia looks perfect on dresses. If you want to get noticed, best to don this vibrant color. Add further romanticism by opting for a flowy dress decorated with cascading frill and ruffle detail.

Tory Burch (available at Luminance), R10,200 (\$757)



2

This clutch's sleek shape and on-point iridescent sheen makes it a show-stopping addition to your closet.

Holographic textures are versatile because of their reflective nature, drawing in and reflecting light. It will make anything it is paired with glitter, sparkle and shine. Thus the perfect go-to party clutch.

Jimmy Choo, R13,100 (\$972)



3

Ladies watches in 2017 are all about color, striking dials and sparkle. Embellish your wrist with this affordable, chic, menswear-inspired large-face watch.

Daniel Klein, R1,495 (\$111)

THE FUCHSIA ISSUE

Brighten your basics with a blinding pop of color. Do you dare?

- All dollar figures are based on exchange rates at the time of going to press.

4

Alas, it seems that there is rest for the fashionably-wearry when it comes to sky-high heels, thanks to these relaxed and chic sneakers. Blend style, luxury and sport with these comfortable kicks. Pair them with anything from ladylike skirts to tough leather pants.

Balenciaga (available at Luminance), R8,600 (\$638)



5

If you aren't ready to sport a head-to-toe fuchsia look, introducing this pop of color through your accessories is your best bet. Wear by itself as a perfect finishing touch or layer with other cuffs for maximum impact.

Swarovski Crystaldust cuff, R1,190 (\$88)



6

Complete your stylish look with this pointy toe pump. Pair this classic yet sexy silhouette with everything from denim to pencil skirts.

Steve Madden, R1,299 (\$96)



All The Right Moves

Capetonian Beverley Joffe is into belly-dancing and also owns a theater-restaurant that puts up its own shows.

WORDS FIRDOSE MOONDA

Ask Beverley Joffe what the secret to belly-dance is and her answer might surprise you.

“It’s just decorated walking,” she says, perhaps because the art of moving has always come so naturally to her.

“Since I was little, I was aware that dance was a meeting point between musical expression and the exploration of movement. It has always been a personal discipline as well as a path of surrender. Dance is more than just my love and

passion. For me is it an inseparable part of life and an expression of it,” Joffe tells **FORBES WOMAN AFRICA**.

Joffe began ballet when she was three and made her first stage appearance a year later. She soon progressed to modern dance and jazz and as a young adult trained in London’s West End before heading east to study yoga and Oriental dance. At the time, she was preparing for a career on the stage. Now, as the owner of Babylon Theatre Cafe in Claremont, Cape Town, she owns the stage.

The restaurant is a Mediterranean-fusion, vegetarian, non-alcoholic, Arabic *shisha* (hubbly-bubbly) establishment and is an embodiment of all Joffe has become. She has not eaten meat for 25 years and not consumed alcohol for a decade-and-a-half as she sought to nourish her body, and the results are self-evident.

Joffe mastered several dance forms including the Indian classical dance Bharatanatyam, worked as a soloist in the United Kingdom and performed with the international Planet Egypt events before



Photos supplied

it looked like a crazy gamble, but to me the only thing that made sense was to open a vegetarian, non-alcoholic theater restaurant,” says Joffe.

“Food is the key to healthy body maintenance and physical cell regeneration. We should be eating nutrients and energy. I can’t serve what I would not eat myself.”

Her philosophy starts with her staff, an all-female crew who she has handpicked and trained. Joffe hopes to empower them to become entrepreneurs of their own one day.

“Far from running my staff as a business machine, I train them as I would an athletic team. Feeding them on a vegetarian diet is a power unto itself and I pay very close attention to their health and performance. I see my success for the restaurant alongside their success in skill development and reaching greater standards in life,” she says.

However, the main attraction at Babylon Theatre Cafe is neither the organic, locally-sourced foods and freshly-squeezed juices nor the card games, but the shows on Saturday nights. From 8PM to 11.30PM every week, the restaurant turns into a theater with performers ranging from professionals in the industry to students from Joffe’s studio, who have acquired the expertise to put on their own show.

