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News

Donors Pledge to Rebuild Leaky Chernobyl Shell

3min. 42secs.

Work to replace the leaky cement shell covering the ruined nuclear reactor at Chernobyl can begin now that Western nations have pledged to pay almost the entire estimated cost of \$768 million.

“We can get started quite soon and we can put all our efforts into it,” German Environment Minister Juergen Trittin said at the end of a conference of more than 40 donor nations in Berlin.

Chernobyl, a Soviet-built nuclear power plant in the Ukraine, was the site of the world’s worst nuclear accident when an explosion and fire at one of its reactors in April 1986 spewed radiation over much of Europe.

Experts say the new cover – which will replace one the Soviets hastily constructed over the ruined reactor – is needed to prevent new releases of radiation. But Ukraine, still struggling to rebuild its economy after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, has pushed for outside help to pay for the work. German Foreign Minister Joschka Fisher said he expected the “relatively low” amount remaining – about \$53 million – could be raised at a third donor conference in the future.

Ukraine was less receptive to German efforts to persuade it to give up plans to replace the energy lost from shutting Chernobyl by building two new Russian-type reactors. Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma promised in early June to shut down Chernobyl’s last working reactor on December 15, and wants additional international aid to help build the replacement plants.

CNN.com

AIDS Conference ends on a hopeful note

6min. 11secs.

The 13th International AIDS conference ended on Friday, July 10, just as it began, with a political leader calling for action to end the scourge of AIDS and HIV in Africa. But where current President Thabo Mbeki stirred controversy, former President Nelson Mandela urged a new dedication to cooperation and understanding.

“We need bold initiatives to prevent new infections among young people, and large-scale actions to prevent mother-to-child transmission,” Mandela told thousands of cheering delegates. “In the face of the grave threat posed by HIV/AIDS, we have to rise above our differences and combine our efforts to save our people. History will judge us harshly if we fail to do so now, and right now.”

More than 12,000 scientists, doctors and AIDS advocates attended the weeklong conference — the first held in Africa, where 70 percent of the world’s 34 million people with AIDS live. Along with dire predictions of the widespread future global impact of AIDS on populations, economies and social institutions made at the conference, researchers reported a number of important discoveries and reasons for hope.

“We should have an effective vaccine in five to seven years,” said Dr. Seth Berkley of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. Promising research also is being conducted on new anti-AIDS drugs designed to boost the immune system while suppressing the virus to near undetectable levels. Such life-sustaining drugs already have had dramatic results in the United States and Europe. And drug companies have pledged to provide the medications at lower cost for pilot programs in Africa.

“Breaking the silence” has been a theme of this year’s AIDS conference, and authorities agree that the situation is slowly improving. Education programs are resulting in more frank discussion between men and women, and more testing.

“People are openly talking about HIV,” said Dr. Saadiq Kariem of the University of Capetown. “Women discuss their status, and men are coming out of their hiding places.” But with many Africans under the age of 25 becoming infected every day, experts say the only way to lower the death toll is to increase the budget for prevention efforts by a factor of 10 - and to target Africa’s youth with frank information about safer sex.

“With no vaccine and no cure in sight, we stand to see hundreds of millions of people lose their lives to AIDS before we’re able to turn this pandemic around,” said Sandy Thurman, White House AIDS policy director.

The challenge now, Mandela exhorted delegates at the close of the conference, is to “move from rhetoric to action, and action on an unprecedented scale.”

CNN /The Associated Press/Reuters

Breaking The Glass Ceiling

4mins. 7secs.

Empowerment in the workplace not only benefits women, but business too. The status of South African women both in politics and business has changed drastically since the 1960s when white males dominated management positions. The implementation of women-friendly labour practices such as affirmative action and the Employment Equity Act have helped in fast-tracking women’s development. South African labour policies have managed to transform many companies into female-friendly firms by introducing paid maternity and paternity leave, and making provisions for dealing with sexual harassment.

“But,” says a businesswoman (insisting on anonymity), “the atmosphere that management thinks is tolerant and welcoming to all employees is actually corrosive to women. The problem of improving the workplace environment to suit working parents, which are still mainly women, is not discussed since both management and women (especially women who do not want to be perceived as different from men) pretend everything is just fine. Women, therefore, feel there is a misunderstanding on how to manage and motivate them since they feel they cannot perform to their full potential if their special needs are not satisfied.”

