

SUA CONNE

SPECIAL EDITION FOR THE SUA
SILVER JUBILEE



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A Newsletter of Sokoine University of Agriculture Convocation



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	Page		Page
Editor's Note	2	Biofuel and Neo-colonialism	13
Message from SUA Convocation President	3		
The liver and our Health	4		
The digital age dilemma (DAD): Are we secure?	7		
Tanzania's poverty: the need for a quality education to the poor	10		
Interpreters: A trade in short supply in Tanzania	11		

To Our Contributors

This being a special issue I would like to sincerely extend my acknowledgements to each of you, my dear friends and colleagues for your kind contributions. It is only from your personal and collective efforts that have made it possible to have this admirable newsletter out for public consumption once again. Special thanks go to Mr. Jabir Jabir for reading and typesetting the issue at the edge of difficult moments. I thank you members of the convocation for playing your roles well. It is not possible to mention everyone here but please allow me mention the few.

The Convocation President, Prof. Dr. Kallunde P. Sibuga, and the entire ECC, Prof. Dr. Z.K. Mvena, Prof. Dr. August B. Temu, Prof. Dr. Fred Midtgaard, Prof. Dr. G. L. Mwamengele, Prof. Dr. Emanuel J. Luoga, Dr. C. L. Rweyemamu, Dr. Peter L. Msoffe, Mr. Stephano P. Kingazi, Mr. Jabir A. Jabir , Ms Suma Mwaitulo, Mr. Justine K. Urassa Mr. Camilius Sanga Mr. Henry S. George

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe"

Dos Santos Silayo
Editor in Chief

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear reader, welcome to our SUA Convocation Newsletter Volume 12. This is a special issue dedicated to mark the 25 years of existence of our University. Much has been in special addresses from our University leaders inside this issue. However, it is worth noting that since establishment of this University, the convocation office has tried to execute her responsibilities which include among others; to mobilize SUA Alumni and well-wishers to support the University and participate in the enhancement and improvement of intellectual and material well being of University community, including fostering unity, ethical and professional relations among members of the Convocation and between the Convocation and Sokoine University of Agriculture.

To fulfill this mission the SUA Convocation decided to establish a newsletter here called SUACONE. SUACONE is a non-commercial newsletter published once a year and distributed for free to the general public on the Convocation day through graduation ceremony of the respective year. It publishes articles ranging from science, politics, social, sports, humour and reflections. Being established by the Convocation Constitution article XVI, and registered with ISBN 9987 640 02 8, SUACONE is managed by an Editorial Board chaired by the Editor - in chief. To date, eleven issues have been published since its establishment in 1998 with the latest issue being Volume 11 of 2008. The Board has continued to



improving this newsletter in different capacities including the quality, quantity and diversity of the articles and contributors.

For example, while the SUACONE started with 12 pages in 1998 with only 4 articles from 3 contributors it has improved to 34 pages made over 20 articles from 18 different contributors from all over the world. SUACONE has gained popularity and therefore attracted a number of readers from different parts of the world which can access, download for free and read it from our alumni web page (www.suanet.ac.tz/alumni) on the university website. This approach is believed to have contributed in promoting a good image of the University across the world. The future plane is to upgrade our newsletter into a magazine.

Dear readers and members of the convocation, I was elected to the as the Editor of this newsletter three years ago. Thank you very

much for showing confidence on me. In my first editorial note, I promised to do my level best to meet your expectations. I am happy that I managed to achieve be the same in 2010. I enjoyed working with my fellow office bearers for the last 3 years in office. I am also proud of our contributors. Without them nothing could have happened.

As this is the end of our 1st triennium in office, there would be an election for the Executive Committee of the Convocation (Office Bearers) during Annual General Meeting as per our constitution. In this election members will use their constitutional rights to elect new office bearers. With regard to this, I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye as the Editor in Chief (in case a new editor is elected) of our admirable newsletter to our esteemed readers, contributors and good wishers. My farewell note goes in-hand with a welcoming note to a new elect hoping he/she will enjoy working in the post and ensure that SUACONE continues to be a leading newsletter.

"It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop"
- Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)

I wish you an enjoyable holiday season and a prosperous 2010.

Dos Santos Silayo
Editor in Chief

MESSAGE FROM THE SUA CONVOCATION PRESIDENT

Dear members of the Convocation,

Once again it is time to celebrate Convocation. However, this year is special because we are celebrating Convocation as part of a week-long silver Jubilees' celebrations as Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) comes of age. In the past two years that I have served as your President, I have learnt a lot in what it really means to be at the helm of the Convocation. Amongst the many things I have learnt is that this body of learned persons that make the Convocation are spread far and wide, apart from the main concentration that is at SUA campuses, and that we are still a long way away from our cherished goal. Our goal is to bring together as many members of the Convocation, if not all, to celebrate together during this time.

However, as we celebrate, a thorny issue that remains largely unresolved, is the concept of RE-UNIONS which came to an abrupt halt after successful events by the classes of 1974, 1975 and 1976 during their re-unions. Whither 1977 class and beyond? I believe in the hearts of many, the wish is for someone else to organize their class re-union just let them participate! Why not it be you and I to do the organization? We need to take a good look at this issue for we know the classes of 1974-1976 have created a legacy that will last a long time, if not for ever. Worldwide, members of a Universities' alumni are a very important alma mater which is looked upon to make contributions towards the development of their universities. Why not us? Lets say to ourselves that we can do it and actually be ready to donate some of our time for this cause when we are required to do so. Together, we should be able to build the Convocation into a force that can be reckoned with in Tanzania and beyond and re-unions are a good starting point.

In this years' convocation luncheon, we shall be hosting Dr Sinare Y. Sinare, a veteran Veterinarian and an ardent businessman in veterinary-based businesses. Traditionally, the Convocation luncheon is a unique occasion which brings together all persons who graduated many years ago together with staff and fresh graduates of SUA for a few hours of experience sharing under a relaxed atmosphere. Experience has shown that luncheon speeches do carry very important messages. The

ECC has initiated a process to pick out the issues from all the luncheon speeches delivered in the past and will bring them to your attention for further deliberation and action, where appropriate.



As we have come to the end of our 3-year term, let me thank all members of the Convocation for your cooperation and contribution towards making Convocation a better body. Time and again, the Executive Committee of the Convocation (ECC) asked some of you to participate in various issues pertaining to the Convocation including serving in various Task Forces or being co-opted to assist in some activity of the Convocation. You all participated and delivered to the satisfaction of the ECC. It is this kind of self sacrifice and dedication that will drive the Convocation to the climax of its existence. Thank you all. Last but not least, let me take this opportunity to thank the active participation of all members of the Executive Committee of the Convocation (ECC), the University administration and all its service departments for the support offered to the Convocation.

This year we have to elect a new Secretariat into office. It is my belief that at the end of the whole process, we shall have elected to the Secretariat the men and women whom we think and believe can live up to the expectations of the Convocation.

The year 2010 is just around the corner. The end of the year is a good time to reflect on what you have done during the year and what you plan to do in the year ahead. As we plan for the end of the year celebrations, we should all remember to plan carefully, wisely and boldly. I wish you and your families a prosperous and productive 2010.

Prof. K.P. Sibuga
President, SUA Convocation
November 2009

SILVER JUBILEE COMMEMORATIONS: WHAT WILL BE THE SILVER JUBILEE LANDMARK AFTER THE CELEBRATIONS

Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) came into being on July 1st 1984 after the Tanzania Government had elevated the then Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine to a fully-fledged University on July 1st, 1984. Therefore, on July 30th 2009 SUA became 25 years of age. This has led SUA management to give the commemorations during the graduation week (23rd - 26th November, 2009).

When I first heard of the plans about the commemorations, I asked myself the following question; what is the essence of the Jubilee commemorations to an institute such as SUA? Therefore, I started searching for the information about the Jubilee. According to the "Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary" the term Jubilee refers to 'a celebration or a joyful time for a special anniversary of an event'. Further, a Jubilee is defined as a time of celebrating or rejoicing. It is also defined in Leviticus (25:9) as a day Atonement. For Christians, the year of Jubilee is a special year of sins and universal pardon where debts are forgiven, slaves and prisoners freed and mercies of God would be particularly manifested. The website indicates that in the Old Testament book of Leviticus, a Jubilee is to occur every fifty years.

Additional search indicated that there are a number of different Jubilee celebrations that include:

(i) A Silver jubilee: a celebration held to mark a 25th anniversary [this is what SUA has done this year].

(ii) A Golden Jubilee: a celebration held to mark a 50th anniversary. For example, all those guys born in 1959.

(iii) A Diamond Jubilee: a celebration held to a 60th anniversary. A good model of this would be all those persons retiring from the Civil Service this year [as per Tanzanian's Employment Regulations, or a 75th anniversary in the case of the event such as the celebrations that will be held by SUA community for in order to remember the foundation of this university in the year 2059.

(iv) A Platinum Jubilee: the celebration held to mark an anniversary and finally,

(v) A Centenary Jubilee: celebrations held on the 100th anniversary. For example the commemorations to mark the establishment of Catholic diocese of Same in Kilimanjaro Region (1909 - 2009).



Cornel Lawrence Rweyemamu

What do other institutions do on such events/occasions? In some universities, Jubilee landmark and architecture are usually put in place. These do assist the generations to come of such important occasions. For example; [i] the Jubilee campus: This is a campus of the University of Nottingham opened 75 years after the University received its royal charter. [ii] Jubilee college state Park: An Illinois State Park located a few Kilometers west of Peoria, Illinois, USA. It contains Jubilee College State Historic site. Can we establish such a site at SUA, at least for a Golden Jubilee to be held in 2059? Such landmarks would include a place where the Late Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere stood and gave his famous Inauguration Speech on the establishment of SUA. We can even have a SILVER JUBILEE CLOCK i.e. a clock constructed in the commemoration of SUA's current Jubilee.

