Africa on the Move...
A newsletter focusing on the positive changing environment taking place in Africa

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SPECIAL REPORT: Human Trafficking: The Rise and Rise of Modern Day Slavery in East Africa

LONG RAINS IN KENYA: Is it a blessing or a curse for disabled persons?

MIGRATION INTO CAMPUS: Challenges and opportunities that await new students...

read more of these stories and others inside...
Previously Held Events

- The conference, *Regional Responses to Child Trafficking: Known Issues, Emerging Trends*, was held on 26th April 2013 in Arusha, Tanzania.
- On 5th June 2013, the Geneva Graduate Institute held a seminar for East African Community (EAC) officers in Kigali, Rwanda.
- The *Consultative Forum on Refugee Protection*, organised by Amnesty International, was held on 24th June 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) released its 2013 World Migration Report on 18 September 2013 at the Southern Sun Hotel in 2013. The event was attended by high ranking government officials, diplomats and stakeholders from various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).
- From October 3-4 2013, governments congregated in New York for the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, which was the second one of its kind.
A Message from the Executive Director

The African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) has been making stable progress since its inception five years ago. Its mouthpiece, *Africa on the Move*, continues to keep readers abreast of developments in migration and development nexus in Africa and beyond. Alongside the newsletter is a vibrant social media in terms of the *Africa Migration Insider*, a blog that enables people with varying backgrounds to partake of lively discourse on equally varied aspects of migration. At long last, Africa is now receiving a balanced treatment of migration-de
devlopment interrelations as articulated by enthusiasts, experts, learners and those who themselves have ever migrated and/or have been affected by migration in one way or another.

Ongoing events at AMADPOC authenticate the importance of *Africa on the Move*. The centre has just completed a study on ‘Rural Out-Migration to Urban Uncertainties in Kenya’ whose findings will be highlighted in subsequent issues of the newsletter as well as other publications. It has extended the study to Ethiopia due for completion in February 2014; it has a fast-growing depository of migration material in its resource centre for its readers to access. AMADPOC’s researchers continue to make an impact at conferences where they present authoritative works among a galaxy of counterparts from different parts of Africa and other world regions. The centre has also been extending through partnerships with universities and research as well as training institutions in and outside of Africa; all of them prepared to collaborate in various facets of work at the centre relating to Africa and the region among other world regions.

Against this background, AMADPOC is appealing to funders and other well-wishers to support its cause and to help strengthen its role in Africa and beyond. The motto of AMADPOC, ‘together we are strong, apart we are weak,’ makes it buoyant in the world of migration that has numerous challenges and opportunities.

Prof. John O. Oucho,
Executive Director, African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC)

New Faces at AMADPOC

**Mr. Kevin Omondi Onyatta, Editor, *Africa on the Move* & Content Manager, the *Africa Migration Insider***

Mr. Kevin Omondi Onyatta is a trained journalist and a finalist from the University of Nairobi. He joined AMADPOC initially as a communication Intern having worked as a Sports Editor at Nairobi Digest, an online newspaper. Currently, Mr. Onyatta is in charge of communication with AMADPOC, heading the *Africa Migration Insider* blog and editor of *Africa on the Move*.

**Ms. Beryl Odiembo, Finance Officer***

Ms. Beryl Odiembo is the new finance officer at AMADPOC. She holds an undergraduate degree in Business Administration with a major in management from the University of Eastern African Baraton. Her roles will include assisting in budgeting and provision of financial support to the organisation under the supervision of the Executive Director.
Dear Readers

It is my pleasure to present you with the fifth and sixth editions of Africa on the Move, a newsletter of the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) that provides the latest news relating to the migration-development nexus in Africa and beyond. As is customary with previous issues, these editions aim to satisfy readers’ appetite for migration and development-related issues that affect Africans including those in the diaspora.

