




**National Pg 3**  
PM warns of girls' education crisis



**National Pg 4**  
'Training in cattle feeding essential'



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Exploring renewable energy opportunities



**SMART MONEY**

Lawmakers describe Kilombero Sugar's expansion as necessary for the market

Karimjee Jivanjee Gp becomes lead sponsor of 2020 Global Student Entrepreneur Awards




## Post-Brexit vision: UK now inks Africa key outreach fund

**LONDON**

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson (pictured) has declared that Africans will benefit from Britain's new immigration policies in a post-Brexit scenario, telling a delegation of leaders that new laws will put "people over passports."

His comments follow the announcement of a £620 million financing to support projects and UK exports to Africa.

The prime minister said he aims to "attract the best talent from around the world, wherever they may be" by creating a system that is "fairer and more equal."

Johnson was setting out his vision of Britain after Brexit to the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London, as he pitched for improved business links with Africa.

And - at the summit also attended by the Duke of Sussex - the PM also announced an end to UK support for thermal coal mining or coal power plants overseas in a bid to use trade to tackle the climate crisis.

The new £620m funding will be used to support infrastructure projects including financing hospital beds and healthcare centres in Ghana and Zambia, a business park in Uganda and road upgrades in Gabon, International Trade Secretary Liz

**“Africa is home to eight of the 15 fastest growing economies in the world and its economic prosperity matters to the UK**

Truss said.

Truss told the summit: "Africa is home to eight of the 15 fastest growing economies in the world and its economic prosperity matters to the UK."

"We want the UK to be the partner of choice in Africa so I am delighted that with UKEF's support, British expertise will form a key component of these infrastructure projects that will directly improve millions of lives."

"We are committed to strengthening our trading relationships in the region, to help deliver jobs and economic growth that will benefit African and British businesses alike."

The funding comes as UK Export Finance (UKEF), which helps UK businesses win contracts and financial support overseas, provided almost £2 billion of support in the last two years.

The secretary's comments were echoed by the prime minister, who declared: "We want to be with you, side by side, every step of the way."

"Together, let us write the next chapter for your country, for my country, and

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# NIDA officer, agent held for NIN delivery bribe attempt

## ACT-Wazalendo mulls High Court petition



NMB Bank Plc acting managing director Ruth Zaipuna briefs members of the Parliamentary Public Investment Committee in Dodoma at the weekend on how the bank has been supporting government projects. She cited the ongoing construction of the Standard Gauge Railway, the Kinyerezi gas-powered electricity generation and projects under the Rural Energy Agency as examples. To her left is the bank's board chairman, Prof Joseph Semboja. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Deliveries at health centres reach 74 pc

**By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma**

A TOTAL of 813,923 expectant mothers or around 74 percent of total deliveries found their way to various health centres between July and December last year, which health authorities describe as a success story.

The Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, Ummu Mwalimu made this observation yesterday when presenting a report on the ministry's activities

**“The idea is to reduce the deaths of children at birth due to various challenges including some of the pregnant mothers in rural areas delivering at home**

for the period July - December 2019 to the parliamentary committee on community development.

"Expectations were pegged at 1 million expectant mothers to deliver in health centres but statistics show 813,923 cases or around 74 percent," she said, noting that this achievement resulted from different interventions deployed by the government and other stakeholders.

The minister said the government's intention is to ensure the number of women who deliver at home is reduced to meet targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has thus adopted a target of achieving an overall maternal mortality ratio of less than 70 per 100 000 live births by 2030.

"The idea is to reduce the deaths of children at birth due to various challenges including some expecting mothers especially in rural

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## Police kill three 'armed robbers' in city patrols

**By Guardian Reporter**

POLICE in the Dar es Salaam Special Zone have killed three suspected armed robbers and seized a gun that had one of its numbers erased.

A police statement released yesterday said the incident occurred on Sunday afternoon at Magomeni when police were conducting routine patrols.

It stated that the suspected bandits were killed during a live exchange of fire with the police.



"Police were conducting patrols in Magomeni but suddenly a group of bandits started to attack and responding to the occurrence, police injured three of them who died when taken for treatment at the Muhimbili National Hospital," it said.

Police said early investigations shows that the suspected robbers were engaged in a number of crime incidences in Dar es Salaam and neighbouring regions.

Police will continue conducting patrols within the city, the statement affirmed, urging residents to support police efforts by tipping them on likely criminal incidences in specific areas.

Last month, police headquarters spokesman David Misime said that the incidence of crime

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## Vicent confirmed to be engaged in asking for payouts from sim card owners to fast track biometric registration of their telephone line numbers

**By Getrude Mbagu**

POLICE in Shinyanga Region are holding an assistant registration officer for the National Identification Authority (NIDA), Haroon Mushi and SIM card registration agent Victor Isack Vicent for allegedly charging people up to 30,000/- each to help them get national identification numbers (NIN) to register their sim cards.

Shinyanga District Commissioner Jasinta Mboneko confirmed the incident after a visit at NIDA offices in the afternoon yesterday. She was there to witness the registration process and listen to people's concerns over complexities in obtaining the numbers.

The DC directed the police to arrest the two suspects.

Vicent was the first to be arrested and confessed to collaborate with the NIDA official in assisting people to get NIN at a cost of 30,000/-. Later, police arrested Mushi who refuted the claims insisting to be working closely with the agent to crosscheck whether those who wanted to register their lines had already secured NIN.

Vicent confirmed to be engaged in asking for payouts from sim card owners to fast track

**“The DC directed police to arrest the two suspects**

biometric registration of their telephone line numbers.

Shinyanga Acting Regional Police Commander Joseph Paulo confirmed the arrest of two suspects, saying they will be taken to court as soon as investigations are completed.

This incident reflects anxiety by millions of mobile phone owners who had not yet registered their SIM cards biometrically as they are likely to be cut out of telecommunication services from late yesterday, at the expiry of extension for biometric registration exercise.

In an interview yesterday, the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications Atashasta Ndiye said that the government will help those who have already applied for National Identification Number (NIN) to continue accessing phone services.

He said that the ministry will consult responsible authorities to ensure all telephone line owners who are yet to get NIN but took effort to apply, do not miss communication services.

"We recognize that there are some people who took efforts to get NIN but didn't succeed, we are going to consider them. Those who ignored and opted not to apply for national identification numbers won't be able to access communication services with their mobile phones," he said.

He asserted that the National Identification Authority (NIDA), the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and mobile phone companies will collaboratively work to ensure that those already registered by NIDA continue to

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## NIDA officer, agent held for NIN delivery bribe attempt

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enjoy communication services as those who have registered biometrically.

"We will consider those already in the NIDA database during the switching off exercise because they are only waiting to be provided with NIN. Telephone line owners who have not even applied for NIN will be affected by the exercise", said the Deputy Minister.

The telephone line switch-off has prompted many people to call on the need for the government to give the matter a second look, as the move will affect large number of people and even put at risk scores of economic activities.

The opposition ACT-Wazalendo issued an appeal to the government to suspend plans to switch off sim cards that have not been biometrically registered until NIDA completes the provision of NIN to all eligible individuals.

In a statement, the party said it would file a petition at the High Court to challenge the government decision on grounds that Tanzanians should not be punished simply for not having obtained NIN.

"Switching off telephone lines should be directed at those who have NIN but have not registered their numbers. The government should also capacitate NIDA offices and ensure that it has all the resources to reach and register a good number of people on time," the party emphasized.

Switching off telephone lines will negatively impact the economy as most people are now conducting routine financial transactions via mobile phones, the statement noted.

TCRA has reported that a total of 756.3 million mobile cash transactions to the tune of 16trn/- were recorded in the last quarter of 2019 (September-December).

ACT Wazalendo said any switch-off will affect mobile phone agents as well as those whose businesses can only be accessed through mobile phone Apps.

In separate interviews among a large crowd gathered at NIDA offices in Miembeni-Unguja for last minute efforts to save their lines from being switched off, expressed their fear of lacking communications in the coming days, calling on the government to see what it can do to help them.

"I have been coming here several times and today I left my daily duties just to get this important card or number but I haven't got anything," said Mbaraka Mohamed Said, a Jangombe resident.

In his response, acting NIDA Director General Hassan Haji Hassan said that over 700,000 people in the Isles had been registered and issued with national ID cards.

He however admitted that the exercise has been facing some challenges, including network problems thwarting efforts to issue more cards to people.

In Bariadi, Simiyu Region many people were unable to get their IDs from NIDA due to lack of networks, and many were saying for the past three days network speeds have been noticeably slow.

This feeling was upheld by Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL) regional manager Bimbona Kyamani, who said that the problem has affected all networks, starting from the large number of people wanting to register their simcards.

Residents Mwanhangala village, Lyabusalu ward in Shinyanga District complained over the long distances to reach NIDA offices, more than 70 kms away in Shinyanga municipality. This has contributed to many of them failing to register their simcards biometrically.



Kenyan National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi (C), in his capacity as chairman of the leadership committee of the Africa chapter of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, presides over a CPA-Africa meeting attended by representatives of Tanzania, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria and Uganda and Namibia. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

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above all, for all the peoples of our countries," he added, as he welcomed the delegation to London.

The call for African talent to come to the UK signals, as ITV News political correspondent Paul Brand says, that Johnson's "instincts are relatively liberal on immigration."

His comments also reveal a desire to extend Britain's influence across the globe.

"Africa is the future," he told the delegation, "and the UK has a

## Post-Brexit vision: UK now inks Africa outreach fund

huge and active role to play in that future."

"We are and we will be your partner through thick and thin."

Some of the main projects supported by the fund, which is overseen by the Department of International Trade, include a project for Ghana worth £110

million for Contracta Construction UK which will upgrade Kumasi teaching hospital, creating 750 beds for maternity care.

There is also £40 million worth of support to enable the further development of Kumasi Airport, improving transport links for tourist

and commercial use - increasing capacity by an extra one million passengers a year.

For Zambia, a direct loan of £244 million is being lined up for 108 rural healthcare clinics - powered by solar energy - and three hospitals by NMS Limited.



Government Chief Medical Officer Prof Muhammad Bakari addresses a symposium on ways to enhance the quality of HIV/Aids care services in Tanzania. It was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## DC assures people with albinism of peace during General Election

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

Authorities in Shinyanga Region have assured people with albinism of lasting peace leading to this year's General Election that will involve councillors, Members of Parliament and the President, and required them to come out in big numbers to vote for leaders of their choice.

This assurance was given by the Shinyanga District Commissioner Jasinta Mboneko, who was

representing Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Zainab Telack at the launch the second phase of 'HAKI YETU' project from Under the Same Sun, an organisation that aims to eradicate acts of violence against people with albinism.

Mboneko, who is also chairperson of the District's Defence and Security Committee urged the people with albinism to participate in this year's general elections as the government will put up an enabling environment

for them to do so.

She also said the government through its defence and security apparatuses at all levels to hunt all those who are set to disrupt the peace, including witchdoctors who are bent to cause harm to people with albinism.

Meanwhile, the DC directed all six district councils in Shinyanga Region to ensure they set aside part of their budgets for the acquisition of special needs for people with albinism.

UTSS project manager Wankyo Musong'o said 'HAKI YETU' project is being implemented in Shinyanga region for second phase that started in October, last year and ends June 2021.

He said the method they will use to do that includes giving education to the society on the fact that the people with albinism are not different from other human beings.

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## Deliveries at health centres reach 74 pc

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areas delivering at home," she said.

District councils have been directed to ensure mother and child health care is improved in health centres, with blood banks set to be established in five health centres in five regions.

On pregnant women who attended screening at clinics, the minister said 797,803 or 73 percent of the targeted did so in four visits or more as directed.

She said about 87.4 percent of pregnant women, specifically 886,810 such patients received malaria prevention drugs and 2,844,174 doses or 84.6 per cent of expectations were given FEFOL drugs that prevent and treat iron deficiency anaemia and folate deficiency during pregnancy.

"Only 62 percent of women deliver at health centres as the rest do not reach hospitals," she asserted, noting that this is a big challenge as a traditional midwife will invariably fail to notice telling symptoms when catering to an expectant mother.

The minister's remarks came at the time when reports show that maternal mortality rates (MMRs) in Tanzania have remained stubbornly high over the past decade, at around 500 cases of fatalities per 100,000 live births.

Long distances to access health centres and hospitals together with a number of women delivering at



home especially in rural areas have contributed to having 556 deaths in every 100,000 deliveries for over two decades without going down.

The minister also announced that the government intends to build a referral hospital in Chato District, Geita Region.

"Our researches have shown that the number of patients in Lake Zone regions is on the increase. We have therefore decided to build a referral hospital for the zone in Chato District," the minister said, addressing members of the social services and Community Development Committee.

She said with the Lake Zone population estimated at 15million, the need for an additional referral health facility has waited a long time to be taken up.

Lake Zone includes Geita, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Kagera, Mara and Mwanza regions.

## Police kill three 'armed robbers' in city patrols

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went down by two percent between January and November.

He said that crime incidents declined from 54,867 reported in 2018 to 53,685 reported between January and November, last year.

The number of traffic accidents decreased by 26.2 percent as in 2018 there were 3,689 people involved in road accidents compared to 2,722 in a similar situation for eleven months of 2019.

The slim achievements made in

controlling accidents and criminal acts were not a cause for celebration by the police, the spokesman affirmed.

"The police are continuing to work hard to make road accidents and criminal acts part of history. We are determined to end these two social evils," he declared.

Up to 75 percent of road accidents were caused by negligence and human error, he said, appealing to motorists to be alert, citing night driving, lack of attention on the wheel, drunk driving, festive seasons as accident prone situations.



National Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson Mwansasu (R) presents a National Health Insurance Fund membership card to a Mbeya Region elder at the weekend, the cost covered by the Tulia Trust. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Prime Minister warns of people who discontinue girls education pursuits

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed Regional and District Commissioners in the country to supervise the issue of education especially for girls and to take steps against those who are found to discontinue their studies.

He said the government has called upon students to give information to their respective local leaders (shehas) in their areas on people who want to discontinue with their studies.

Majaliwa gave the directive at the weekend when speaking to wananchi after he inspected the progress work of Daya Vocation Training College project situated at Mtambwe in Wete District Pemba North Region.

The Prime Minister said the government has resolved to protect girls to ensure they complete their education pursuits for their better lives and those of their families.

He said school girls should receive respect and protection from the society so that they continue with

their education without bother and whoever will found to go against this is liable to 30 years in jail. "You girls, ensure no one touches you or follows you, immediately report him to your local leaders. And youth be careful with school girls, if you are found with her you go to jail for 30 years," he said.

Earlier, presenting his progress report of the College's project, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of education and Vocational Training Madina Abdallah said on its completion the project will have cost

USD 25.8 million out of which USD 23.4 million was loaned from the African Development Bank (ADB) while USD 2.4 million provided by the Zanzibar government.

She said according to the contract agreement, the projects includes two vocational training centres viz: Makunduchi in Unguja and Daya in Pemba. She said the project also includes Maruhubi Development Institute and Karume Institute of Science and Technology including teaching apparatus.

# Mama Alaska Jamii Company determined to equip hundreds of Ilala District food vendors with skills in entrepreneurship

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

MORE than 300 food vendors in Ilala district, Dar es Salaam region will benefit from business training, which is geared towards equipping them with various business skills as well as record keeping.

So far, 20 food vendors have benefited from the two-day training which was organised by 'Mama Alaska Jamii Company' over the weekend.

The training facilitator who is also a business development consultant, Richard Jackson said the training will enable them to keep business records thus improve businesses.

He said most of the complaints from Mama and Baba Lishe are associated with lack or poor business skills, according to research findings by Mama Alaska Jamii Company.

Jackson added most food vendors have been complaining on lack of enough capital to expand their businesses as well as unfriendly business environment but in reality they lack business skills.

"We want them to be able to keep their daily business records, this will help them know the exact amount they can raise compared to expenditures. It is also important for small scale entrepreneurs to save for further businesses development", he noted.

According to him, failure to keep business records in writing has resulted into some of them facing difficulties to access business loans from financial institutions and banks. Lenders would want to see their records (revenues) before issuing loans.

He said Mama Alaska Jamii Company also aims at supporting women in the agricultural sector value chain through provision of business trainings, capital, market information and mentorship.

"This is the beginning, our target is to reach more than 300 food vendors and

others in the agriculture sector value chain within Ilala district", he said adding well-kept records will make them be able to realise profits and losses incurred on daily and monthly basis.

Training beneficiary, Zuhura Heri said: "I have been operating a small restaurant for over ten years but my business had never expanded. I am thankful to Mama Alaska Jamii Company for imparting us with the knowledge especially record keeping".

A food vendor, Mwanahamisi Issa called upon Ilala district authorities to improve drainage systems because once it rains most vendors close their businesses due to flooding water.



**We want them to be able to keep their daily business records, this will help them know the exact amount they can raise compared to expenditures. It is also important for small scale entrepreneurs to save for further businesses development**

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## Training in feeding of cattle essential in boosting milk production - dairy farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

DAIRY farmers in Bukoba municipality, Kagera Region have appealed to the government to train them in cattle proper feeding to boost milk production.

They are concerned that improper feeding of dairy cattle is one of many reasons contributing into low production of milk thus calling upon livestock officers to educate them on proper feeding as well as mixing of dairy cattle feed.

Mary Mpanju, who has two dairy cattle complained over lack of education on how best dairy cattle can be fed per day to be able to produce over 5 liters of milk daily.

Mpanju said she feeds her two cattle with three sacks of grass and plenty water but yet they don't produce the required amount of milk.