If I were to say something to those who will be there 25 years from now that they may start thinking of commemorating SUA's Golden Jubilee with something more glamorous. However, as we celebrate establishment of SUA's 25 years of its age, I just found out that the SUA Management is planning to come up with the SUA Silver Jubilee landmark somewhere on this campus. I commend the Management for such a move. I hope those who will be in the offices in 2034 will follow the steps.

Have a nice Silver Jubilee celebration guys

NEW CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Future farming is challenged by two seemingly opposing goals. The first is the age-old food and nutritional security which seeks to increase food production. The general approach has been to develop soil management, seed technologies and crop management protocols that help us achieve more yields per unit area. Our success has been relatively easy at the experimental scale, but getting the result at the farmers' level, and especially for smallholder farmers, has been dogged by other non-technological issues, particularly the lack of resources to invest in more intensive agriculture.

Thus, higher yields in agriculture have been gained more through extensification (that is the expansion of farms into forest areas) than the application of fertilizers and better seed. Continuation of this approach is doomed to fail for two reasons; a) with increasing population, and limited land area, farmers can no longer expand their farms; and b) the realization that forests play a major role in climate change mitigation and overall improvement for agriculture is driving a new impetus to conserve forests.

The second goal emanates from a recent realization that agriculture contributes significantly to climate change. The release of carbon dioxide, ammonia and nitrites from crop and livestock farms is well documented. It is for this reason that future farming has to be guided by technologies that minimize the release of greenhouse gasses. Further, the pollution of surface and groundwater through agrochemicals is a rising health concern. The challenge is therefore how to adopt high yielding farming technologies with minimum, preferably no damage to the environment.



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In addition to above challenges, we are facing the effects of climate change. Besides erratic droughts and floods, we can expect the following slow but sure processes to take place:

- Changes in crop phenology, pollination and productivity, mediated by temperature increase
- Reduced regenerative capacity and rate of growth for some crops
- Increased competition for growth resources and survival in the ecosystem, with possible species migration across ecologies
- Increased crop susceptibility to pests and diseases
- Extinction of some crop species
- Changes in the quality and availability of fodder for livestock

This takes us back to basic ecology and in particular to our understanding of the food chain. Any break in the food chain (caused by the extinction or weakening of a species) could disrupt production processes and result in major failures. Take for instance the disappearing of a key bacterium or fungus involved in the purification processes. That would result in inability to biodegrade plant and animal materials to recharge soils with nutrients. This would break the triangular chain of

primary producers, consumers and decomposers as we understand it from basic ecology. What impact would it have on agriculture? I could go deeper and point out many more possible system failures, but that would not serve the purpose of this communication. My message is that new and more creative agriculture is expected to emerge. We can no longer focus just on productivity. We have to manage the agricultural landscape in such a manner as to reinforce the natural and dynamic ecological systems. This calls for multi-functional agricultural landscapes that are both productive and resilient.

Future farms will be complex mosaics of crops, trees and animals carefully selected to reinforce the production of environmental services as they also meet food and nutrition security needs. Well selected trees can help to reduce surface temperatures and provide fuel, medicines, nuts, fodder (especially in dry seasons), and at the same time help to sequester carbon and conserve/purify water, thereby mitigating the effects of climate change. Bio-diversification of agriculture will be both necessary and more attractive. Likewise, the future forestry practices have to address the key issues of food security, provision of forest/tree products and environmental services. In other words, the roles of agriculture and forestry have to be more effectively integrated. This is the paradigm that defines the Future Agricultural Productivity. Agricultural education must change to reflect this new paradigm.

In this complex environment, Africa looks up to Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) to provide leadership in defining the future agricultural practices. As one of the top agricultural universities on the continent, SUA will hopefully rise to the challenges.

WITH KILIMO KWANZA AT STAKE: HAS SUA BEEN MARGINALIZED IN AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION ISSUES IN TANZANIA?

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When the then President of the United Republic of Tanzania [H.E. Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere] was laying a foundation stone of the permanent buildings at the then new Morogoro Agricultural College on 18th November 1965, the President paid tribute to those who had contributed to the project. He went on and I quote: *Agricultural progress is the basis of Tanzanian development. The truth is said too often that people forget it. They almost don't listen; the words become part of the atmosphere, and they have no impact no more. To talk of the importance of agriculture is like playing a record which has been heard too often*". And later at the inauguration ceremony of SUA, on 26th September, 1984 he emphasized that: Sokoine University of Agriculture being a new university and Tanzania's first university, it had to be made new! He advised Tanzanians to adapt the good things in particular and avoid the bad ones. Therefore, as a member of SUA community, I always remember and cherish what the Late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere had to say on Tanzania's agriculture [also see the reflection back of the newsletter by the late Mwalimu J. K. Nyerere].

As Sokoine University of Agriculture [SUA] started to prepare for commemorations of its Silver Jubilee this year, I started to ask myself on how our institute has fared in the process of agricultural policy making in the last 25 years of its existence. So I revisited some

documents such as the Arusha Declaration [1967], "*Siasa ni Kilimo*" [1972], "*Chakula ni Uhai*" and "*Kilimo cha Kufa na Kupona*" [1979]. But at this point I said to myself, why don't I go to the documents relevant with the establishment of SUA and see how SUA has been faring. So I began with the very first speeches that were given by the then SUA's first: Vice Chancellor [Prof G. R.V. Mmari], Council Chairman [Hon. A.H. Jamal], and the President of the United Republic of Tanzania [H.E. Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere] at the inauguration ceremony of SUA, 26th September, 1984. I visited the more recent agricultural 'policies' that are available since SUA establishment. This took care of the periods under the Second [1985-1995], Third [1995-2005], and Fourth [2005 - to date] Tanzania's Government Phases.

In so doing, I started visiting some agricultural programmes/ strategies/proposals/policies/phrases and also the Chama cha Mapinduzi [CCM] Election Manifestos of 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005. I visited the Morogoro "*Special Programme for Sustainable Improved Food Production and Trade for Morogoro Region*" of 2006/2007 - 2009/2010. This Programme is for Enabling Morogoro to Become a National Food Basket or Granary in other words "*Opesheni ya Fanya Mkoa wa Morogoro Kuwa Ghala Taifa [FAMOGATA]*". In browsing the FAMOGATA document, I noted that SUA was being mentioned only once in the document under section 7.0 MISAADA YA KITAALAM NA FEDHA KATIKA KUTEKELEZA MAJUKUMU and in sub-section 7.2 [a] *Misaada ya Nje* it is stated and I quote "*Kuhusisha Chuo Kikuu cha Sokoine ca Kilimo [SUA] na Chuo Kikuu cha Mzumbe katika kutoa ushauri wa kitaalamu na utafiti*".

Then I remembered another occasion that on 8th December, 2005, when the

Hon. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the then a CCM Presidential candidate, met with SUA members of CCM [including professors] in Morogoro, and requested for ideas on how the Government could transform the agricultural sector so that the lives of the majority of Tanzanians could improve their livelihoods. SUA took up the challenge of preparing a proposal on what the Government could do to transform the agricultural sector. The Task Force was appointed to draft the proposal through a consultative process. This Task Force was composed of eight members of the academic staff. The initial draft was discussed, approved by the University Management, and submitted to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania for consideration in March 2006.

The document contained proposals to the government on how to go about the following: [1] Transforming Agriculture in Tanzania: What the Government Could do, [2] Government Strategic Investment in Agriculture, [3] Improving Farmers' Access to Technologies and Services, [4] attracting Investors to the Sector and [5] How to facilitate the Emergence of Medium-Scale Farmers. Under this section there was a "Provision of close supervision and technical backstopping" as it was proposed that for the programme to succeed there would be need for close supervision and technical backstopping from appropriate institutions with the necessary expertise. So at this point, I thought this is where SUA fitted most.

In order to assure myself on my "creed", I went further and decided to visit the "KILIMO KWANZA" [Agriculture First] documents. You may remember that the "KILIMO KWANZA" initiative was launched

o 1st August 2009 in Dodoma during the NANE-NANE [Farmers' agricultural shows]. The first problem I had was to get the document on "KILIMO KWANZA" from the relevant offices that I thought would have had it by end of August 2009. Thanks to a friend, a "SUAN" who managed to send me an electronic version.

Going through the "KILIMO KWANZA" document [an e-version], the first thing I did was to search for the words such as SUA, SOKOINE or UNIVERSITY in the document. These words could not be found. Then, I asked myself, why/kwa nini? I wondered whether this "mishap" was by default or by design. Thereafter, I asked myself another question: what was KILIMO KWANZA anyway? Was it an agricultural programme/ strategy/proposal/policy/phrase or just a slogan? Reading document meticulously, I noted that according to of the Tanzania National Business Council [TNBC] who had prepared the document, in some instances KILIMO KWANZA was being referred to as a Theme, However, in the same document KILIMO KWANZA is also referred to as "kaulimbiu" in Kiswahili, and later being referred to as a resolution that encompasses the policies and strategies for the transformation and implementation of Tanzania's agriculture. Will the specialists on policy making and writing at SUA assist me on this please?

The document indicates that during a two day meeting under the Chairmanship of H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete that was held on 2nd and 3rd June 2009 at Kunduchi Beach Hotel, Dar-es-Salaam to discuss the KILIMO KWANZA and its implementation there were five resolutions made. Under its implementation plan; there were ten declarations and one was on "Science, technology and human resources to support agricultural transformation." Yet again at this point, I personally thought SUA should have come up-front. After getting the names of the per-

sons from SUA who attended the meeting, consulted them on KILIMO KWANZA. In process, I came to learn that, SUA was involved in the KILIMO KWANZA initiation and write up. In fact much as most SUA community members may have not seen the document[s] on KILIMO KWANZA; the booklets with the title: "KILIMO KWANZA: MAPINDUZI YA KIJANI" were delivered at SUA for distribution some months ago.

