

SAFARI AFRICA

**RELIGIOUS
TOURISM**

**Ethiopia launches
Online E-Visa**

**The “forgotten Nubian pyramids” bring hope
for Economic Development through tourism**



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Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma



p. 5

Africa is our home



p. 5

Paul Kagame



13698853589631

TOP ATTRACTIONS IN AFRICA

Programmes

Higher National Diploma (HND)

- Tourism and Hotel Management
- Hospitality Management
- Transport and Logistics
- Accounting and Finance
- Banking and Finance
- Business Management
- Marketing
- Insurance
- Secretariat Studies
- Conservation Management

Higher Professional Diploma (HPD)

- Human Resource Management

Admission Requirement:
Two A-Levels, excluding Religion.

Fee Structure :

• Registration = 10 000Frs • Fees : 350 000Frs

Professional Bachelor's Degree

Mentored by the University of Dschang

- Tourism and Hotel Management
- Hospitality Management
- Eco Tourism Management
- Adventure Tourism Management
- Events Management
- Customer Service
- Transport and Logistics
- Banking and Finance
- Conservation Management
- Business Management
- Human Resource Management
- Marketing and Advertising
- Advance Secretariat Studies
- Project Management
- Accounting and Finance : options: Auditing and Control and Accounting and Finance

Entry Requirement :

HND, HPD or Bachelor's degree from a recognized University

Fee Structure :

• Registration = 25 000Frs • Fees : 450 000Frs

Admission begins on the 1st of August each year!



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Admission begins on the 1st of August each year!

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Quality Education today: Quality Jobs Tomorrow

In Partnership with
The Open University of Malaysia,
Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa

Graduation Ceremony 2015



Signing of Mentorship
with the
University of Dschang

Matriculation Ceremony 2015



Recognition of Academic Excellence.

In addition to the normal presidential grants to B-Tech students, Achas through her scholarship scheme and partners offers cash prizes to all deserving students.

2015 Winners



Balemba Maria
Best Student : 200 000Frs



Rachel Fornyuy
2nd Best Student : 100 000Frs



Ngebane Chantal
3rd Best Student : 50 000Frs



Nkwana Dayahyne
Best Tourism Students : 100 000Frs

Industry Visit

Apart from regular 2 months and 3 months internships for HND and B-Tech Students respectively, our students regularly visit companies to familiarise themselves with the industries within their study programs as seen below.



Transforming Dreams into Reality - Quality Education today: Quality Jobs Tomorrow

Editorial

Africa for Africans: Open and Prosperous

Africa for Africans: Open and Prosperous

One of the highlights of former African Union (AU) Commission chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma's final address at the Heads-of State summit in 2016 was the launch of the African passport. The former AU commission chair acknowledged that launching the AU passport was a significant stride towards according African people an opportunity to move and trade freely on the continent they call "home". While the unveiling of the passport was largely symbolic as it will take several years to become widely accessible to the continent's people, the importance of the gesture can only be fully appreciated in the context of how long the dream of securing an Africa for Africans has taken. In fact, sentiments and efforts to develop a united and prosperous Africa spread through the lifespan of the former Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and have persisted through various African Union deliberations and documents. The goal to attain the African Economic Community (AEC) as elaborated in the Abuja treaty of 1991 has been more elusive than originally thought.

The importance of an open, accessible and united Africa

According to the African Union, trade among African countries accounts for only 13 percent, as compared with intra-European trade of between 43 – 83 percent. Although Africa prides itself

with a vast array of resources, efforts to use these resources to develop the continent are hampered by colonial era borders. Therefore, the establishment of an African passport allowing for open borders and free movement of goods and people will significantly speed up socio-economic development on the continent. Furthermore, relaxing or eliminating travel restrictions will accelerate tourism growth on the continent. Boosting intra-Africa tourists flow will greatly enhance development as tourism is one of the fastest growing economic sectors of the 21st century.

The current situation

Currently, only thirteen (13) African countries offer concessions to all African citizens either through visa-free border crossings or visa on arrival facilities. These countries are: Seychelles, Mali, Uganda, Cape Verde, Togo, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Burundi, Comoros, Madagascar, and Somalia. The Africa visa openness report 2016 (Africa Development Bank, 2016) further cites the twenty most accessible countries as: Seychelles, Mali, Uganda, Cape Verde, Togo, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mozambique, Mauritius, Rwanda, Burundi, Comoros, Madagascar, Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Zambia. The dominance of countries in west and east Africa on these lists is both evident and thought provoking.

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The way forward

The second aspiration in the African Union's "Agenda 2063: the Africa we want" declares the commitment to work towards, "An Integrated Continent, Politically United Based on the Ideals of Pan Africanism and the Vision of Africa's Renaissance" According to Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma the free movement of people across the continent is the most pressing need hence the call for the abolition of visas in "Agenda 2063: the Africa we want". This advocacy is premised on the rationale that the elimination of visa restrictions will result in a speedy movement of goods, people and services across national borders and increase the volume of trade and tourism and fast-track economic growth. Positive indicators of the open border policies are already being witnessed in investment, tourism and financial services in countries such as the Seychelles, Mauritius and Rwanda (African Development bank,

2016). This is probably the most opportune time to ponder of the reflection of Dr Akinwumi Adesina, (President of the African Development Bank), on the benefits that would accrue to Africa from accelerated connectivity, greater investment and the promotion of business opportunities across borders if the simple policy decision of restricting border was lifted. .



PIONEERING THE CONTINENT: AFRICA'S FIRST

AGENDA 2063: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IS THE KEY TO PROSPERITY

One of the highlights of former African Union (AU) Commission chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma's final address at the Heads-of State summit in 2016 was the launch of the African passport.