Joffe continues to teach classes, with the intention of helping women find their inner voice. Her students start as young as nine and she has no age limit on who she opens her doors to. Anyone, at any stage of life, with any or even no level of dance experience is welcomed at Al-Masrah. Classes cost R80 (\$6) a session.

“I have never run my studio as a commercial profiteering venture. I offer small group classes and lots of personal growth space for everyone. This created a haven for so many women who needed to unshackle and blossom, learning yoga, bellydance and gaining back their natural confidence and joy,” she explains.

When she is not teaching or working in the restaurant, Joffe has one more project occupying her time. In October 2016, she started the Theatrical Oriental Dance Festival, a three-day event of intense dance workshops and performances across a range of genres. Joffe invited international guests from as far afield as

France to teach master-classes and take part in a gala evening. Her intention is to run the festival annually for dancers to “come together and share their work”.

According to Joffe, the magic of art is as much in the creating as it is in the sharing, which is why she keeps giving so much.

“Art can only grow and evolve with display, interaction and training, so platforms like this are essential for healthy artistry and inspiration. It’s a mammoth task, but worth every drop of sweat,” she says. **FW**

“There is one thing I know without question: when you stand by your truth you will succeed. As an artist, I know I can only create from what I know...”



returning home to Cape Town to care for her aging mother.

Since being back in South Africa, she has established her own studio, Al-Masrah Academy in Sea Point, and has now branched out into the hospitality industry, where she intends to share all she has learned.

“There is one thing I know without question: when you stand by your truth you will succeed. As an artist I know I can only create from what I know, and what I draw towards me. To many on the outside,

GOLF. RHYMING VERSE. Even fancy card tricks: There are innumerable ways to earn great fame and fortune by entertaining people, and no one has done it better than the 20 on this diverse list. It's our first-ever tally of America's wealthiest celebrities, and we had just one criterion: We considered only those who got rich off their fame, not those – such as the president-elect – who became famous because of their wealth. For more, including methodology, please visit forbes.com/wealthiest-celebs.

Star-worthy asset: His back catalog of high-op hits, including "Nuthin' but a G Thang"



9. JAMES PATTERSON
NET WORTH: \$700 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Books

Future growth?

Prolific output helped him record career-high earnings of \$95 million in 2016; reader demand for his work shows no signs of slowing.

Star-worthy asset:

\$23 million home in Palm Beach, Florida

10. JERRY SEINFELD
NET WORTH: \$670 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Syndication checks from his eponymous sitcom, plus standup touring income

Future growth?

Still earns big on the road, even as Seinfeld residuals decline.

Star-worthy asset:

His enormous car collection

11. Jay Z
NET WORTH: \$610 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Roc Nation entertainment company

Future growth?

Streaming startup Tidal has grown substantially in value since he bought it for \$56 million in 2015. It could go under – or become the next Beats.

Star-worthy asset:

A \$20 million penthouse in Manhattan's Tribeca neighborhood

12. MADONNA
NET WORTH: \$560 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Career touring gross: an estimated \$1.4 billion

Future growth?

If she keeps touring, fans will keep buying tickets.

Star-worthy asset:

Her triplewide Manhattan town house

13. JIMMY BUFFET
NET WORTH: \$550 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Margaritaville restaurants, hotels and casinos

Future growth?

As long as people enjoy being drunk on the beach, expect the Margaritaville empire to continue to expand.

Star-worthy asset:

String of bars named after hit song with Alan Jackson "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere"

14. BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
NET WORTH: \$460 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Grossed more than \$1.5 billion over decades of touring

Future growth?

Even as he pushes 70, the Boss continues to sell out wherever he plays.

Star-worthy asset:

A 200-acre horse farm worth \$10 million-plus in Colts Neck, New Jersey

15. HOWARD STERN
NET WORTH: \$450 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Radio

Future growth?

Airwave earnings may have peaked for potty-mouthed host, but Stern's digital efforts – apps, video streaming – could hold promise.