On the other hand, it is worth to note that, in the proposal sent to the President from SUA in March 2006, among the recommendations made were to improve staff incentives in the agricultural sector and learning from the experiences from other counties: On agricultural transformation that took place and continues to take place in several Asian countries such as India, Malaysia, Vietnam and South Korea and how such countries could offer useful lessons of how Tanzania could transform not only agriculture but also other sectors of our economy. Some of these issues are currently being implemented. In fact you may remember, that the first Prime Minister [of the fourth Tanzania's government phase] who when touring Thailand and went as far as requesting for the technology on "rain making" to Tanzania. Also as I prepare this script [September 2009] the current Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania [Hon. Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda] is visiting South Korea, and among the missions were to see how that coun-

try could assist Tanzania in modernizing its farm-machinery and technology. So he visited the National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources of New Delhi, India, and while in Indonesia, the Prime Minister called upon the Indonesian farm implements manufacturing firm, Power Tillers [PT] Rutan to assemble small tractors fit for Tanzanian farmers. The Prime Minister urged the firm to send experts to Tanzania to assess the business environment, with the aim of investing heavily on small scale tractors affordable to many Tanzanian farmers.

These and many other aspects discussed during the Prime Minister's visit are among the declarations of KILIMO KWANZA RESOLUTIONS and SUA's RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT in March 2006. In the Prime Minister's excursion to India, South Korea and Indonesia, we in the Morogoro region were represented by our Regional Commissioner Mr. Issa Machibya. Why did the delegation not include a SUA staff? Look for the answer on this.

At this point I do believe that, as SUA turns twenty five years of age and with the steps being taken including the decision makers from SUA getting the very important positions at national level, I tend to think that our institute is now on board of "the agricultural decision making band wagon". What is your opinion?



Rain water harvesting is one of the important aspects for the sustainability of KILIMO KWANZA initiatives. On picture S U A demonstration at farmers shows.

THE LIVER AND OUR HEALTH

INTRODUCTION

The liver plays a central role in the functioning of the body. Many people have suffered from liver disease and recovered. Others are not so lucky. Repeat liver disease gets us closer to situations where liver may fail and cause death. Everyone needs to know the functions of the liver and the ways by which it can be damaged, or saved.

The spongy internal liver structure allows blood to flow through the tiny spaces while toxic substances are filtered out and broken down. The flow is hindered if this structural property is affected in a way that the spaces get smaller. Many diseases described below cause such changes.

FUNCTIONS

Biotransformation (Detoxification)

Substances from within the body

Certain substances from within the body must be broken down for various reasons, including excretion and digestion. Metabolites that cannot be tolerated for long or are not directly excreted are broken down to smaller ones and excreted. Examples are ammonia, which is broken down and excreted as urea. Others are hemoglobin from aging cells that are recycled about every 4 months. Hemoglobin is toxic in its free form, so it is broken into other substances, coupled with new ones and parts of it recycled, while the rest is excreted as bile. There are thousands of such substances within the body that have to be dealt with, each through very elaborate chemical processes within the liver. Without such processes we would not be able to live even for a short time!

Substances from outside the body

Every time we take into our bodies substances that are not part of the body, they must be removed. These substances may have been taken intentionally for a purpose such as drugs or alcohol, or without intention. Few may be excreted without prior degradation but the largest number must be broken down, usually in the liver. The diversity of

those substances shows how capable the liver is in dealing with chemical variety, but also shows how busy and strained the liver can be.

This is where we may have control over how much to expose our liver since measured intake of the substances we take intentionally saves the liver from being over worked.

Production of essential substances

The liver is a factory for production of a number of substances that are vital for life. Bile is necessary for digestion. Vitamin K is essential in the clotting of blood. Protein synthesis such as fibrinogen for clotting, as well as albumin and globulins (except antibodies) takes place in the liver.

Storage

The liver stores glycogen, fat, protein, vitamin A, vitamin K and vitamin B12. While some of these substances are stored in some other organs, the liver acts as a storage site for immediate access, unlike other locations.

Regulation

Blood sugar is highly regulated by the liver. Blood glucose levels are maintained within a limited range to allow for normal functioning, meaning release of glucose when needed and conversion to glycogen when glucose exceeds tolerable limits. Fat and carbohydrate are similarly controlled. All controls involve delicate hormonal and non-hormonal feedback loops with very elaborate biologic sensors.

CAUSES

A liver suffers from many ailments. Many of them pass without our knowledge, but others show signs and symptoms that disappear over time with healing of the liver. At times the liver suffers seriously enough to be a threat to life. Such states constitute the conditions that include acute liver failure, cirrhosis



By

Prof. George Mwamengele

and liver fibrosis. The causes for these conditions are many but few will be specifically mentioned by name due to their relative importance, while most will be lumped into large groups.

Biologic agents

Biologic agents such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites make a large and important group. Of particular importance in this group are viruses of the hepatitis virus family. Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C viruses commonly cause such problems. While some are contracted through blood transfusion, others are acquired by ingestion.

Drugs and Toxic substances

Toxic chemicals also make an important group. Alcohol is the most important, and of all the causes this is the single most important cause considered avoidable. In Africa herbal remedies probably take a position above alcohol.

Drugs taken as medication may be deliberately abused such as over dosage or prolonged use and cause liver damage. Some poisons specifically destroy liver tissue such as toxic mushrooms. In this group there are many unknown substances that are taken in an irresponsible fashion. Consider herbs taken as medicine without any proven

medicinal value, or where some medicinal value is known no processing to isolate the medicinal principle and characterize it has been done. In our communities this is becoming a major cause of liver damage, overtaking many others.

Immune Reactions

A certain type of cirrhosis known as primary biliary cirrhosis is caused by an immune reaction that has no external trigger. This is possibly genetic and no one has control over its existence or onset.

Metabolic Conditions

Metabolic diseases that cause serious liver damage exist. Diabetes in its late stage causes widespread damage to vital organs including liver, heart and kidneys. This is different from the common multiple organ failure that happens in terminal states when patients develop shock due to low blood pressure.

METHOD OF DESTRUCTION

Necrosis

If only parts of a living tissue die leaving the organism still alive the process is termed necrosis. Necrosis takes place in the liver many times, mostly unnoticed. The liver's capacity for producing duplicate cells to fill the place of dead ones is huge. That is why we do not notice those isolated losses.

The liver is also capable of adapting to a loss of up to more than half of its cells and retain function. If however, a massive loss takes place to exceed the capacity of the liver for adaptation the life of the entire body is at great risk of death. This is what causes liver failure. Many poisons cause this type of damage.

Inflammation

As part of the body's defense mechanism the body may respond to tissue damage sending white blood cells to a site to "remove" such

offending agent. Those blood cells accumulate and by engulfing. As part of this process some local tissue cells die together with the blood cells. This process is called inflammation. It is vital for the existence of any organism, and ends with healing and repair of any damaged tissue. Healing and repair is the intended outcome of inflammation.

Cell loss and replacement with non-liver cell components, including fibrous tissue, in the damaged liver as a result of inflammation is one thing that leads to some of the conditions discussed in this article.

As you can see, these two mechanisms as determined by the type of cause, the extent of damage, extent of body response, type of response and a number other factors lead to different possible outcomes. We will look at those outcomes and discuss the virtues of each.

OUTCOMES

Regeneration

If lost cells and tissue are replaced by exact copies of themselves without any extra tissue or cells that are different from the original tissue that was lost, the process is called regeneration. This is the most favorable outcome short of which an organ is never the same. Deviations from this outcome depend on the degree of damage and to a large extent the type of tissue. Different tissues have different capacity for this type of healing. The nature of damage such as sustained damage on the same location and damage to membranes on which cells are anchored will lead to loss of regenerating capacity.

Certain tissues such as brain cells (neurons) have no regenerative capacity. Once lost a neuron will be replaced by non-specialized tissue.

Other tissues such as skin cells have full capacity, and liver cells fall in a middle group with conditional regenerative capacity. In other words the liver will regenerate only if certain conditions above are met.

Unfortunately none of us can guarantee that such conditions are met.

A scar is usually large when it is new, getting smaller as it ages. This characteristic has cosmetic advantage but poses problems when the liver has a substantial amount of tissue loss. The shrinkage in the liver causes additional problems if the scar tissue is widespread, as you may discover in the next section.

Liver Fibrosis

This is the formation of scar tissue (fibrous connective tissue) in response to injury or death of liver cells. The scar tissue occupies spaces between liver cells and around blood passages. Where cells are surrounded by this tissue they suffer from lack of nutrients and flow of vital substances, resulting to shrinkage of the liver cells and disturbance of normal functioning. If blood passages are surrounded then as the scar tissue shortens with maturity it compresses and narrows the passages, increasing blood pressure within the liver and therefore in all blood vessels behind the liver. These effects are harmful and will be discussed in subsequent sections.

Cirrhosis

This term is only applied to the liver, a reason for not calling it "liver cirrhosis". In its biologic nature formation of fibrous tissue is similar to that of fibrosis described in the last paragraph. However, in behavior it is different. Cirrhosis has fibrous tissue following death of liver cells and the liver attempting to regenerate. The result is that scar tissue forms, in between the bands of fibrous tissue new liver cells are

forming to replace lost ones, and finally the fibrous tissue shortens as part of maturation. This scenario should give you an impression of islands of regenerated liver tissue under pressure from shrinking scar tissue.