The issues provide readers with an understanding of the human trafficking menace that has continued to flourish within the East African region despite efforts to stem it. Our interview with Ms. Sofia Rajab, the Project Manager for the Counter Trafficking in Persons Project at the CRADLE-The Children’s Foundation, pinpoints the lapses in the counter-trafficking efforts and offers probable solutions.

Another story covered is the recent long rains in Kenya between March and May 2013, which was good news for farmers who hoped to register improved crop yield. However, the rains caused floods that displaced over 99,000 people who had to relocate or be relocated to safer areas. Africa on the Move focuses on the misery inflicted by the floods on disabled persons who had to move from flood-affected regions.

Furthermore, these issues usher in the African Watchtower, which is a section that recaps events that have put Africa in the spotlight as pertains to migration and development linkage. Here, you can get-up-to-date with the controversy surrounding the cessation of Rwandese refugee status in Africa, Kenya’s planned repatriation of Somali refugees as well as the Lampedusa boat tragedy. Of course, you can catch up with more of these stories on our blog, the Africa Migration Insider at www.amadpocinside.blogspot.com.

Other sections to look forward to include a book review of Prof. Aderanti Adepoju titled, ‘Migration in the Service of African Development: Essays in Honour of Prof. Aderanti Adepoju’; and a feature story on the intrigues and opportunities that await students who migrate to campus from far-flung places.

AOM provides a platform for people of different backgrounds to engage with readers through guest writing. Be sure to read Francis Koomson’s story on thoughts of the youth on migration and development. It is proof that the youth’s voices on migration-development nexus is getting louder. Mr. Koomson is the acting Executive Director for the Young People We Care (YWPC) organisation based in Accra, Ghana.

We welcome your comments on the newsletter including your views on what you would like to see covered in subsequent issues. Your response will be beneficial to AMADPOC and will be instrumental in covering important items for the next newsletter. The issues will best represent your knowledge and information for sharing with others on migration and development within and beyond Africa. Without further ado, I invite you to explore the inner depths of the fifth and sixth issue of AOM, which you will find to be a goldmine of information.

Kevin Omondi Onyatta,
Editor.
Human Trafficking in Africa: The Rise and Rise of Modern Day Slavery

On December 15, 2010, police in Kinango District in Kenya intercepted a lorry ferrying 110 illegal immigrants from Ethiopia to Tanzania. The police revealed that the immigrants were human trafficking victims en route to South Africa having been lured by promises of better jobs.

Two years later, various Kenyans returning home from the Middle East recounted their ordeals at the hands of their employers. They alleged to have been subjected to sexual abuse, torture and enslavement at their places of work.

Elsewhere, in April 2013, the Standard newspaper carried a story of children—aged as young as 12—who had become victims of human trafficking rings before finding a new haven at the Nairobi Remand Home.

These are not isolated cases of human trafficking; in fact, human trafficking has become a rampant vice in East Africa. The U.S. State Department’s Trafficking in Persons Report for 2012 put Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania on the spot for not doing enough to stop human trafficking. The report explains that the East African region has become a notorious transit, source and destination for human traffickers.

The countries were put on the list of ‘watch-list states,’ which means they risk sanctions for their negligence in combating child trafficking within the region. Sofia Rajab, the Project Manager-Counter Trafficking in Persons at the CRADLE-The Children’s Foundation believes that some government departments take a more proactive role in fighting the vice than others.

“I know, for example, of the children’s department in Kenya, which often identifies and refers cases of child trafficking. However, the government has also been lax in putting measures in place for the Kenya 2010 Counter Trafficking in Persons Law to take root,” she states.

She cites the fact that CRADLE had to sue the Kenyan government for it to enact the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act into law as evidence of the latter’s laxity towards human trafficking. As a result of the lawsuit, the act was gazetted in October 2010, two years after it had been passed by the National Assembly.

The act tasks the government with various obligations to prevent human trafficking. The obligations include conducting public information campaigns against trafficking in persons and formulating a comprehensive and integrated program aimed at preventing and suppressing human trafficking. The government is also supposed to formulate mechanisms to screen people leaving or entering Kenya to determine whether they are traffickers or victims of trafficking.