"I am feeding my cattle with grass and little supplementary food but the output is not encouraging," said Mpanju adding that the 4 liters produced every day helps her to raise money for her family needs.

Beatrice Mutakyawa said dairy cattle feeding requires education because

most of them do not know how to mix the food and feeding intervals.

"We do not know how to mix the food, people tell us to feed our cattle with supplementary food but we don't know how to make it," said Mutakyawa from Kiembeni ward.

Regional Livestock Officer, Dr Pauline Msafiri warned dairy farmers from routine feeding of the cattle insisting the animals should be provided with nutritional supplementary food apart from grass and water.

Dr Msafiri urged farmers to also give their dairy cattle fresh vegetables that are rich in protein. She said once properly fed, one dairy cattle can produce between 8 and 10 liters of milk per day.



**I am feeding my cattle with grass and little supplementary food but the output is not encouraging**



Abubakar Khamis Bakari (R), a Zanzibar-based member of the secretariat of the opposition Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo), briefs journalists in Zanzibar yesterday on challenges relating to voters' registration in the Isles. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Smart Money Reporter, Kahama

SHINYANGA Region's Resident Mining Officer Joseph Kumbulu has discovered theft of more than 37 bags of gold ore valued at 4,970,000/- in Tambalale artisanal mining field in Wisolele village, Segese Ward, Msalala district in Shinyanga Region.

Speaking here to reporters at the weekend, Kumbulu said acting on a tip from faithful miners he made an impromptu visit in the area and discovered the situation.

He said accompanied by a team from his office he made inspection at various pit heads in the area during which

## Stolen gold ore worth some 5m/- seized in Shinyanga mining area

7 bags of gold ore was seized valued at 470,000/- that had allegedly been stolen by one Juma Mabangi from Pit No 13 owned by Yakwesi Wanjari.

He also said he discovered that between 15 and 17 January 2020 more than 30 bags of gold ore valued at 4,500,000/- was stolen from an area whose ownership was in conflict

between one Nestory Makune and a group of 12 youths engaged in gold mining.

Kumbulu said Nestory Makune and his team invaded Tambalale area and started mining for gold by force, refusing directives from the area's supervisor on claims that the directives must come from the Wisolele village

leadership.

He said government levies was not being paid accordingly due to theft of gold ore by some youths sponsored by Nestory Makune and his group by instilling strikes and other pretexts to facilitate the thefts.

"The mining office has been supervising the distribution of gold

ore in the area, nonetheless the ore was being carted away during the night by force after mining officials left the area," Kumbulu said and added:

"It is also claimed that some miners and political leaders (councilors) have been flouting the procedures and threaten the area's supervisors."

He said he decided to confiscate seven bags of gold ore which were auctioned on the spot and 470,000/- was raised and handed over to the area's supervisor for payment of government levy.

He said Juma Mabangi who was involved in the seized ore was forbidden to carry on mining activities and expelled from the area.

However, Kumbulu said Nestory Makune's assistant was taken to Bugarama Police station where an RB file Ref. BGA/RB/117/2010 was opened facing charges of theft of the ore and for occasioning loss of revenue to the government.



**USAID | TANZANIA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

### U.S. MISSION DAR ES SALAAM SOLICITATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Mission in Dar es Salaam is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position identified below at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

**Position Title:** ACQUISITION & ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST  
(Career Ladder)

**Solicitation Number:** 72062120R10004

A copy of the complete solicitation, listing all duties, responsibilities and qualifications required, is available at:

<https://tz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

#### HOW TO APPLY:

Effective immediately only online applications will be accepted via [usaidtzlesapps@usaid.gov](mailto:usaidtzlesapps@usaid.gov)

Applicants MUST follow instructions in the solicitation on the website:

Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application.

**CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: February 14, 2020**



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WITH HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

Heifer Project International is a global non-profit, humanitarian development organization founded by Dan West in 1944 dedicated to ending hunger and poverty and caring for the Earth by empowering smallholder farm families around the globe become self-reliant and attain sustainable livelihood through economically viable animal agricultural enterprise. The global headquarters is located at 1 World Avenue, Little Rock Arkansas, USA.

One the recent projects in its program portfolio is The Tanzania Milk Processing Project (TMPP), an ambitious 18 Months Project designed to increase the incomes of smallholder dairy farmers in Tanzania through better access to reliable, high-value markets while ensuring processors have access to increased supply of high-quality milk in Njombe, Rungwe, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Morogoro.

In response to this project needs, the Country Program is seeking to recruit competent candidates for following position

**Job Title:** Project Driver – 2 positions

**Location:** Rungwe and Tanga

#### Function:

The Project Driver will be responsible for maintaining Heifer vehicles by ensuring that they stay clean and receive regular maintenance. S/he will be responsible for receiving international visitors, driving staff or guests to project sites, and running office errands/he will work under the overall guidance of the Finance and Administrative Assistant to perform the logistics duties and some office administrative

#### Essential Character Traits:

Essential traits for successful execution of the job duties, s/he should be: proactive, good communicator, timely and highly flexible, collaborative, attentive to details, good team player and courteous.

#### Responsibilities and Deliverables

##### I. Logistics and Vehicle Management

- Provide the supervisor and the cluster Finance with a monthly report stating the comprehensive vehicle conditions.
- Drive company vehicles to designated and authorized destinations.
- Follow all safety rules, and ensure that all passengers follow them strictly e.g. but not limited to: all passengers to wear seat belts; passengers not to distract the driver while driving (use of mobile phone or other activities prohibited while driving), etc.
- Observe strictly the Heifer International company rules and

- regulations as provided for in the policies
- Manage vehicle fuel card reports and receipts, ensuring prompt reimbursement of the card

##### 2. Vehicle Maintenance

- Perform daily and routine preventive maintenance schedules of the vehicle including but not limited to oil, brake function, water, lights and tyre condition to increase efficiency of the vehicle.
- Report any detected defects in the vehicle and any accidents and incidents promptly.
- Direct and supervise the mechanic on necessary checks and repairs.
- Ensure the vehicle is always clean and in good conditions as well as ensuring that the necessary maintenance is done as scheduled.

##### 3. Vehicle documentation

- Record the vehicle daily usage/trips, maintaining the mileage books and ensuring the safety of the vehicle and its contents.
- Prepare vehicles' mileage reports monthly and inform supervisor on any concerns noted.
- Monitor the expiry and renewal of his driving license, as well as the vehicle insurance and license without causing any inconvenience to the company schedule.

##### 4. May perform other job-related duties as assigned

#### Minimum Requirements:

- Secondary education with an O level certificate plus three (3) years' relevant experience in a non-profit/developmental organization setting.
- Possession of a valid commercial driver's license

#### Preferred Requirements:

- Attending a tertiary and/or professional driving training.
- Certificate in defensive driving from a sanctioned driving institute.

#### Mode of Application:

Potential candidates are encouraged to apply by sending application letter enclosed CV and certificates/ testimonials. Application should be channeled by mail to [Godlove.Mville@heifer.org](mailto:Godlove.Mville@heifer.org) cc [Joyce.Mbise@heifer.org](mailto:Joyce.Mbise@heifer.org). All applications should write the Job Title they are applying for as subject.

Remember, Heifer International is an equal employer and recruitment is by merits.

**Deadline this application is Friday, January 30, 2019**

Only Shortlisted Candidates will be contacted.



Shinyanga District official Jasinta Mboneko (C) cuts a ribbon at the weekend to launch 'Our Rights', a project to Under The Same Sun plans to implement in Shinyanga Region as part of a strategy to eradicate violence and discrimination against persons with albinism (PWA). UTSS is a charitable organisation that promotes the wellbeing of PWA via education and advocacy. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Govt concerned over slow pace of implementation of Rusumo project

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

KAGERA Regional Commissioner, Brigadier General Marco Gaguti said the government will take stern measures against anyone hindering efforts towards implementation of the Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project under joint development by the governments of Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

RC Gaguti made the statement over the weekend after he visited the project at Rusumo falls in Ngara district, Kagera region. He said he is concerned with the slow pace of project implementation.

The project is located at Rusumo Falls, at the common border of Rwanda and Tanzania on River Kagera. The power production facilities are located entirely on the south side of the bank of the Kagera River in Tanzania, while the substation is located on the northern side of the bank of the river in Rwanda where they share common border with Burundi.

Gaguti called upon residents living near the border with Rwanda to be patriotic and provide support towards successful implementation of the project. He said the hydropower

project will help Tanzanians attain its industrialization targets.

He also inspected some of the houses affected by explosions during project implementation where he directed village committee to reach consensus with the victims and allow contractors to continue with the job.

He said most of the houses were partially destroyed although owners are demanding high compensations while some are asking the government to construct them new houses.

The Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project is expected to be complete in 2021 with the capacity to produce 81 megawatts. Power generated will be shared equally between Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi whereas each of the countries will add 27MW to its national grid.

Funding to the project includes a World Bank loan amounting US \$ 340 million while the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) will build high voltage transmission lines at a cost of US \$128.6 million.

In March 2006, Ministers of Energy of the three countries signed in Kigali a Joint Project Development Agreement, reconfirming their commitment to jointly develop the Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project.

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), Executive Secretary Bang'i Issa called on the graduates, individuals and companies to explore opportunities available in the renewable energy in order to improve access to sustainable energy and address the unemployment challenge.

The NEEC boss said this in Dar es Salaam when launching the Tanzania Renewable Energy Business Incubator II (TAREBI II).

TAREBI II is a two-year incubation facility aimed to support micro and small renewable energy companies to reach underserved communities with clean energy. The programme is jointly

## NEEC calls upon graduates, companies to explore renewable energy opportunities

implemented by IMED Foundation and SELCO foundation of India, financed by Charles Stewart Mott Foundation of America.

The Executive Secretary said, there are a lot of opportunities in renewable energy which can lift up the living standard and address a number of social challenges.

She commended efforts by IMED in building performance capacities and implementing various development projects that are related to youth

economic empowerment, capacity building to enhance production and adaptation of renewable energy.

"The government is ready to support your efforts whenever you need our assistance," the secretary told IMED.

Earlier in his remarks before the launch, Dr Donath Olomi, the Director of the Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED), said the objective of the project is to scale up delivery of last mile energy solutions to the undeserved

community.

He said, the programme is expected to increase households receiving energy solution.

It has also increased incomes from use of additional energy provided by enterprises as a result of increased capacity through programme intervention.

Dr Olomi added; the foundation will offer a package of services to selected energy enterprises, including assistance in business planning,

coaching and mentorship facilitated by professionals and successful entrepreneur.

He said, the IMED foundation will serve incubates from Dar es Salaam, as well as through its network of resource persons in different parts of the country.

"Also the best performing in terms of implementing what is learnt to scale up, will participate in paid study tour in India," the director explained.

A call for application has been made

and advertised whereby a screening criterion has been prepared and will be used to select the most eligible applicants.

The director noted that the foundation is committed to work with various actors such as government's officials, development partners, business associations, and many others in ensuring development of strong technical management capacity for sustainable growth of renewable energy.

However, TAREBI II built on the success and lessons from TAREBI I, which was jointly implemented by IMED Foundation and Norges Vel through the support from The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).



### CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN THE ASSUMPTION OF MANAGEMENT OF THE BIZFUNDI DIGITAL PLATFORM

Bizfundi ([www.bizfundi.or.tz](http://www.bizfundi.or.tz)) is a digital market linkage and information platform that connects small business owners across Tanzania with the resources they need to grow and thrive. The platform features a searchable database of over 3,500 small businesses and over 100 business service providers. It is accessible as a website and downloadable Android application.

Bizfundi was developed under the Tanzania Feed the Future Enabling Growth through Investment and Enterprise (ENGINE) program, a four-year USAID-funded initiative designed to support broad-based economic growth.

The ENGINE program is seeking interested organizations to assume control of the platform and keep it operational beyond mid-2020, when the program is scheduled to conclude.

We are looking for organizations that are formally recognized, have experience managing technology solutions, engage with the business community, and demonstrate a willingness to invest resources in the platform's continued development.

To find out more about this opportunity, please visit [www.bizfundi.or.tz](http://www.bizfundi.or.tz) and complete the online form no later than 16:00 EAT **30th January 2020**.

*This publication was made possible through support provided by Feed the Future through the U.S. Agency for International Development. The opinions expressed herein are the sole responsibility of IESC and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.*



Embassy of Sweden  
Dar es Salaam

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Embassy is responsible for representing and promoting Swedish interests in Tanzania and has approximately 40 employees. The overall tasks of the Embassy include supporting business and trade, development cooperation, consular and visa services.

#### PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE AMBASSADOR

We would like to invite applications from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Personal Assistant to the Ambassador effective from April 2020. The job holder will report to the Ambassador.

#### Duties and responsibilities:

The successful candidate will have demonstrated administrative, organizational and communication skills. Specifically, the Personal Assistant will support the Ambassador with:

- Time Management: Organizing the Ambassador's diary, including arranging dates/times for meetings, in close collaboration with Embassy team. Pre-meeting verification and follow up. Dealing with last minute schedule changes. Receiving visitors to the Ambassador's office. Arranging programmes for official travel domestic and abroad.
- Entertainment: Arranging, in close consultation with Embassy team and Residence Manager, events at the Ambassador Residence, including securing dates, issuing of invitations and follow up as appropriate.
- Point of contact: Handling of correspondence and phone calls with government officials, representatives of the Tanzanian society at large, the diplomatic community, incoming Swedish visitors etc. Maintain and update the Embassy's contact data base.
- Drafting basic letters, official correspondence etc. as directed by the Ambassador
- Translation of documents and speeches from English to Kiswahili and vice versa.
- General office management including logging the Ambassador's travel, leave and monthly activities.
- Arranging official visit programmes and meetings
- Perform other duties assigned by the Ambassador.

#### Qualifications, Skills and Experience:

- Excellent secretarial and administrative skills, including proficiency with Microsoft Office.
- Excellent organization skills and keen eye for details.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English and Kiswahili.
- 3-5 years substantive experience in relevant positions, preferably as Personal Assistant to an Executive in an Embassy or international organization.
- Degree in relevant academic field.
- Ability to multi-task and work as a team player.
- High level of professional integrity and service mindedness
- Strong interpersonal skills, including the ability to be professional, courteous and deal directly with key players at a senior level.

If you are interested in this exciting career opportunity, e-mail us your CV (maximum 5 pages) and one page application letter explaining your suitability for the role. Please, do not include your certificates. Write "PA\_Ambassador" in your e-mail subject line. The deadline is 31st January 2020. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

We regret the vacancy is not ideal for fresh graduates.

Executive Search and Selection Division  
Prospect Africa Limited  
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By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

# Strengthen collections of revenue using GEPG system, DDDs urged

PERMANENT Secretary in the President's Office Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government Eng Joseph Nyamhanga has called upon District Development Directors countrywide to strengthen the management of revenue collections via e-payment gateway so as to remove complaints from the citizenry.

Speaking when opening seminar-general meeting members of Tanzania Osaka Alumni (TOA) held in Dodoma, Nyamhanga said development directors are required to beef up administration in revenue collection through the digital system in order to increase domestic revenue.

He also called upon them to closely monitor the funds from the government for the implementation of various projects so as to complete them in the agreed time frame.

"Among the biggest challenges is for the projects not being completed in

time, the situation that compels the Ministry for Finance to suspend some projects that delay in their finalization due to increase in implementation costs," he said.

He said in that area many Directors have failed to perform their duties accordingly, that has necessitated suspension for some of them and others made to face legal action whilst others sacked.

He added that there other Directors who still fail to effect expenditure through 'Force Account' system.

He called upon them to abide by the new guidelines issued by the President's Office, the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government on the correct procedure

on expenditure.

"Right now in the 'Force Account' procedure there have erupted challenges on materials being bought by exorbitant prices, but also favouritism on the experts we employ for the projects," he said.

He also reminded the Directors to ensure they finalize the building of classrooms to remove the current

*"Among the biggest challenges is for the projects not being completed in time, the situation that compels the Ministry for Finance to suspend some projects that delay in their finalization due to increase in implementation costs"*

congestion in classes in schools.

He also wanted them to be careful when listening to the experts who

will be presenting their views on the 2020 General elections, so as to acquire knowledge on how to manage

the elections more successfully than it was for last year's conduct of civic elections.



Arusha local government official Baraka Simoni (R) presents a souvenir to Sharagim Shams, a member of an Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries delegation that visited Odonyowas Secondary School at the weekend to inspect projects funded by Opec. Photo: Correspondent Wainde Shizza

## Regional fire brigade tasked to construct seven modern apartments for members

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Commissioner Loata Sanare has directed the regional fire brigade commander, Goodluck Zelote to construct seven modern apartments for the brigade's staff.

Sanare made a call during the weekend when rewarding 10 corps who performed well in their duties in 2019.

"The RC said fire brigade here owns a large plot of land which is enough to construct even more than 10 apartments...I have been informed that at least 42 police staff are living difficult lives as they have no safe place to stay thus hindering emergency and fire rescue activities especially during night," he said.

He wanted the force to stop rehabilitating old houses but build new ones for the soldiers to live in.

"I will support you in this by asking for stakeholders support to ensure that our soldiers live in safe places and relocate them from the remote areas

where they are living now," he said.

In facilitating financial sources to construct modern houses, RC ordered regional authorities to stop resting the Fire and Rescue Force from constructing their own business



**I will support you in this by asking for stakeholders support to ensure that our soldiers live in safe places and relocate them from the remote areas where they are living now**

frames for the aim of generating incomes.

"Allow the fire brigade to continue with construction of business frames... As you know their challenges, they have to look for other income generating sources as they have a number of challenges to solve including shortage of staff houses; the government also assigned them to collect over 300m/- per year," her stressed.