According to Felice Schwarts, president and founder of Catalyst, a research and advisory non-profit organisation, the numbers game is not only frustrating women but also harmful to business. “Treating women as a business imperative will not only benefit women but it is the only option for business survival.”

However many labor consultants hold that many South African companies are yet to create an ambience that encourages women to stay on the job. Poor reward systems, lack of training, and lack of policies which take women’s welfare in to consideration characterize many of these companies.

“Most entry-level managers at the bottom of the ranks are women who work under less qualified and less-talented men,” says the anonymous businesswoman. “Very disturbing is that companies search for and recruit the talented women in business schools but let them languish shortly after appointing them, hence the high turnover and women opting to work as consultants.”

The Mail and Guardian (Johannesburg)

7.5m Zambians Survive On One Or Two Poor Meals A Day 4min. 43secs.

Over 7.5 million Zambians barely survive on one or two poor quality meals a day, a report by the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) has revealed. The report conducted and released in August by the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) monitoring project of the CCJP, reveals that out of the estimated Zambian population of 10 million, 72.9 per cent of the people live in households that are food insecure.

The report cites economic reforms, through wage freeze, inflation, privatisation and retrenchment, as having reduced the capacity of people to afford an adequate diet to lead a healthy, active and normal life. It says though the families may be considered to be having a meal a day, the meals are poor and lack needed nutrients.

The CCJP SAP monitoring teams in their respective parishes conducted the country-wide research on food security in the period October 1999 to February 2000. The report also says that food insecurity in the country has been manifesting itself through high incidence of malnutrition, increasing mortality rates and high school dropouts among others.

“In addition, the fact that Zambia is importing 75 per cent of the food on the market is a clear indication that food production has greatly declined in the country and food insecurity is looming,” read the report in part.

Commenting on the CCJP report, Programme Against Malnutrition (PAM) director, Frida Luhila criticised the government for failing to take risk factors into consideration when it embarked on SAP. She said this has led to low entrepreneur programmes in rural areas which has created food deficit in urban areas thus causing high prices of commodities. Luhila disclosed that currently, levels of stunted growth in children stand at 70 per cent in Zambia. “We need to prioritise agriculture for long term investment so that all transformation can revolve around agriculture,” she said.

The Post of Zambia

Harare’s Air pollution is worrying

3min. 15secs.

Air pollution, mainly derived from industrial and vehicle emissions, has exceeded the World Health Organisation recommended level of 50 milligram per cubic metre in Harare. A senior health official, Fidelis Jaravani, told an environment seminar that Harare’s 400,000 cars were mainly responsible for the rise in air pollution, followed by industrial emissions, but did not give figures of the pollution levels in the city, Zimbabwe’s industrial hub.

He said the rise in the use of firewood for cooking and heating during the just-ended winter season between May and July had also contributed to the increase in air pollution in the city. Most low-income households, unable to pay rising electricity bills, use firewood for both cooking and heating. Environmentalists have vigorously campaigned for stiffer penalties for offenders, blaming the rise in air and other forms of pollution in the country on lack of specific environment control legislation and lax enforcement of what exists of anti-pollution laws.

“Environmental legislation is contained in more than 18 different statutes administered by eight different ministries, it is fragmented and ineffective,” Charlene Hewat, a director of an environment lobby group, Environment 2000, said. Zimbabwe levies low penalties for environmental damage, and the unspecific legal provisions for such offences have resulted in cases dragging for more than six years in court to be settled.

Pan Africa News Agency

80,000 Nigerian Women Afflicted by VVF, Says Minister

3min. 8secs.

No fewer than 80,000 Nigerian women have been afflicted by the Vesicular Vagina Festula (VVF) ailment, the minister of Women Affairs and Youth Development, Hajia Aisha Ismail, has said. The minister made the disclosure in Abuja at the weekend while receiving in her office the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Agency (UNPFA) Dr. Natis Sadiq. The disclosure came on the heels of a call by a gender sensitive organisation, Group of 77 (G-77), for the cancellation of the debts of third world countries as a major step for the empowerment of women. Ismail made the call on behalf of the G-77 at the just concluded 23rd special session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York known as “Beijing+5”.

She said that women in developing countries have not been economically empowered in spite of sweeping globalisation. The minister, therefore charged governments in developing countries to evolve appropriate programmes that would harness the opportunities presented by the trend of globalisation to empower women.