Under the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act, any person convicted of human trafficking faces a 30-year jail term or a Ksh. 30 million fine. In Tanzania, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act sets a maximum 10-year jail term for traffickers or a fine of Tsh. 100

Human trafficking continues to be a booming business despite criminalisation (Image Credit: www.politicoafrica.wordpress.com)
million (\$62,200) or both. Judging from the report by the U.S. State Department, these harsh penalties have not deterred traffickers from furthering their activities in the region.

The 2012 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reveals that two-thirds of trafficking victims in Africa were children. Close to half of the victims on the continent encountered forced labour while 36 percent were sexually exploited. According to the report, 14 percent of the victims of trafficking ended up as child soldiers, used in rituals or for other purposes.

The report states that the Middle East is a notorious destination for people who have been trafficked from East Asia, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. It acknowledges that East Africans constitute a substantial portion of victims in the Middle East. The U.S. State Department’s report corroborates this statement by revealing that Middle East countries have become popular destinations for human trafficking in East Africa.

It identifies security firms and licensed recruitment agencies in Kampala as conduits for human traffickers who knowingly recruit Ugandans to work in the Middle East as drivers and security guards. Some of those who migrate to the region in search of greener pastures later complain of the slavery that characterises their stay.

In 2012, the Kenyan media was awash with heart-rending stories of Kenyans who migrated to Saudi Arabia only to return with physical, mental and emotional scars. Accusing fingers were pointed at the recruitment agencies, which had recruited these Kenyans with promises of good jobs with attractive pay.

Ms. Rajab believes that such rogue recruitment agencies are basically traffickers. “Their recruitment activities are their modus operandi. They knowingly recruit girls for jobs that don’t exist. These girls’ documents are confiscated and this demobilises the victim, which makes these agencies criminally responsible,” she explains.

In response to the increasing allegations of mistreatment of Kenyans in the Middle East, the Kenyan foreign ministry froze the recruitment of its nationals to work in Saudi Arabia. Ms. Rajab, however, disapproves of this reactionary way of dealing with trafficking as it infringes on international law.

“The government should converse itself with trafficking, migration and migrant rights. You cannot say no to migration or prevent people from pursuing employment in other countries,” Rajab states.

She urges governments to develop a standard procedure for all embassies abroad on how to deal with trafficking victims who come to them for assistance. In addition, she believes that the regulation of recruitment agencies is important.

“There should be an adequate legal framework that allows for monitoring mechanisms to watch over the recruitment agencies. A framework for protection of Kenyans working abroad is also needed such that embassies know what Kenyans do in their respective countries and the details of their employers,” she states.

It might seem that the words of Frederick Douglas, a former slave and abolitionist leader, have come true through human trafficking, which is modern day slavery. He stated that, “They would not call it slavery, but some other name. Slavery has been fruitful in giving herself names ... and it will call itself by yet another name; and you and I and all of us had better wait and see what new form this old monster will assume, in what new skin this old snake will come forth.”

It would require monumental efforts of everyone—just like the abolitionists—to extinguish this slavery from the face of the earth.
In its latest weather review, the Kenya Meteorological Department reveals that most parts of Kenya received enhanced rainfall between March and May this year. These areas include the North Western region, North East, North Coast, some parts of Southeastern lowlands and the Rift Valley. The positive impacts of these long rains were witnessed in Kitale, Eldoret, Kericho and Kisii, where residents experienced good crop performance. Water levels of the Sondu Miriu and Turkwel hydroelectric power generating dams also increased during this period.

Sadly, the long rains were also a nightmare to Kenyans in areas like Tana, Nzoia, Nyando and the coastal strip. Instead of blessings in the form of improved crop yields, the rains brought curses in the name of floods and landslides. As at May 2 2013, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) reported that 74 people had lost their lives while over 99,000 people were displaced.