RC Sanare later rewarded certificates of appreciation to one sergeant namely Abdala Hamidu Juma(Sgt), three corporals , Ipyana Mwakasege(cpl), Benjamin B a n d a l a ( c p l ) , H a s h i m u Ngalawanda(CPL) and two fire constables Geoffrey Mbate(F.C),Bahati Rajabu(F.C

He commended development stakeholders for supporting the development of the regional fire brigade especially in the construction of staff houses.

He named them MW Rice Millers, The Islamic Foundation, 21st Century Textile Industry, Tigo, Peacem Cratering and Saba General Company.

## RC directs Mbeya council to assist entrepreneurs in accessing loans

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA regional commissioner Albert Chalamila has directed Mbeya City Council leader to visit a group of entrepreneurs made up of people with disabilities named 'Mlemavu Ondokana na Utegemezi' (MOU) at Iyunga in the city's outskirts for assistance in accessing loans they have asked for.

Chalamila issued the directives at the weekend when he visited a member of the group Godfrey Kalebela, resident of Lumbila, in Iwambi Ward to offer 500,000/- assistance contributed by various people to help him.

Kalebela told Chalamila that their group has five members all of whom have disabilities and had already received registration but the City Council had been dilly dallying to give them a loan intended for entrepreneurs as required by law that says two per cent of a Council income should be set aside for entrepreneurs.

He said the group has followed all procedures as required including opening a bank account and submitting an official request for a 5m/- loan but

community development officials have been hesitant to help them to get the loan.

"I knit table cloths by using hand needles and my colleagues are engaged in their own entrepreneurship activities, but the challenge is to get that loan from the Council, we ask you the Regional Commissioner to assist us getting that loan," he said.

Kalebela said they are worried their application had not received due attention because since they started the loan process, they had not been visited by community development officials for inspection of their activities.

After that explanation Chalamila phoned Mbeya District Commissioner William Ntinika and directed him to see the City Director as well as community development officials to visit the group as soon as possible.

About the 500,000/- presented to Kalebela, RC Chalamila said it was contributed by some good citizens led by Dar es Salaam based Albert Msando who mobilised themselves after Kalebela put up a request via social networks.

He said they are still contributing after which the money will be given to him to acquire an office to conduct his activities.

He called upon Kalebela to continue what he was doing and promised him to look for markets for his products.



**I knit table cloths by using hand needles and my colleagues are engaged in their own entrepreneurship activities, but the challenge is to get that loan from the Council, we ask you the Regional Commissioner to assist us getting that loan**



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WITH HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

Heifer Project International is a global non-profit, humanitarian development organization founded by Dan West in 1944 dedicated to ending hunger and poverty and caring for the Earth by empowering smallholder farm families around the globe become self-reliant and attain sustainable livelihood through economically viable animal agricultural enterprise. The global headquarters is located at 1 World Avenue, Little Rock Arkansas, USA.

One the recent projects in its program portfolio is The Tanzania Milk Processing Project (TMPP), an ambitious 18 Months Project designed to increase the incomes of smallholder dairy farmers in Tanzania through better access to reliable, high-value markets while ensuring processors have access to increased supply of high-quality milk in Njombe, Rungwe, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Morogoro.

In responsive to this project needs, the Country Program is seeking to recruit competent candidates for following positions

**1. Job Title: TMPP Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation Officer**  
**Location: TMPP Country Office Arusha - Tanzania**

**FUNCTION:**  
Tanzania Milk Processing Project (TMPP) Monitoring Learning Evaluation (MLE) Officer reports to the Program Director. S/he also works closely with the country TMPP management team to provide the overall support to the Monitoring Learning Evaluation function across all zones where TMPP operates. As such, s/he will work in close collaboration with respective TMPP staff with the view to supporting each zone to realize quality project outcomes and to document and present the same in a manner that is impactful and of high quality. To this end, he/she will provide technical assistance, advice and support on key aspects of Monitoring Learning Evaluation that would shape the overall TMPP's framework and ensure that all outcomes are achieved

**ESSENTIAL CHARACTER TRAITS:**  
Enthusiasm, Orderliness, Compliance, Creativity, Determination, Diligence, Self-starter, critical thinker, curious.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**  
a) Bachelor's degree in international development, quantitative economics, business and or statistics or the equivalent with at least two (2) years of demonstrated experience in the Monitoring, Learning & Evaluation field, gained through working in the development context, preferably in a non-governmental organization (NGO) or relevant private sector context as well as experience in supporting and monitoring field based programs

**PREFERRED REQUIREMENTS:**  
Master's degree or equivalent in international development, quantitative economics, business and or statistics or the equivalent with an academic focus on monitoring and evaluation, plus four (4) years of direct relevant experience in Monitoring Learning Evaluation.

**2. Job Title: TMPP Business Development Advisor**  
**Location: Morogoro Region**

**FUNCTION:**  
The Business Development Officer (BDO) will work closely with the Dairy Quality Assurance Officers and Social Capital Development Coordinator to provide leadership to business development activities to build the capacity of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to be sustainable business entities with functional structures able to improve the incomes of their members by providing services and a reliable market by entering into agreements with off-taker Processors to supply them with high quality milk. S/he will collaborate with dairy farmer Producer Organizations (POs), processors, Dairy Interest Groups (DIGs) and dairy boards to enhance value-chain actors' benefits and leverage service delivery at each level of contact with both farmers and customers. S/he will provide technical assistance to FPOs to enter into bulk purchase agreements with large scale processors and support all the entities to fulfill the mutually agreed agreements.

S/he will also work closely with or through partner processors' (Milk Com and Shambani Milk) and private sector players input suppliers, financial service providers), government agencies and development partners to design and implement appropriate business development interventions that improve the business performance of the FPOs, DIGs and individual farmers within the cluster

**ESSENTIAL CHARACTER TRAITS:**  
Proactive, creative thinker, a team player and able to structure and manage complex tasks.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**  
Bachelors' Degree or equivalent in the fields of Agriculture Economics, Business Administration, Rural Development, Enterprise Development, Animal/ Veterinary Science or other related field, plus two (2) years field and technical experience with commercial sector, agribusiness development in a mix of economic growth/trade, value chain competitiveness, investment promotion, or agriculture development

**3. Job Title: TMPP Assistant Business Development Advisor**  
**Location: Tanga Region**

**FUNCTION:**  
The Assistant Business Development Advisor (ABDA) will support in providing timely and effective implementation of project activities and achievement of the business development goal of the project. S/he will be responsible for supporting the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and the Dairy Interest Groups (DIGs) to increase the collection of high quality milk to meet the needs of off-taker processors while providing technical support to FPOs to be functional and sustainable enterprises with the relevant systems and structures to provide services to their members. The job entails over 80% field-based activities working closely with, dairy interest groups and FPOs to enhance value-chain actors' benefits; and leverage service delivery at each level of contact with both farmers and customers. This position may also involve close collaboration with farmers' groups, input suppliers, large processors and development partners on the ground in order to implement appropriate business development interventions within the cluster to increase milk collection and overall business performance of the FPOs.

**ESSENTIAL CHARACTER TRAITS:**  
Proactive, able to generate innovative solutions, a team player and have good interpersonal skills (both written and oral).

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**  
Bachelors' Degree or equivalent in the fields of Agriculture Economics, Business Administration, Rural Development, Enterprise Development or other related field, plus One (1) years field and technical experience with agribusiness development in commercial sector, value chain competitiveness, or agribusiness development

**4. Job Title: TMPP Field Assistant -Social Capital Development (SCD) & Quality (3positions)**  
**Location: Arusha, Tanga and Rungwe**

**FUNCTION:**  
The Field Assistant (FA) (SCD&Quality) will be responsible for providing technical support and guidance to a team of Community Facilitators (CFs) and Community Agro-veterinary Entrepreneurs (CAVEs) in the roll out of Production, Feeds and Gender and social capital development (SCD) activities at Producer Organization (PO), Dairy Interest Group (DIG) and Exponential Pass on the Gift (PoG) groups within areas where TMPP operates.

S/he will provide onsite (field) technical support in transforming dairy farming from subsistence into a farming as a business (income generation) which apart from catering nutrition will also be generating income, hence improving farmers' livelihoods. S/he will also support farmers to establish vibrant milk marketing groups to exploit economies of scale. From time to time, the Field Assistant will be coaching PO leadership to exploit and foster milk, and other businesses around the PO. S/he will be responsible in supporting farmers to explore business connections with other key market players such input suppliers and milk processors within and beyond the milk shed.

**ESSENTIAL CHARACTER TRAITS:**  
Confident, Positive, Flexible, Values-Oriented, Enthusiastic, Passionate about community empowerment

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**  
Diploma or Bachelor Degree in Community Development, Gender and Development, Social Development, Rural Development or any other relevant field plus three (3) years in a mix of dairy production and value chain competitiveness, or agriculture development and experience in community group formation and strengthening.

**5. Job Title: TMPP Office Assistant**  
**Location: Arusha Region**

**FUNCTION:**  
The TMPP Assistant will be part of a highly efficient and motivated team within the TMPP project. Under the Supervision and guidance of the TMPP Finance Officer, He/ She will be involved in the daily operations and provide direct assistance to the Project in all aspects related to Administration. This includes co-ordination of events, receiving visitors, Office Management, Logistical and procurement supports to accomplish program goals and objective as well as performing basic finance administrative tasks as assigned.

**ESSENTIAL CHARACTER TRAITS:**  
Essential traits for successful execution of the job duties, s/he should be: proactive, good communicator, timely and highly flexible, collaborative, attentive to details, good team player and courteous.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**  
Diploma or bachelor's degree in Administration or procurement and logistic or Business administration or Accounting plus three (3) years of related experience.

For a detailed JD, requirements and application instruction follow this link <https://jobs.jobvite.com/heifer/>.

Only Shortlisted Candidates will be contacted.

Deadline for this application is Friday, January 30, 2019.

21/1559/201



Senior officials of the opposition Chadema including national Chairman Freeman Mbowe (L) pictured yesterday at the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam, where they appeared in connection with the hearing of their seditious case. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Regional authorities urged to develop museum sites along highways to attract more tourists

By Beatrice Philemon

REGIONAL authorities have been urged to establish museum sites along highways which will be portraying history of each region and thus attract more tourists, enhance tourism and earn more revenues.

Founder and Chairperson of the Association of Women in Tourism Tanzania (AWOTTA), Mary Kalikawe made call in Dar es Salaam during the weekend when briefing journalists on the forthcoming Domestic Tourism Expo scheduled for February 6 to 8, this year at the National Museum.

She advised the 'highway museums' should carry history of their tribes, cultural heritages existing in those regions as well as original weapons and tools which were used during the colonial administrations.

"This will not only attract tourists but also help both residents and regions earn more income to alleviate poverty and facilitate development initiatives," she said.

She added that "I hope each region has a lot to offer for both local and international visitors, it's a time for

them to set up highway museums that will allow people to see what they offer in tourism sector."

According to her during their travel, passengers will get a chance to visit in those areas and purchase different products before their final destination.

Kalikawe further said that the highway museums should also have experts who will be providing proper information on the natural and cultural tourism existing in those areas and keep well the data concerning tourism industry in those regions.

Currently domestic tourism contributes 3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Tanzania is the largest country in East Africa, is focused on wildlife conservation and sustainable tourism, with approximately 28 percent of the land protected by the Government and it boasts 15 National Parks and 31 game reserves.

Apart from that It is the home of the tallest mountain in Africa, the legendary Mt. Kilimanjaro; The Serengeti, named in October, 2006, the New 7th Wonder of the World by USA and Good Morning America; the world

acclaimed Ngorongoro Crater, often called the 8th Wonder of the World; Olduvai Gorge, the cradle of mankind as well as the Selous Game Reserve, the world's largest game reserve.

Ruaha National Park currently is the second largest National Park in Africa, the spice islands of Zanzibar, and seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Most important for visitors, the Tanzanian people are warm and friendly, speak English, which together with Kiswahili, are the two official languages; and the country is an oasis of peace and stability with a democratically elected and stable government.



**This will not only attract tourists but also help both residents and regions earn more income to alleviate poverty and facilitate development initiatives**

## UK aims to be Africa's partner of choice for trade and investment

By Guardian Reporter

THE UK is strengthening its economic partnerships with African nations, as part of a Government drive to ensure the continent's growing demand for investment is met by the UK's expertise and innovation.

According to a statement issued yesterday, programmes from the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Department for International Trade (DIT) will boost clean energy supplies, digital networks, and jobs and business opportunities for women, as well as improving trade infrastructure.

In the lead up to the UK-Africa Investment Summit, which is being held in London today (20 January 2020), £6.5 billion of commercial deals have already been signed by British companies to deliver jobs, growth and investment across the UK and Africa, with deals worth billions more expected to be made during the course of the day. They are expected to mobilise billions of pounds in private sector investment for Africa, marking a new era of trade between the UK and Africa.

Africa has 8 of the world's 15 fastest growing economies and there is huge demand on the continent for clean, sustainable and innovative investment. As home to some of the world's most enterprising technologies and the financial centre of the world in the City of London, the UK is perfectly placed to meet that demand and be the continent's investment partner of choice.

DFID's programmes, totalling £370 million, include supporting African countries to meet their rapidly growing energy demands through green energy, including better access to solar energy and electricity.

Helping Africa thrive digitally through a £45 million programme helping young Africans, especially women, access the internet, develop digital skills and find jobs as well as enabling at least 100,000 more women in Africa to secure high-quality jobs by funding their education and training.

A £200 million programme to help build basic trade infrastructure in southern Africa. The new programme will support upgrades to border posts, ports and roads. It will also work with governments and businesses to improve trade policies and cut red tape.

It is also intends to boosting the flow of private financing into African projects supporting girls' education, healthcare and climate resilience.

Two joint DFID-DIT programmes, totalling £57 million, include a £37 million programme to help businesses, trade with and invest across Africa, £20 million programme that will support businesses in developing countries to increase trade with international markets.

A separate Climate Finance Accelerator programme, worth £10 million from the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), will help developing countries reduce emissions by attracting more foreign investment and helping to build renewable energy sources, like wind farms.

The announcement comes as British and African firms announce £6.5 billion worth of commercial deals today, including a £25 million investment by Matalan in Egypt to launch 11 new shopping outlets, GSK, who are investing a further £5 million in their operations in Egypt and Diageo's £167 million investment in Kenya and East Africa to support sustainability of breweries.

To date, the UK has signed trade agreements with 11 African countries, covering 43% of the UK's total trade with Africa and legislated for a trade preferences scheme with a further 35 African countries, with the ambition to build and deepen existing agreements in the future.

International Development Secretary Alok Sharma said: "Africa's economic potential is huge, with eight of the world's 15 fastest growing economies and a population set to double to over 2 billion by 2050.

We have much to offer African nations - UK aid is tackling climate change and supporting women entrepreneurs, our tech and digital expertise is helping Africa grow new industries and the City of London is channelling billions of private investment into Africa, boosting jobs and growth."

This Summit is a major step in unlocking the UK's unique offer, becoming Africa's investment partner of choice and benefiting people and businesses across the UK and Africa.

International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said: "Trade with countries across Africa has never been more exciting. As opportunities there grow, it's great to see so many British firms paving the way in trading and investing in the region to drive growth, create jobs and boost vital infrastructure.



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## Climate change and conflicts should not fuel hunger in 2020

CLIMATE change occurs when changes in Earth's climate system result in new weather patterns that last for at least a few decades, and maybe for millions of years. Human activities can also change earth's climate, and are presently driving climate change through global warming.

Whereas conflict is a clash of interest. The basis of conflict may vary but, it is always a part of society. Basis of conflict may be personal, racial, class, caste, political and international. Conflict in groups often follows a specific course. Routine group interaction is first disrupted by an initial conflict, often caused by differences of opinion, disagreements between members, or scarcity of resources. At this point, the group is no longer united, and may split into coalitions. This period of conflict escalation in some cases gives way to a conflict resolution stage, after which the group can eventually return to routine group interaction.

Millions of people across sub-Saharan Africa could face grave hunger in the first half of 2020 because of armed conflict, political instability and climate change-linked disasters, a report says.

The report published by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) this month says that the countries affected will require life-saving food assistance and investment to prevent humanitarian catastrophes.

According to estimates of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, about 70.8 million people are displaced worldwide by war, violence and persecution, with low- and middle-income countries bearing the brunt of the problem. "In some countries, we are seeing conflict and instability combine with climate extremes force people from their homes, farms and places of work," said Alexandre Le Cuziat, World Food Programme

Climate change seems to be creating refugees on its own, with the World Bank estimating in a 2018 report that over 140 million are expected to migrate within countries by 2050, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America.

"In some countries, we are seeing conflict and instability combine with climate extremes force people from their homes, farms and places of work," says Alexandre Le Cuziat, a co-author of the WFP report.

"In others, climate shocks are occurring alongside economic collapse and leaving millions on the brink of destitution and hunger."

The WFP report is an internal analysis that is compiled every two months and used to identify countries of high prioritisation for emergency assistance. The agency identified critical and complex emergencies at risk of descending further into crisis without a rapid response and greater investment.

According to the report The Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Central Sahel region comprising Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger are more vulnerable to hunger.

Zimbabwe is experiencing its worst drought in decades, with temperatures hitting over 40 degrees Celsius. This has severely affected food production and highlights the severe impacts of climate change affecting the broader sub-region, which has seen the worst drought in 35 years," explains the report.

