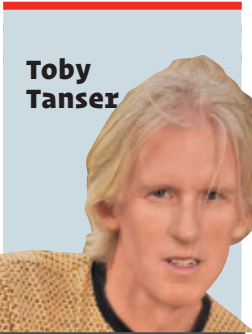


Cancer facility gift proof that sports can change lives



Toby Tanser

Sports has changed the world in many ways, and in Kenya our sports people have written history with performances that have stunned the world. Opening a newspaper reporting on athletics, it is rare to read about a major victory without seeing a Kenyan name. But there are other ways that sports are changing the

Kenyan landscape. In the Rift Valley, visitors flock to Iten, Eldoret or Kapsabet to watch the Kenyans run. Daily flights from Nairobi will see tourists arriving in droves hoping for a chance to photograph, talk, or train with the champions. There is another venue; a small New York City charity called Shoe4Africa uses sports to change the country. In Kenya, cancer has ravished the headlines as politicians and the public fall victim to the country's third largest killer.

In 2015, Shoe4Africa opened East and Central Africa's public children's hospital that, each day, treats more than 400 patients. When opened there was just a handful of cancer patients, but today, according to Dr Festus Njunga there are more than 56 cases. Kenyan sports heroes often visit the hospital.

World record holder Mary Keitany recently opened a basketball court, and in May Mr Sub 2, Eliud Kipchoge, an ambassador for the charity like Mary, opened an astro turf soccer field that is used to help rehabilitate the sick kids. He played a match with the cancer patients, brightening their day.

But it was a day of reminders, if the odds are correct, that 9/10 kids contracting cancers in East Africa will die. That is almost the whole football team of kids. So the Shoe4Africa foundation decided to step up for Kenya, they will fund the first children's cancer hospital in Sub-Saharan Africa, built in the field next to their general hospital.

Ground-breaking

It will be a 150-bed public hospital named after one of the charity's donor's late wife, The Shoe4Africa Juli Anne Perry Children's Cancer Hospital.

The charity's CEO Toby Tanser hopes to bring this gift to Kenya as early as 2020. "We are planning a sporting ground-breaking event not to be forgotten!" said Tanser. The TCS New York City marathon is celebrating their 50th anniversary next year. Kenyans have won more NYC marathons than any other nation.

Shoe4Africa will conduct a fund raiser with the NYC marathon and are hoping to get all athletic champions

Kipchoge opened an astro turf soccer field that is used to help rehabilitate sick kids

together to ground break, alongside the VIP's from the marathon's organisation to begin building the hospital in Eldoret, dubbed the City of Champions.

The chairman of the New York Marathon, George Hirsch, who is on the board of Shoe4Africa, is planning to attend the event having last come to Kenya in 2008 with the film star Anthony Edwards, the chairman of Shoe4Africa.

The impact will be tremendous, and immediate. "Get this done (100-beds) and we (the doctors) can immediately start saving at least 350-lives per year," said Dr Terry Vik, MD Professor, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, and the plan is to add 50-more beds, meaning more lives saved!

The idea to build a children's cancer hospital has been warmly welcomed and already international support is signing up to help, "I support the activities of Shoe4Africa to help realising such a public centre, which would be the first of its kind in Africa," said Prof Gertjan Kaspers, MD PhD Head, Dept of Pediatric Oncology & Hematology, Director of the Academy of the new Dutch Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology, a child cancer center in Europe. Support is also coming from the Samoei Ruto Foundation. Cancer is a terrible disease, but the future is looking brighter for the kids of Kenya, thanks to a running foundation.

- The writer is Shoe4Africa foundation CEO

Irene Nanayu



A number of years ago, former United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon identified terrorism as a "significant threat to peace and security, prosperity and people."

In other words, peace, security and prosperity can only thrive when terrorism has been defeated. While it is still a danger then it is hard for a society, any society, to truly improve.

So, it was strange to hear that a group of former top US State Department officials and humanitarian figures want the United States to block Kenya's bid to have the Al Shabaab militants blacklisted by United Nations as a terrorist group at the UN Security Council.

The 16 signees on the letters to the Trump administration, Cabinet members and leading members of Congress warned that the Kenyan

Peace, prosperity can't co-exist with terror

proposal could harm humanitarian efforts in Somalia.

Firstly, this is a bizarre statement to make by those who were principally involved in the war on terror. When the US is fighting a foe, like Al Qaeda or ISIS, these organisations are placed on the terrorist organisation blacklist.

It is clear that a threat is a threat, and this clear-headed purpose allowed the US and its allies to rid the Middle East of ISIS and severely deplete Al Qaeda's global ability to perpetrate terror attacks.

Secondly, as Secretary General Ban Ki-moon made it clear, the lives of unfortunate civilians can only improve with the absence of a terrorist organisation like Al Shabaab. While the Somali-based terrorists are still a threat, then the people will continue to suffer.

This is why Kenya's approach to have Al Shabaab designated as a terrorist organisation at the United Nations is so crucial. It is part of an overall effort by government and security forces to stem the threat of terror, not just from our cities and the border areas, but also from Somalia itself.