The effect of this relationship between the two repair processes will affect the size of the liver (shrinkage) and shape (nodular). Unfortunately it also negatively affects the efficiency of the liver in all its functions mentioned above, and in allowing the passage of blood and various other substances like bile. Eventually impaired passage leads to the signs and symptoms as will be explained in subsequent paragraphs.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

There are many signs and symptoms of liver failure. Only major ones will be discussed. Liver failure may represent any of these: Acute and massive liver necrosis, Liver Fibrosis, Massive hepatitis, or Cirrhosis.

Jaundice

A yellow color of tissues such as eye membranes, skin and others indicates that bile pigments are accumulating in the body as a result of the liver failing to process and allow passage. Even though there are other causes for this yellowing, liver problems are the major suspect. In some cases jaundice is associated with intense itching of the skin.

Ascites

Fluid accumulation in the abdominal cavity accompanies fibrosis and cirrhosis. Fibrous tissue shrinkage and liver cell proliferation produce internal pressure in the liver which translates into increased blood pressure in passages within the liver and in vessels behind it. Plasma filters out through blood vessel walls into the abdominal cavity. This mainly takes place in vessels of the mesentery.

Varices

As for ascites, pressure in blood vessels causes such vessels to over fill and become dilated and tortuous.

These are called varices. One common consequence is for them to rupture under pressure and cause acute bleeding into the stomach or esophagus. People with this condition show sudden "vomiting" of fresh blood, a condition that is quite dangerous, especially under conditions in where appropriate medical intervention is nearly non-existent. Some alcoholics show bulging veins in the face even before other signs of cirrhosis are evident.

Coagulation deficiency

Since a number of clotting factors are synthesized or stored in the liver, a failing liver is commonly associated with clotting deficiency in such patients. Accidental and surgical bleeding is difficult to control. In some cases spontaneous bleeding may occur.

Response to anesthesia

In liver failure the liver becomes slower to work. In such circumstances patients recover very slowly from anesthetic drugs. It is usually necessary to adjust doses (downwards) for such patient. In modern hospital facilities liver function tests are done before such drugs are administered. It is important to remember that not only is it dangerous to administer drugs for anesthesia but any other drug and toxic substances such as alcohol. They stay longer and in higher blood concentrations than in healthy individuals.

Wasting

Persons with a failing liver have severe weight loss due to protein and energy deficiency. This is a result of failure of the liver to metabolize carbohydrate, fat and protein.

Edema

A plasma protein called albumin affects osmolar properties of blood.

This property helps the body to maintain water in equilibrium between blood and the surrounding tissue. Since a failing liver doesn't produce enough albumin water moves into tissues, causing accumulation of excess water in tissues, a condition known as edema. This is usually complicated by the pressure exerted by scar tissue around blood passages in the liver as described under fibrosis.

Nervous problems

Accumulation of toxic levels of ammonia in blood leads to this substance causing damage to the brain. Patients at this stage show signs of confusion and in terminal stage they go into coma.

CONCLUSION

The liver is vital to life and unlike kidneys that are paired there is no second liver to take over the functions of a failed one. Many substances that have to be removed from the body accumulate fast and cause an internal crisis that leads to death. There are unavoidable causes for liver failure. Hepatitis due to viruses can be acquired from consumption of water or from blood transfusion. However abuse of substances is avoidable although it remains a significant cause of cirrhosis in Africa. Untested and unregulated herbal remedies and alcohol lead in this time.

group. It is prudent to entrust knowledgeable persons with your options for treatment of any ailment especially now that there are an untold number of street vendors of remedies not known to even themselves.

Everyone who has had a patient suffering from liver failure has heard the commonest question from the doctor. It is always about whether a patient drinks (alcoholics). If the answer is "no" the next one is if they take herbal remedies.

CAUTION

Many signs and symptoms discussed above may be traced to causes other than liver failure. The presence of any of them should not be construed to be a definite diagnosis of liver failure. The knowledge of them should only be a help to seek professional advice in consumption of water or from blood transfusion. However abuse of substances is avoidable although it remains a significant cause of cirrhosis in Africa. Untested and unregulated herbal remedies and alcohol lead in this group. It is prudent to entrust knowledgeable persons with your options for treatment of any ailment especially now that there are an untold number of street vendors of remedies not known to even themselves.

THE DIGITAL AGE DILEMMA (DAD): ARE WE SECURE?

By Camilius Sanga



A Cross section of setalite dishes used for reciving digital signals at SUA

Historically our society progressively passed from stone to iron era, from hunting and gathering to agricultural era, and from agricultural to industrial era. During the last two epochs, it was important to secure the boundary of each community's territories. Here the word territory refers to the area of influence under the jurisdiction of particular village, district, region, and/or country head. This may refer to a small piece of land or a large section of the whole world at large. With the dawn of the information age, or digital era which in Tanzania's Information Technology buzzword is commonly referred to as the DOT COM era, the security requirements have become even more complex. Instead of only securing the territorial boundaries and our ports of entry, we are challenged to secure our communication channels. The Internet represents one of the modern data communication technologies where data security issues must always be guaranteed.

The Internet border is viewed as the gateway through which the incoming and outgoing data traffic from the Local Internet Service Providers (LISPs) and International Internet Service Providers (IISPs) is regulated. At present Tanzania have many LISPs which are, in many cases, connected to different IISPs. Satellite Internet Services are mainly provided by IISPs, and LISPs mainly connection to such services using Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) technology. This technology helped to connect different LISPs to different IISPs. This situation resulted in many gateways being created. In Tanzania such gateways we can refer as artificial Internet borders.

It is always important to verify how secure such gateways are. According to the information we have as of to date, most gateways are not very secure mainly because of the complexities involved when implementing the Internet security measures. By the way, the so called Internet borders are significantly different from the other types of

borders mentioned earlier on. Internet borders are not totally controlled by the governments or government agents. The majority of these borders are operated by the private companies. Each LISPs implements its own Information Communication and Technologies (ICT) policies, and this makes it very difficult to synchronize the task of ensuring Internet security. Inevitably there is need for a unified way of addressing ICT securities issues.

What are the dangers of not securing our gateways?

The dangers of not securing the gateways can be articulated from the economical, political, social and cultural points of view. We can cite many examples that support this conceptual view. For example, from a cultural context, minor children are may be exposed to websites which shows pornographic materials if a country does not have control over the Internet data sources. Nowadays our youth tend to shun away from our African culture in favour of Western cultures because they are almost always exposed to only the Western social values through TVs and the Internet. We need to advocate development of local contents.

Money laundering is one good example from the economic point of view in which it plays a big role. We often hear of many criminal activities in which fraudulent Internet users would have siphoned money from the banking system using

sophisticated ICT technology. Technology is making it even harder for our traditional policing services to trace some of the sophisticated criminals.

The current trends towards the use of digital cash and the prevalence of high levels of poverty amongst societies lures more and more people into such forms of criminal activities. Even though computer logs or trails can be used to trace Internet fraud, unfortunate criminals are often always technologically advanced and this makes it very difficult to control them. Beside money laundering, it is easier for people to impersonate others over the Internet and in such cases they rip off intended beneficiaries of certain target programs.

From the political side, people may run websites which are either anti-government or they may expose some of the government's confidential information. As a result, it becomes easier to tarnish and destroy a government's reputation both locally and international. There are many websites which just run smear campaigns against some individuals.

What is the way forward?

Firstly it is important that every Internet user uses it responsibly. Many computer security problems for each organization often originate from within the organization itself rather than from external sources. If each organization's members use

the Internet in a responsible manner, then they often do not endanger the organization's data. For instance, if you are working for a company or organization don't give away your passwords or any other vital information. We also recommend that people should not download unimportant materials as that often consume a company's bandwidth yet such activities have no benefit to the company or organisation. It is always important for Internet users to understand the basics of how to secure the information on computers. People are encouraged not to respond to scam, hoax and junk/spam emails. Even, people should not leave their personal details on website whose authenticity they are not sure of. There are many websites which are just setup for malicious purposes only should not leave their personal details on website whose authenticity they are not sure of. There are many websites which are just setup for malicious purposes only. For example, there are whose purpose is to get certificates from graduates so that they can make fake certificates out of them.

Another example is phishing. Every Internet user must be very watchful. We even recommend that people should put their digital signatures or watermarks on all documents they post through the Internet. Even when chatting on discussion forums such as wikis and blog, people must behave responsibly. Don't run smear campaigns against your fellow citizens. When on the Internet, people often think that



Computer use at internet cafe.

they anonymous or invisible and they often disregard the government laws or the need to respect other people. I am not sure whether Tanzania has enacted some cyber laws. If not, this is a challenge that our law makers cannot avoid. But even if such laws do not exist, let us all fear God and make our country a comfortable place for all who live in it. If we fear God we will not compromise other people's security and their means of livelihood. "The fear of God is the beginning of all wisdom".

Throughout centuries and decades people have been developing smart technologies aimed at securing themselves. For instance some societies now use closed circuit television (CCTV) and other types of intruders' detection systems, digitized national IDs that have smart cards embedded in them, using biometrics fingerprinting and some erect electric fences as a means of securing themselves. Despite the adaptation of these security measures people are still not safe. Maybe it is high time that we only encourage people to promote their ethical values rather than having them always jingling around with technology. For instance, it is neither ethical nor professional to engage in activities such as Internet hacking, cracking, or intruding into other people's affairs. Such actions greatly compromise the benefits that Internet is intended to bring into our Internet communities. Censoring Internet is not easy and hence we advocate that the interested parties must mutually and symbiotically negotiate and agree on the mechanisms filtering websites.