South Sudan remains embroiled in a bitter conflict which has pushed millions into hunger and malnutrition. Meanwhile the Central Sahel faces a toxic cocktail of rapidly escalating armed conflict, population displacement, hunger and widespread poverty, compounded by the effects of climate change.

## Small-scale farmers duty-bound to adhere to better agricultural practices for higher yields

THE new agricultural policy in Tanzania stipulates the need for the government to deliver extension services to (primarily small scale) farmers at the village level. Through the Ministry of Agriculture Training Institutes (MATIs), many extension officers have been enrolled, trained and deployed to the districts throughout the country. The aim is to ensure that the farmers are equipped with agricultural knowledge and skills to improve their farming practices and eventually productivity.

The majority of Tanzanian farmers are small-scale farmers who depend mainly on agriculture for their livelihoods. Agriculture provides food for their families and cash to meet their daily needs such as housing and school fees. To meet the family food and financial demands, small-scale farmers are obliged to adhere to good agricultural practices which are fundamental for high productivity.

Agricultural extension is the application of scientific research and new knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education. The field of 'extension' now encompasses a wider range of communication and learning activities organised for rural people by educators from different disciplines, including agriculture, agricultural marketing, health, and business studies.

Extension practitioners can be found throughout the world, usually working for government agencies. They are represented by several professional organisations, networks and extension journals.

Agricultural extension agencies in developing countries receive large amounts of support from international development organisations such as the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

Minister for Agriculture Japhet

Hasunga has called on extension officers in the country to put in place work plans that will enable the supervision and growth of farming, livestock and fisheries sectors so as to increase their contribution to the country's economic growth and industrial development.

Hasunga gave the appeal here this week when opening Tanzania Society of Agricultural Extension and Education - TSAEE meeting from all councils countrywide.

The meeting's main aim was to deliberate on various challenges being faced and put in place strategies for farming and livestock sectors to increase productivity.

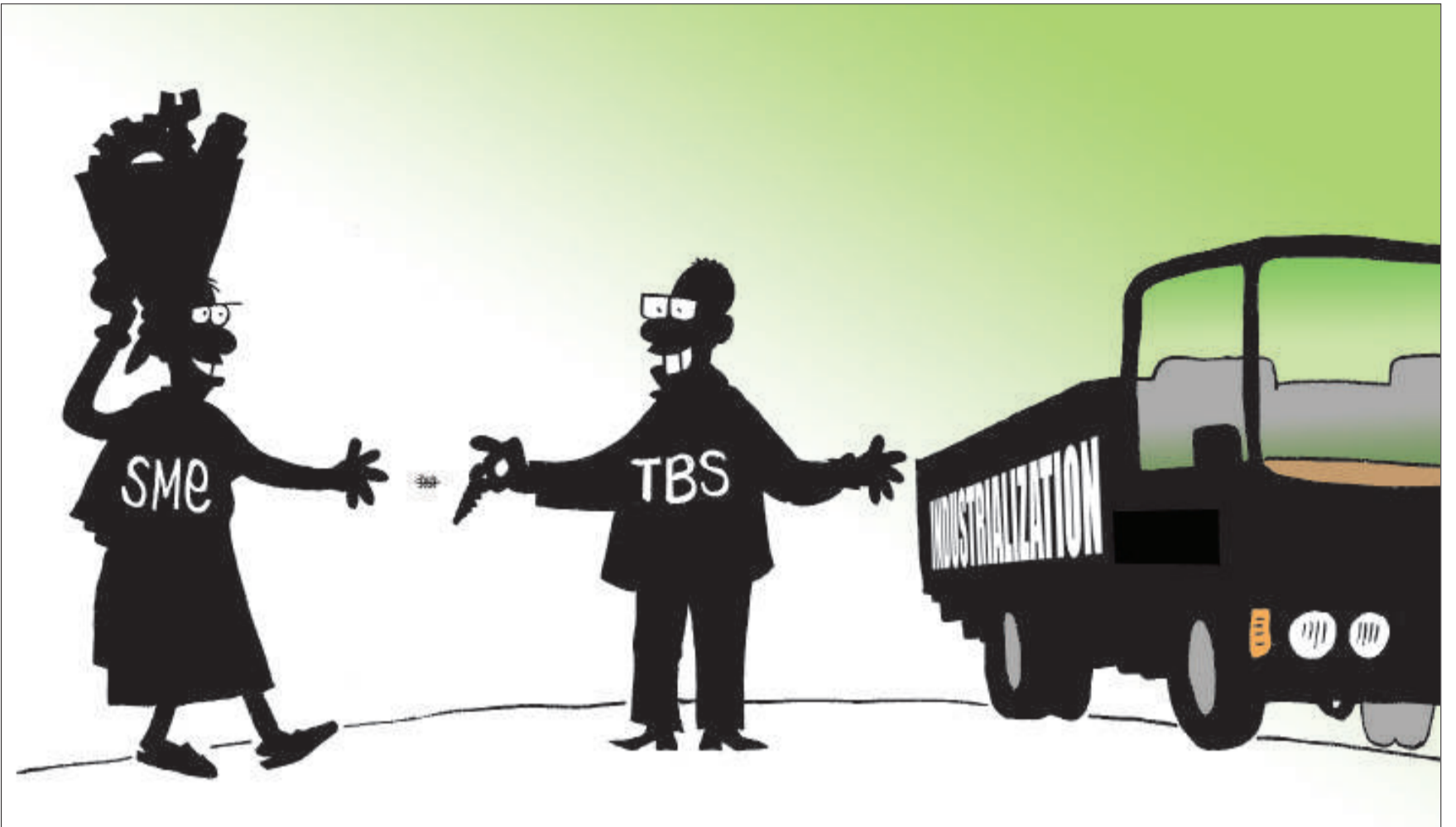
He said the aim of the government to build industrial economy comes from existing opportunities through farming, livestock and fisheries sectors.

He said: "In this sustainable process, we have all agreed to establish industries that use domestic raw materials hence in order to make that a reality, farming, livestock and fisheries sectors have huge contribution for provision of the required raw materials."

Hasunga directed that every extension officer in the country must have a 'Farming Register' which he will use to put therein all important records every time he goes out to serve farmers. Together with other essential details the register should show a list of all farmers he serves, size of their farms and types of crops they grow.

Nonetheless, Hasunga said the government recognises the shortage of extension officers in the country compared to the number of wards that need to be served by the officials.

"Up to now we have 7,307 agricultural extension officers, 3,795 for livestock and only 419 for fisheries - it's obvious this number is small as compared to with 3,956 wards, 12,319 villages and 4,263 divisions that all need to be served with extension officers."



# New nature-based food and land use economy

By Agnes Kalibata

"All my kids can go to school now, whereas before I might only have been able to send one" reports Balaynesh Kasa, a farmer in Debre Yakob Watershed, close to Bahir Dar town, in Amhara regional state, Ethiopia, and mother to four children.

Balaynesh's ability to grow and sell produce has increased over the last eight years as a result of a project implemented by Water and Land Resource Centre at Addis Ababa University, Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) partner, that has restored degraded lands to increase its productivity. Through practices including soil and water conservation, fertility management, increased tree planting on farmland and irrigation techniques, she now boasts production of banana, avocado trees and hops, home gardens, livestock and beehives on her small farm. This means she can now afford schooling, medicine as well as nutritious food for her family.

Putting nature at the heart of agriculture and land management can unlock huge benefits for people, health and the environment, like those which Balaynesh is enjoying. Productive and regenerative agricultural systems that combine local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and techniques such as crop rotation and tree planting with advanced farming technologies like drip irrigation and seed selection can increase yields, reduce input requirements, boost transparency, and improve the incomes and livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

Beyond the farm, functioning ecosystems are at the heart of local economic and resilience to mounting climate impacts, including rising global temperatures. Natural capital (which includes soil, water and plant life) accounts for over a third of total wealth in sub-Saharan Africa alone, where over 70 per cent of people depend on forests and woodlands for their livelihoods.

Flourishing forests, grasslands and wetlands can help to reduce risks of and vulnerability to flooding, drought and soil erosion, which are forecast to increase with climate change. Similarly, sustainable fishing and aquaculture management can optimise the long-term availability of fish, reducing demand for land-based proteins and supporting healthier, more diverse diets.

The Food and Land Use Coalition



reveals that these 'nature-based solutions' could generate a \$2.4 trillion economic prize by reducing costs linked to malnutrition, rural poverty and environmental damage. What's more, they could unlock a US\$102 billion business opportunity globally by providing forest ecosystem services, tapping into low income food markets with new and sustainable products, boosting yields by applying technology on smallholder farms, and more.

Importantly, people stand to benefit hugely from a transition to sustainable agriculture, forestry and land management. For example, agroforestry or planting trees among agricultural crops can generate new revenue streams and fresh produce for the household, boost yields of existing crops by improving soil health, and strengthen the resilience of the farm to extreme weather events such as storms.

Back to Ethiopia, the opportunities linked to nature-based solutions are remarkable. The recently launched Action Agenda for a New Food and Land Use Economy in Ethiopia outlines how the country can transition to sustainable food systems and scale up the benefits that Balaynesh and her family are enjoying. Going forward, the Food and Land Use Coalition is prioritizing advancing commercialization of crop and livestock production that leads to innovations in food production and land use practices.

These innovations provide more inclusive economic opportunities, improve health, and reduce food loss while restoring degraded landscapes, expanding tree cover, and protecting

ecosystems within agricultural landscapes. Public and private actors are increasing lending to the agriculture and forest sectors and rural areas overall—all aligned with sustainable value chain improvements are envisioned results and potential benefits of successful actions.

Action in these areas can improve the incomes for over 700,000 smallholder farming households and increase agricultural GDP by over US\$360 million. Overcoming rural financing gaps could increase the value of credit-constrained smallholder producers by up to 60% per hectare. In addition, the Action Agenda provides a roadmap to boost the efficiency of Ethiopia's food systems to reduce post-harvest loss and save the country millions of dollars.

Already, Ethiopia is an international leader in sustainable land use management and practices that boost resilience, generate new revenue streams and drive economic growth. In July 2019, the country set the world record for the most trees planted in one day, with the population planting 353 million trees as part of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's broader plan to plant four billion trees in the 2019 rainy season between May and October. The government also aims to restore up to 33 million hectares of degraded land and to ensure that agricultural productivity does not occur at the cost of Ethiopia's forests, wetlands and other ecosystems that serve as the home for millions of people and wildlife.

Furthermore, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) supports the Ethiopian government to implement its second Growth and

Transformation Plan (GTP II) through its focus on commercialising agriculture. AGRA, an alliance working to increase the income and food security of 30 million smallholders in 11 countries including Ethiopia by 2021, supports farmers to adopt yield increasing and climate smart technologies and gives them access finance and markets.

Other countries can learn from and build on Ethiopia's successes. Action is urgently needed to prevent further losses and to tap into emerging opportunities from nature-based solutions. The scale and breadth of transformation requires innovative partnerships across public and private sectors, drawing on the experience and expertise of each. Governments can create the enabling environment for the private sector, financing players and civil society to engage in nature-based solutions at scale. Private sector players can transition existing operations while investing in the innovations of tomorrow. Critically, this work must be led by front-liners themselves - smallholder farmers, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs and communities.

A sustainable food and land use economy can deliver a brighter future for people and planet. By seizing this moment, Ethiopia can continue to serve as a world leader and support its population at home - and so we can hear the inspiring stories from more farmers like Balaynesh.

**Ms. Agnes Kalibata of Rwanda - appointed Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres**



# Berlin summit on Libya conflict: What did world powers agree?

**W**ORLD powers held a high-stakes summit in Berlin on Sunday to discuss the way forward to end the conflict in Libya.

Leaders and officials from Turkey, Russia, Egypt, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States attended the gathering in the German capital, while representatives from the UAE, Algeria, China, the Republic of the Congo, the United Nations, European Union and African Union were also present.

Renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar and his rival, Fayez al-Sarraj, who leads the internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) based in Tripoli, attended the summit but did not participate.

Haftar, who is backed by a rival administration based in eastern Libya, launched a military offensive on Tripoli in April which has since stalled. Some foreign powers had upped their support to the warring factions in an attempt to break the deadlock, but in Berlin, world leaders agreed on a joint course of action to de-escalate the conflict.

Here are the main points they agreed on their final communique, to be put forward as a UN Security Council resolution.

## End to foreign interference

The Berlin participants “commit to refraining from interference in the armed conflict or in the internal affairs of Libya” and urge all international actors “to do the same”.

## UN arms embargo

The participants “commit to unequivocally and fully respect and implement the arms embargo” established by the UN in 2011 but frequently violated, and “call on all international actors to do the same”.

“We call on all actors to refrain from any activities exacerbating the conflict ... including the financing of military capabilities or the recruitment of mercenaries,” the text adds.

The document also asks UN experts to monitor and investigate any breach-



es of the arms embargo “on a continuous basis” and called all actors to enforce UNSC sanctions against those found to be in breach of the embargo.

## Ceasefire

The signatories to the final statement “call on all parties concerned to redouble their efforts for a sustained suspension of hostilities, de-escalation and a permanent ceasefire”.

They also urge “the redeployment of heavy weapons, artillery and aerial vehicles” and an end to all military move-

**The document is due to be put forward as a UN Security Council resolution. File photo**

ments by, or in direct support of, the conflict parties - throughout Libya and in its airspace, the text reads.

The participants invite the UN to establish “technical committees” to monitor the implementation of the truce.

They call on the UNSC “to impose appropriate sanctions on those who are found to be in violation of the ceasefire arrangements and on member states to enforce these”.

## Dissolving militias

According to the text, the participants want to see “credible steps” towards “the dismantling of armed groups and militias” in Libya, whose members should then be integrated “into civilian, security and military state institutions”. The UN is asked to assist in the demobilisation process.

The participants also call for the restoration of the monopoly of the state to the legitimate use of force. They support the establishment of unified Libyan national security, police and military forces under central, civilian authority, building upon the Cairo talks, and the documents produced therein.

## Return to political process

The Berlin document urges “all Libyan parties to resume the inclusive Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process under the auspices of the UNSMIL [the UN Support Mission in Libya]” to reach an intra-Libyan solution.

The goal is to pave “the way to end the transitional period” through free, fair and credible parliamentary and presidential elections.

## Human rights

The participants “urge all parties in Libya to fully respect international humanitarian law and human rights law”.

They call for an “end to the practice of arbitrary detention” and urge the Libyan authorities to “gradually close the detention centres for migrants and asylum seekers”.

## Economy and oil

The participants stressed the importance of restoring and safeguarding the integrity of Libyan institutions, in particular the Central Bank of Libya and the National Oil Corporation (NOC).

They urge all parties to guarantee the security of the country’s crucial oil infrastructure, and reject “any illicit exploitation of its energy resources”.

## Distribution of wealth

The document calls for transparent, accountable, fair and equitable distribution of public wealth and resources between different Libyan geographical areas, including through decentralisation and support for municipalities.

## Strengthening of institutions

The agreement urges Libyan authorities to further strengthen “transitional justice institutions, including prosecution initiatives, reparations, truth-seeking and institutional reform, which should be in line with internationally recognised standards and principles”.

## Follow-up talks

At a news conference announcing the communique, UN chief Antonio Guterres said al-Sarraj, the GNA head, and Haftar, had each appointed five military representatives to attend follow-up talks in Geneva “in the next few days”.

AGENCIES

EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE GROUP

**AWARD**  
2017 - 2018 - 2019

**AWARD**  
2016 - 2017 - 2018 - 2019

**AWARD**  
2019

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## Excellence across the Group! Exim Bank and Subsidiaries win a series of International Prestigious Awards.

Exim Bank Group finished the year 2019 with a bang. The Tanzania’s fifth largest bank by total assets has been recognized by a number of international awarding bodies.

Exim Bank Tanzania was awarded the ‘Best Investment Bank’ for the fourth year in a row by the Global Banking and Finance Awards, Exim Bank Djibouti named the ‘Bank of the Year’ for 3 years in a row by the Banker Awards and Exim Bank Comoros was recognized as the ‘Best Innovation Bank’.

Commenting on the awards, Mr. Jaffari Matundu, the bank’s Chief Executive Officer, said: “Exim Bank is pleased to have been recognized with these prestigious awards during this last business year. Our purpose is to drive Africa’s growth whilst offering appropriate financial solutions. These recognitions highlight our commitment to being more than a provider of financial products and services. We are a catalyst for economic change in our countries of operation by doing the right business the right way.”

“Innovation is the drive of our bank and such recognitions are a testament to our commitment to pursuing better ways to deliver financial solutions across the Exim Bank Group,” he added.

Mr. Matundu concluded by saying that these awards come with immense pride but, more importantly, a self-challenge to go even further, “of which we gladly accept and boldly promise our customers to expect more than what we have been doing.”

# Pro-growth demographic dogma

By Joseph Chamie, NEW YORK

WHENEVER the issue of population comes up, pro-growth demographic dogma invariably dominates. Governments, political parties, businesses, the media and many others typically praise population growth and lament population slowdown, stabilization or decline. The demographic dogma basically advocates maintaining robust population growth and a larger and youthful population.

Population declines, even slowdowns, generally inspire angst among most policymakers, military officials, business leaders, economists and others, as they see them tied to economic, political, social and cultural decline.

The dogma foresees financial ruin and a loss of political influence and national power resulting from demographic declines and population aging.