Women and children were the most affected by this form of environmental migration resulting from the floods. One group, however, which was often overlooked by the mainstream media were persons with disabilities. This group has had to grapple with various challenges in the Kenyan society, such as, neglect, discrimination, abuse from the able-bodied and inequality. The onset of the floods only seemed to worsen living conditions for disabled persons living in the flood prone regions.

Nancy Nteere, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at the Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY), believes that disabled persons face myriad challenges during natural disasters like floods, drought and fire. “Relocation to another area is usually a difficult process for persons with disabilities. They have to rehabilitate themselves to their new environment, which is never easy for such people,” she states.

Unfortunately, acclimatising to new surroundings is not the only challenge that comes with migrating to a safer ground. Once settled in a new place, persons...
with disabilities must think of how to reconstruct their lives, which usually requires financial resources.

Ms. Nteere agrees that money is often the biggest impediment for disabled persons trying to reconstruct their lives in a new area. “Some of these people have taken loans to fund their farming projects or start business. When these projects are affected by floods or fires, it takes them back to level zero. Apart from thinking of how to find money to rebuild their lives, they also have to fret over repaying these loans,” Ms. Nteere explains.

She decries the fact that Kenyan financial institutions do not have financial schemes that cater for disabled persons. “We see banks coming up with financial schemes targeting the youth and women but sadly, we are yet to see one tailored for persons with disabilities. It makes it even harder to access financial services,” Ms. Nteere states.

ANDY has tried to help disabled persons who have been displaced by natural disasters by connecting them with organisations that can assist them rearrange their lives. According to Ms. Nteere, examples of these organisations include Kibera Youth Business Trust, Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK), Equity Foundation and Jamii Bora. ANDY carries out several initiatives to improve the welfare of PWDs, such as, economic empowerment programmes, capacity development, sports and recreation, health and fitness as well as human rights programmes.

Such initiatives have come with various challenges and Ms. Nteere admits that certain people with disabilities have been the source of these tribulations. “Some of them do not want our assistance while others think that they deserve the finances outright. They do not think of the finances as a loan rather as something that belongs to them. Sometimes we experience financial constraints” she explains.

The 2008 Kenya National Survey for Persons with Disabilities revealed that 15% of PWDs were likely to be affected by the environmental factors on a daily basis. Sixty-five percent of these Kenyans regard the environment as a problem in their lives.

The Kenyan government has constantly come under scrutiny for its less-than-impressive response to natural di-
Disasters. The country usually oscillates between floods and drought every year with the same repercussions being witnessed—deaths and movement of people from one area to another. According to an article by the Integrated Regional Information Networks, the government’s disaster response is wanting because of the absence of a disaster management system. Katy Migiro, a journalist from the Thomas Reuters Foundation, blames the lack of a political goodwill for the failure to set up the National Disaster Management Authority.

With regards to disabled persons and floods, Ms. Nteere admits that the government should do more. “There is need to conduct a census of disabled persons living in flood prone regions. Areas chiefs could be helpful in this exercise,” she advises.

Such a census, according to her, would provide the authorities with the number of disabled persons to make special arrangements for their evacuation during natural disasters. “It is sad that we do not have statistics for persons with disabilities in Kenya. At least, with the Disability Act, persons with disabilities have been able to enjoy various benefits and privileges,” she states.

The perennial floods in Kenya come attached with problems like outbreak of diseases, loss of property, loss of lives and damages to dwellings. The last problem brings another headache in the form of resettling in a safer place. For disabled persons, this challenge is usually magnified owing to their physical or mental challenges. The long rains have subsided and ushered in relief for people in flood-affected regions. However, unless the government sets up a National Disaster Management Authority as promised by Deputy President William Ruto, such a relief is only temporary.
The African Watchtower

Trailing sights on the latest migration news on the continent

The African Watchtower is a recap of the top migration stories that occurred around the African continent and among its diaspora. You can get the full details of the story at www.amadpocinsider.blogspot.