RWANDAN PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME AND CHADIAN PRESIDENT IDRISSE DÉBY, FLANKED BY AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON NKOSAZANA DLAMINI-ZUMA, SHOW OFF THEIR NEW PAN-AFRICAN PASSPORTS AT THE AU SUMMIT IN KIGALI IN JULY 2016. PHOTO: AFRICAN UNION

The former AU commission chair acknowledged that launching the AU passport was a significant stride towards according African people an opportunity to move and trade freely on the continent they call "home". While the unveiling of the passport was largely symbolic as it will take several years to become widely accessible to the continent's people, the importance of the gesture can only be fully appreciated in the context of how long the dream of securing an Africa for Africans has taken. In fact, sentiments and efforts to develop a united and prosperous Africa spread through the life-span of the former Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and have persisted through various African Union deliberations and documents. The goal to

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RWANDAN PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME



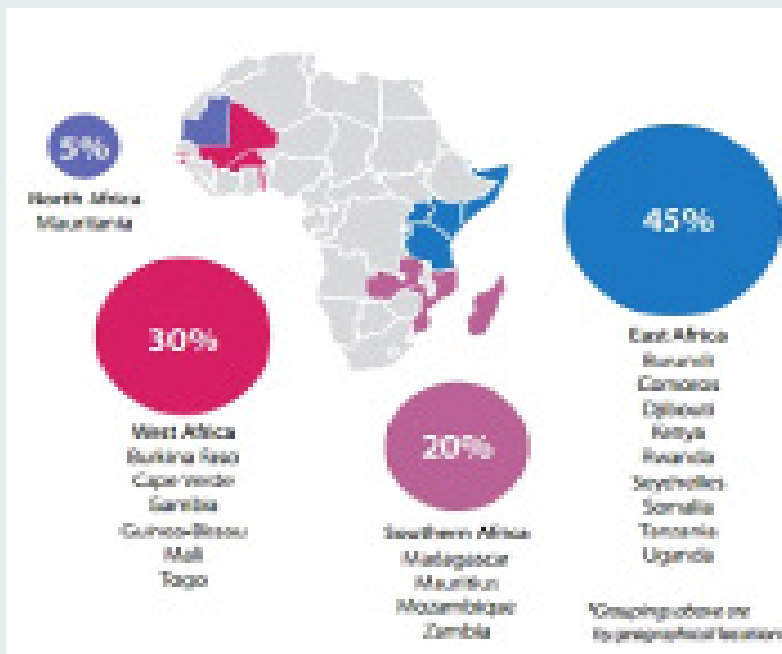
The most powerful and influential woman in Africa



CHADIAN PRESIDENT IDRISSE DÉBY

Tourist Visa On Arrival

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Source: AFDB, 2016 (Africa Visa Openness Report 2016).

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The way forward

The second aspiration in the African Union's "Agenda 2063: the Africa we want" declares the commitment to work towards,

"An Integrated Continent, Politically United Based on the Ideals of Pan Africanism and the Vision of Africa's Renaissance"

NKOSAZANA ZUMA

According to Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma the free movement of people across the continent is the most pressing need hence the call for the abolition of visas in "Agenda 2063: the Africa we want". This advocacy is premised on the rationale that the elimination of visa restrictions will result in a speedy movement of goods, people and services across national borders and increase the volume of trade and tourism and fast-track economic growth. Positive indicators of the open border policies are already being witnessed in investment, tourism and financial services in countries such as the Seychelles, Mauritius and Rwanda (African Development bank, 2016). This is probably the most opportune time to ponder of the reflection of Dr Akinwumi Adesina, (President of the African Development Bank), on the benefits that would accrue to Africa from accelerated connectivity, greater investment and the promotion of business opportunities across borders if the simple policy decision of restricting border was lifted. .

CHAMPIONING AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

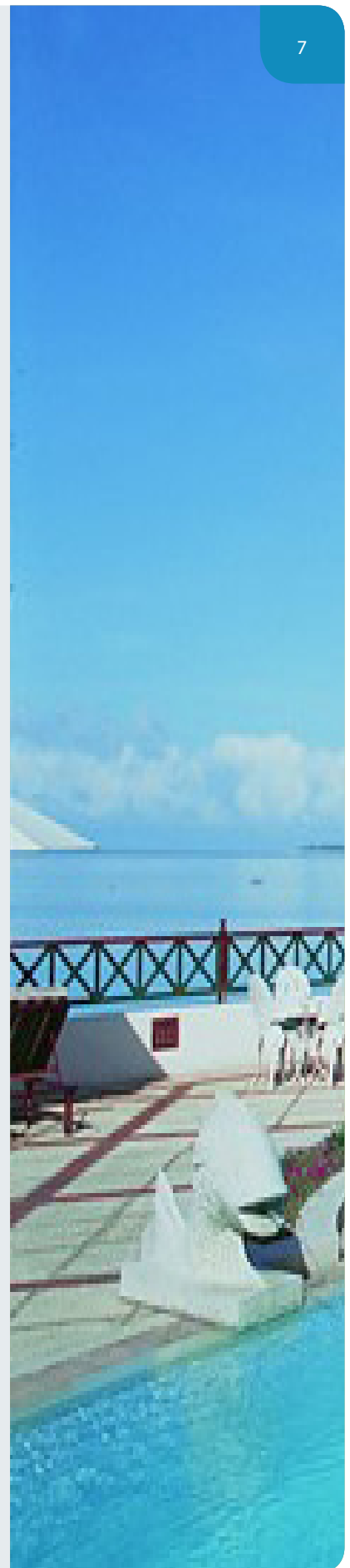
THROUGH PILGRIMAGE TOURISM: THE SYNAGOGUE CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS (SCOAN)