Current trends in Tanzania

Tanzania recently witnessed the launching of an undersea fibre optic cable, SEACOM, in Dar by the President, H.E. J.M. Kikwete, and the Minister of Communication, Science and Technology, and former SUA DVC (Academic), Prof. P. Msolla. This cable opened up new avenues for the country to position itself globally, but these new opportunities are inherently linked to need for further securing our Internet borders. SEACOM links South Africa, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya to

India and Europe at greater speed at lower costs. This makes easy to have a single Internet gateway through which all LISPs can be connected. The single Internet gateway can also be used as National Internet eXchange Point (NIXP). This will make it easy to control, monitor and optimize the security of the Internet. By doing so we shall minimize the security threats from malicious hackers, data miners and eavesdroppers, to mention but a few.

This will be possible if all VSAT connections were to be abandoned and everyone start using the undersea fibre optic cable. How exactly, will the envisaged centralized control of the Internet going to be effected? It will be done in a similar manner as to the way the national electric grid has been implemented. With national electric grid, all customers are connected to a power generating system via electric power substations situated in different regions, districts, towns and villages. A similar scenario can be applied to all Internet connections that connect to the undersea cable. Currently the Tanzanian government is busy developing the backbone infrastructure which will enable all districts and regions in Tanzania to connect to the undersea cable. Once implemented, the abovementioned infrastructure will help enhance the distribution of the Internet from NIXP to many organizations; and including to Internet cafes, community centres and telecentres as well as to private individuals in the comfort of their homes. What a wonderful country Tanzania will be? Obviously such a development will help the country to bridge the digital divide.

Is this all we need as a country?

By using a single Internet gateway instead of multiple Internet gateways, it becomes easy for the country to secure our Internet borders. This may in turn enable our government to implement mechanisms of censoring Internet activities. However, it is still debatable whether restrict censoring of the Internet will be the best route to take. It is good to give our people their freedom of express but let us remember that freedom without

responsibility is fallacy (i.e. if people do not respect a shared moral code of living). The recent economic crisis taught all of us to invert new ways of doing business. Those new ways are not only aimed reaping big profits but also to prioritize helping the under privilege people through social partnerships. Our Internet borders' regulatory protocols accordingly filter information based on the needs of and how such information will be exploited our citizens.

The government will not allow websites that can endanger its national security. Besides enabling the government to control the Internet traffic, centralized connections may help to lower cost of Internet connection since LISPs will be able to bargain and buy bulk Internet bandwidth and resultantly also sell it inexpensively. Thus it is likely that Internet coverage and usage will increase. This in turn will help the citizens to use effectively the e-government. With e-government there will be no need of frequently going to government offices in order to pay bills and this will also reduce corruption. Corruption is a festering thorn against which many citizens are always crying about to the government. Furthermore, once abundant bandwidth is made available to its citizens, a country is posed to fully exploit the potential benefits of the second generation of web development technologies, i.e. Web 2.0. High bandwidths facilitate easy file sharing, high rates of video streaming, establishment of remote social and peer networking groupings, creation of blogging and wikis sites, and enables the provision of high definition online TVs.

Just like we mentioned before, technological innovations come with their own challenges. In order for the technology to be sustainable, we must be able to contain each challenge, and the question we should ask ourselves is whether we can do that. Upon considering all the facts that were discussed here, the obvious answer to this question is "Yes we can!"

Presumably the next generation of

people will be a cashless and a paperless society who will completely depend on the digital machines, the computers. Some countries are already experiencing facets of this coming era, but for Tanzania the coming of the undersea fibre optic cable is the hope we have for reaching the "promised land". In the near future, we dream of implementing fully operational e-learning systems which are borderless in nature as people will be able to attend classes/lectures hosted in a specific country from anywhere in the world. Electronic governments (e-government), electronic commerce (e-commerce), mobile learning (m-learning), electronic voting (e-voting), e-agriculture and many other forms of online transactions, services and interactions are fast taking place in our everyday life. In short our society will soon become an electronic society, i.e. an e-everything, for as long as we are prepared to land on the dreamland. I guess each one of us is ready for such an occasion.

There are still many challenges we should face on our way to the dreamland. For instance, how can we control sensitive information, especially the information that deals with issues of national security such as the defense at state house and strategic location of the army barracks, since such information can easily be acquired by third parties using satellite imaging as can be demonstrated they have started launching cyberattacks using weapons of mass disruption, e.g. by implementing the denial of service and mail bomb attacks among many others. The digital era promises to bring many challenges to our law enforcement agents. Are we always going to be able to control the disruption of our national grid of human-computer in case of havoc? Otherwise without having mechanism to control, monitor and secure our cyber communications we shall be endangered politically, economically, socially and culturally.

Conclusion

The weakness of the approach of using a single gateway can be compared to the proverbial saying that ar-



ticulates the dangers of putting all the eggs in one basket. Such an approach might lead us into other problems especially if we experience a system failure at the centralized gateway. So it seems we are looping around the loop of flip-flops. In this article, the loop of flip-flops is defined as the tendency of providing a solution that in turn leads to another problem, but the strength of our proposed solution is based on the need to ensure national security against in the wake of a surge in ICT services.

While explaining our everyday challenges, Donald Rumsfeld proffered the following puzzle:

"There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know."

We all hope that someone will, in some days to come, come up with a diversified solution to some of the problems we are currently facing. It is our hope that the road to the dreamland does not just end in the dream, but that some people will make it a reality. Sky is the limit for all those put enough effort to explore ICT.

{Courtesy: Dr. A. Machanja and eThinkTank-Tanzania}

[This articles has been Proposed as Chapter for the coming book titled "**Cultural identity and New Communication Technologies: Political, Ethnic and Ideological Implications**" to be published by IGI Global (www.igi-global.com) in 2011]

TANZANIA'S POVERTY: THE NEED FOR A QUALITY EDUCATION TO THE POOR

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One of Tanzania's major problems after about half a century of political independence is poverty which is more entrenched in the rural areas. The need to fight poverty was given much weight by our founding father the late Julius Kabarage Nyerere who named it along with illiteracy and illness as the three major enemies to the young nation. The late Nyerere initiated some policies which targeted elimination of these three vices and among them was free education to all. The programme benefited many individuals who later came to hold high offices then and some to the current times.

However, contrary to Nyerere's philosophy, that had aimed at educating some bright Tanzanians for a honorable purpose of lifting the masses from the above vices the very same have become selfish and are only interested in serving their own needs and those of a few rich individuals at the expense of the masses. Evidence to the above is manifested in the various policies set by the policy makers and some of the laws passed by our political elite of whom a substantial proportion is highly educated, for example the use of very expensive vehicles which cost 100m/- to 230m/-, by Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, regional commissioners, municipal directors, and administrative officers are driving luxurious vehicles which the Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda said was contrary to Tanzania's level of poverty in comparison to a country like India where such officials use ordinary cars (DAILY NEWS Reporter, 28th September 2009).

Use of cheaper cars could have according to him enabled the surplus money to be used in other sectors of the economy for the benefit of many. Another example is Tanzania's purchase of the very

controversial radar from BAE systems of the United Kingdom in 2002 something that Clare Short a Secretary of International Development in Tony Blair's government opposed bitterly unfortunately, the people entrusted with our well-being most of whom were highly educated did not share her concerns leading to the loss of money we incurred as a kickback to the people who pushed for the deal some of whom have long run away from our beloved country leaving the masses of the poor in deep poverty.

Many other things are happening in Tanzania which is a total contrast to the vision of the founders of our nation. Take for example the education sector; much is happening that leaves the majority of poor people with no choice but relatively poorly equipped schools whereby their children cannot achieve adequately to join high schools and higher learning institutions. All this started when the education sector was liberalized allowing for more private schools and "the so called academies" which charge exorbitant fees that to some rural farmers and some in the 'inner cities and towns' could be income for ten or more years.

Most if not all of the 'middle class' or those individuals with good incomes take their children to the 'academies' and their likes, these eventually deprives the ordinary schools with a much needed voice for quality monitoring hence their underperformance. Of course one may argue that their poor performance is due to under funding by the government, which is partly true, nevertheless we should remember that if enough noise is actively being made, perhaps the situation could be different. A detailed analysis of the future of the poor's children in higher education in Tanzania is shocking, based on the above it means a majority may not score the high grades required for loan consideration by the loan board (HLSB), consequently, they will fail to attain their dreams hence remain in

poverty. This will then lead into further segmentation of the 'haves' and 'haves not's' based on the fact that academic qualifications play a great role in securing employment which most people rely on despite the current call for individual to be 'more entrepreneurial'. Nevertheless, we should remember that even entrepreneurs' need an enabling environment with regards to easy access to credit, easy business start up and a fair taxation system that puts reality of the home situation into consideration rather than just playing into the needs of market liberalization as called upon by the developed world and institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Furthermore, one needs to know that not all can be entrepreneurs, and even if this was the case availability of credit to the very poor who lack the desired collaterals would be a night mare anyway.

Education has always and will always continue to be important in the people's livelihoods as the Swahili saying goes "elimu ni ufunguo wa maisha" let's all strive to ensure that the next generation regardless of their colour, religion or creed get a decent education that will enable them tackle the other two vices of poverty and illness as intended at our independence day about half a century ago.

By providing quality education to all one may wonder how fast Tanzania can start climbing the wealth ladder thereby graduating from being at the bottom end (177) of the world's poorest countries and perhaps be somewhere in the middle (50-80). It's my hope that whether one benefited from the earlier human investment by the first and second phase governments or they have somehow shared the cost of the education let's remember that being surrounded by helpless ignorant individuals is not the best way forward for our nation. All nations that have made strides forward have invested immensely in the human capital. Failure by the educated elite to help fight poverty is not only detrimental to the poor but to the elite themselves as well, as

it means a continuation of leaving in self imposed prisons with high walls and grilled windows to try and keep the victims of poverty away from sharing your spoils.