Speaking further on the VVF scourge, Ismail blamed the incidence on poverty and lamented that over the last two decades, the number of poor rural women in Nigeria has doubled; “a trend that was aggravated by rapid population growth.”

She believes that “all efforts at poverty alleviation may fail unless they are aimed at promoting the advancement of rural women not only as social welfare beneficiaries but also as producers and income earners in their own right”. Further noting that, “it is only when women are educated and economically empowered that they can play their roles effectively as well as participate in politics, decision making and other activities.”

This Day

Voices of Freedom 2000: *What A Free Press Means To Me*

4mins.

I belong to a family whose main activity was journalism as well as broadcasting. Since I was a child, my life has been strongly linked to free and private Broadcasting, conceived in the service of freedom of expression. As a citizen, a broadcaster and a lawyer, I feel democracy and the “State of Right” are essential grounds for the existence of free societies, respectful of human dignity and freedom of expression is essential for all this since it represents the widest of intellectual Liberties.

The prevailing of freedom of expression is possible, among other important reasons, due to the existence and diversity of the independent media. Pluralism of ideas and opinions allows us to strengthen a freely informed and participating public opinion. Only Freedom of information and opinion allow big political, economic, social and cultural themes in a democratic society to be widely discussed and at the time of taking decisions, those who will be benefited or affected may state critics, ideas or proposals, with no authoritarian impositions of sole reasons.

The lack of freedom of expression limits citizens’ own Freedom and many times this is only perceivable when the former no longer exist. Hence, it is essential to be constantly struggling for its full prevailing. I am proud and honoured to be another struggler at the International Association of Broadcasting (IAB), an organisation which has been a tireless and passionate defender of Freedom of Expression since 1946. I have faced lots of problems, challenges and very difficult moments in almost all the countries of the three Americas. Censorship, attempts and harassment against journalists, broadcasters and editors are part of a hard reality that threatens free press. Despite its enemies, Freedom always triumphs.

Dr. Hector Oscar Amengual, Director General, International Association of Broadcasting, Montevideo, Uruguay

Illegal Prospecting of Gold Poses Danger to the Environment

3mins. 5 secs.

Illegal gold prospecting in the locality of Impapa, in the northern Mozambican province of Niassa, is becoming a major threat to the local environment, according to government sources. Illegal gold prospecting has been going on for years in Niassa. The Provincial Environment Director Francisco Pangaya told the country's news agency in the tourist resort of Bilene in the southern province of Gaza that a committee to redress the situation is to be established soon. The committee will analyse the impact of gold panning in the area, and seek solutions to preserve its environment and natural resources.

Pangaya said that the committee could include staff from the provincial directorates of Environment, and Mineral Resources and Energy, and this had to be done as soon as possible since the situation is worsening. One interim measure would be the expulsion of all illegal foreign prospectors, he said, adding that Mozambicans should be issued with licences and organised in associations that should work in co-ordination with the local government in the management of the local environment.

News of a gold deposit in Niassa has brought a big rush of illegal panners from neighbouring areas and far away. Within a short time, mini-towns have mushroomed in the remote area. The illegal panning has caused soil erosions, ravines, the diversion of the watercourses, and the destruction of some forest resources in Impapa. There have also been unconfirmed reports suggesting that the prospectors are using chemicals. This has fuelled fears of water contamination.

PanAfrican News Agency

The Trauma of Exploited Children

7mins. 19secs.

Young children worldwide are exploited shamelessly. The percentage of prevailing child labour globally is implausibly high. Africa carries a huge burden of its children who are mercilessly exploited by the society. Children from ages 6-14 have been trapped in a tug of war between poverty-stricken huge families, whose responsibilities lie on the shoulders of these innocent children and the society hell-bent on exploiting them. Despite a worldwide campaign in which trade unions form the centre of a vast international alliance, child labour persists. Furthermore, latest figures show that it continues to claim new victims.

Child trafficking is growing in Africa where the proportion of children at work is higher than on any other continent. Out of the 132 million children in West and Central Africa, 53 million are exploited for their labour, according to the International Labour Organisation, ILO. According to UNICEF, trafficking mirrors the geography of development in Africa: the principal "suppliers" are Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali. They send the children to Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon and Nigeria, passing through countries such as Cameroon or Equatorial Guinea.