The African Union (AU) in its development document titled “Agenda 2063; The Africa we want” advocates for “a Prosperous Africa Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development”. The idea is to re-focus on achieving a united African vision of developing a continent that is prosperous and peaceful, capable of executing its own agenda and influencing global affairs. It can therefore be inferred that African leaders aspire to have a continent that is a global player and whose development is shared by the most broad section of African citizens. Tourism offers African leaders a brilliant opportunity to achieve the fore mentioned aspirations based on its global nature and strong economic potential. This is confirmed by the 2017 report on “Economic Development in Africa” which ascertains that the great potential for tourism to stimulate transformative and inclusive growth presents a lifeline for millions of African people (UNCTAD,

2017). In the same vein, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) acknowledges that tourism is not only one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world, but constitutes 7% of all international trade and accounts for 30% of global trade in services (UNWTO, 2017). The United Nations (UN) has designated 2017 as the International year of sustainable tourism for development (UN, 2017). This is because tourism has been greatly acclaimed for its ability to stimulate economic growth through job creation, income generation, fostering entrepreneurship especially small business development, attracting investment and many other benefits. Furthermore, properly developed and managed tourism motivates the preservation of ecosystems, flora and fauna, and cultural practices. The actual contribution of tourism to economic growth on the African continent is attested by the following statistics:

Description	Period	Average annual growth	Contribution
International tourist arrivals in Africa	1995 - 2014	+6%	56 million annually between 2011-2015
Tourism export revenues in Africa	1995 – 2014	+9%	\$47 billion annually in 2011-2014
Services export revenues on average	2011-2014	7%	
Jobs generated by tourism industry, on average	2011 – 2014	46%	

Source: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD, 2017).



RELIGIOUS TOURISM

Religious tourism is one of the oldest and fastest growing tourism segments around the world. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) major religious sites across the world receive between 300 and 330 million tourists annually. Considering that 60% of the world's population practice a form of religion (UNESCO, 2014), this form of tourism offers great opportunities for socio-economic development.

TOURISM, RELIGIOUS TOURISM AND PILGRIMAGE

Tourism is generally associated with the movement of people from their place of origin to another destination for any duration between 24 hours and one year. This involves three important components, namely: the tourist or visitor, the destination and the tourism industry. While the host destination provides the pull factor or major motivation for visiting, the tourism industry provides services such as

transportation, accommodation, catering, currency exchange and other facilities to enable the tourists feel comfortable and relaxed. Religious tourists and pilgrims therefore need the tourism sector in order to reach and stay comfortably at the sites of their visits. The main difference between religious tourists and pilgrims lies in the motivation for the visit and the level of engagement with the object of the visit. Religious tourists are closely associated with holidays and cultural tourists as spiritual awakening and connectedness are not the main object of the visit. Some of the reasons for religious visits are family ties with the site, famous people or activities connected with the site, architecture or historic works of art, educational and recreational reasons. However, pilgrimages are associated with a deeper engagement with the site or object of worship. Central to the concept of pilgrimage is the relationship between the pilgrim and the site or object of the visit. There is generally a sense of expectancy of the change that will emanate from the encounter or relationship. Hence, the relationship transcends the ordinary, visible and physical site or object. In other words, visitors undertake a pilgrimage with a strong sense of expectancy of some change that will take place in their lives. A pilgrimage is therefore a spiritual journey to encounter the divine in the hope of gaining penitence for some sinful situation, getting healing from some illness, deliverance from some worldly burden such as poverty, or acquiring a profound encounter/understanding of the divine or spirituality

itself. Evidence from the Sunday services at the SCOAN leads to the conclusion that visitors to the church are pilgrims, not religious tourists. This is because each service is followed by healing and deliverance sessions and testimonies of breakthrough in various areas of peoples' lives.



THE SYNAGOGUE; CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS (SCOAN – LAGOS NIGERIA)

Every Sunday thousands of worshippers congregate at the Synagogue Church of All Nations (SCOAN) for the Sunday service. The diversity of the congregants is generally evident in the different national flags waved during the "mass prayer" offered for the deliverance of the origin countries of the worshippers and the rest of the world. Considering the large number and consistency of international visitors, and domestic visitors from other states of Nigeria, the massive economic impact of the SCOAN on both the visitors' home-country economies and the host (Nigerian) economy can be appreciated at various levels. For convenience, this write-up summarises these benefits in to Human (quality of life) and economic impacts.





GENERAL IMPACT.

In order to set the scene and provide the context for understanding the socio-economic impact of the SCOAN, a number of social media platforms might serve as a window to the volume of activities. These can be summarised as follows:

- On Facebook, for instance, the SCOAN page "<https://www.facebook.com/tbjministries>" has 2, 883, 112 followers and 2, 896, 883 likes;
- The twitter account "<https://twitter.com/SCOANTBJoshua>" has 183, 577 followers; and
- YouTube recently awarded the SCOAN an award for exceeding 100, 000 subscribers. Current figures can be obtained from <https://www.youtube.com/user/scoanvideos>.

The Human capital development by the SCOAN is also accessible from the thousands of testimonies posted on the platforms

mentioned above, among many others such as the "testimonies" page on the "Emmanuel TV" website www.emmanuel.tv. It is important to note that any form of development starts from and is evident in human welfare. An ailing population cannot fully appreciate any other form of development. The thematic distribution of the sampled testimonies presented below is meant to enable the reader catch a glimpse of the practical evidence of the life-changing occurrences from the SCOAN during every Sunday service and during each day of the week through praying along with the Man of God, Prophet T.B. Joshua.

HEALING

- Mikateko Virginia Sikhwivhilu from South Africa shares how she received healing from many years of severe hip pain. "I had a pain in my right hip for the past 16 years. One day I told

myself that enough is enough. I followed a prayer with the man of God Prophet T.B. Joshua on Emmanuel TV and got my healing. After some few days, I had a dream where the man of God was praying for me again. When I showed him my hip again, he said I already prayed for you. So I thank God for that, Good morning!!"