If the festering wound of Al Shabaab continues then Somalia

and its people continue to suffer, and this has a knock-on effect in Kenya.

The diplomatic offensive began recently at the UN, making the case that fighting Al Shabaab should be a global consensus issue because it has far-reaching aspects far beyond our region.

Unfortunately, the fact that the US Permanent Representative to the UN has already attempted to delay the Kenyan action is a worry, because it seems that they are buying into this false equation that stronger sanctions on Al Shabaab will hurt civilians.

Space to maneuverer

It is actually the other way around. The greatest human right is the right to life, and this is a right that Al Shabaab works day and night to extinguish.

Kenya is right to prioritise the potential loss of life in the long term, and should be using all military, diplomatic, legal and economic tools at his disposal.

This is part of the reason President Uhuru Kenyatta met with 18 Heads of State or their representatives at home and overseas in the

last month. True to Uhuru's warning, no single country can combat terrorism alone.

While Al Shabaab continues to exist and spread fear and terror it will inspire and give hope to other global terrorists, those who threaten many other parts of the globe. One increasingly understood element in the war against terrorism is the way groups from across the world share information, best practices, funds and arms.

By allowing Al Shabaab any space to maneuverer and not tightly nailing the lid on the coffin of its future, it will continue functioning, threatening and murdering.

The Kenyan government appears to understand what Ban Ki-moon and others have enunciated, that peace, security and prosperity can not exist alongside terrorism. They are polar opposites of each other, and when one exists the other can not.

The world would certainly be a safer and more prosperous place if more world players became more proactive against terrorism.

- The writer is a Strategic Marketing professional and comments on topical issues

NEW ORDER It is the first time that electronic data collection will happen and intersex persons will be recorded

Census is voluntary exercise but your civic responsibility

Irungu Houghton



Tonight, all persons within the Republic are set to be counted. Empowered by very recent Statistics Act amendments, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) will roll out an electronic National Housing and Population Census across 47 counties for the first time. Why is it so important and what do citizens need to know about the exercise? Since 1948, there have been six censuses conducted mostly at ten-year intervals. The global practice is thousands of years old and predates the term census derived from the Latin word *censere* "to estimate." Ancient rulers in Egypt, China and elsewhere used censuses to calculate how much taxes they could expect to collect.

Up until this week, the management of the National Housing and Population Census has been regulated by the thirteen-year-old Official Statistics Act (2006).

The new amendments give the KNBS professional independence from other state agencies and ministries and guides their work

within eight principles. They include, citizen's right to public information, confidentiality of individual data and compliance with international best practises and standards including management of digital data. The amendments state which types of statistics can be collected, managed and published. Introduced in February by the majority leader, the Act states that it will not limit fundamental freedoms or human rights. It includes stiff offences for lying and unauthorised information sharing. The changes are welcome. The degree of political and ethnic interference during the 2009 census almost rendered it unusable and evidence-based policy-making impossible. It is not just that the census is the primary data for population numbers, it is the basis for allocating resources to counties.

Like most aspects of our lives, the census is a human rights matter. It determines where funding for social and economic rights like education, health and housing will be allocated. This census may change 27 electoral constituencies that do not as yet numerically qualify to be constituencies. Simply, if you are not counted, you literally do not count. That is why the KNBS cannot discriminate between the homeless and those with homes, citizens and refugees or ethnic groups.

Identity based discrimination has occurred in Northern Ireland to reduce the number of Catholics,

to profile Arab-Americans in the USA or Jews in Germany under Hitler. A controversy is brewing in the USA right now with the proposal to include a citizenship question on the next census. With the Trump Administration's stated policy to deport all undocumented migrants en masse this is being directly challenged publicly and in court.

The Kenya 2019 census is historic in a number of ways. With

"It is not just that the census is the primary data for population numbers, it is the basis for allocating resources to counties."

more than 165,000 tablets being used, it is the first time that electronic data collection will happen on this scale. At Sh18.5 billion, it is also the most expensive census. Lastly, it is the first time that the third gender - intersex persons - will be recorded.

New questions

Historic notwithstanding, our own census may have its own controversy. At least three new questions may have been sneaked into the 63 questions you and I will be asked tonight. Did you register for Huduma Namba? Do you have a national identity card or passport and what is the number? Taken with the global positioning soft-

ware that the enumerators are using, it may be possible to link your answers with your household location and your identity/passport number.

What does this mean for minorities at risk, undocumented workers, refugees and inter-sex persons who will be counted for the very first time in Kenyan history? How does this affect the principle of confidentiality and anonymity in the Amendments? In April, the court ruled that the Huduma Namba exercise must not collect applicants GPS locations. By designing the census in this way, has the Government effectively ignored this preliminary ruling? Both individual and constituency data protection and safety is critical. We now know that a bill can be introduced, debated and approved by the National Assembly within six months, can the same be done with the Data Protection Act if these initiatives are in good faith.

On their part, the KNBS are adamant that encryption and the scale of data does not allow for individual information analysis or our locations to be accessed. Ultimately, the census is a voluntary exercise. Participating in the census is also a civic responsibility and must be encouraged. I leave it to you, the reader, to answer the questions based on your conscience and judgement.

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