To sum up my short narrative, guys if we're serious that we want to reduce poverty in Tanzania let us as the torch bearer do the following:

1. Provide an enabling environment to our people so that they may attain their maximum potentials.

2. Let's participate actively in the making of socially just policies rather than just taking on board whatever that comes from the Breton Woods Institutions and the Donor community without digesting and adjusting them in accordance to the situation on the ground. We should be aware that

not all the policies the propose work perfectly and that where our intellectual capability needs to be expressed.

3. While living today let's remember there is tomorrow. Let's also bear in mind that those of whom we now see as uneducated and poor may turn against us tomorrow and demand a share or take all that we have selfishly gathered today. We should remember that many wars all over the worlds are either due to ideological differences or in relation control over limited resources.

All of us are aware of the events around the world when people are determined they don't need education or ammunition to remove those in power. They only need to demonstrate in thousands of numbers and a time comes when those in power can no longer withstand thus giving in to the popular demand. They

may further demand that we the educated of Today leave office as we've been unable to deliver.

Given the fact that this volume of SUACONE is the last before Tanzania's next general elections, let those alumni aspiring to be members of parliament for the first time or as incumbents take the above on board. As SUA alumni we and other from other Tanzanian institutions of higher learning need to remember the importance of a good quality education to the poor as the best means of getting them out of their poverty. Therefore lets all endeavour at ensuring quality education is provided to the majority of Tanzanians whose voice is at times too weak to be heard by the political elite.

"Let's stand up and work for the common good of all Tanzanians. Its only through this we can reduce poverty".

BIOFUELS AND NEO-COLONIALISM

By

Seif Madoffe, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Salim Maliondo, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Faustin Maganga, University of Dar es Salaam, Elifuraha Mtalo, Ardh University, Fred Midtgaard, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) and Ian Bryceson, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB)

We are currently witnessing a new and massive land-grabbing scramble in Africa, unprecedented since the fall of colonialism. The "justification" for this land-grabbing is supposedly that global climate change is threatening the entire world and that therefore huge tracts of land are required for the planting of biological crops which produce "biofuels" which should replace "fossil fuels" so as not to add net carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

But this ignores the underlying fact that the vast majority of carbon dioxide is being produced by rich countries in the North who do not want to reduce their excessive fuel consumption and wastage levels. It is postulated by the proponents of "biofuels" that enormous areas of unused (or under-used) land supposedly exist in Africa, which can be bought (cheaply) by commercial enterprises from the rich countries in the North. The logic is that rich countries can thus "buy" their way out of a situation wherein they would otherwise have to drastically reduce their carbon dioxide production if indeed they really are serious about the threats posed by such emissions.

We shall explain why we consider these neo-colonial proposals for biofuels to be a new form of neo-colonialism -- "climate colonialism".

Several questions arise - are there really enormous areas of unused land? No, this is a myth. Should the re-incorporation of carbon into plant material happen where the



Prof Fred Midtgaard

carbon was emitted originally, or could it be "exported" from one country to another? This raises problems in the context of unequal power relations and unfair commercial deals. Should one make "renewable" carbon in places where it has serious negative impacts on poor people and tropical forests that will be cut down to create space for "carbon fields" in monoculture plantations? Furthermore, should this be done by taking over large tracts of agricultural land in poor countries, using huge quantities of water and polluting the soil, the rivers and coastal ecosystems - for example, giant plantation proj-

ects owned by European or American corporations, subsidised by "development assistance" funds?

This scenario requires urgent consideration because European companies - some with foreign aid money support - are rapidly establishing enormous carbon monoculture fields in tropical countries! In Tanzania alone, there are ambitious proposals put forward by more than twenty European companies to establish several sugar, *Jatropha* and palm-oil plantations in order to produce biofuels. We will elucidate this by examining one such sugar-ethanol example from coastal Tanzania.

In Tanzania, Saadani National Park is situated at the coast, and it serves as an important connection between the coastal environment of the Indian Ocean and inland areas. This National Park is an area with unique fauna and flora. Nearby, in the Zaraninge Forest reserve there is proposed a sugarcane plantation site between the two major rivers of the area, Wami and Ruvu. These rivers provide fresh water to large tracts of natural land and are situated close to the coast adjacent to coral reefs, mangroves and other biologically diverse marine environments. There are several villages inhabited by many thousands of farmers and pastoralists. An enormous 22,000 hectares of this area has been leased by a Swedish company, SEKAB, for the production of ethanol for Sweden, supposedly to make Sweden more "eco-friendly". SEKAB furthermore aims to expand to 400,000 hectares or more to include also areas in Rufiji.

What are the values found in the area that will be destroyed and what are the ecological and social consequences of this, both in Tanzania and in Europe?

SEKAB's project is one of several that are intended to be located near the coast so that ethanol or vegetable-oil may be easily exported by sea. The plantations are also placed where there is good availability of fresh water, and in places remote enough to make it "easier" to marginalise local villagers and move them out of their traditional areas at a low cost to the rich corporations (if indeed any compensation is paid at all).

When a corporation wants to undertake such a huge change in an area, as for instance converting it from tropical forest to sugarcane monoculture, an assessment needs to be done (called ESIA, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment) as well as a number of approvals from the government in the country in question to be sought. Such assessments are usually done by consultant agencies, which are often from the same country as the corporation proposing the project.

The ESIA report for SEKAB's proposed project has been prepared by the Swedish consultant company ORGUT. The report states that the projected plantation area is situated between the two major rivers, Wami and Ruvu, and that the plantation will extract water from Wami. "The Wami River is one of the major rivers draining the

Eastern Arc Mountains". The Eastern Arc Mountains are geologically old mountain ranges with unique flora and fauna with exceptionally many endemic species (species that are only found there). It is clear that the amount of water required by SEKAB from the Wami River to irrigate the 22,000 ha sugarcane farm will mean drying up and severe pollution of the Wami River. Most important, animals in the Saadani National Park depend on the river, as do mangroves and fishery resources which will suffer serious impacts due to water shortage and pollution from sugar-cane farming and ethanol processing. The routes used by the animals to approach the sea for salt licks will also be blocked. ORGUT's report states that: "There is incomplete information on the amount of water available in the Wami River". But the report does not mention the various serious scenarios for the National Park and forest reserve bordering the proposed plantation, the red listed animals there, or the coral reefs, mangroves and fisheries along the coast.

ORGUT's report is quite extraordinary in its description of flora and fauna in the area which will become a sugarcane plantation. In addition to the Saadani National Park, the Zaraninge Forest reserve, part of Eastern Africa Coastal forests which is one of the globally important biodiversity hot spots in East Africa, is located nearby and will be affected if the sugarcane plantation and biofuels factory are established. The area SEKAB wants to acquire consists of a number of forest types from woodlands with African ebony, *Acacia* and *Terminalia*, to mangrove forest on the coast and tall forest in the northern part with valuable tree species: "*Azalia quanzensis*, *Pterocarpus angolensis* and *Dalbergia melanoxylon* that are found in the northern part of the Razaba area are valuable timber species and products from these species have a very high market value. However, the species are also threatened by both local and international demand and the abundances of these species in Tanzania have declined dramatically". The report further states that many rare and endangered tree species occur in the area: "Such species include the endemic *Encephalartos hildebrandtii* (Cycad tree) and important timber trees such as *Dalbergia melanoxylon* (African ebony) and *Trichalysia* sp. which are threatened by unsustainable harvesting".

The value of the timber on the land which has to be cleared for sugarcane production is high. Even before a final decision has been taken by the Ministry on whether SEKAB will get a concession, timber is being cut. The sustainable Community Based Forest Management of the area, built up by the villagers, and which used to require a lot of fossil fuel to be produced, transported to Tanzania, to be used in Tanzania. Transport of biofuels to Europe also necessitates the burning of fossil fuel. Secondly, the whole process of producing biofuels involves emission of a lot of GHG. Before harvesting, sugarcane fields are burned to remove litter, leaves, debris, snakes, and rats. This produces not only a lot of CO₂, but also other more aggressive GHGs in great



amounts. The harvested canes are then pressed and the remaining fibres are burned, producing further GHG. After fermentation, the molasses will most likely be poured out in the Wami River causing a severe pollution problem. The whole process of producing biofuel ethanol this way will cause severe pollution by GHG. Estimates vary (depending on how refined the process might be), but per unit ethanol produced, they range between 17 to 840 times more GHG released into the atmosphere than the amount of GHG that is reduced. Production of biofuels in the way intended by the Swedish company will therefore cause Tanzania to be in a possible carbon debt and thus violate international agreements, such as the Kyoto agreement. Sweden, on the other hand, will be better off because the reduction will happen in Sweden while the increase happens in Tanzania! The actual estimates will depend upon how SEKAB actually practices its use of fuels - they will probably claim to use biofuels to a large extent, but there will still be excessive carbon emission in Tanzania, and "theory" and "practice" may not be the same especially when fossil fuel prices are relatively low, as they are now.

The sugarcane plantation will also be fertilised with enormous amounts of artificial fertiliser. Considerable quantities will leak out into the ocean and will influence life in the coral reefs. Poisonous pesticides will also be used which will subsequently seriously affect harmless and beneficial insects, birds, marine organisms, and also impair human health. We need to remind ourselves that this plantation is placed in the middle of a National Park and a Forest reserve and is near the seashore. Experts estimate that the amounts mentioned in the ORGUT report - 3,400 tonnes of di-ammonium phosphate and 5,100 tonnes of urea used on the start-up area of 17,000 ha, will influence the surrounding environment considerably. Soil acidification and atmospheric warming due to emitted nitrous oxide gas are serious

pollution impacts. As mentioned above, pre-harvest burning of sugarcane will add tons of carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide to the atmosphere. The pollution of the air during sugarcane harvesting in other countries and in similar settings is known to have caused an increase in respiratory health problems among the surrounding communities.