- Glory Meramba from Tanzania shared an encouraging testimony concerning the power of God touching her through the Anointing Water! "Emmanuel! I was suffering from stomach ache which was CHRONIC ever since I was at university in 2008. Up until 2015, this problem affected me a lot because sometimes I couldn't eat anything and whatever I put in my mouth must be vomited out. However, I was privileged last week to receive the Anointing Water from a friend who had visited The SCOAN. ...

"While going to bed, my stomach started turning again. I took the Anointing Water, ministered it into the mouth and said, 'My stomach is secured by the blood of Jesus and the fire of the Holy Spirit'. Then I fell asleep. I had this crazy dream that a very big worm – like a snake – came out of me when going to the toilet. I woke up the next morning feeling so light and free! "Since then, my stomach has been healed – no more pain whatsoever! Even if I don't eat for the whole day, I still feel fine. Thank You, Jesus, for healing me. I am free! Disease and sickness are things of the past."

•Monifah Foncham from United Kingdom shared a powerful testimony about how God miraculously rescued her from an impending operation after she ministered the Morning Water in the name of Jesus Christ!

•SPONDYLOSIS HEALED AT PRAYER LINE Burkina Faso-based Chikezie Ozioma, a Nigerian national, came under the attack of a strange waist pain that made walking difficult for him. Coupled with this was the terrible nightmares he used to experience.

DELIVERANCE

Alami Ademu, a Nigerian student based in Russia, had an unusual problem. She continued to vomit after eating certain foods, especially some of her favorite local Nigerian cuisine. However, whilst browsing on YouTube one day, Alami came across an amazing video clip...

BREAK THROUGH

Ambassador Raphael Horsfall, an Ambassador for Peace and Conflict Management for the United Nations at the Aso Rock in Abuja, has come to The SCOAN today with his wife, Mrs Horsfall to share their testimony of how God turned their situation around. The reason they are here today is to celebrate what God has done in their marriage. After getting married, he discovered that his wife began having miscarriages. She continuously had miscarriages at 6 weeks pregnancy – up to five times. . They went to all the best hospitals and specialists for a solution to their problems, all to no avail. At the hospital, they were examined and cross-examined and at the end of the day, it yielded no results. The cycle of disappointment continued until His wife started feeling that the marriage was being threatened.

Finally, he came with his wife to The SCOAN and received the Morning Water before going back to Abuja. When they came back to Abuja, they prayed and ministered the Morning Water.

She is now eight months pregnant and due to give birth very soon. •Navin Joseph from India testifies to a dramatic turnaround in his life after listening to T.B. Joshua's teachings and praying along with him on YouTube.

"I want to testify that I am now am blessed with a very good job in Abu Dhabi. I started watching Prophet T.B. Joshua's messages on YouTube. I started to pray how Prophet T.B. Joshua taught us in the messages, especially when he said that our heart is the contact point of God and only faith pleases God. He said that distance is not a barrier. Every night I used to watch and listen to his messages with a lot of attention.

•Jonathan Bunda Bukankala from Zambia shares how the Morning Water was ministered and brought an end to frustration and disappointment in his household.

"Emmanuel!!! In 2014, my cousin was traveling from Lusaka, Zambia to The SCOAN for prayer and deliverance. They came to my home before going to the airport and I told them to bring me Morning Water. We had been trying to have a baby for years. When they came back, for sure, they brought me Morning Water. Later that night, my wife and I prayed and sprayed the Morning Water.

Two months later, my wife conceived whom I have married to for 4 years now. As I speak now she is the mother and I am the father of a baby boy who was born on 16/01/2015. Praise be to God.

•Tumelo Lekalakala, a South African, was a well-qualified electrician yet faced with daily disappointment in his quest to land a job. After three years of unemployment, God turned his test into a mighty testimony after he received an Anointing Sticker!

PEACE AND SECURITY

Ambassador Raphael Horsfall, an Ambassador for Peace and Conflict Management for the United Nations at the Aso Rock in Abuja, has come to The SCOAN today with his wife, Mrs Horsfall to share their testimony of how God turned their situation around. In 2009, they came to The SCOAN for the first time. At that time, there was civil unrest and militancy was on high increase in the region they hail from – Niger Delta. Because of that, he, as a part of a delegation from the Niger Delta region came to The SCOAN for a solution and spiritual guidance to the situation in the area. They received guidance from Prophet T.B. Joshua and used that guidance to settle peace in the region. Since then, peace has reigned in the region.

•Mr Olatunji Dehinbo testifies to God's mighty protection power through the Morning Water....

"Emmanuel!!! I employ the people of God to thank God for saving my life from being hit by an armed robber's stray bullet in Portharcourt, Rivers State of Nigeria when they were exchanging gun battle with police on Thursday. ...

There was serious shooting at the front of the building and bullets hit the front of the building in the exact location where I parked my car and pieces of cement block scattered all over my car. As at that point, I thought my car was badly hit by the bullets.

. The shooting lasted for almost one hour. When the shooting finally subsided, one of the women in the building exclaimed that she was sorry for the owner of the car that was seriously hit by the bullets.

Emmanuel!!!!!!! To my greatest surprise on getting to my car, no single bullet touched my car. I simply removed the pieces of blocks being hit by the bullet on top of my car and drove off.

• Asuzu Romanus speaks of God's awesome divine protection revealed through the Anointing Sticker.

"Just this morning, I went out for work with my Anointing Sticker in my pocket. I took a taxi and there was a lot of traffic. Then, one huge trailer fully loaded failed to brake and crushed almost six vehicles. The taxi I was inside was the first one to be crushed but behold, nothing happened to me. I came out of the taxi without a scratch and said thank you JESUS!"

Source: <https://distanceis-notabARRIER.wordpress.com/> These, and thousands of other testimonies are just a tip of the social impact of the activities of the SCOAN around the world. The church is engaged in numerous charity activities such as services and donations to widows, widowers, orphans, the elderly, the physically challenged and communities affected by natural disaster. Evidence of these social engagements can be found on "Emmanuel TV", <http://emmanuel.tv/> or "<https://www.youtube.com/user/scoan-videos>".