Star-worthy asset:

A \$53 million spread in Palm Beach, Florida

16. JON BON JOVI
NET WORTH: \$410 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Decades on the road

Future growth?

Having sold out football stadiums nationwide, he's now said to be eyeing a potentially lucrative investment in an NFL franchise.

Star-worthy asset:

His \$8 million home in the Hamptons

17. RUSH LIMBAUGH
NET WORTH: \$400 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Radio

Future growth?

His eponymous show continues to be the most distributed syndicated program on the air, but earnings look set to dip.

Star-worthy asset:

His \$51 million Palm Beach, Florida, mansion

18. BARBARA STREISAND
NET WORTH: \$370 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Record sales

Future growth?

Investments could pay off: Her Malibu, California, compound, which she reportedly bought for less than \$20 million, is nearing \$100 million in value.

Star-worthy asset:

Grammy, Tony, Oscar and Emmy awards

19. PHIL MICKELSON
NET WORTH: \$375 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Golf and endorsements

Future growth?

His best days on the course may be behind him, but his fortune will grow modestly thanks to ongoing eight-figure sponsorships.

Star-worthy asset:

All the hardware that comes with 42 PGA Tour victories, including five major championships

20. KATHY IRELAND
NET WORTH: \$360 MIL

Key source of fortune:

Licensing empire Kathy Ireland Worldwide

Future growth?

The former super-model continues to expand her offerings, now including branded office furniture and a handbag line.

Star-worthy asset:

A jewelry collection worth some \$25 million



Her Story In Ink And Paint

Johannesburg's Goodman Gallery recently drew art lovers to its *Africans in America* exhibition, and much to everyone's delight, Brooklyn-based contemporary artist Wangechi Mutu was also there.

WORDS THANDI XABA



"THERE IS NO WOMAN WHO CAN LOOK UP AND SAY THERE IS NO FEMALE ARTIST FROM AFRICA... WE ARE ALL HERE NOW."

"War isn't pretty. Neither is sexism or racism. Mutu's genius has been to make them too gorgeous to turn away from," says Lori Waxman, a special contributor of the *Chicago Tribune*, referring to Kenyan-born artist Wangechi Mutu's art.

Mutu, who lives and works in Brooklyn, New York, and is known for her thought-provoking signature collages and artwork, was in Johannesburg in November last year when she exhibited some of her collection at the Goodman Gallery as part of its *Africans in America* exhibition.

Mutu has a packed schedule and FORBES WOMAN AFRICA is fortunate to get a few minutes of her time at the gallery where we get to see both the artist and her work in a single setting.

In reference to her collage painting, *I'm too misty*, she starts to explain how the process of mixing the supplies was so fulfilling.

"I used ink, water and paint to create this work, and it is really satisfying for me because things are happening in the making of things – in the ink and color you won't see in a bottle," she says.

She is vocal on issues of identity and says when she moved to America from Kenya to study art, thoughts of her being an immigrant occupied most of her thinking.

Mutu brought one of her thought-provoking films called *Eat Cake* to the month-long exhibition.

The short film is black and white and has a lanky woman with long nails sitting on the ground and eating a big, chocolate cake. Mutu describes the woman in the video as a primal creature.

She says during her pregnancy she was fascinated with urges of eating earth and rock, as compensation for the need for iron.

Other artists who were a part of the exhibition were Ghada Amer, Paulo Nazareth, Alfredo Jaar and Theaster Gates. The exhibition formed part of the *In Context* series launched by the gallery's director, Liza Essers, in 2010.

Essers, along with artist Hank Willis Thomas, conceptualized *Africans in America*, which displayed the "flows, exchanges and continuities between the continent of Africa and the United States".

"Things are not as simple or as precise or surface as they may come across from the outside. I try to express that to other people – that it is my story," says Mutu.

The expressive African artist agrees one's biography in itself is inspirational.

"I think the simple stories about who we are and where we come from, is very inspirational. There is no woman who can look up and say there is no female artist from Africa... we are all here now," says Mutu, who clearly lets her art speak volumes about her story. **FW**

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