The potential impacts on fisheries along the coast, on the coral reefs and on the whole ecosystem in the adjacent National Park and other areas by an enormous sugarcane plantation with massive water consumption and leaking of fertiliser and poisonous pesticides have been poorly investigated. If a harbour or pipeline for transporting the ethanol to Sweden is built on the coral reef, it will also add to the negative environmental effects. Reduced fish resources in the polluted water will seriously affect the livelihoods of the fishing communities. Based on this information, and a lot more throughout ORGUT's report of 155 pages, what would be the conclusion of the Swedish consultant agent? Well, they state: "Although there are some limited negative environmental implications of the project, the project will have significant socio-economic and environmental benefits to the people surrounding the project, Bagamoyo District and the Nation". This illogical conclusion is a blatant apologist "green washing" attempt. SEKAB reportedly hopes to acquire 400,000 ha for sugar-cane plantations in Tanzania. The prospect of a Swedish corporation owning and controlling so much land for the benefit of rich Swedish investors, with serious deleterious environmental impacts and at the expense of poor rural people in Tanzania smacks strongly of neo-colonialism. When one considers that the total arable land in Tanzania is a mere 3 million hectares, SEKAB will have control of more than one tenth of the available land! If each of the twenty biofuel projects already scheduled get even half of the land allocated to SEKAB it is clear that the Tanzanian rural population will be condemned to eke out their livelihoods in the badlands of the country.

At a workshop organised by Haki Ardhi with Oxfam in Morogoro last year the director responsible for energy in Tanzania was asked by participants whether the Government had a policy on biofuels. He informed participants that there was no such policy and that his appearance at the workshop was part of efforts to get input towards the formulation of a Biofuels Task Force that would develop such a policy. Everyone present was shocked that the Government, through the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC, had already allocated massive tracts of land and apparently signed contracts for biofuel production without any policy support. This serious omission is bound to have significant and far-reaching adverse socio-economic impacts on , Tanzania, compounded by the environmental impacts identified above. Evidently the assignment of land delivery duties to the TIC without clear policy guidelines on such foreign investments has aggravated the problem.



A sugarcane plantation set into fire as part of the cane harvesting preparation in one of the plantations in the country



Sugarcane plantation as captured in Kilombero Tanzania

One may also wonder how the biofuels "bandwagon" fits in to the bigger picture exemplified by the Vision 2025, MKUKUTA/MKUZA and MKURABITA strategies for poverty eradication in Tanzania. When TIC and a foreign company have identified a particular area for biofuel production, an application for lease of land has then to be approved by the government. In the case of areas less than 100,000 ha, this may be done at the Ministry level. Larger areas would have to be approved by the President. However, companies may write a series of smaller contracts that add up to a larger total. But areas even very much smaller than 100,000 ha are still very huge indeed and we think it is very unwise to allow one company to control such a big area. It is currently unclear what has actually been approved at the Ministry level of the proposed contracts with foreign companies.

There is a set of draft guidelines for biofuels for Tanzania under development. Unfortunately, these guidelines mainly focus on biofuels as a substitute for fossil fuel in Tanzania - which is not what is happening! Foreign companies want to grow biofuels in Tanzania for export (for the reasons mentioned above). The development of these guidelines, and other biofuel frameworks, are supported by 20 million SEK (\$3 million) by the Swedish government through SIDA (the Swedish

Development Assistance Agency). Who are they assisting: the Tanzanian people or the Swedes? Not surprisingly, these guidelines focus on the possible positive side of liquid biofuels only.

The question is whether it is right for SIDA to support the development of donor-dependent parallel institutions to govern issues of biofuel policy in Tanzania. Shouldn't existing institutions be supported to strengthen their legitimate roles instead? Is this a sophisticated form of neo-colonialism couched in "innocent" donor platitudes?

"Eco-friendly" ethanol fuel for big 4WD Volvos and racy Saabs in Sweden that replaces Tanzanian coastal forests with Swedish-owned sugar plantations, that consumes huge quantities of scarce water, that pollutes soil and coral reefs, and that violates the traditional land-rights of poor people and threatens their food security - what is this if it is not a violation of human rights? Is this a new era of climate colonialism?

Postscript: During the last few days of February 2009, following the exposure of initial drafts of this article on the Swedish Radio website, interviews on Swedish Radio P1 with Ian Bryceson on 28th January 2009 about the SEKAB project, followed by several debates in various Swedish media, as well as exposure of the case in several media by several authors, there are indications that the financing base for SEKAB is weak and the company recently indicated in an article in The Sunday Citizen 010309 that they would cut down drastically in Tanzania.



Biofuel farming for car and other uses goes on expense of human food security

REASONING IN OUR EVERYDAY INTERACTION

By
Z.S.K. Mvena



Introduction

Most of us, if not all, take for granted that it is natural that everyone of us is supposed to use common sense in whatever s/he does. But over the years and especially in urban areas, I have come to realize that empirical evidence points to the contrary. From my daily encounters with people in different social settings, it seems that more people appear to be using less reasoning or common sense.

Consider the following scenarios. A government employee's salary is usually determined and published by the government through government circulars or "Waraka" in Kiswahili. The benefits that are accorded to the employee are also known to everyone in government. For that reason each one of us is conversant with what can be considered a normal economic status of our colleagues we work with. But when you come to learn that the colleague of yours owns a fleet of semi trailers, a tourist hotel at the beach and residential houses in all towns north of the now infamous TRL, then you ask yourself how come this colleague is now suddenly rich and you are fully aware of his dismal family background, and that he does not possess a goldmine. By simple reasoning you will come to the conclusion that the colleague of yours must have acquired this property in an unconventional way. As an employer of this individual you are duty bound to find out how this individual has managed to breakthrough so mysteriously.

The other even simpler scenario is when you notice that the town authorities have decided to allocate plots on swamps which are cardinal "vyanzo vya maji" when we are all pretty aware of the long lines of women and children waiting to get water from the near dry taps. Think of Morogoro town in that case. One may wonder, was there any reasoning behind this decision, both on the side of the trained land officers and the beneficiary of the plot? Yet, another scenario, there is an increasing tendency to locate "nyumba za ibada" along roads. Simple reasoning tells me that such locations are by necessity noisy and more likely to destruct the attention of worshippers.

Reasoning in history

Reasoning is one of the oldest forms of acquisition of knowledge. The first was imagination or mysticism where mankind was not able to scientifically explain natural phenomena such as earthquakes, volcanoes, or

ghastly winds. The "explanations" given for such unexpected events were on the basis of imagination. The explanations were very simplistic and often ascribed to God's wishes. No one, by then, laboured to find out why we had such unexpected events. A contemporary equivalent would be when one feels feverish and says, "sio bure, kuna mkono wa mtu" instead of going for Blood slide 'BS' test. This is imagination or mysticism and cannot be proven beyond reasonable doubt. With time, this form of knowledge was found to be inadequate in explaining natural phenomena. Mankind had to look for a better and more realistic mechanism of acquiring knowledge about the universe. Thereafter reasoning or the use of common sense often referred to as rationalism followed.

One of the classical examples of rationalism, the use of reason or common sense, was in relation to the shape of the earth. By simple reasoning, one school of thought was convinced that the earth must be flat because if it was round like a soccer ball, all things on it including humans would simply fall off. The other school of thought was convinced that the earth must be round because if it was flat like a table, one would simply fall off when you come to the edge of the earth. It was Christopher Columbus who was able to prove that the earth is round by sailing around the earth. This was a major milestone in the history of knowledge in the sense that reasoning was seen to have limitations too. One must go beyond reasoning by actually observing phenomena. This came to be known as empiricism.

The state of knowledge today

All three types of knowledge appear to coexist in the contemporary society. There is that part of society which is still strongly entrenched in mysticism. Examples here would be the albino predicament (one albino had this to say in one of our daily papers, "the coming election year 2010 is good news to politicians but bad news to albinos"), the massacres of innocent old women who lose life just because their eyes appear red, the refusal to move into a new office just because you happen to have seen a lizard in the same corner for three consecutive days, and other examples. But also there is a bit of reasoning in our everyday life. Anyone yawning frequently in a meeting is assumed to have a sleepless night the day before, or a "mwalimu" who appears abnormally harsh to pupils is assumed to have had a quarrel with the spouse earlier etc.

Most of us may not be aware that we are actually using common sense or reasoning. For many of us however, we are more aware of the third type of knowledge than we are of the other two types. We are the ones who believe in science. Scientism appears to have penetrated every facet of life and the society was fully aware of this facility as manifested in the kind of recognition

many of us given to "wataalam". That is why the society entrusted us in running the affairs of the country. What the expert said is the final word. If scientism continued to enjoy the support of the society, this could have been reflected in the system of rewards to those working in science. Evidence from the Tanzania reward system in government does not appear favor scientism. It is only recently that the government has revived the spirit of scientism through the greater support to students pursuing science subjects.

Trends in modern society

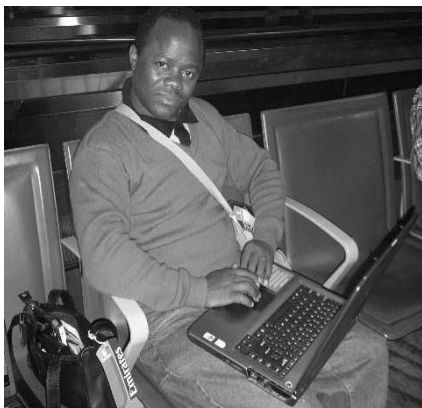
If there was a general trend of a transition from mysticism through rationalism and finally to scientism, I would not have bothered to prepare this article. What prompted me to write this article is the conspicuous trend of a return to mysticism and sometimes completely overshadowing rationalism. There are more incidences of people getting involved in mysticism than there are in rationalism. We have more and more people who are reluctant to reason but more apt to resort to witchcraft. We have more people now who cannot stop and think of the consequences of our very actions. The deliberate drying up of wetlands when we know these are the water sources, a resource that is likely to cause conflicts and even wars in the near future, does not show that reasoning or common sense was used. We are all aware of the very few people who are just a few meters away from the Forbes' list of the wealthiest people in the world and yet these people grew up with us

very dismal socialization of our youth, some of them growing up in the streets without parental care. What do we expect of these when they become our taxi or daladala drivers? These are the bus drivers who decide to overtake at sharp corners or on a hill when they cannot even see oncoming vehicles. What do you expect of people who will deliver a meal at your dinner table but they have no concept of what an elder is just because they grew without them. It was worries me to realize that even at a national level we have no plans to scientifically address these problems. We seem to think of political decrees even when we do not understand the nature of the problem. The use of the word "why" in what we observe as being unusual is indeed rare.