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE SCOAN

On the economic development front, it is important to note that the contribution of the SCOAN can only be covered in a separate write up. Suffice at this stage to give an overview of the magnitude of moving so many people around consistently over the years. From the home country of the pilgrims, the impact starts trickling down through the purchases that people make as they prepare to travel to the SCOAN. These purchases stimulate the local economy hence contributing towards job creation. The pilgrims also make use of local transport while making arrangements for their travel to the SCOAN. Currency exchange to the dollar or Naira also provides an injection to the various service providers through earned commission. Then comes the air travel services, visa application fees, accommodation, catering services and many others. If one considers the indirect benefits to other economic sectors such as farming through the increased consumption of food, then the economic impact becomes even clearer. The induced impacts should equally be assessed to have a full picture.

PIONEERING THE FUTURE: PRAYER MOUNTAIN

For many pilgrims to the SCOAN, a visit to "Prayer Mountain" epitomises the

sacred encounter with the Holy Spirit and God Himself. Walking the sacred grounds in quiet reflection, meditation, confession and much more provide the pilgrim the perfect opportunity to EMPTY all of himself/herself (penitence) before God in order to refill and return with God's original purpose on creation. This can only be understood in the context that God created Man in His own image "Genesis 1:27" signifying the purity of all Human beings at creation. Therefore, the numerous challenges (illness, poverty, evil attacks, etc.) we face daily are only as a result of Man's wrong choices of sin over the love and goodness of God. Hence, a visit to "Prayer Mountain" enables Man (the pilgrim) to EMPTY all that is not of God and return with the purity of God.

Under inspiration from the Holy Spirit, Prophet T.B. Joshua has summoned the best architects and engineers from all-over the world to re-create the "Prayer Mountain" in to a "pilgrims' island (pictures below).



Though, evidently still under construction, one can only conclude that the "Best is yet to come".

With initiatives and projects such as those at the SCOAN, every African citizen can proudly and confidently say "The challenges of the present times are nothing compared to the beautiful future that lies before us". The realisation of concepts never before dreamt of in any part of the world. AFRICA IS TRULY PIONEERING THE FUTURE!

Could this Group be an answer to Intra-African Tourism Consulting.

A few months ago, at the biggest travel show in Durban South Africa, I bumped onto the CEO of Thinking Pair, Mr Sthandiwe Mkhize, a tourism business consultant and analyst who had been invited to do a presentation on advisory work he had done in the South African accommodation sector. This was a closed meeting organised by the National Department of Tourism, South African Tourism and a few government officials in the field of Tourism. To date, I have not met a dynamic, young, inspiring and knowledgeable tourism expert in Tourism as this man.

I write this, particularly considering an increased call made by most African leaders and advocates for improved Intra-African trade. When Mkhize presented his vision and background of tourism consulting I was impressed a great deal. Even though South African based, Thinking Pair's consulting services are now sought in most SADEC nations, Central and North Africa. Thinking Pair Group offers tourism and related services between South Africa and the rest of Africa. Services range from Business Intelligence & Research, Policy Advisory, Strategy consulting Investment Advisory, Tour Planning Co-ordination and will soon be introducing medical travel services. When asked about what works for Thinking Pair he said 'an unfortunate misconception that exists about Intra-African trade is that African governments make it hard to do businesses amongst African states' he rejects this. 'Africa has the friendliest people' he continues. Thinking Pair has facilitated government to government, business to business, and consumer to business relationships. Mkhize says a lot of businesses and individuals want to do business with or in South Africa but they are not sure how. Mkhize, a former Tourism Authority official's experience and background includes:

Tourism Advisory Services to eThekweni Municipality, third biggest City on South Africa
Tourism advisor to Small Finance Agency (SEFA)
Small business Delegations Advisor to South African-Holland missions
Advise to government of South Africa: Tourism Turkey Relations
A Council member of Durban Chamber Commerce and Industry
Capacity building programme on behalf of Durban and Zimbabwean tourism businesses
A columnist of the Tourism Update
Foreign Direct Investment Advisor
Facilitated joint venture deals between Zambia and South Africa
World Travel Market UK promotional visits

I am positive that Africa needs to afford young and dynamic leaders opportunities to shape a better future for tourism development and growth on Africa.

To find out more about their services between South Africa and the rest of Africa you can contact:

E-mail: mkhizes@thinkingpair.co.za

www.thinkingpair.co.za

0 (+27) 76 189 3055



Opening up for prosperity: Ethiopia launches Online E-Visa

In an increasingly globalised world, it is evident that destination openness and accessibility is a great enabler for increased trade and movement of people. This is even more apparent in situations where countries share a common geography as in the case of African countries. Paradoxically, the take up of open borders has been quite sluggish on the continent as more than fifty percent of African countries still insist that citizens of other African states obtain visas prior to entering their countries.

This explains the context and significance of Ethiopia launching the online e-visa for visitors traveling to the country. Considering that Ethiopia ranked quite low in the country openness report with a score of 0.052 out of 1, and a rank of 46 out of 52, the move by the country to give visitors the opportunity to apply for visas online can be a significant booster for tourism.

According to the President of the African Development Bank, Mr. Akinwumi Adesina, "Having an open visa policy does not require large resources or complex systems. Countries can apply positive reciprocity but also open up unilaterally. And it can be done through a number of smart solutions. As a result of opening up, countries such as Seychelles, Mauritius and Rwanda has seen a big impact on tourism, investment and financial services," Hence, the Ethiopian Immigration and Nationality Affairs Main Department worked closely with Ethiopian Airlines to commence this initial phase of the e-visa service for international visitors to Ethiopia. How it works

The e- visa is processed and issued online on a single web page, where applicants apply, pay and secure their entry visa online. Once the online application is approved, applicants will receive an email authorizing them to travel to Ethiopia and they will get their passport stamped with the visa upon arrival in Addis Ababa.