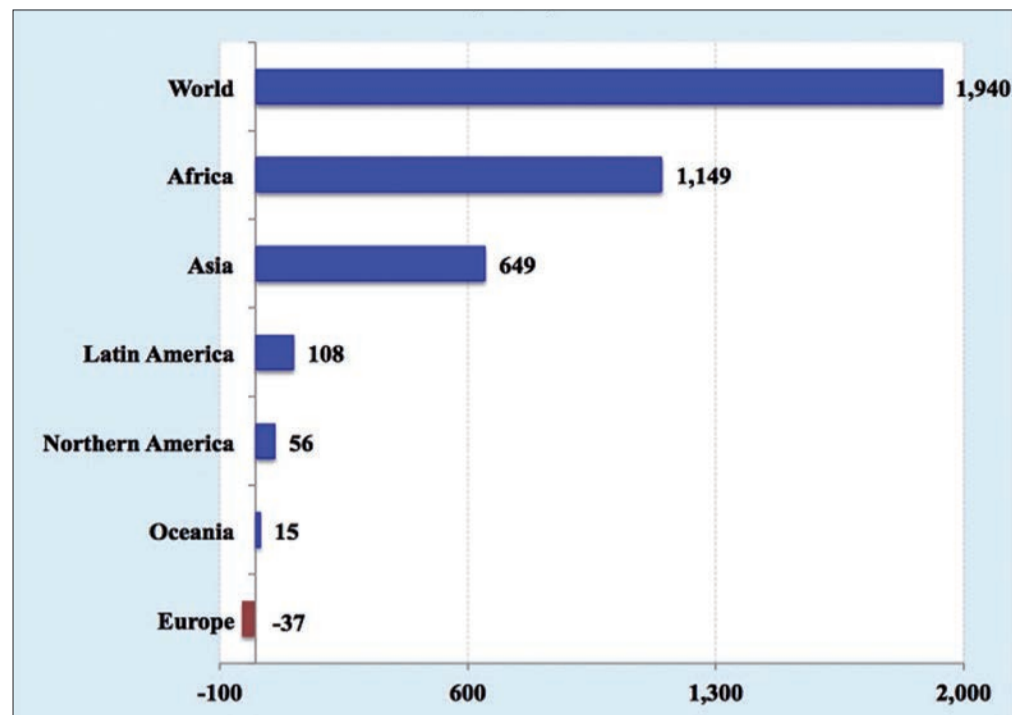
Fear of population decline and aging is promoted by many groups, especially business leaders who tend to gain the most financially from a growing, youthful population of consumers and workers.

The pro-growth demographic dogma is fundamentally a Ponzi scheme. It is a pyramid scheme that generates more money, power and influence for some by adding on more and more people through natural increase and in some cases immigration.

Questions about the sustainability of long-term population growth are typically dismissed or left unanswered.

For example, while Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Alibaba founder Jack Ma may disagree on many issues, they are in agreement that the biggest problem facing the world in the future is not enough people.

Although world population is projected to add 2 billion people by midcentury, the two prominent businessmen claim, "The biggest issue in 20 years will be population collapse.



Not explosion. Collapse."

In the United States, the Chamber of Commerce regularly calls for the government to continue importing foreign workers. In a recent interview, Chamber CEO Tom Donohue commenting on the ongoing labor shortage in the country said: "The fundamental issue is that the United States of America is out of people."

However, data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics show there is no labor shortage. In addition, automation, artificial intelligence and robots are reducing labor needs in many sectors of the US economy.

The pro-growth demographic dogma is fundamentally a Ponzi scheme. It is a pyramid scheme that generates more money, power and influence for some by adding on more and more people through natural increase and in some cases immigration. Questions about the sustainability of long-term population growth are typically dismissed or left unanswered.

In an unrelenting public relations campaign, every effort is made to equate sustained population growth and a youthful population with economic prosperity and developmental progress. The dogma warns that population declines, even slowdowns, and demographic aging will lead to serious financial problems and a bleak future by reducing the labor force, hampering productivity growth, contracting the domestic market base, lessening public finances and increasing social costs for the elderly.

Concerns about the environment, climate change, poverty, gender gaps, socio-economic inequalities, human rights and peace and security are either ignored or considered best addressed by a growing and youthful population. A growing and youthful population, according to the pro-growth advocates, leads to a robust expanding economy, which in turn ensures social wellbeing, cultural dynamism and political and military strength.

With sustained rates of below replacement fertility and projections showing future population decline and aging,

the governments of many countries, including Austria, China, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea and Spain, have population policies to address what they consider to be a looming national crisis.

Some governments are promoting marriage, childbearing and parenting through public relations campaigns, incentives and preferences. While incentives and family-oriented measures may encourage some couples to have children, those policies are costly and their overall effect on fertility is weak at best.

The many forces pushing fertility below replacement levels are simply too powerful for governments to overcome. In short, men in power are not able to persuade women to bear more children than they desire.

Most countries experiencing population slowdowns and decline are averse to turning to immigration.

While they desire higher rates of population growth, they are opposed to altering the ethnic and cultural composition of their populations through immigration. Recently, for example, Austria's recently re-elected chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, said that illegal immigrants are as much a threat to his country as climate change.

Even in countries with a tradition of immigration, such as Australia, Canada and the United States, opposition to additional immigration is increasing, especially from countries having very different cultures.

The United States government, for example, has reduced its annual number of immigrants and imposed a travel ban restricting the entry into the country from certain countries.

Population declines and slowdowns are frequently entangled

in political, social, religious and ethnic concerns. Demographic downturns are typically perceived as losses of power, influence and standing by particular groups of individuals.

In democratic societies population numbers are closely linked to political power, financial assistance, social influence and cultural traditions. Elections and representation in legislative bodies and the distribution of government monies, in particular, are closely tied to population numbers.

Also increasingly in societies with serious ethnic, language, religious and cultural cleavages, population numbers and proportions are critical matters. The fear among many, especially nativist and far-right groups, is becoming a minority in their own homeland. Their primary demographic concern boils down to tribalism or "more of us and less of them".

In Europe, for example, le grand replacement, or the great replacement, is a proposition originated by French author Renaud Camus that concerns the replacement of one population with another one. In this particular instance, white Christian Europeans in France are seen being replaced by non-white non-Christian immigrants and their descendants.

The proposition in its various forms has spread among some right-wing groups, in particular white nationalists throughout Europe and in Northern America and beyond. Driven by fear over the loss of white primacy, white nationalists believe that white identity should be the organizing principle of Western society with some calling for white ethno-states.

Tapping into le grand replacement, Hungary's prime minister, Viktor Orbán, at a recent demography summit held in Budapest aimed at promoting policies to encourage procreation not immigration said: "There are political forces in

Europe who want a replacement of population for ideological or other reasons."

Orbán's remarks were supported by the former Australian prime minister, Tony Abbott, who added that dying populations, not climate change, were the biggest threat to western civilization. Another summit participant, Serbia's president, Aleksandar Vučić said: "Serbian people have one expression for negative population growth: the white plague."

World population is expected to reach 8 billion in 2023, 9 billion in 2037 and 10 billion around midcentury. Most of the nearly 2 billion addition to the world's population over the next three decades will be taking place in the poorer countries of Africa and Asia, 60 and 33 percent of the increase, respectively.

Recognizing the serious consequences of this expected population growth, growing numbers of people and organizations are rejecting the pro-growth demographic dogma.

For example, recently some 11,000 scientists declared unequivocally that the planet Earth is facing a climate emergency and among their six urgently needed actions included: "Stabilize a global human population that is increasing by more than 200,000 people a day, using approaches that ensure social and economic justice."

So, be advised: whenever the issue of population comes up, don't be taken in by the pro-growth demographic dogma.

A world soon reaching 8 billion people and an additional 2 billion in a few decades is seriously challenging humanity's sustainability on planet Earth, which is enduring an array of human-induced calamities, including climate change, environmental degradation, fresh water depletion, deforestation, pollution and loss of biodiversity.

Agencies

# Esmail Qaani: New 'shadow commander' of Iran's Quds Force

By Arwa Ibrahim

WITHIN hours of the United States assassination of Qasem Soleimani, a top general in Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the country's Supreme Leader named a successor to head the elite Quds Force he had commanded.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's choice of Esmail Qaani, who served as Soleimani's deputy for more than a decade, was aimed at ensuring a smooth and swift transition in the strategic foreign unit's leadership at a time of heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran, according to analysts.

Soleimani's assassination in a US air strike in Baghdad on January 3 pushed the US and Iran to the brink of war, but fears of an all-out conflict eased when retaliatory Iranian strikes against US targets in Iraq on January 8 concluded without any fatalities.

Khamenei has since called for the expulsion of US troops from the region.

Under Soleimani, dubbed Iran's "shadow commander" by some media, the Quds Force helped boost Iranian influence across the Middle East by building up a vast network of proxies.

In Syria, the unit played a key role in shoring up support for embattled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad after the country descended into war in 2011. It also armed and trained militias that helped defeat the ISIL (ISIS) armed group in both Syria and Iraq.

## 'Loyal, committed'

Khamenei, announcing Qaani's appointment on January 3, said the Quds Force's new chief was "among the most prominent IRGC commanders" during the 1980-1988 war between Iran and Iraq, adding that the unit under the veteran soldier will follow an "identical" strategy to that pursued by Soleimani.

At the slain commander's funeral days later, Qaani pledged to continue on his predecessor's path "with the same force", saying his assassination "will be reciprocated in several steps by removing the US from the region".



Saeid Golkar, a professor of political science at the University of Tennessee in the US, said for Khamenei, it was important that the new head of the Quds Force was "loyal" and "committed" to himself and the IRGC. "Familiarly with the Quds Force and the ability to manage the forces and Iran's proxies were important [traits]," he added.

## Qaani fit that bill.

Born in the late 1950s in the city of Mashhad in northeast Iran, Qaani joined the IRGC in 1980, a few months before Iraqi forces invaded western Iran, triggering a bloody eight-year-war which killed about a million people.

It was in March 1982, on the war's front lines, that Qaani befriended Soleimani, according to Ali Alfoneh, an expert on

Before his appointment, General Esmail Qaani was the second in command as the deputy head of the elite Quds Force. File photo

IRGC and senior fellow at the US-based Arab Gulf States Institute.

Indeed, Qaani has described his camaraderie with Soleimani as one that was forged during war.

"We are war comrades, and it was the war that made us friends," he was quoted as saying by the government-funded IRNA news agency in a 2015 interview. "Those who become friends at times of hardship have deeper and more lasting relations than those who become friends just because they are neighborhood friends."

Alfoneh said that it was also during the war that Qaani met Khamenei, who was Iran's president at the time. IRNA published a photo

of Khamenei and Qaani, which the Iran Wire news website said dated to 1986.

Esmail Qaani was #QasimSoleimani's deputy in the Quds Force. Like Soleimani, he was a revolutionary guards commander during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War. Qaani (second from right) in this picture from, circa 1986, with then president and now leader @khamenei\_ir (with glasses) #Iran

Soon after the war, Qaani was appointed as deputy chief of the IRGC's ground forces. According to Alfoneh, he likely played a lead role in the IRGC's operations against drug cartels in Afghanistan

and in its support to the Northern Alliance, which fought to contain the Taliban in the 1990s.

Although it is unclear when Qaani joined the Quds Force, IRNA said he was appointed as the unit's deputy in 1997, the same year that Soleimani was named as its commander. But according to Maysam Behraves, a Sweden-based political analyst at Persis Media, that appointment came years later, in 2007.

## 'In the shadows'

With a clear division of labour and maintaining geographically distinct spheres of influence, Soleimani and Qaani together played a strategic role in expanding Iran's influence in neighbouring countries.

"While Soleimani was a national icon and the charismatic leader mobilising the masses behind what he and the Islamic Republic perceive as a sacred cause, Qaani constantly attended to the organisational and administrative needs of the Quds Force in the shadows," Alfoneh said.

"Soleimani also spent more time in western Iran, while Qaani spent most of his time in eastern Iran. As a consequence of this, Qaani's professional focus was on the Pakistani and Afghan Shia, but also [other] allies in Central Asia," he added.

In the few public statements Qaani has made, he has slammed the US and Israel, saying in one 2017 article that US President Donald Trump's "threats against Iran will damage America".

"We have buried many ... like Trump and know how to fight against America."

Behraves said Qaani would bring the Quds Force greater continuity rather than change.

"The same policies are expected to continue, but perhaps with

greater vigour and ruthlessness now that US maximum pressure on Iran seems to involve 'leadership decapitation'," he said.

Furthermore, even though the Quds Force's operations are more widely associated with Iran's direct neighbours in the Middle East and Asia, it may expand its activities beyond those regions under Qaani, said Behraves.

"Qaani reportedly has good relations with like-minded African Muslim groups, which suggests the Quds Force under his command might seek to have a more active presence there," he told Al Jazeera. In 2012, the US sanctioned Qaani, citing his role in financial disbursements to Quds Force's "elements in Africa" and other "terrorist groups". Afshon Ostovar, assistant professor of national security affairs at the US-based Naval Postgraduate School, said the Quds Force's work in Afghanistan may also become more prominent.

"Given Qaani's personal experience in Afghanistan, he could make that country more of a focus than it was, but any change will probably be strategically marginal."

But Qaani's aversion to publicity was unlikely to change, with Ostovar saying: "Qaani's relative obscurity as a public persona is one of his defining characteristics ... He doesn't seek the spotlight, and the IRGC has not sought the spotlight for him."

Behraves agreed. Pointing out that in addition to intelligence leaks, Soleimani's celebrity status may have contributed to his assassination, Behraves said Qaani is expected to be Iran's real "shadow commander".

"The IRGC will do its best not to be bitten in the same spot again."

Agencies

# Improved seeds key to sustainable food security, African plant breeders say

By Abubakar Ibrahim

STRATEGIES now being rolled out to ensure food security on the African continent are unsustainable, according to the African Plant Breeders Association (APBA). Current efforts rely on resources that are becoming increasingly unavailable, according to the APBA.

The association is calling for greater access to modern plant breeding techniques and improved seeds as a more sustainable way to address food insecurity challenges, especially since the number of undernourished people on the continent has increased over the last two decades. Africa is increasingly relying on the use of modern agriculture, including irrigation systems, chemical fertilizers, farm machinery and large-scale monoculture farms, to increase efficiency and yields and meet the rising demand for food.

But this approach is proving to be unsustainable at the current scale, according to association leaders.

Many of the components of modern agriculture are heavily dependent on water, fossil fuels and phosphate rock (for phosphorus fertilizer) – resources that are finite and are becoming increasingly scarce or expensive.

"If Africa is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, which is ending extreme poverty and hunger, it has to adopt a different strategy."

The growth and expansion of the plant breeding profession provides an opportunity to deal with some of these big challenges faced by African countries to increase domestic supply," the association noted in a statement.

The plant breeders are particularly worried

about the impact of climate change on efforts to ensure food security. "Frequent droughts further constrain the amount of water available for cropping."

Water scarcity is further aggravated by climate change. Climate change is having and will increasingly have more severe implications on food security in Africa," they said.

"Climate change, which results from carbon emissions into the atmosphere, has resulted in an average increase in global temperatures which has several implications on food production."

Crop productivity is expected to decrease in lower altitudes, especially in dry and tropical regions, and also decrease the area suitable for agriculture, and the length of the growing season particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. If this trend continues, wheat production is expected to disappear from Africa by the 2080s," the statement noted.

"Plant breeding offers a huge opportunity for providing sustainable options to increasing the domestic supply of food and dietary diversity in Africa," the APBA said.

"Crop improvement through development of 'smart' and nutritious varieties that yield under diseases, pests, limited water and input conditions, provides an opportunity to increase crop productivity to meet the ever-rising food demand under the heavily constrained production factors such as water and land."

But the association is concerned Africa still lags behind other continents in terms of knowledge about and access to modern breeding techniques to help deal with these challenges. There is also a general lack of awareness on the importance of plant breeders with regard to their ca-



capacity to drive innovations and technology adoption in the agricultural sector in Africa, hence the need for the association.

Related article: Genome surgeons target genetic disease at the source

In an attempt to address these concerns, the APBA last year hosted its first conference at the West Africa Center for Crop Improvement (WACCI) at the University of Ghana. It followed the theme "advances in classical breeding and application of modern breeding tools for food and nutrition security in

Africa."

The Alliance for Green Revolution (AGRA) is backing the association's concerns. Dr. Rufaro Madakadze, who is the AGRA capacity building lead, told the conference that "Africa is facing a strong climate emergency. As a result, we have seen higher cases of unprecedented droughts, floods, pest and diseases. The greatest risk posed by this emergency is that the gains we have worked so hard to make are getting eroded."

"For example, today, the number of peo-

ple going hungry in Africa has grown to about 250 million since 2015," Madakadze noted. "This represents a major reversal of the decline witnessed before 2015. While different measures have been put in place to address these challenges, breeding is the surest way of increasing farmers' adaptation to climate change."

Madakadze urged breeders not to breed for the sake of breeding. "We must ensure that these varieties get to the farmers. This will have to be done with urgency... every single day we delay in using science to improve food production, families will continue to face terrible choices," she said.

Dr. Sagri Bambangi, Ghana's Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture, observed that plant breeding is widely recognized as one of the most important tools that exist to tackle problems of global food production, food security, new pests and diseases and climate change.

He noted that through the introduction of new varieties, plant breeders are able to deliver benefits to farmers, primary processors and other food value chain actors, as well as consumers.

He advised the APBA to use its platform to inform political debate on the importance of genetic crop improvement for environmental and socio-economic objectives through unbiased quantitative and qualitative data.

Bambangi added that such science-based information should be made widely available and be a starting point for a discussion on plant breeding in Africa.

# Cannabis production could outpace demand, says new report

By Thulani Mpfu

A new report on cannabis production and trade is forecasting an increase in medical cannabis production this year, but warns that the existing small markets could leave growers with unsold stocks.