Rwanda’s Cessation Clause Storm

Rwanda was in the news in July after the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) invoked the cessation clause that effectively discontinued the refugee status of tens of thousands of Rwandese refugees around Africa. The move sparked widespread sentiments from the refugees with many of them criticising it because of fears of persecution by the Rwandese government. UNHCR and the Rwandese government, nevertheless, state that over 3 million citizens have returned home because of the peace that has prevailed in the country since the 1994 genocide. The Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia are the only African states to have invoked the clause so far as per UNHCR’s recommendation.

Repatriation Drama in Kenya

Meanwhile, in April, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Somalia compatriot Hassan Sheikh Mohamad devised a repatriation plan for more than 560,000 Somali refugees residing in Kenya. The plan, borne out of the fact that Somalia currently enjoys relative stability, faced resistance from many refugees who felt that the government was keen on repatriating them forcefully. Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary has assured them of an orderly and safe repatriation. However, her statement came as the Nairobi High Court blocked the government from applying force to repatriate them because it would infringe on their dignity. East or west, home is best; it seems for many of the refugees, Somalia may not yet be the ideal picture of a good home.

Kenya’s brain drain and illegal immigrants

A report by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) revealed that Kenya was losing her professionals to SADC states, such as, Namibia, South Africa and Botswana due to poor living standards.
Released in August, the report, titled *Migration and Human in the East and Southern Africa*, stated that this was a mammoth human resource loss for Kenya whereas it was a blessing for the emigrants who were grappling with unemployment back home.

In the same month, the country was buzzing with various sentiments after former ambassador to the United States Mr. Elkannah Odembo claimed that an estimated 200,000 Kenyans were in the U.S. illegally. However, his figures were contradicted by a senior demographer from the Pew Research Center—Mr. Jeffrey Passel—who estimated that there were 30,000 illegal Kenyan immigrants in the U.S.

**Uganda’s refugee debacle**

Across the border in Uganda, a humanitarian crisis was brewing as over 60,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) streamed into the western town of Bundibugyo. The refugees were fleeing heavy fighting in DRC between Ugandan rebel force, the Alliance Democratic Forces (ADF) and the DRC national force. Uganda, according to 2013 figures from UNHCR, is home to more than 190,000 refugees. The country was already grappling with the influx of refugees into Kisoro while fleeing fighting between government forces and the M23 rebel group.

**Nigeria and Ghana raise storm over UK security bond**

In late June, the United Kingdom’s plan to introduce security bonds for visitors from high risk countries drew a furore from lawmakers in Ghana and Nigeria. The two countries, whose nationals would be affected by the security bond, termed the £3,000 security bond figure as exorbitant and a plan to fleece eager travellers to the UK. However, Theresa May—UK’s Home Secretary—said the bond would discourage citizens from these countries form overstaying in the UK. Visitors from these countries, which the UK describes
as notorious for prolonging their stay, would have to deposit £3,000 upon entry into UK. They would be refunded the amount when they leave although they would forfeit it should they use public utilities in the UK.

**EAC States reprimanded by the U.S.**

The month of July saw EAC partner states caught in the cross hairs of the United States for their ineffective efforts to counter human trafficking in the region. With the exception of Uganda, the U.S. State Department placed Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi on its Tier 2 Watchlist, which puts them at risk of sanctions. The State Department report detailed the human trafficking activities that occur in each of the partner states.

**The Lampedusa Tragedy**

The month of October has brought with it unlimited grief the world over after over 300 illegal African immigrants lost their lives when their boat capsized in the Mediterranean Sea off the southern Italian island of Lampedusa. The vessel, overloaded with over 500 people, caught fire prompting the passengers to move to one side, which caused the boat to capsize. Luckily, 155 immigrants, most of them Eritreans, were rescued by fishermen who were at sea at the time of the tragedy. Lampedusa has been a common entry point for immigrants seeking to enter Europe.
Between October 8 and November 8 last year, some 100 young participants from various parts of the world met to share their views on migration-related issues. The event, organised by NGO-Young People We Care in partnership with UNICEF Voices of Youth, TakingItGlobal and UN Volunteers, provided them with a platform to discuss how migration has impacted them, their families and societies.