Key Benefits for the Ethiopian tourism sector

The move towards visa facilitation signals direct positive impacts on the following tourism stakeholders:

Tourists

It is expected that when the online e-visa application and issuance system is fully operational, it will go a long way to promote tourism, trade and investment to the country. The simplicity and convenience of the system will save time, energy and cost for travelers to Ethiopia. Ethiopia Airlines

It is indicated that Ethiopia airlines has been instrumental in the successful implementation of the online e-visa system. As the Director of the Department for Immigration & Nationality Affairs, Mr Gebreyohannes Teklu mentioned, Ethiopia airlines effects direct flights to/from more than 95 destinations from all corners of the world so the online e-visa system will make travel to Ethiopia, dependable, easy, convenient and affordable for their clients. Tourists' attractions and tourism industry operators

Commenting on the benefits of this new visa service, Group CEO Ethiopian Airlines, Mr. Tewolde GebreMariam remarked,

"Ethiopia, the oldest independent civilization in Africa and one of the oldest in the world, is endowed with historical places, natural beauty, colourful and diverse cultural activities and various endemic wild animals which are of great interest to international tourists.



Fasilides' Castle in Gondar
Fasilides was Emperor of Ethiopia 1632
– 18 October 1667

Fasilides was proclaimed emperor in 1630 during a revolt led by Sarsa Krestos, but did not reach the throne until his father abdicated in 1632. Once he became emperor, Fasilides immediately restored the official status of the traditional Ethiopian Orthodox Church. He is commonly credited with founding the city of Gondar in 1636, establishing it as Ethiopia's capital.



Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela
A labyrinth of tunnels with grottoes and galleries connects 11 impressive churches built under King Lalibela out of red volcanic rock



Statue of Bob Marley

HEALTH IS WEALTH: RWANDA POINEERS THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES USING DRONE

There is no gainsaying that the development of any nation or community depends on the health and welfare of its people. This is even more so for the African continent where health challenges and maternal mortality in particular pose a serious threat development aspirations. Even in situations where medication and other medical supplies are available, delivery to rural destinations has often been delayed due to inadequate infrastructure. Hence, the prompt and timely delivery of medical supplies is a matter of life or death in many parts of Africa.

Rwanda is no exception to the challenges experienced in the delivery of medical supplies. In fact, the country's mountainous topography and seasonal rains are an additional impediment to rural accessibility. General referred to as "the land of a thousand hills" rural accessibility is quite limited. However, the Rwandan government has found an effective way to bypass all these challenges and deliver much needed medical supplies to rural communities.

Rwanda has pioneered and revolutionised the use of drone technology to deliver medical supplies to communities not easily accessible by road.

A technician (right) for American robotics company Zipline installs a small cardboard box with a paper parachute in a drone prior to its launch in Muhanga, Rwanda, on October 12, 2016. Rwanda launched drone operations to deliver medical supplies to hospitals in remote areas. PHOTO | AFP

The initial phase of this "blood delivery by drone" revolution involves twenty one (21) clinics in the west of the country. The first fifteen drones were designed by Zipline, a California-based robotics company. According the company's CEO, Mr. Keller Rinaudo, the imperative to deliver blood promptly upon request is necessitated by the fact that blood "is a very precious commodity so you cannot just stock a lot of it in every single health centre."

With a healthier population it is hoped that more Rwandans will be able to enjoy the amazing leisure facilities in their country.

Volcanoes National Park – Gorilla groups Mt. Bisoke Crater Lake volcano national park
Volcanoes National Park lies in north-western Rwanda and borders Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda. The national park is known as a haven for the rare and endangered mountain gorilla and golden monkeys. It is home to five of the eight volcanoes of the Virunga Mountains (Karisimbi, Bisoke, Muhabura, Gahinga and Sabyinyo), and spans 160 km² covered in rainforest and bamboo.



Akagera Park got its name from the river that runs along its eastern boundary; The Park is Rwanda's famous Savanna reserve. Set at a relatively low altitude on the border with Tanzania, Akagera National Park could scarcely be more different in mood to the breezy cultivated hills that characterize much of Rwanda. Dominated scenically by the labyrinth of swamps and lakes that follow the meandering course of the Akagera River, the most remote source of the Nile, this is an archetypal African savannah landscape of tangled acacia woodland interspersed with open grassland.



Traditional Rwandese dance

GABON

Gabon is part of Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) it is lucky enough to have the equator run right through it. Gabon borders countries such as: Cameroon in the north, Equatorial Guinea also to the north, as well as Republic of the Congo on the south east. Its coast (Atlantic Ocean) stretches from the south all the way to the north towards the capital Libreville. The official language of the country is French, however, there is a big percentage of people that speak native languages only. French is the medium of instruction, while indigenous languages are spoken more often as you move away from the capital city, of which most of these languages are only spoken but not written. Gabon has three major cities that consists of the capital Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville. We are going to explore some of the most significant tourist key point and cities that they will never show you on television.



Libreville is the capital of Gabon, the biggest city of the country with the population amounting to approximately 850 000. It consists of numerous hills and forests that surrounds the city, located on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, the economy of the city is run by the wood exported all over the world. You will meet African people and other people from other parts of the world too.



Gabon's second city, Port-Gentil it is more laid-back than Libreville. This is Gabon's industrial and economic engine, as well as oil and gas rigs loom just off the coast. But the city stretches along the beach and it boats broad streets. Ave Savorgnan de Brazza has most of the banks, shops and restaurants. this is the centre of Gabon's petroleum and timber industries.



Pointe-Denis Beach named after the local king: King Denis Rapotchombo is a place to be if you want to escape the busy city life, it is desired by both local and international tourists. Located on a peninsular between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gabon Estuary, not far from the capital city Libreville. The landmark nearby is called Pongara National Park, which is also most definitely worth a visit. This is a great spot to witness the sunrise and sunset, rejuvenate, get sun baked!