The report titled, 'Cannabis Industry Focal Points, 2020: 10 Market Trends for the New Year', by New Frontier Data based in Washington DC in the US, said supply chain inefficiency could disrupt emerging markets globally as export supplies outpace import demand.

"Developing countries from Colombia to Zimbabwe are investing heavily [in] capacity, particularly to serve European and Asian markets," the report said. "However, the small medical markets in most of the target countries will not be able to absorb the surging supply, which will leave many growers with stocks they cannot sell."

"The issue is compounded by lack of standard commodity trading systems for cannabis, which would enable buyers and sellers to more efficiently connect and trade. In the near term,

disruptions caused by market inefficiencies will remain acute for small and heavily leveraged producers, though those companies that survive will be well positioned for growth as more countries legalise and supply chains stabilise."

It further noted that as public support and social acceptance of cannabis reform grew worldwide, governments were likely to face greater pressure to legalise its production, with more research and development advancing the therapeutic value of cannabis.

Singling out South Africa, Mexico and Georgia as key countries where cannabis production and consumption was legalised following positive court rulings over the past few years, New Frontier Data said the judiciary and organisations campaigning for personal liberty could play expanding roles in advancing legalisation globally.

South Africa, Zimbabwe and Lesotho were leading the production of cannabis for medical research and industrial usage in Southern Africa.

New Frontier Data said that while government funding for cannabis re-



search had tended to be historically focused on identifying its negative health and social effects, as more countries moved towards legal markets, governments would be seen allocating

more resources to better understand the therapeutic value of the crop. "Since government policies have historically lagged behind public opinion regarding cannabis, new gov-

ernment-funded studies will provide important insights in reorienting public policy away from stigma-based prohibition to science-based regulation," it said.

# Bank introduces trainee programme for varsity graduates in Tanzania

By Beatrice Philemon

ECOBANK Tanzania has introduced Graduate Trainee Programme for graduates from different higher learning institutions across the country to become future bank managers and knowledgeable in the banking industry.

Introducing graduate trainee programme to heads of universities in Dar es Salaam yesterday the bank managing director, Mwanahiba Mzee said the programme is part of the bank's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategies to promote education sector in Tanzania.

According to Mwanahiba, the graduate trainees will undergo special training program to equip them to become knowledgeable bankers and be able to take middle management positions within a short period.

"This year we have recruited 10 new graduates from Dar es Salaam University (UDSM), Institute of Finance Management (IFM), Mzumbe University and Wenzhou University in China whom we have agreed to begin this special program with," she said.

Apart from that the bank has been participating in providing their graduates to be with practical training through 3 months internship each year where 15 students of the higher education are attached to the bank each year.

"This year we are re-introducing our customized personal loans for salaried employees which includes school fees loans, insurance premium loans, travel/holidays loans, Rent loans, medical loans, Asset financing such as vehicle, motorbikes, three wheels and mortgage/housing loans," she noted.

To support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Commercial clients they have distributors and Invoice discounting as well as Asset based financing.

"For our corporate Clients we offer all corporate financing solutions including but not limited to Trade, working capital and Asset financing." She noted

So far, the bank made enhancements of core banking system in order to improve services offered to customers, making it fast, easy and more secured.

"We have a world class mobile app which enables customers to remit funds within 33 Ecobank African countries transfer funds across local banks, transfer funds from their accounts to any Visa card globally, make different bill payments, open an account and move funds from account to mobile network operators without moving from where they are," she noted

For his part, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Institute of Finance Management (IFM) Dr Shaban Ngole expressed thanks to Ecobank for initiating the program that is very important for graduates.

The program will help graduates to become more knowledgeable on different issues relating to banking industry, put into practice what they have learned and later on become more competent in the banking industry as well as create employment for them.

"Every year 15 students from IFM are attached to the Ecobank for internship so that our graduate can put into practice what they have learned in school, more than 100 graduates from IFM has been benefited through Internship program at Ecobank Tanzania Limited," he noted.

He called on other banks to learn from Ecobank Tanzania and have special field attachment or internship program to help graduates put into practice what have learned in school. "We need support from them banks and other financial institutions because the demand is very huge for graduates who need field attachments so that can be knowledgeable on what they learned and later on complying with the Code of Ethics in banking industry," he noted

He said each year, IFM produce more graduates, so they need more support from the banks to help their graduates get field attachment from them.

# WHO unveils its priorities for the African continent in 2020

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

WITH the New Year, the World Health Organisation has released a list of its top priorities for 2020.

They include a number of concerns with special resonance on the African continent, including the need to understand that the climate crisis is a health crisis, and the need to address the challenge of delivering health care in conflict zones.

"Public health is ultimately a political choice," said WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"Countries invest heavily in protecting their people from terrorist attacks, but not against the attack of a virus, which could be far more deadly, and far more damaging economically and socially," he added. "A pandemic could bring economies and nations to their knees. Which is why health security cannot be a matter for ministries of health alone."

Some seven million people already die

from air pollution each year, and with more extreme weather events come greater risks of disease and malnutrition.

"The same emissions that cause global warming are responsible for more than one-quarter of deaths from heart attack, stroke, lung cancer and chronic respiratory disease," WHO said. "Leaders in both the public and private sectors must work together to clean up our air and mitigate the health impacts of climate change."

Other concerns, such as the familiar issue in Democratic Republic of Congo

of building community trust, as well as improving access to medicines and fighting antimicrobial resistance, all are top priorities.

"Trust helps to shape whether patients are likely to rely on health services and follow a health worker's advice - around vaccinations, taking medicines, or using condoms," says WHO. "Public health is compromised by the uncontrolled dissemination of misinformation in social media, as well as through an erosion of trust in public institutions."

# No smoke without fire: South Africa's illicit cigarette trade

BY RICHARD CHELIN AND RUMBIDZAI NYONI

**T**HE illicit trade in tobacco, especially cigarettes, costs South Africa's economy billions of rand annually through lost tax revenue. According to the South African Revenue Service (SARS), the estimated loss through the illegal cigarette trade for the 2015/16 financial year was R6 billion.

Aside from the local economic and health impact, illicit smuggling poses a threat across the Southern African region. Tackling the problem will improve regional economic outlooks and cripple an important source of funding for organised criminals in South Africa and beyond.

The trade is part of a broader illicit economy involving counterfeit goods, motor vehicles, clothing and textiles, movies and music. Revenues gained contribute to high-level corruption, political party funding and other criminal endeavours.

The illicit cigarette trade involves the 'supply, distribution and sale of smuggled genuine, counterfeit or cheap white tobacco products.' Counterfeit cigarettes are identical copies of branded products manufactured without the authorisation of the rightful owners. Cheap white cigarettes (or illicit whites) are produced with the approval of a licensing authority in one country, but smuggled and sold in another without duties being paid.

Of the six ways to identify illicit cigarettes, five are related to markings on the pack: the lack of the excise marking (diamond stamp); the absence of or incorrect marking of the health warnings; tar and nicotine readings higher than 12 mg tar and 1.2 mg nicotine or readings that aren't printed on a long side of the pack; the quit line number is incorrect or missing; and the absence of the words 'reduced ignition propensity' anywhere on the pack.

The last aspect refers to the pricing of the cigarettes. The excise tax on a 20-pack of cigarettes is R16.66 as at February 2019. With 15% VAT added, the full tax amount is around R20. So if a pack of cigarettes is sold below that price, it is probably illicit.

In South Africa, the largest share of the illicit cigarette market is occupied by those manufactured locally, with other brands smuggled from neighbouring countries like Mozambique and Zimbabwe making up the rest. The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) told Parliament that between April 2017 and March 2018, about 80% of illegal tobacco products found in the country were produced domestically.

Due to their low prices, illegal cigarettes make for an attractive bargain and all indications point to a growing market in the country. In his book *Tobacco Wars*, Johann van Loggerenberg estimates that illicit cigarettes make up around 40% of the cigarette trade and show 'no sign of slowing down.'

To address the problem involves boosting both law enforcement and revenue services. First, capacity and funding for border police, customs, the police's canine unit and immigration officers must be strengthened. So too must information sharing between enforcement and judicial authorities to ensure cases are prosecuted.

These agencies also need a clear mandate to tackle illicit cigarettes as a national priority. In line with this, the Nugent inquiry into tax administration and governance recommended that SARS 're-establish capacity to monitor and investigate the illicit trades, in particular the trade in cigarettes, within appropriate governance structures.'

Second, technologies such as track-and-trace are key to tackling the smuggling of tobacco products across borders. Tracking the cigarettes from the supplier enables monitoring of the product from manufacture to end user while tracing allows the product to be followed back to a point along the supply chain.

This will help prevent cigarettes being diverted into the illegal market. Kenya is an example where such technology has succeeded in reducing the illicit trade in cigarettes. Learning from this, SARS recently issued a tender for a track-and-trace marker tech-



Cheap and readily available illicit cigarettes are a lucrative source of income for organised criminals. File photo

nology. Of course, technology can't deliver on its full potential if corruption is a key enabler of organised crime in the first place.

Third, criminal networks must be targeted. Current law enforcement initiatives target the traders of illicit cigarettes. While arresting these individuals sends a message to the criminal networks, they remain small-scale players in the criminal chain. As with other forms of organised crime, traders are at the bottom of the network and can easily be replaced by other willing unemployed individuals. Those higher up the chain need to be targeted instead.

Despite the large profit generated from illicit cigarette trafficking, the penalties associated with the crime are moderate compared to other crimes such as drugs or weapon trafficking.


Introducing more stringent sentences for illicit cigarette trafficking (as in the case of drugs for instance) - not only in South Africa but across the region - could serve as a deterrent. Penalties could include seizing the assets of convicted traffickers.

Since illicit cigarette trafficking is also a cross-border issue, a regional strategy for affected countries is needed. It should provide for joint law enforcement operations, intelligence sharing and better legislation to curb the production and smuggling of illicit cigarettes. This would enable a concerted effort from the region to tackle this growing form of organised crime.

**Richard Chelin, Researcher and Rumbidzai Nyoni, Digital Communication Officer, ENACT project, ISS**



**This will help prevent cigarettes being diverted into the illegal market. Kenya is an example where such technology has succeeded in reducing the illicit trade in cigarettes. Learning from this, SARS**



## INVITATION TO BID

**Bid for Supply and Delivery of Building Materials and Construction tools - Tanga City & Muheza District Council**

**ITB No: 001/RtR-TZ/SI /2020**

Room to Read is a global organization transforming the lives of millions of children in low income countries by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education. Founded in 2000 on the belief that world change starts with Educated Children, our innovative model focuses on deep, systemic transformation within schools in low income countries during two time periods which are most critical in a child's schooling: early primary school for literacy acquisition and secondary school for girls' education. We work in collaboration with local communities, partner organizations and governments to develop literacy skills and a habit of reading among primary school children and ensure girls can complete secondary school with the skills necessary to negotiate key life decisions.


Room to Read Tanzania invites sealed bids from eligible suppliers to Supply & Deliver Building Materials to our Program Supported School in Tanga. Bidding is open to all bidders registered as Building Material Manufacturers/companies/suppliers with Tanzania Government.

| Package | Description  | Total Qty           | Estimated date of delivery  |
|---------|--|---------------------|---|
| A       | Building Materials and Construction tools as per specifications provided in the bid document | As per bid document | Delivery to be made to different Schools in Tanga and Muheza between <b>01/03/2020</b> to <b>30/03/2020</b> |

Envelopes containing sealed bids must be marked with the procurement reference number and name as indicated above.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be collected at zero cost from the address given below from **21/01/2020 to 30/01/2020 from 09:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday**. Bids must be delivered to the address below by or before **31/01/2020 at 02:00 pm**. Late bids, electronic bids, portion bids and bids not received and opened in public at the tender opening ceremony shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **02:00 pm of 31/01/2020** after closure time of bid receipt. All rights reserve with the Room to Read pertaining the rejection, acceptance and cancellation of bids with or without reasons whatsoever.

**Administration**  
**Room to Read Tanzania**  
**P. O. Box- 105459, Dar Es Salaam**  
**Phone 255 222 780507 Email: tz.info@roomtoread.org**



## Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**Company Profile**

Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited (ZCL) is a multi-million dollar international logistics Company operating a regional and global business. The Company recently changed its name to reflect the organization's new mandate and new vision as per revised Strategic Plan for the next two years from 2020 to 2021.

The Company was established in April 2001. ZCL is a wholly owned state enterprise of the Government of the Republic of Zambia, supervised by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) based in Lusaka. The Company's current corporate head office and its main operations centre, Mukuba Depot, is located in Kurasini area, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania next to the dockyard. ZCL recently incorporated a company in Zambia and its current liaison office is based in Ndola. This Company in Zambia would enable Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited offer a seamless freight solution to the Zambian market through the port of Dar es Salaam. The Company has plans to expand in other markets in line with the revised Strategic Plan.

Hitherto, the Company has been handling mainly mineral cargo, especially copper, but over the years the Company has diversified its revenue base to include agricultural related cargo and other general cargo. For a more comprehensive view of the Company, kindly visit the Zambia Cargo & Logistics website at [www.zamcargo.co.tz](http://www.zamcargo.co.tz).

**VACANCY: INTERNAL AUDITOR (01)**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Plans financial, regulatory, compliance or operational reviews/audits.
- Prepare monthly, quarterly and annual audit reports and timely submission of reports to Management for remedial action.
- Coordinates work with Risk, Legal & Compliance and other control - related activities and with others within the company.
- Conducts risk assessments and identifies controls to mitigate identified risks.
- Performs audit procedures to verify that controls are operating through testing and interviewing techniques.
- Analyses and concludes on effectiveness and efficiency of the control environment.
- Identifies control gaps and opportunities for improvement.
- Documents the results of audit work in accordance with audit department, the National Board of Accountants and Auditors and the International Auditing Standards.
- Prepares timely audit reports for the executive management.
- Acts as primary client liaison with the departmental heads.
- Assess, evaluate and promote compliance to internal Company policies.
- Contributes, as appropriate, in the year - end financial audit with the external auditor.
- Provides advice on internal control and participates in enhancing internal audit standards and practices within the company.
- Researches new or technical subjects when required to support audits (e.g. new trends in the sector; Basel I,II,III, market risk, financial instruments, etc.).
- Provide feedback on performance of external Auditors, on audit assignments, as applicable.
- Evaluate the company's readiness in case of business interruption
- Perform any other official duties as may be assigned by Supervisor

**COMPETENCIES/ATTRIBUTES**

- Conveys an inspirational auditing vision & strategy.
- Contributes to high performing Company Teams - may include supervision of quality assurance on Projects ensure they follow sound internal control practices and to manage risks appropriately.
- Acts as a team player - Collaborate and supporting colleagues and peers across the organization, while still being able to work independently when needed.
- Results oriented - Meet deadlines on assignments, juggle multiple demands and to work with all types of individuals up to and including the Chief Executive Officer.
- Focuses on the Customer by understanding the business from the customer's perspective and by keeping in regular contact with customers to understand business priorities and issues.
- Entrepreneurial
- Committed to self-development

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Knowledge of logistics and Inland Container Depot business operations and risk - based on auditing attained through a minimum of two years of progressive work experience with a focus on business risk and regulatory requirements. Though this is not a must but is definitely an advantage.
- Excellent understanding of the International Auditing Standards and ability to fully comply with National Board of Accountants and Auditors Standards.
- Ability to quality assures projects and, when required, supervises peers to follow sound internal control practices and to manage risks appropriately.
- Strong skills in analysis, interpersonal, tact and diplomacy, negotiating, relationship building, problem solving, and timely problem escalation.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent time management and organizational skills
- Detail oriented but able to quickly grasp the big picture
- Ability to work in a multidisciplinary and multicultural environment
- Ability to follow through complicated audit trails
- Fully registered member of the Tanzania National Board of Accountants and Auditors

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATION**

- Bachelor's degree in Accountancy or CPA from a recognized training institution
- Must have relevant work experience of at least four (04) years in ideally a middle management role in a reputable organization
- Fully registered member of the Tanzania National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA).

**Application:**

Interested candidates should send **Application letters, Photocopies of Academic Certificates, detailed Curriculum Vitae** (with three references including addresses, telephone numbers and e mail addresses) to:

**Attention: Human Resources Department, Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited P.O. Box 105638, DAR ES SALAAM.**

**And/or Email to [recruits@zamcargo.co.tz](mailto:recruits@zamcargo.co.tz)**

**Closing date of application is January 31st, 2020 at 17:00hrs. Phone inquiries on this matter to the Company and any applications received after this stated deadline will not be entertained.**



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## VIEW FROM THE TOP

Tullow takes 1.5 billion writedown as oil reserves shrink

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# Lawmakers describe Kilombero Sugar's expansion as necessary for the market

By Smart Money Reporter

**T**HE planned expansion of Kilombero Sugar Company is good for the domestic market as sugar will be available in adequate quantities while cane out-growers also expand their farms.

Members of Parliamentary Public Investment Committee, said this last weekend after visiting the Morogoro based factory that management should implement the expansion plan of the sugar factory not only for the sole purpose of increasing sugar production but also to provide enough market for cane farmers around the Kilombero valley.

The PIC members who spoke to KSC management as well as members of cane farmers who supply 40 percent of the raw material to the factory said the partnership should grow stronger and more beneficial to both parties.

"From our conversation with Kilombero farmers who supply cane to the factory, we have learned that one of their major challenges is the factory's capacity to crush all the cane they produce per annum," said PIC member Daimu Mpakati.