One of the key messages from the consultative meetings was that proper management of migration can bring developmental gains for countries of origin, destination and migrants. The young participants also emphasised the importance of promoting migrants’ social and cultural rights—regardless of their migration status—as an integral step in achieving human development. “Education in the higher level is the major factor that can increase the potential of a developing country that will enhance the human development,” stated a 35-year old Ethiopian participant.

Another key message was the significance of enhancing initiatives that promote perception and strengthen institutions to safeguard the rights of young migrants and promote the link between migration, (human) development while reducing xenophobia and discrimination.

They agreed that circulating labour could benefit countries of origin, destination and migrants if migra-
tion is well managed. For instance, destination countries receive economic benefits and address labour shortages in key industries, origin countries receive remittances for development, and migrants utilise various employment opportunities while exercising greater control over their wage use.

Participants, however, noted how migration of young migrant workers negatively affects countries of origin socially and economically. They pointed out problems, such as, loss of skilled talent and revenue that migrants would have contributed had they not migrated. Nevertheless, whether migration creates positive or negative outcomes partially depends on how it is managed and policies enacted by origin and destination countries. For example, labour migration policies of destination countries will negatively affect migrants and countries of origin because they do not facilitate the latter’s proper integration into the jobs market.

“A crystal clear policy on sending and receiving migrant workers is beneficial for both sending and receiving countries. One because on the part of the sending country, their workers are assured of their rights and privileges as workers abroad especially on salaries, days off, and vacation leave. Second, on the part of the receiving country, their obligation and liability is well-defined, and accountability on their part is upheld,” states a 25-year old Philippine male participant.

Participants highlighted the importance of recognising states’ shared responsibility to promote safe and legal international migration as well as combating irregular migration. Equally important is the need to enhance migrant integration, avoid discrimination and promote access to basic services, safeguard migrant rights and protect the most vulnerable, including children, adolescents, youth and girls. All were in agreement that such measures would enable circular migration to promote inclusive development.

One equivocal message of the conference was that international migration is a feature of contemporary economic, social and political life, driven by forces of globalization and demography. The world will continue to have people migrating thus; policy makers should factor migration into development planning strategies to enhance the positive benefits of migration while reducing the negative impacts. It involves addressing the root causes of migration, such as, youth unemployment or underemployment.

A Nigerian participant in his mid-30s argued for the removal of migration restrictions. “Migrants are usually fleeing from poverty, with the hope of living a better life as their destination is regarded “greener.” If they make it, it will be of economic beneficial (sic) to their families left behind. Migration cannot replace development strategies of developing countries,” he explains.

Participants bemoaned the fact that efforts to promote migrant rights within the context of migration and development faces several challenges. An example is the public’s continued negative perception of migration and migrants. Providing pre-departure information on migrant rights in origin countries and strengthening the capacity of institutions to promote migrant rights and access to justice in destination countries were some of the solutions proposed to protect migrants.

Furthermore, lack of quality and affordable education in countries of origin, poverty, conflicts and migrants’ ignorance about their rights impede efforts to make migration a choice instead of a necessity. Also affected are efforts to promote migration for development and protection of migrants. A 29-year old Brazilian male in attendance decried the challenges that immigrants face in countries of destination. “Another problem is that new immigrants, especially that in low education level, usually can’t speak fluently the local language, and because of that they
The youth proposed that governments should provide opportunities and incentives to facilitate return migration while reducing out-migration. Other proposals included strengthening international development cooperation between origin and destination countries, safeguarding social, cultural and political rights of migrants, creating awareness on safe migration in countries of origin and supporting initiatives that promote positive perceptions about migrants and migration.