Trafficking occurs in industrialised countries too, where the number of clandestine workshops is on the increase. The girls aged 14 and over are forced into prostitution and domestics in their infancy and pre-teen boys leased to cattlemen. In many regions eight-year-old girls, are taken from rural areas to towns to do domestic work. Many work for over 12 hours daily, and are subjected to physical, mental and sexual abuse. Those taken from their countries also face isolation.

In Kenya, around three million children between 6 and 14 are working. From this, a million work in the most intolerable form of child labour: in the tourism sector where they are sexually exploited. Some work in plantations and mines or are exposed to hazardous chemicals that could make them physically impaired for the rest of their lives. Some others work in domestic service, where they are often prone to physical, sexual and psycho-social abuse. The rest are exposed in informal sectors, collecting garbage, where they suffer degrading and often dangerous conditions. This is in spite of the country's signed agreement with ILO's programme "Elimination of Child Labour".

The African commercial agriculture sector is also known to exploit child labour mainly in plantations, farms and processing factories. ILO has launched a special programme to remove children from hazardous and exploitative tasks, initially to improve working conditions and ultimately to eliminate child labour in agriculture throughout the sub-Saharan region.

Child labour is a brutal catalogue of depravity. Today's children are tomorrow's future citizens who if given an opportunity of a normal childhood, education and training could make the world a better place to live in. Africa especially needs the hope that these young ones offer for the future. However despite concerted worldwide efforts to focus on the sustainability of action programmes, the final curtain on child labour seems far-fetched. The future remains a race between the implementation of stringent laws against child labour, and the global zeal to eradicate this soul haunting dilemma.

Newslink Africa

Two Species of African Rhino On The Increase

6mins. 9secs.

There are currently more rhino in Africa than at any time since the early mid 1980s, says a report issued by the World Conservation Union and the World Wide Fund for Nature. According to estimates issued in Gland, Switzerland, the two species of African rhinoceros, the black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) and the white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) continued to increase in the wild.

The estimates, prepared by IUCN's African Rhino Specialist Group, showed there were just over 13,000 African rhino in 1999 compared to 8,300 in 1992. Most of this increase is due to the continued rapid growth in the number of southern white rhino. The balance between white and black rhino has shifted with 79 percent of African rhino in the wild in 1999 being white rhino, compared to only 30 percent in 1984, the report says.

"Even though overall numbers are positive, there is no room for complacency," Dr. Martin Brooks, Chairman of IUCN's African Rhino Specialist Group, said. "Numbers of two of the six African rhino subspecies remain very low, and invasions of private land in Zimbabwe by war veterans and squatters currently pose a threat to several significant populations," he added.

The demand for rhino horn for traditional Chinese medicine (not as an aphrodisiac, as commonly believed) and for making decorative dagger handles in the Middle East has for decades fuelled an illegal international horn trade which has led to the poaching of thousands of rhinos. However, intensive conservation efforts in several African countries have helped black rhino numbers increase in the wild from a low of around 2,450 in 1992 to just over 2,700 by 1999, with a further 234 black rhino in captivity world-wide. While the continuing increase in continental black rhino numbers since 1995 is encouraging, the future of one of the four black rhino subspecies, the western black rhino, is bleak with only about 10 animals remaining scattered across northern Cameroon.

The southern white rhino, rescued from near extinction a century ago, stands as one of the world's greatest conservation success stories, up from approximately 20 to just over 10,300 by 1999. The report says that 94 percent of these were in South Africa while a further 721 were in captivity world-wide. By contrast, the situation facing the other white rhino subspecies, the northern white rhino, is critical and today only 24 to 31 exist in the wild in a single population in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Following a recent birth there are now 10 northern white rhino in captivity.

The report attributes the increase in the number of the beasts to the implementation of effective conservation strategies involving government agencies, local communities, NGOs and private landowners in countries like South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Swaziland and Tanzania. "One of the greatest challenges facing the future of rhinos in both Africa and Asia is maintaining sufficient conservation expenditure and field effort," Brooks added.

PanAfrican News Agency

Numbers...

Emergency Contraception in Ghana

1min. 7secs.

Only one-third of health care providers in two urban areas in Ghana had heard of emergency contraception in 1997, despite efforts by the government and the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana to introduce the method the previous year. Of the 112 providers who had heard of emergency contraception, 94 were aware that oral contraceptives could be used for this purpose. Nevertheless, only 55 knew the correct products to use, four had accurate information about the number of pills per dose, 20 were aware that the first dose of pills had to be taken with 72 hours, 44 knew the correct number of doses and 21 knew the correct spacing of doses. No respondent answered all five questions correctly.