Mpakati said the cane farmers have demonstrated that they have capacity to produce 850,000 tons of cane but at the moment the factory can only crush 600,000 tons per annum.

On her part, Deputy Chairperson of PIC, Zainab Vulu said the committee will work with the Treasury Register by sharing the KSC's report after their visit and meeting with management to see how the government can support the expansion project, especially since Kilombero cane farmers have already shown interest to supply more cane to the factory.

"I commend Kilombero Sugar Company for having created an enormous economic im-



Kilombero Sugar Company board chairman Ami Mpungwe (R) and PIC member Janet Mbene (2nd R) lead a delegation of lawmakers who paid an official visit to the Morogoro based company last weekend. Photo courtesy of KSC.

pact directly and indirectly around the Kilombero valley through their investment in the sugar factory, the expansion plan is in line with the government's emphasis on attaining an industrial economy," noted Vulu.

Addressing the delegation, Kilombero Sugar Company's board chairman, Ami Mpungwe said the company has come a long way since privatization and fears of closing down in 2012/2013 season.

"We are now planning to expand thanks to the fifth phase government under President John Magufuli. We are grateful to President Magufuli's tireless efforts to protect the local sugar industry by controlling the modus operandi of sugar importation in the country, it is through his efforts that our business managed to pick up and we are

now at a point of working towards expansion," said Mpungwe.

Speaking of the modal of operation by the company, Mpungwe said Kilombero cane growers as part of the business provide 40 percent of the cane noting that the model is aimed at creating a sustainable economic growth across the Kilombero community.

Upon expansion, the number of Kilombero cane growers which now stands at 8,000 is projected to double and increase cane production from the current 600,000 to 1,450,000 tons a year whereby the farmers will supply 60 percent of the cane needed by sugar factory, he added. The expansion will also increase sugar production by Kilombero Sugar Company, from the current 128,000 tons to 260,000 tons.

## MFI equips women entrepreneurs with basic skills to develop their businesses

By Smart Money Reporter

**WOMEN** entrepreneurs were treated to a daylong training on basics of running and successfully growing their businesses organized by Dar es Salaam based, K-Finance Limited.

Under its program termed, 'Ignite Business Clinic' which targets creating a platform for the women entrepreneurs to build their capacity, the training is also meant to enable the women network and form partnerships.

Addressing the gathering in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Executive Secretary of National Economic Empowerment Council, Bengi Issa urged the entrepreneurs to form partnership and work together in order to grow their businesses rapidly.

"Most Tanzanian entrepreneurs do not reach their economic goals because they don't partner with one another. But it is important to understand that when you partner and work together it becomes easy to tackle challenges that come on the way towards success," Issa said.

Giving an example, she said that recently, the standard gauge railway project needed 200 lorries, but Tanzanians lost the tender because they failed to form a partnership which could allow them to win the tender and grow their earnings.

Issa called on Tanzanian business community to invest wisely in areas where they can get quick maximum returns instead of spending much of their time on

social media discussing trivial issues or simply gossip.

"In order for any business to succeed, one should have self-discipline, keep records properly including financial records with clear indication of income and expenditure. Currently, most of us do not put much emphasis on such aspects which are important for any business to prosper," the NEEC chief noted.

She urged the K-Finance training session's participants to use the knowledge gained to develop their businesses and become successful entrepreneurs.

Speaking at the same meeting, K-Finance founder and board chairman, Devotha Minzi said that the best way to support entrepreneurs in the country is to give them training on financial matters.

"When our entrepreneurs acquire skills on financial matters, it becomes very easy to know what they are earning and spending on daily basis which therefore makes it easier to calculate their profit margins. In addition, business expansion becomes also easy due to the knowledge on income and expenditure," Minzi noted.

She further added that the training session was aimed at equipping the women entrepreneurs with basic financial and business skills including how to keep proper records. "By doing so, we are giving them room for expansion and in addition, it becomes easy for them to get loans from financial institutions," the K-Finance founder and board chair added.

# Karimjee Jivanjee Gp becomes lead sponsor of 2020 Global Student Entrepreneur Awards

By Smart Money Reporter

**THE** Karimjee Jivanjee Group has teamed up with the Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) chapter in Tanzania and to be lead sponsor of their Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) in 2020.

EO began leading the EO GSEA program in 2006. GSEA is a premier global competition for student entrepreneurs under 30, who actively run a business while still attending college or university. EO GSEA supports those student entrepreneurs who require much needed mentorship, recognition and connections to take their business to the next level.

EO GSEA nominees compete in qualifying competitions at the local, regional and global levels in the hope of earning the title of Global GSEA champion. This year, GSEA received 27 student applications, from 8 different

universities across Tanzania and have now shortlisted the top 5 finalists. The winner will be announced on the 23rd of January and will attend the Global GSEA finals in Cape Town.

EO is a global, peer-to-peer network of more than 14,000+ influential business owners with 193 chapters in 60 countries.

In this year's contest, the goal of EO is to give these student entrepreneurs the opportunity to accelerate their success, challenge the status quo, connect to an instrumental peer group and make the greatest impact possible in their local communities.

During the partnership announcement, the Karimjee Jivanjee Ltd, Tanzania, Chairman, Yusuf Karimjee said, "This generation is full of young, passionate and ambitious entrepreneurs with inspiring business ideas, that are driven by a vision to impact Tanzania and the world at large.

With this partnership, we aim to support these student entrepreneurs on their path forward and fuel them with the required knowledge for their businesses to continuously grow."

"We are passionately dedicated to nurturing Tanzania's finest young entrepreneurs for the growth and development of our beloved country. The GSEA initiative brings together exceptional #Studentpreneurs to showcase and celebrate innovation - this is our way of Making a Mark." Ms. Miranda Naiman, EO Tanzania Chapter President.

EO member and MEPA GSEA Chair Mr. Baraka Mtunga says "We aim to raise not only awareness about student entrepreneurs but provide mentorship and share leadership experiences with the youth at large and we shall continue to engage the GSEA competition as our



anchor product to achieve this goal in Tanzania for the foreseeable future."

The KJ Group and Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation are honoured to be able to support, em-

power and inspire business and social entrepreneurship in Tanzania among the next wave of change-makers and the growing start-up community among students, colleges, and universities.

This is a benchmark partnership built on shared Karimjee and EO values: Honesty, integrity and trust, professionalism and entrepreneurship and humility and philanthropy.

# Bank and its subsidiaries win a series of international prestigious awards

By Smart Money Reporter

**EXIM** Bank Group finished the year 2019 with a bang. The Tanzania's fifth largest bank by total assets has been recognized by a number of international awarding bodies.

Exim Bank Tanzania was awarded the 'Best Investment Bank' the fourth year in a row by the Global Banking and Finance Awards, Exim Bank Djibouti named the 'Bank of the Year' for 3 years in a row by the Banker Awards and Exim Bank Comoros being recognized as the

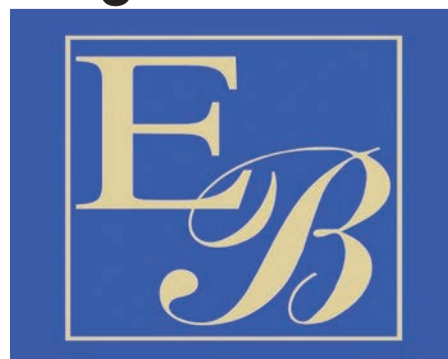
'Best Innovation Bank.'

Commenting on the awards, Jaffari Matundu, the bank's Chief Executive Officer said, "Exim Bank is pleased to have been recognized with these prestigious awards during this last business year. Our purpose is to drive Africa's growth whilst offering appropriate financial solutions. These recognitions highlight our commitment to being more than a provider of financial products and services. We are a catalyst for economic change in our countries of operation by doing the right busi-

ness the right way." He said.

"Innovation is the drive of our bank and such recognitions are a testament to our commitment in pursuing better ways to deliver financial solutions across the Exim Bank Group."

Matundu concluded by saying that these awards come with immense pride but more importantly, a self-challenge to go even further, of which, we gladly accept and boldly promise our customers to expect more than what we have been doing."



## CORRECTION

**IN** news stories run on January 15 and 18 on the upcoming Pakistan-Africa Trade Promotion Conference, we erroneously referred to Mr Rajapaksa as the President of Pakistan. We regret the error and apologise for any misunderstanding or inconvenience it may have caused, including to our esteemed readers. - Editor

# Facebook empowers 7,000 women in SSA through digital skills



By Gbenga Ajao

**F**ACEBOOK trained over 7,000 women-owned businesses in digital skills across sub-Saharan Africa in 2019.

Regional Director, Facebook Africa, Nunu Ntshingila, said Facebook is committed to investing in its youth, entrepreneurs, the creative industries, tech ecosystem as well as its many other communities.

"I am excited about the future of Facebook and our family of apps here in Africa, as well as the potential of this young, mobile and dynamic continent. I also look forward to creating partnerships in 2020 and beyond."

The tech firm also reached its 45th developer circle, with circles now in 17 African countries and represented more than 70,000 members.

While celebrating the key milestones in the region, Facebook said some of its investments have translated into significant support geared towards growing the ecosystem of developers, entrepreneurs, creatives, and other communities.

Facebook, in a document titled '2019 Year in Review', proved its stance to making the world a global village and celebrated 79 community leadership circle meet-ups with over 2,650 people in attendance.

To mitigate fake news in Nigeria, Facebook unveiled Dubawa as a partner in her Third-Party Fact-Checking program in partnership with MainOne. This was to build

and operate more than 750km terrestrial fibre infrastructure for metro fibre connectivity in Edo and Ogun States.

"Facebook hosted the first-ever iD8 Nairobi Conference with over 400 African developers and startups in attendance, expanded Third-Party Fact-Checking across 10 African countries, announced the creation of the world's most detailed population density maps of Africa, created by Facebook AI researchers to help humanitarian aid and relief agencies; and much more," the statement added.

Furthermore, Facebook launched an eight-week Incubation program at NG\_Hub in partnership with satellite hubs across Nigeria, focused on mentorship and practical training for would-be entrepreneurs. On would not forget its role to raise awareness of Safer Internet Day 2019, which has partnered with over 20 African Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) across 16 countries.

"We unveiled our first pop-up in Africa with 'it's Your Facebook: Lagos', a creative space for visitors to explore our products and attend various training. We announced the creation of the world's most detailed population density maps of Africa, created by Facebook AI researchers to help humanitarian aid and relief agencies. "In the same year, we celebrated one year of NG\_Hub and our digital skills training in Nigeria - with over 526 events held, 11,490 attendees, and partner events with Co-creation Hub, US Consulate, SheLeadsAfrica, Paystack, Tony Elumelu Foundation, Women in Tech Africa.

South Africa was not left behind in the University tour aimed at boosting recruitment across the region and partnered with the Dream Factory Foundation and Facebook Community Leadership Program Youth Fellow Nadine Maselle, to open a computer lab at Salt River High School in Cape Town. Facebook launched her Content Review Centre in Nairobi in partnership with Samasource and employed up to 100 local language content reviewers.

# Afreximbank to avail \$500m for creative industry in Africa

By Babajide Komolafe

**F**OLLOWING the example of the Nigerian Bankers Committee N200 billion creative industry initiative, the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has announced a \$500 million credit facility to support the production and trade of African cultural and creative products over the next two years.

Afreximbank President, Prof. Benedict Oramah disclosed this in Kigali, capital of Rwanda, while speaking at the Creative Africa Exchange Weekend, Africa's first continental event dedicated to promoting exchange within the creative and cultural industry.

Speaking at the opening

ceremony on Friday, Oramah explained that the funds, which would build on what the bank was already doing, would be accessible as lines of credit to banks, direct financing to operators and as guarantees.

He said that the creative economy was increasingly recognized as a significant sector and meaningful contributor to Africa's gross domestic product and that the cultural and creative industries catalysed economic growth by fostering more inclusive, connected and collaborative societies.

"Creative industries can be potent vehicles for more equitable, sustainable and inclusive growth strategies for African economies," stated President Oramah.

He, however, noted that, while Africa had a deep pool of talent, it lacked the infrastructure and capacity to commercialize its creative talent and reap the vast fortunes lying in wait.

"Because of underinvestment in the creative and cultural industries, Africa is largely absent in the global market of ideas, values and aesthetics as conveyed through music, theatre, literature, film and television. African countries import overwhelmingly more creative goods than they export or trade amongst themselves," he noted.

He commended Egypt's "astronomical growth in creative exports over the last decade" and the Nollywood industry's increasing importance which had

prompted the Nigerian government, in its Economic Recovery and Growth plan, to forecast export revenues of \$1 billion from the industry by 2020.

Oramah described the African market as the lowest hanging fruit for African creative products but noted that, until recently, "that market was fragmented and balkanized, such that a Senegalese knew more about creative products in France than in Ghana".

"But today, change has come!" he said. With the African Continental Free Trade Agreement in force and trading starting in July, Africa would begin to break down the borders and a single market for creative products would emerge.

# Farmers in Zimbabwe embrace drip irrigation

By Thupeyo Muleya

**S**EVERAL farmers in Beitbridge District in Matabeleland South, Zimbabwe have embraced drip irrigation to minimise the effects of water shortages and boost horticulture projects.

Drip irrigation is a type of micro-irrigation system that has the potential to save water and nutrients by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants, either from above the soil surface or buried below the surface.

Under this type of irrigation water is placed directly into the root zone of plant and minimises evaporation.

In previous years, farmers used canals, sprinklers, or flood irrigation to water crops.

However, they have since raised the red flag over depleting water sources for irrigation farming and livestock production, induced by climate change.

Mr Knowledge Sibanda of Makakavhule Village (Ward 6) said he draws water through sand abstraction from Umzingwane River to irrigate his 8 hectare plot.

The plot has tomatoes, onions, green pepper and cabbages.

"Drip irrigation is the best method we are using to get results with the little water available considering that we are in the midst of a devastating drought," he said.

Mr Sibanda said the horticulture project had reduced imports of vegetables to Beitbridge from other towns and South Africa.

He said he is working on expanding the project to 12 hectares to produce more for the local market, especially schools.

Energy Muzamani of Goda (Ward 6) said he was using water from a communal borehole to turn around the lives of many people in Beitbridge East who get fresh vegetables for resale.

He has been growing tomatoes, green pepper and cabbages on his three-hectare plot since 2016 with the aid of drip irrigation.

"This horticulture project is doing well though we have challenges with irrigation water and am looking for resources or a partner to drill two boreholes.

"The water table is dwindling, but we are also looking at another place to expand the horticulture project powered by solar or diesel pumps.

"We are blessed with good soils and we need to make the most out of it by employing the most effective ways of saving water, but with more production," he said.

Mr Muzamani said he was working on expanding his field to seven hectares.

This, he said, will help increase his output and employ more people, especially women and youths.

He said currently he employed four fulltime workers and more were being hired on part-time depending on the workload.

"Beitbridge is a dry area where crops do well under irrigation farming, hence the need to maximise on the little water we are having. Generally, drip irrigation saves water compared to flood or using sprinklers or other types of irrigation," said Mr Muzamani.



# What the UK can learn from China about running an Africa Summit

By Hannah Ryder

**T**HE United Kingdom is hosting its first Africa summit which started yesterday, welcoming around 15 heads of state to London.

The UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020 is the latest in a series of what are coming to be known as "Africa-Plus-One" summits, referring to the idea of several African countries plus one non-African country. The first summit of this kind kicked off with France back in 1972, followed by Japan in 1993, and the US tried one in 2014 during Obama's presidency. Most recently even Russia had an Africa summit last October.

However, none of these have matched the scale and interest of the China-Africa summits, which kicked off 20 years ago. At the last one in 2018, twice as many African presidents attended the Beijing summit as attended the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

If other countries, including the UK, are interested in generating the kind of interest that Chinese summits produce, there are three important lessons they could learn from the world's second largest economy's evolving relationship with Africa.

The first lesson is that summits are only the shiny jewel-in-the-crown of years of hard work and engagement.

When China's summits started in 2000, China's various foreign ministers had been making trips to three to five African countries every year for 10 years. Since then, that tradition has continued, bolstered by fairly regular visits by the different Chinese presidents and premiers, meaning that in just one decade—over 2008-2018—China's leaders visited 43 of the 55 African countries. In contrast, the UK's leadership visited 23 countries, with huge time gaps. Before Theresa May's infamous visit to South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya in 2018, the last time a UK prime minister had stepped foot on the continent was 2013.

Of course, by making so many visits, China risked being seen with corrupt leaders. However, what China gained from upstanding leaders was crucial. For instance, China got the chance to do normal government-to-government deals to help its companies feel safe when investing in African countries. Just look at the number of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) that China has signed with Africa, which protect foreign investors against domestic risks.

Starting with Ghana in 1989, China already has 20 such treaties with African countries and 14 to come into force. In comparison, the UK, starting back in 1975 with Egypt, has just 19 BITs with six to come into force. China is now the 5th largest investor in Africa, just \$3 billion behind the UK.

The second lesson from China—which arguably it has only recently started doing—is to listen carefully during summits.

The UK's summit will provide an opportunity for British leaders and business people to listen to African leaders who are, now more often than not, doing their best to shape a positive future for the continent. Indeed, the IMF predicts that six out of the world's 10 fastest growing countries in 2020 will be in Africa.

The continent has 1.2 billion people, of whom 420 million are young and ready to work. The summit will provide an opportunity to carefully listen to their priorities—jobs, infrastructure, manufacturing, renewable energy—and properly digest what those priorities mean for the shape and direction of UK aid, for post-Brexit trade priorities, and for where UK investors put their stakes. British investors should be excited to hear these priorities first-hand.