Strictly NO under 18's, good to spend a day in Casino Croisette while you are still in Gabon. Waitresses are friendly, good food and wine and games too. They have some nice music and events throughout the day and night, good for you to enjoy 24/7. If you think you might just be getting bored, you better hit the road to casino Croisette, gambling room offers some great table games which includes: Blackjack, Craps, Poker, Big Six wheel, Bingo, Lottery and Lottery betting just to mention a few. Complimented by Gabon traditional food, most of the dishes are French inspired and served in a buffet style, there are wines, beers and some French champagne to enjoy. You are welcome to go with a group of friends or family or even take your romantic partner with you just for a day of fun, a range of games, food and wine awaits you. This is a wonderful gaming space you do not want to miss!



Musee des Arts et Traditions du Gabon) which simply says in English) in English: National Museum of Art and Culture. Guided tours are usually conducted in French and it is only open during the stated times. It houses exhibitions on tribal crafts and culture, great collection of masks and stone carvings. You are also given a chance to explore seaside monument to Gabonese customs and culture. The building hall has artifacts as well as work of arts that includes: native masks, ceremonial costumes, wooden sculptures and an old gorilla skull. The courtyard guarantees mud-brick houses and different metal sculptures. If you are a none French speaking person like myself, you will be charged a bit extra for an English-interpreter.

The one of the not to be missed Gabonese attractions includes the golden glass Presidential Palace, a vast seafront from which the Bongo dynasty rules Gabon. It was built in the 1970s and is said to have caused above 250 million (US Dollars) Security is very tight: you are not allowed to take photos without permission or you risk being harassed by the guards.



It is one of the masterpiece that was designed by a famous architect David Adjaye for the President of Gabon. This palace is prestigious and luxurious presidential home, some administrative activities are under taken in this palace. Visits are strictly on arrangements prior to arrival, you must state clearly the number of people visiting the place, time of arrival at the building and how long will your Presidential Palace take. You ought to show any form of

If you are a Catholic and visiting Gabon, there is most definitely a place for you to worship and it is none other than the Notre-dame de Lourdes. It is by no doubt a favourite place of worship for local Catholics, you can make it yours too as a tourists. By the entrance there is a hand painted in blue and the front of the building that faces the entrance painted in white, which tends to remind the congregants of traditional Portuguese painted tiles. The exterior is more complex and interesting than the interior, but it remains clean and welcoming in and around the church itself.

You can come for a church service or just on your own to relax and get time to reflect. It is not only limited to Catholic people, everyone is welcome. There are other place of worship as such the Cathedral Saint Louis situated in Gabon's second best city, Port Gentil. This Cathedral is seen as both place of worship as well as a tourist attraction.

If you have never seen a Catholic Cathedral surrounded by palm trees, it's time you make your visit to the Cathedral Saint Louis, Gabon. The other place of worship in the country is Cathedral Saint Pierre, the outside is as welcoming as the inside. Admire the breath-taking architecture which features a very pointy roof, supported by different sharp angles of the same roof. Visit the Cathedral Saint Pierre and hang around to be part of the religious services, also make some time to admire the interior of this Cathedral. There is place for Muslims to worship as well. Gabon is a country dominated by Christians, however, just like most African countries, there are also Islamic people staying there who would also like to worship. There is the country's largest Mosque - Hassane II available. It is the height Mosque in Africa that can accommodate above 105,000 people. It consists of a laser that focuses the light towards the Mecca, witness the front of a building that has the plateau of blue marbles, bronze and granite.

NAMIBIA: AFRICA'S PINNACLE OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Namibia is one of the fifteen countries that make up the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and its tourism development arm, the Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa (RETO-SA). The country occupies the South-western part of Africa, bordered by Angola and Zambia to the north, Botswana to the east, South Africa to the South and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

According to the Namibian National Tourism Investment Profile and Promotion strategy 2016-2026, the country received 1,387,000 tourists in 2016 and hopes to grow this number by 8 percent to 1,500,000 by the year 2020. This positive trajectory in Namibian tourism sector is confirmed by statistics from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC, 2017) which forecast international tourists' arrivals at 1,988,000 by the year 2027.

Although the current total contribution of tourism to the Namibian economy is quite modest, with tourism contributing NAD23,806.0 million (14.9%) of GDP, 116,000 jobs and NAD5,179.2 million (7.0%) of total exports in 2016 (WTTTC, 2017), future projections are quite positive. In fact, in the context of world rankings, Namibia is comes in at number 13 out of 185 countries with regards to long term growth forecasts between 2017 – 2027. This is up from the current position of 70 out of 185 countries.

This exceptional long term growth forecast can be attributed to Namibia's sustainable tourism drive as evident in the country's conservation policies and successful community tourism initiatives. According to the organisation "Mother Nature Network" (MNN) Namibia was the first African country to have conservation enshrined in its constitution. The fruits of this committed approach to sustainable tourism can be seen in the fact that while many African countries losing most of their tourism resources to poaching and commodification, Namibia continues to flourish and serve as the continent's pinnacle of successful conservation management. To the extent that 40 percent of Namibia is under conservation management. The following are some iconic tourists attractions in Namibia:



Etosha National Park is a protected area in northern Namibia. Lions, elephants, black rhinos and giraffes gather at waterholes such as Halali, Okondeka and the floodlit Okaukuejo. Rough roads fringe the vast white-green salt flat of the Etosha Pan, a breeding ground for flamingos. Other birdlife includes eagles, hornbills, owls and ostriches. Camel thorn trees provide food and shelter for many of the park's animals Twyfelfontein (A sandstone slab at Twyfelfontein. The animals are the older engravings, overlaid by the circles.) Twyfelfontein (Afrikaans: uncertain spring), officially known as IUi-IIAis (Damara/Nama: jumping waterhole), is a site of ancient rock engravings in the Kunene Region of north-western Namibia. It consists of a spring in a valley flanked by the slopes of a sandstone table mountain that receives very little rainfall and has a wide range of diurnal temperatures. The site has been inhabited for 6,000 years, first by hunter-gatherers and later by Khoikhoi herders. Both ethnic groups used it as a place of worship and a site to conduct shamanist rituals. In the process of these rituals at least 2,500 items of rock carvings have been created, as well as a few rock paintings. Displaying one of the largest concentrations of rock petroglyphs in Africa, UNESCO approved Twyfelfontein as Namibia's first World Heritage Site in 2007.



