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EDITORIAL

Tourism or Terrorism? African Development and Renaissance

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This issue of ARAS presents current research from African Studies researchers and scholars in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa who have undertaken field work, interviews and original research to examine pertinent issues affecting Africa and the African Diaspora. Sam McLachlan and Tony Binns, both from the University of Otago, have extensively researched and examined the potential and impacts among local stakeholders of the tourism sector in Zambia, in their article "Tourism as a Means for Development in Livingstone, Zambia". Since the crash in copper prices in the 1980s alternative opportunities for an industry to expand and become sustainable have been explored, and tourism has been a central focus. McLachlan and Binns have filled a gap in the research and literature by examining the perspectives of the mainly informal craft industry workers, more formal employees of the tourism sector, and the operators of the guest houses in Livingstone, to identify how the tourism sector can work for everyone sustaining development in Zambia.

Mahad Warsame, Annette Mortensen and Jennifer Janif, provide a study that evaluates a school catch up programme for students from Somali backgrounds living in New Zealand. Through highlighting some of the issues of mismatched age and year placement alongside different previous schooling experiences and availability of parental support in a new educational system, the authors present a participatory action design that evaluated a programme intended to support Somali background students. A key element of this programme was the wider Somali community's support and parental engagement. Overall, they found that this programme assisted students in improving their marks in English, maths and science and suggests a promising educational model for culturally and linguistically diverse students.

Catherine Tsoka and Lillian Mwanri present their research that focuses on workplace and HIV-related stigma in Malawi. Through reviewing the literature on the socioeconomic impacts of HIV, they make a compelling case for further public health related interventions and educational initiatives to better address workplace stigma. They highlight the gendered aspect of workplace policies and compellingly suggest that workplace stigma can be a barrier to HIV prevention and highlight the need for further research into the Malawi specific context.

Juliana Juma and Alan Hauquitz both from James Cook University highlight that Kenya is not alone in its struggle to meet the Millenium Development Goals as we approach the 2015 deadline. Their article focusses on the gains made for maternal and child health, and offers acknowledgement of the impressive progress that has been made, and also technology-driven suggestions for continuing to work toward them.

Mohammed Sulemana from Macquarie University has presented here a fascinating account of the rise of terrorism in Africa in a case study of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. In his article *"Centenary of Failure? Boko Haram, Jihad and the Nigerian Reality"* he argues that "the insurgency is grievance-driven" and despite the military strength of the Nigerian state there remains a serious security threat due to the tactics of Boko Haram. Sulemana argues that it has been a long progression of failures in addressing the concerns ensuing from the devastation of colonialism, the corruption of postcolonialism, and the hopelessness secured for the future, rather than just the result of religious fanaticism. As Kaplan argues it is *The Coming Anarchy* (1994), Sulemana laments the "great nation that could have been".

Pascah Mungwini from the University of South Africa argues that a much-debated 'African renaissance' is possible only through a shift in Africa's self-story about the significance of knowledge creation on the continent. Pushing back against a continuing legacy of postcolonialism and a resistant 'myth of emptiness', African knowledges are advancing on the world stage. The rebirth for which it is poised draws not only on its resource-rich geographies, but also on its epistemological and discursive histories to find solutions for the future.

Thus, if an African renaissance can support 'tourism' as opposed to allowing 'terrorism' to appear in the gaps of development, and if through public health and technological interventions the MDGs and other benchmarks can be achieved, the challenges facing Africa and the growing African Diaspora in their re-settlement abroad may also be alleviated.