Family Planning Perspectives

Sterilization as Social Strategy?

3mins. 7secs.

By choosing to be sterilized, women in southern India may be manipulating cultural norms to increase their power within their extended household. A 14-month anthropological study conducted in 1994-1995 in the village of Gopalapalli, Andhra Pradesh revealed that 44% of currently married women aged 15-49 had been sterilized, including 32% of women aged 15-29 and 67% of those aged 30-39. While the mean number of births among all women who had been sterilized was 3.6, those aged 15-29 had an average of 2.8 births.

Sterilized women who were interviewed indicated that they had decided to be sterilized for themselves and that they would not have chosen to do so simply for monetary compensation. When couples in southern India marry, they typically live with the husband's family for 5-15 years, and the wife submits to the greater authority of her mother-in-law. Women in Gopalapalli who had been sterilized most often resided with their mother-in-law; some had challenged her authority by choosing to be sterilized against her wishes. By selecting a nonreversible contraceptive method after having had her desired number of children, a woman can indicate to her mother-in-law that she can no longer control her daughter-in-law's fertility. Moreover, when a woman can no longer conceive, she has symbolically moved closer to the status of mother-in-law or senior woman, as a woman who has already reproduced and is no longer able to do so is highly regarded. The investigators suggested that when these women choose to be sterilized at a relatively young age, they are manipulating cultural norms to gain prestige.

International Family Planning Perspectives

Noted...

Eilat-Aqaba Underwater Clean Up

2mins. 39 secs.

On February 10, 2000, about 80 scuba divers from Israel and Jordan joined together to clean up the sea floor in some of the most popular swimming beaches in Eilat. The project was the joint effort of the Ministry of the Environment and Friends of the Earth Middle East. Nearly, four tons of garbage were

drawn from the water by the volunteer divers. Participants also included instructors and staff from diving clubs on both sides of the border, as well as from the Nature and National Parks Protection Authority, Eliat Field School, Interuniversity Institute, Kibbutz Nirim, Ma'ale Shaharut youth diving club, local hotels and several additional companies, groups and individuals. In addition to the cleanup itself, the project was meant to increase public awareness of the sensitivity of this area and to enhance cooperation between Eilat and Aqaba. When it comes to combining international peace efforts with conservation, this clean up must surely take the prize!

Israel Environment Bulletin

World Bank, NGO in fight against breast cancer

1min. 7secs.

The World Bank, has given MAMMOCARE Ghana, a non-governmental organisation, a grant to embark on small projects training volunteer nurses to screen women in the country for breast cancer. Following this, MAMMOCARE is to train 50 volunteer nurses in the Upper East Region, who will also be responsible for the Upper West Region. The Executive Director of MAMMOCARE Ghana, Mr. Frank M. Ghaitey, disclosed that an additional 50 volunteer nurses will be trained, in six months' time, to add up to 100 volunteer nurses. This, he said will enable them to serve the two regions adequately. Mr. Ghaitey said the organisation has educated over five hundred thousand women and screened about thirty thousand women. Good work!

Ghanaian Chronicle

Baobab and Jazz 38 wage peace with Women's Human rights

2000 is the International Year for Peace. Women and children continue to suffer the most when there is no peace and their rights are infringed. Recognising the need to cultivate a culture of peace amongst today's youth, Baobab, a non governmental women's rights organization and Jazz 38, a non governmental musical youth group, are organizing a competition for youths. The competition includes songwriting, T shirt design, and prose writing. All the creatives must express the theme "Waging peace with Women's Human Rights in Nigeria". While the entries close on August 15, we take this opportunity to give two thumbs up to the organizers for their brilliant effort at awareness raising.

CFC

Dateline...

Transnational Crime – What can be done?

2mins. 8secs.

The planned outcome of the 10th UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders will be "The Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the challenges of the Twenty-first Century". It was due to be adopted at the closing session on 17 April after two days of high-level discussion with heads of government, justice ministers and attorneys-general.

Governments view international crime as the greatest non-military threat to national security. Criminal organizations have never had it so good as they can profit so easily from the globalisation of finance, transport and information technology.