The Spitzkoppe, is a group of bald granite peaks or inselbergs located between Usakos and Swakopmund in the Namib Desert of Namibia. The granite is more than 120 million years old and the highest outcrop rises about 1,784 metres above sea level.



Fish River Canyon (The Fish River Canyon, is located in the south of Namibia. It is the largest canyon in Africa, as well as the second most visited tourist attraction in Namibia.)



OVAMBO (OWAMBO) PEOPLE: THE AGRICULTURAL AND POWERFUL BANTU PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA AND ANGOLA AND THE LARGEST ETHNIC GROUP IN NAMIBIA



Celebration of the annual Tuli-konge Cultural Festival of the Mafwe community.

SUDAN

The “forgotten Nubian pyramids” bring hope for Economic Development through tourism



The Nubian Meroe Pyramids are found in the area of Bagrawiwah in Sudan. They are named after the ancient city of Meroe which was the capital of the Kingdom of Kush. The Nubian Meroe pyramids are remnants of the ancient Kingdom of Kush which emerged as the dominant power in the Region around the Middle of the Nile. Between 712 – 657 BCE the Kushite kings governed much of Egypt and eventually extended their influence to the Meroe region where the pharaonic tradition of building pyramids to encapsulate the tombs was perpetuated.

The cluster of villages that make up the Bagrawiyah region are situated approximately 200 kilometres from the Sudanese capital of Khartoum. With limited tourism infrastructure, this area has hardly attracted many tourists. This might explain, in part, why this treasure of the Nubian Meroe pyramids has been virtually forgotten to the modern world.

Adapted from by Sorin Furcoi



Top Attractions

SUDAN

Khartoum:



Khartoum is the capital and largest city of Sudan and the state of Khartoum. It is located at the confluence of the White Nile, flowing north from Lake Victoria, and the Blue Nile, flowing west from Ethiopia. The location where the two Niles meet is known as “al-Mogran”. The main Nile continues to flow north towards Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea. Divided by the two Rivers Nile, Khartoum is a tripartite metropolis with an estimated overall population of over five million people, consisting of Khartoum proper, and linked by bridges to Khartoum North and Omdurman to the west.

National Museum of Sudan



Situated on the El Neel (Nile) Avenue in Khartoum the capital city of Sudan, the Sudan National museum is strategically placed on the spot where the White and Blue Niles meet. The museum houses archaeological collections of various epochs of Ancient Sudan and Ancient Egypt such as Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, A-Group culture, C-Group culture, Kerma Culture, Middle Kingdom of Egypt, New Kingdom of Egypt, Napata, Meroë, X-Group culture and medieval Makuria. Established as a museum in 1971, the building and its surrounding gardens house the largest and most com-

prehensive Nubian archaeological collection in the world including objects from the Paleolithic through to the Islamic period originating from every site of importance in the Sudan.

Tuti Island



Tuti Island in Sudan is renowned principally because of its strategic location where the White Nile and Blue Nile merge to form the main Nile. It is surrounded by the “Three Towns”: Khartoum (the capital of Sudan), Omdurman (the largest city in Sudan), and Khartoum North (a large industrial center). Despite this, Tuti is home to only one small village (founded in the late 15th century), with grassland being the main makeup of the island. In the past the only approach to Tuti Island was via several ferries that cross the river every so often, but now the Tuti Bridge, a modern suspension bridge, has been completed and can be used instead. The building of the Tuti Bridge has sparked development projects on Tuti Island, championed by Tuti Island Investment Company, which plans to turn the Island into a state of the art tourist resort. However, these ideas have caused controversy, with the locals wishing to protect their village from becoming a tourist destination.

The “forgotten Nubian pyramids” bring hope for Economic Development through tourism

Tourism is generally associated with traveling to strange and unfamiliar destinations for fun, relaxation, adventure, business and so on. However, this traditional way of conceptualising tourism has made it very difficult for many countries to develop innovative ways of growing the tourism sector; rather relying on mainstream attractions such as safari, culture and the like. Considering the highly competitive nature of the tourism sector, innovation in product development seems indispensable. If destinations have to grow tourism numbers, encourage tourism to spend more and increase economic benefits from tourism, then new tourism products have to be designed, packaged and marketed to potential visitors.



Diaspora tourism offers African countries a wonderful opportunity for expansion. With an ever increasing number of African people living outside the continent, specific tourism products should be designed to capture the interests of African people living out of the continent. Diaspora tourism can be described as the homecoming of people who are nostalgic about some element(s) of their past or ancestral history.

This is the essence of the Goree diaspora festival in Senegal. The aim of the Goree festival is to establish a link between Senegal and the descendants of the slaves who forcefully removed from Africa through the Island of Goree



Contrary to the dark history of slavery that characterises the Island of Goree, the diaspora festival is a highly entertaining event characterised by meetings, conferences, dance, games and much more. Most importantly, amidst these ceremonies and fanfare, many of the visitors discover their ancestral roots and heritage.



In the 18th century, Goree Island was one of several West African ports from which goods and slaves were shipped across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas. Nearly 300 years later, the island was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today, it is home to more than 1,000 people and has hosted guests from around the world, including Pope John Paul II and Nelson Mandela. The 5th annual Goree Island diaspora festival took place this year (2017) and attracted more than 3000 visitors.