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The writer is the Executive Director of Young People We Care (YPWC), a youth-led and youth-focused non-profit organization headquartered in Ghana with satellite offices in UK, Canada and USA. YPWC is passionate about sustainable development, realization of the MDGs and promotion of a culture of peace as well as universal human rights.

Upcoming Events:

- **Call For Papers:** AMADPOC hereby issues a call for paper for the upcoming issue of the African Migration Development Review for 2014. Interested authors should contact Prof. Eugene K. Campbell at eugensko@gmail.com.
- The **Universal Children’s Day** will be held on 20 November 2013. The day is dedicated to promoting the ideals and objectives of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The **International Day for Abolition of Slavery** will be marked on 2 December 2013. The day focuses on the eradication of all forms of slavery, such as, forced marriage, sexual exploitation, forced recruitment of children into armed conflicts and the worst forms of child labour.
- On 10 December 2013, the world will mark **Human Rights Day**, which celebrates human rights, highlights a specific issue and lobbies for the full enjoyment of all human rights. This year’s theme focuses on the rights of all persons including persons with disabilities, youth, women, minorities, indigenous people and the marginalized.
- 18 December 2013 will be dedicated to migrants worldwide through the **International Migrants Day**. This year, UN member states, NGOs and intergovernmental organizations are encouraged to disseminate information about the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all migrants. The day is also dedicated to sharing of experiences and formulating ways of ensuring the protection of migrants.
What do Mercy Keino, Dennis Omondi Adari, Sarah Aruwa and Susan Wanjiru Kihiu have in common? They are university students whose lives ended tragically. Their demise was undoubtedly a cruel end to their dreams of graduating from their respective universities and achieving their career aspirations. Ms. Kihiu is the latest university student to lose her life after her disfigured body was discovered in Mai Mahiu in July by members of the public. The first year student at the University of Nairobi had gone missing after attending a church service. A middle aged lady has already been arraigned in court on suspicion of murdering the student because of having a love affair with her husband.

University education is the highest level of education in Kenya and those who join them get to experience various benefits. Most importantly, it is a bridge for one to attain their career aspirations by graduating with a degree that is relevant to their desired job. Life in university is also an opportunity to meet people from other areas and develop new relationships. Indeed, some lifelong partnerships have been born on campus. University life comes attached with a new-found independence. Students choose whether to attend lessons or not, when to get home or what to wear—away from the prying eyes of their parents.

It brings together students from all corners of the country, such as, Garissa, Bondo, Baringo and Voi among others who migrate to various universities in search of greener educational pastures. University or campus life, however, is a double-edged sword that can devour new students who are unfamiliar with its twist and turns. A counsellor at a local university admits that students, especially, from the rural areas face many challenges when they arrive on campus. “Rural students are usually gullible and think that everyone who offers his/her help has good intentions. This could be attributable to less exposure,” the counsellor explains.

Furthermore, the counsellor admits that female students are more vulnerable than the male ones because, “for girls, it is worse; there is the risk of rape and being recruited unknowingly into prostitution rings. We have had stories of first-year students who have been duped by friends into staying in brothels in the name of sharing a house.”
These sentiments bring to mind the recent saga in Mombasa involving 11 Kenyan girls, some of whom were students, who were charged in court with engaging in illicit sex activities.

The Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) has been a source of funds for university students through the repayable loans it provides. The initial periods of the semester are usually like Christmas where students, especially those admitted through the Joint Application Board (JAB) system, use their HELB loans to indulge in various luxuries. The counsellor, who has worked extensively with numerous university students, disagrees stating that the money is never enough for students from rural areas. “The perception is that the HELB loan is sufficient enough to sustain someone over the course of a semester. Most of them are in for a rude shock when they discover that they have little money left after paying school fees and accommodation. With no one to help them in the city, some of them pack up their bags and return home.”

Kenyan universities have also been home to foreign students who hail from various African countries and even beyond. Loneliness, financial constraints, culture shock, language barrier and attitude problems are some of the challenges that hover around them. “Some of these foreign students find it hard to communicate effectively in English. There are others with attitude problems acquired from their home environments, which only earns them enemies among native students. Soon they start to miss their countries and feel lonely,” the counsellor explains.