Conclusion

While scientism remains an important aspect of our life today, I strongly feel that reasoning and not mysticism ought to remain an important aspect of our contemporary life. The ability to reason is often a good measure of one's intelligence. In fact it is reasoning which is an important ingredient in the development of science. If society ignores reasoning then it also undermines the development of science too. If reasoning is not effectively used our IQs also go down. The system can only function well if everyone of us uses reasoning optimally, short of that we shall remain in the third world category an important destination for used products from the west and now the east.

LEARNING FROM ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERIENCE: INSPIRATIONS FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE



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This world is dominated by turmoil and discouragements. We always here of corporate scandals and ethical breaches (e.g. "ufisadi"). We also face such calamities as diseases, and natural disasters such as drought. It is the world where parenthood and family ties are more challenged than ever before. It is also a world where schools and youths are being bombarded with negativism and sensitive social dilemmas. Let's genuinely find ways to contain these. The following article charts some ways towards genuine solutions.

I chose to write this article simply because in researching how a number of entrepreneurial people had developed their businesses I was inspired by their stories of achievement through the turmoil of fears and hopes. This study is mainly done through personal narratives (life stories) or biographic interviews in a direct way that is rarely captured and

conveyed by our conventional academic research. In short, life stories of entrepreneurial people are formed of experiences, insights and approaches that illustrate their personal journeys towards achieving successful entrepreneurship. The contribution of this research span theory and practice, as it brings theory to life - the living theory of the entrepreneurship as well as inspiring other people to understand how the individual can learn to be entrepreneurial before they expire!

Since there is no enough space in this article to narrate some important experiences, insights and approaches that illustrate the journeys towards entrepreneurial career by graduates of higher learning institutions in Tanzania, here are some leading questions to you in relation to your

personal life:

o Are you in a state of giving up, feeling expired, demotivated and lacking the will to move on with your life, your career, or your relationships?

o Do you feel a sense of emptiness, boredom and dissatisfaction in your current occupation?

o Is your fondest dream losing its punch?

o Have you been trying hard and nothing seems to be happening?

o Are you starting a career or business that needs inspiration to thrive?

o Is your career/business in its sun-set years and you are in need of inspiration to reposition and re-launch it?

o Have you had a breakdown in life and you now feel that you could be doing more than you are currently doing?

o Do you feel that your potential is under-utilized and that your wings have not spread as far as they should?

The time is now! "BE INSPIRED before you expire" through expert motivation forums. The writer of this article is arranging to conduct a series of motivation forums in Tanzania in 2010.

INTERPRETERS: A TRADE IN SHORT SUPPLY IN TANZANIA

Dr. Peter Msoffe

For those of you who follow international football you will recall the 2004 Champions league final in Germany between (sorry Man U, Liverpool, Real Madrid, Chelsea, AC Milan, Arsenal etc fans - non of you made it) Porto FC of Portugal and AS Monaco from the tiny principality in France. Both teams arrived in the final with confidence having beaten the cream of European soccer at some point in their campaign; Man United (Porto) and Real Madrid (AS Monaco). The final pitted less known players in international football but most importantly it was a meeting between two very contrasting coaches. Didier Deschamps was a household name having played in several major European teams including Chelsea, Juventus, and Marseilles where he actually lifted the cup without forgetting his role as the French captain. In contrast, Jose Mario dos Santos Felix Mourinho was a new name in such coveted football world. Apart from claiming the scalp of Manchester United in the first knock-out stage of the competition and his famous air punching and touchline runs at Old Trafford, few cared who he was. But there he was, facing "Didi" the water carrier, a highly accomplished footballer in all senses. However, as we all witnessed, Mourinho triumphed and his unfancied Porto lifted the coveted Champions league cup with a 3-0 thumping of Monaco... Suddenly everybody was asking who this Jose Mourinho was. He never played any meaningful football in his life, so his name was scarce on soccer radars; all that was faintly remembered was his role as an interpreter for a famous English coach the late Sir Bobby Robson (RIP). Robson was having trouble communicating with his players at Sporting Lisbon and later Porto and FC Barcelona, he hired a young man unknown to international football matters Jose Mourinho. While Robson schemed,

instructed and coached, Mourinho listened and interpreted to the players. We all know what Mourinho has become "the special one" in the world of soccer because of other things - his power to interpret.

Many of us the learned "wasomi" of this nation are uncompromisingly well schooled, and like Deschamps have played or are playing for the best teams in the land. SUA, UDSM, MU, MUHAS, UDOM etc. Believe me as we all know getting into these teams is very difficult. You need to have a traceable trail, where you went to school, what you did in the school you went and what you brought out of the school usually weighed in some measures called GPAs, weighted averages, credits etc. However, I am tempted to believe that we are just players in a big league under the guidance of our coaches. But who are these coaches, are they former high caliber players like Didi who failed to interpret what he faced when he met the interpreter of football Jose Mourinho? When given a chance what kind of coaches do we make? I am also tempted to believe that if 10% of us were interpreters of the skills we acquired during our tedious processes of obtaining our Bachelors of Anything (BA) or Permanent head Damages (PhD), the country would be in a better state than it is now. The work of the interpreter is to ensure that words of a foreign language are not lost to those uneducated in that language. It is also the job of the interpreter to ensure that while translating from the foreign to the local language, the meaning is never lost, actually the interpreter can enrich the meaning because of his/her understanding of the local situation. A good interpreter is not necessarily the one. It is also the job of the interpreter to ensure that while translating from the foreign to the local language, the meaning is never lost, actually the interpreter can enrich the meaning because of his/her understanding of

the local situation. A good interpreter is not necessarily the one translating the story word-to-word, but the one able to transmit meaning that is applicable in the local situation. Depending on who you are talking to, the word "Great" as it is used to praise may translate in Kiswahili as "safi sana", "nzuri sana" or simply "bomba sana". Basically all these (and many more) are correct translation of the word, but said where inappropriate they don't mean much.

To most of our people that we need to serve and save, the language of our skills is foreign. They do not understand it and unless something is done, our words are wasted on them. They need an interpreter and who is more qualified than somebody who was trained and is a master in the foreign language while his/her roots are deeply planted in the local soil? They expect us who speak both languages, to tell them what is happening in that world which they do not understand. They expect us to break down the complex information we acquire in our endeavors to climb the ladder of academic recognition, rename it, repackage it and translate it into a recipe that is ready for the pot.

Genetic engineering and biotechnology may sound great, trendy and sophisticated; but for the man and woman in Mchinga, Kwamsisi and Chanjale all they need is food, shelter, water, the basic needs. We are the ones who can connect these complex matters and hence translate them to food, water and other necessities. We can even spare them these complex terms; embryo transfer, tissue culture, gene introgression as long as they see the translation into something they can use.

Our league is full of highly skilled professionals the like of Didier Deschamps, the missing link in my views is interpretational skills the kind Jose Mourinho brought to football. I have to end here because one of the peasants I am working with is calling me on his reliable mobile phone..... He wants me to interpret something on his sick local chickens. I wish I was a good interpreter; at least I am working that way. I invite the foresters, soil scientists, agronomists, agric-economics, veterinarians, agric-engineers, animal scientists, rural developers etc to strive to be interpreters.

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8. Kifaro, G.C.
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17. Mero, R.N
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21. Mkocho, M.N.E.
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26. Msanga, Y.N.
27. Mushi, T.O.
28. Mushikila, E.B.M.
29. Mwabukusi, H.T.
30. Mwakamisa, R.S.
31. Ndossi, Y.K.
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33. Ngobei, E.I.L.

34. Ng`wigulu, W.K.E.M.

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40. Tiisekwa, B.
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42. Urrio, E.J.

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6. Kijazi, A.S.
7. Kijoti, W.E.
8. Kimaryo, A.M.A.
9. Makundi, W.R.L.
10. Maphole, J.E.N
11. Massawe, D.E.
12. Matunda, B.G.V.
13. Mganga, Y.K.
14. Migunga, G.A.
15. Mkomwa, F.R.
16. Msanga, H.P.
17. Muchiri, F.M.M.
18. Mululuma, A.C.T.
19. Mwasaga, B.C.
20. Ndanshau, I.G.P.
21. Ngoyeji, J.S.
22. Phiri, C.
23. Zimba, S.C.

Reflection

"Because of the importance of agriculture in our development, one would expect that agriculture and the needs of the agricultural producers would be the beginning and the central reference point of all our economic planning. Instead, we have treated agriculture as if it was something peripheral, or just another activity in the country, to be treated at par with all the others, and used by the others without having any



special claim upon them.....We are neglecting Agriculture. If we are not, every ministry without exception, and every parastatal and every party meeting would be working on the direct and indirect needs of the agricultural producers.....We must now stop this neglect of agriculture.

We must now give it the central place in all our development planning. For, agriculture is indeed the foundation of all our progress"

Baba wa Taifa, the late Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere In one of his speeches in 1982