Trafficking is on the increase: in arms, drugs, nuclear material, illegal cash, and in people. Criminal groups focus particularly on women and children for economic slavery and prostitution, or illegal emigration. Murder contracts are common, so also is the wide-scale bribery of public officials, politicians and business leaders.

The Vienna Declaration is expected to call for the immediate adoption and ratification of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime. It will also emphasise the responsibility of each State to establish and maintain a responsible, ethical and efficient criminal justice system. The Declaration will be submitted to the UN Millennium Summit in New York on 6 September 2000.

The Courier

Children's Section

Why the Wart Hog goes about on his Knees

3min. 23secs.

Wart hog had made himself a lovely, spacious home in an old anteater hold. He had built it up and made a wide entrance, and thought it was quite the grandest hole in the area. But one day Wart hog looked out and was horrified to see a lion stalking stealthily towards his cave.

Thinking quickly, he pretended to be supporting the roof of his hole with his strong back, pushing up with tusks. "Help" he cried to the lion, "I am going to be crushed! The roof is caving in! Perhaps you had better flee, O Lion!"

However, the lion had been caught out once before with a trick like this (remember sly old Jackal?), and he was not going to be fooled a second time. He roared so fiercely that Wart hog dropped to his knees, trembling, and begged for mercy. Luckily for him, Lion was not really all that hungry. Also, he was amused to think the slow-witted wart hog would try to copy Jackal's trick. So he pardoned the wart hog and left, saying, "Stay on your knees, you foolish beast!"

Wart hog took this to be an order and that is why, even today, you will see Wart hog feeding on his knees, in a very undignified position, with his bottom up in the air and his snout snuffling in the dust.

When Hippo was Hairy

Greedy Mhisi

5mins. 9secs.

One day two hunters were returning home with the day's kill cut in pieces, rolled up in reed matting and carried on their heads. As they walked, little scraps of meat dropped out onto the path behind them.

Chingaugau, the black-backed jackal, and Mhisi, the hyaena, were out hunting that same day and it happened that they crossed the path just where a few pieces of meat lay. Hungrily, they snapped them up and then followed the path behind the hunters, gobbling up all the bits that dropped.

At the village, Chingaugau and Mhisi hid behind some bushes and watched as the hunters took their burden off their heads and stored it safely away in the granary hut. This little round hut had a round window half way up the wall, but no door.

As soon as the hunter had moved off out of sight, Chingaugau slipped quietly up to the granary hut and climbed in easily through the window. Then he fell upon the meat, calling to Mhisi to come quickly and join the feast. Mhisi looked up at that little window and shook his head. 'No, Chingaugau, I'll never be able to get in through there. You pass me some meat outside.'

‘No, no,’ protested Chingaungau. ‘I’ll help you get in’. He climbed outside and helped push Mhisi in through the window. Mhisi ate and ate until he was full, then wanted to jump out of the window. Chingaungau stopped him saying, ‘Eat, my friend. You never know when you’ll get another free meal like this.’

So Mhisi ate again, until his stomach felt ready to burst. ‘You’re not quite full,’ said Chingaungau, eyeing him critically. ‘No, I think you can still fit in a little more and you must not waste good food.’

Mhisi swallowed another piece of meat. Then Chingaungau persuaded him to eat one more piece and then just one more. Satisfied that Mhisi’s belly was full as it could ever be without bursting, Chingaungau then jumped out of the window. When Mhisi tried to follow, his stomach bulged and swelled and stuck fast in that small opening. He could move neither backwards nor forward and his wriggling only wedged him more tightly as he frantically begged Chingaungau to help him.

Chingaungau merely glanced back over his shoulder and barked sharply twice as he trotted away into the bush. This brought the village dogs running, yapping and snarling, they attacked the intruder in the granary hut, while Chingaungau made good his escape.

Shangani Folk Tales

Parting Shots

Celebrate the wisdom of the African experience with the following unforgettable quotes:

On consequences

A stone thrown in a rage seldom reaches its target
From Malawi

When you bring insect infected wood into your house, you invite lizards in as well
From Cape Verde Islandio

When the sea dries up, the sun should share in its shame
From Ghana

On wisdom

A corn field that does not grow weeds is surely not fit enough to grow corn
From Ghana

Tickle the earth with a hoe and it rewards you with a rich harvest
From Sudan

On Patience

Tolerance is not to be considered as a weakness
From Ethiopia

Patience is an egg that hatches many eggs
From Zimbabwe

African Proverbs/More African Proverbs