According to an article Why Foreign Students Find Kenya Frustrating published on www.capitalfm.co.ke by Neiza Maria, the change in cultural settings causes culture shock to foreign students who find their stay in Kenya to be a frustrating one. The Mozambican female student, studying journalism at the United States International University (USIU), advises that a background research on Kenya would prepare foreign students for their stay in Kenya. She states: “It is important to research about the country’s main cities, foods and entertainment spots. You should also be open-minded and never be afraid of making mistakes and friends.”

Amidst the challenges that await students who migrate to campus from other towns, some students have managed to rise above these impediments and develop their lives and that of their families. The counsellor tells the story of a female student who came from a poor background but eventually managed to succeed in her studies. “She came to Nairobi with no idea of how to fund her studies. Her mother was sick and she just happened to come across an advert seeking students for a course. Thanks to her hard work, she was called to Texas in the U.S,” she explains. Focus, it seems, is the keyword for anyone who wants to excel in university. Some students have become Christian Union leaders or great peer educators.

The counsellor proposes that new students need to scrutinise the students’ handbook to learn how to cope with the challenges of university life. “Every university has a handbook, which enlightens students on opportunities that they can exploit to sharpen up their abilities. There are many student associations and extracurricular activities that can help them develop themselves,” the counsellor explains.

Furthermore, the counsellor advises students encountering challenges on campus to seek assistance from lecturers, chaplains, counsellors and student welfare bodies. She exalts the importance of attending orientation, which familiarises students with university life.

Migrating from one place to another is never a walk in the park for many people. Settling down to life on campus for students from other areas is no different. As advised by the counsellor, hard work and focus can steer students through the murky waters of campus life. The final product would be personal, familial and national development resulting from the migration to university to realise career aspirations.
**Book Review**


Prof. Aderanti Adepoju dived into migration scholarship in the early 1970s when it was perceived as a mere stepchild of demography. Fuelled by commitment to and focus on migration work, migration became a core component of development agenda—a shift from the previous focus on research, training and dialogue on migration as a narrow perspective on population dynamics.

*Migration in the Service of African Development: Essays in Honour of Prof. Aderanti Adepoju* is a befitting tribute to a man who has tirelessly inspired many Africans to pay attention to many aspects of migration, such as, population, labour and development. In over 500 pages, readers get to understand Prof. Adepoju’s contribution in migration scholarship, which took him to various places worldwide. Consisting of 15 chapters, the book boasts of a stellar cast comprising various contributing authors from diverse backgrounds—law, sociology, economics, geography and demography. However, all share something common in that their focus is on fields of internal and international migration.

Some of the migration-linked issues highlighted in the book focus on women, climate change and students. The book also devotes chapters to Nigeria, Kenya, Mali, Botswana and Uganda, which shed light on various aspects of internal migration. Other sections to look forward to in the book include African emigration to Mexico as well as migration between Cote d’Ivoire and Burkina Faso. It is a worthwhile and pleasurable read for those with an interest in the migration-development nexus. You can purchase the book from the African Migration and Policy Development Centre (AMADPOC) or forward your email inquiries to contact@amadpoc.org.

**About Prof. Aderanti Adepoju**

Prof. Aderanti Adepoju is a member of AMADPOC’s Advisory Board. He is the Chief Executive of the Human Resources Development Centre in Lagos, Nigeria and doubles up as the coordinator of the Network of the Migration Research on Africa (NOMRA). Previously, Prof. Adepoju was the Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration at the University of Lagos; a coordinator for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Population and Human Resources Development in Africa; a Regional Adviser on Labour and Population Policy at the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Prof. Aderanti has also worked for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as a Chief Technical Adviser and at the University of Swaziland. He is a member of various bodies, such as, the Population Association of Nigeria, the Hague Process on Refugee and Migration Policy and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP).

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