# Single-use plastic: China to ban bags and other items



## BEIJING

CHINA, one of the world's biggest users of plastic, has unveiled a major plan to reduce single-use plastics across the country.

Non-degradable bags will be banned in major cities by the end of 2020 and in all cities and towns by 2022.

The restaurant industry will also be banned from using single-use straws by the end of 2020.

China has for years been struggling to deal with the rubbish its 1.4 billion citizens generate.

The country's largest rubbish dump - the size of around 100 football fields - is already full, 25 years ahead of schedule.

### China's mega-dump already full

In 2017 alone, China collected 215 million tonnes of urban household waste. But national figures for recycling are not available.

China produced 60 million tonnes of plastic waste in 2010, followed by the US at 38 million tonnes, according to

online publication Our World in Data based at the University of Oxford.

The research was published in 2018 and said the "relative global picture is similar in projections up to 2025".

### What has changed?

The National Development and Reform Commission on Sunday issued the new policy, which will be implemented over the next five years.

Plastic bags will be banned across all cities and towns in 2022, though markets selling fresh produce will be exempt until 2025.

The production and sale of plastic bags that are less than 0.025mm thick will also be banned.

The restaurant industry must reduce the use of single-use plastic items by 30%.

Hotels have been told that they must not offer free single-use plastic items by 2025.

This isn't China's first campaign against the use of plastics.

In 2008, the country banned retailers from giving out free plastic bags, and banned the production of ultra-thin plastic bags.

And in 2017, China - once the world's largest importer of plastic waste - announced that it

would ban the import of foreign plastic waste.

China is not the only country in Asia that has cracked down against single-use plastics.

Thailand announced earlier this year that single-use plastic bags would be banned in major stores, with a complete ban across the entire country in 2021.

Indonesia's capital Jakarta also is banning single-use plastic bags in department stores, supermarkets and traditional markets by June 2020.

The Indonesian island of Bali has also banned single-use plastic.

Separately, Malaysia has sent back 150 shipping containers of illegally imported plastic waste back to their countries of origin.

"[We] will take the necessary steps to ensure that Malaysia does not become the garbage dump of the world," Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin said on Monday.

She added that there were plans to send back further containers in the near future.

Wealthier countries have been sending plastic waste to Malaysia since 2018, but officials say they are struggling to cope with the amount that is being brought in illegally.

## Confirmed: Japan cuts shipments of kerosene by over 10 per cent in wake of warm weather

### TOKYO

THE ongoing warmer than usual winter weather in Japan has slashed domestic kerosene shipments for heating purposes by more than 10% year on year, Petroleum Association of Japan's president Takashi Tsukioka said Monday.

"The current kerosene supply and demand shows that the shipment is below 90% [of the year ago level]," Tsukioka said at a press conference in Tokyo.

In the face of sluggish domestic kerosene demand, "refiners would adjust production [of kerosene], but the refiners are in a very difficult situation" because of their need to produce gas-oil and low sulfur marine fuels compliant with the International Maritime Organization's global low sulfur marine fuels mandate that came into effect in January, Tsukioka said.

Japanese refiners slashed kerosene output by 23.7% week on week to 2.40 million barrels in the week January 5-11 on slow shipments of the heating oil, data released by the Petroleum Association of Japan showed January 16.

The drop in kerosene production, which was the only product showing a week-on-week decline in the January 5-11 product output data, came as a result of slow shipments after the build in stock a week ago. The kerosene stocks had jumped 9.8% week on week to 15.23 million barrels in the previous week to January 4.

The estimated kerosene shipments stood at 1.86 million kiloliters, or 11.71 million barrels in the four weeks to January 11, down 8.9% to 2.04 million

kl from a year ago, according to S&P Global Platts calculations based on PAJ data.

### Boosting exports

In the four weeks to January 11, Japanese refiners exported a total of 945,909 barrels of kerosene, up 86% from the previous four weeks, according to Platts calculations based on PAJ data.

As for kerosene exports, Tsukioka said it must have been "surplus kerosene" resulting from weak domestic demand, which had been supported by the "usual production for the winter."

The domestic demand for kerosene is low in Japan due to a less harsh winter during the 2019-2020 season, according to shipping and refining industry executives. As a result, more kerosene are being exported, they said.

Most of the volumes are being sold on a free-on-board basis to trading companies, which in turn export the cargoes, an executive with a refining company in Japan said.

Platts assessed the Kerosene Chiba Rack price at Yen 65,100/kl (\$93.93/b) on Monday, down 3.1% from its high so far this year on January 8.

Local traders attributed the falling kerosene spot price in Tokyo Bay to weak demand because of the warm weather.

Rack oil products are those that are transported by refiners and other independent suppliers over land by truck, loaded from either refinery tanks or secondary tanks outside the refinery.

## Kenya's Transnational Bank now under Nigeria's top lender Access

### NAIROBI/LAGOS

NIGERIA'S top lender by assets, Access Bank (ACCESS.LG), has acquired Kenya's Transnational Bank, the Kenyan central bank said on Friday.

The deal is the latest in the East African nation's banking sector, where a cap on lending rates, tougher supervision by the central bank and an over-proliferation of lenders has sparked a consolidation round in the industry since 2017.

Access, which has assets of \$16 billion, focuses on corporate retail banking and it is expected to boost the growth of Transnational's business, the Kenyan central bank said in a statement.

"The acquisition is expected to strengthen the resilience of Kenya's banking sector," it said.

It did not disclose the terms of the transaction. Transnational has 28 outlets around the country.

The top-tier Nigerian bank has operations in seven African countries and Britain as well as

representative offices in China, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon and India.

Access Bank plans to expand to Cameroon, Mozambique and Sierra Leone this year following the acquisition, the bank's spokesman said.

Patrick Njoroge, the governor of the central bank in Kenya, said last September that he expected consolidation in the industry to continue, adding that market-driven tie-ups were working.

Last year's all share acquisition of National Bank of Kenya by KCB Group (KCB.NR) last year has been touted as one of the biggest deals in the Kenyan sector.

Access became Nigeria's biggest lender last year, a status it achieved after it acquired rival Diamond Bank in a \$235 million deal that it said was meant to create Africa's largest bank by customers.

Nigerian lenders have been trying to find new avenues to grow after s

VIEW FROM THE TOP

## Tullow takes 1.5 billion writedown as oil reserves shrink

### LONDON

Tullow Oil said a reduction of its reserves due to operational issues at a flagship field in Ghana and a lower price outlook meant it will take a \$1.5 billion hit.

Tullow said Wednesday it will take impairments and an exploration write-off of around \$1.5 billion, primarily due to a \$10/b reduction in the group's long-term accounting oil price assumption and lower reserves at its TEN development in Ghana.

Tullow has suffered a tumultuous few months due to a string of bad news. On December 9, its shares fell more than 70% on the day after CEO Paul McDade and Chief Exploration Officer Angus McCross both resigned due to a series of disappointing exploration and production results at its key assets.

The company's executive chair, Dorothy Thompson, said the board has been working hard on a major review since.

"The fundamentals of our business remain intact: recent reserves audits demonstrate that we have a solid underlying reserves and resources base in West and East Africa,



our producing assets continue to generate good cash flow and we retain a high-quality exploration portfolio," Thompson said. **Reserves, production setbacks**

Tullow said its proven and probable reserves at the end of 2019 stood at 245 million barrels of oil equivalent, down from 280 million boe a year earlier.

However, Tullow said its contingent reserves had increased to 1.1 billion boe, largely driven by additions in Ghana, from 874 million boe at end-2018.

Tullow's oil production in 2019 averaged 86,700 b/d, in line with expectations, and output will average 70,000-80,000 b/d due to technical issues at its Ghana oil fields.

That will be significantly lower than its previous production expectations, which until recently had been forecast to average more than 100,000 b/d in 2020 and beyond.

The Jubilee field will undergo maintenance at the end of January for water injection operations to increase its gas processing capacity.

At the TEN development in Ghana, the drilling of a production well on the Ntomme field has commenced and the well is expected to be tied-in by the end of the first quarter, Tullow said.

### East Africa delays

Tullow's key assets in Kenya and Uganda continue to face setbacks.

In Kenya, the early oil pilot scheme remains suspended due to severe damage to roads caused by adverse weather in the fourth quarter of last year.

"Trucking remains on hold until all roads are repaired to a safe standard," it said. Kenya exported its maiden crude cargo in late-August, marking the East African country's foray into oil sales.

Final investment decisions for the Turkana development have been repeatedly delayed due to issues obtaining approval for use of the land and water rights.

In Uganda, Tullow said it remained committed to reducing its equity stake in the project ahead of FID.

The sale of its assets to Total and CNOOC for \$900 million have been halted due to a capital gains tax dispute, pushing the final investment decision further back.

Tullow also said it expected to generate underlying free cash flow of at least \$150 million from 75,000 b/d at \$60/b. That compares to a cash flow estimate of \$350 million in 2019 with net debt reduced to around \$2.8 billion.

## WORLD

# Prince Harry seeks 'more peaceful life' as reluctantly ends royal role

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Prince Harry has spoken of his sadness at being forced to give up his royal duties in a deal with Queen Elizabeth and senior Windsors, saying there was no other option if he and his wife Meghan were to seek an independent future.

Buckingham Palace and the queen announced on Saturday that Harry and Meghan would no longer be working members of Britain's monarchy, no longer use their "Royal Highness" titles and would now pay their own way in life, freeing them to forge what they call a "progressive new role".

The new arrangement was struck to end a crisis the couple sparked by announcing earlier this month they wanted to cut down on official engagements and spend more time in Canada and the United States, while remaining active royals.

In a speech to the Sentebale charity on Sunday, a clearly upset Harry said

the final outcome was not what he and his American wife, a former actress, had wanted.

"Our hope was to continue serving the queen, the Commonwealth and my military associations without public funding. Sadly that wasn't possible," the prince, the sixth-in-line to the throne, said.

"I've accepted this knowing it doesn't change who I am, or how committed I am. But I hope that helps you understand what it had come to, that I would step back from all I have ever known to take a step forward into what I hope can be a more peaceful life."

Under the arrangement, Harry will remain a prince and the couple will keep their titles of Duke and Duchess of Sussex as they begin a new life split between Britain and North America, where they will spend the majority of their time. But they will not take part in any future ceremonial events or royal tours.

Royal commentators said it amount-



Merchandise depicting Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, are seen on display in a souvenir shop near Buckingham Palace in London, Britain, on Sunday. REUTERS

ed to an "abdication" from the "firm" - as the royals are known - and showed that, beneath the warm words in which she said Harry and Meghan were much loved, the queen had taken a decisive line by insisting on a clean break.

## "NO OPTION"

"It brings me great sadness that it has come to this," said Harry. He said the decision to step back had followed months of talks and had not been a decision he had come to lightly. They were not walking away, he explained.

"As far as this goes, there really was no other option."

He told the audience at the charity he co-founded to help children with HIV in Africa that he wanted them to hear the truth from him "not as a prince, or a duke, but as Harry, the same person that many of you have watched grow up over the last 35 years but with a clearer perspective".

"The UK is my home and a place that I love. That will never change," he said.

The couple's plans for independence, announced after a long break over the Christmas period in Canada, caught the rest of the royal family by surprise and left the queen and other senior members hurt and disappointed, according to royal sources.

However, in a TV interview aired in October, both had made it clear how they were struggling with the immense media attention. The couple had also started legal action against a newspaper for printing a letter she sent to her estranged father, Thomas Markle.

Harry said he felt his wife had faced "bullying" from some tabloids similar to that faced by his mother Princess Diana who died in a car crash while trying to escape paparazzi photographers.

"When I lost my mum 23 years ago, you took me under your wing. You've looked out for me for so long but the media is a powerful force and my hope is one day our collective support for each other can be more powerful because this is so much bigger than just us," he said.

Buckingham Palace have said the couple would no longer receive public money and that they would repay the cost of refurbishing their cottage in Windsor, which official figures show amounted to 2.4 million pounds (\$3.1 million).

But certain details, such as their future security arrangements or whether the couple could continue to use the "Sussex Royal" title for their website and branding, have either not been finalised or publicly revealed.

Meghan is currently in Canada with their baby son Archie and Harry is expected to join her soon.

The royal crisis, which has dominated the British news agenda for almost two weeks, overshadowing Brexit and tensions over Iran, exposed a deep rift among the Windsors and poses questions about its role in the modern world.

The Sun newspaper said Harry and his elder brother William, with whom he acknowledged he had fallen out, had ended their feud but he remained at loggerheads with his father Prince Charles, the heir-to-the-throne.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he believed the whole of Britain would want to wish the couple the very best.

However, Meghan's father was less generous, accusing them of damaging the monarchy.

"They are destroying it, they are cheapening it, they're making it shabby," Markle told Britain's Channel 5.

Agencies

# Abe strikes conciliatory note on S. Korea, row may be easing

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said yesterday that South Korea was its "most important neighbor" and that the two shared basic values, taking a conciliatory tone toward the country that has been locked in a bitter row with Tokyo for over a year.

The comment comes after South Korean President Moon Jae-in last week proposed the two countries work together to resolve the issue of wartime forced laborers, and called Japan "our closest neighbor."

It also follows some fence-mending steps in recent months, including Seoul's reversal of its decision to scrap an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, and Tokyo's partial easing of curbs on the export of high-tech materials to South Korea.

"Under an increasingly severe security environment in Northeast Asia, diplomacy with neighboring countries is extremely important," Abe told parliament in his policy speech.

"Essentially, South Korea is the most important neighbor with which Japan shares basic values and strategic interests."

In a parliamentary speech in October, Abe simply referred to South Korea as an "important neighbor."

But Abe and Moon met in China in December and stressed the need to improve ties, officials from both sides said.

Also, Moon told a news conference last week South Korea would actively cooperate for the success of this year's Olympic Games in Japan, and that he hoped the sporting event would provide a good opportunity to fundamentally improve ties.

Relations between Japan and South Korea, two of the United States' major Asian allies, plunged to their lowest in decades after South Korea's top court ordered Japanese firms in 2018 to compensate some wartime forced laborers.

Japan says the matter was settled by a 1965 treaty that normalized bilateral relations following Japan's 1910-45 occupation of the Korean peninsula.

"I sincerely hope South Korea honors the commitments between the two countries and works toward building future-oriented relations," Abe said in his Monday speech, reiterating that the onus is on Seoul to put ties



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (center) delivers his speech during the 60th anniversary commemorative reception of the signing of the Japan-US security treaty at Iikura Guesthouse in Tokyo on Monday. (AFP)

back on an even keel.

By adopting a warmer tone toward its neighbor while making it clear that the ball is in Seoul's court, Abe's message was meant to encourage South Korea to take fresh steps to resolve the issue, said Narushige Michishita, vice

president of Japan's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies.

"If South Korea realizes that Japan is resolved to maintain the firm stance, that will give them an incentive to buckle down and decide what they should do now," Michishita said. Agencies

ALL counties and prefectures in Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region have now been lifted out of extreme poverty, reaching a significant milestone in the region's poverty alleviation efforts, the regional government announced on January 13.

The regional government said 19 counties and prefectures, such as Gyangze county in Xigaze, Markam county in Qamdo, can now delete the title "poverty-stricken" from their profiles, according to a document sent to the Global Times by the Tibetan regional government.

This signals that all 74 counties and prefectures in the region have shaken off extreme poverty.

Tibet, a place deemed as the most difficult to get rid of extreme poverty, now achieved a huge progress in this arena and moved one step closer to meet the country's goal of lifting the entire population out of extreme pov-

# Programme rids Tibet of extreme poverty



erty by the end of 2020. Zhu Weiqun, a former head of the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, told the Global Times.

Zhu, who has long-term and first-hand experience of Tibet's poverty alleviation work said the government has laid out measures for different places to become rich.

For instance, Markam county was encouraged to make use of their abundant grape resources to develop relevant industries and this successfully helped all its 206 extreme poverty-stricken families to shake off poverty in 2018, China Central Television (CCTV) reported in September.

Hinterland villages in Shannan Prefecture started to bolster their tourism

services. Some 49 out of 66 families in Mamacun village of Shannan work in tourism and the villages' per capital disposable income reached 19,000 yuan annually (\$2,710), CCTV said.

A resident of Nyemo county told the Global Times that farmers and herds-

men benefited most from poverty alleviation and learned skills such as handicrafts. They used modern technologies to sell their products online and gained education opportunities.

Ngabo Jinyuan, president of Tibet's association of industry and commerce, said that private enterprises also played an important role in assist-

ing poverty alleviation and boosting employment.

Altogether 703 private companies registered to take part in Tibet's poverty alleviation system, investing 2.32 billion yuan (\$0.35 billion).

In 2019, more than 82,000 people were lifted out of extreme poverty and the association helped more than 800 university graduates find jobs in Tibet, said Jinyuan. Another effective measure was to support poor students' education, said Zhu.

Both the central and regional governments issued preferential policies to relieve poor Tibetan students' economic burden from elementary education to university. Pu Zhengxue, an official from Tibet's office of poverty alleviation and development, said in a conference in November.

"Tibet has poor natural conditions, but the poverty alleviation achievements are quite rich," said Pu.

"Most importantly, poverty alleviation spread the warmth of the central government to all ethnic groups in this region and pulls close the public with the Party and officials," Pu said.

Southern Xinjiang, Tibetan autonomous prefectures in Northwest China's Gansu and Qinghai provinces and some areas in Southwest China's Yunnan and Sichuan were also deemed as most difficult places to shake off extreme poverty.

A total 48 extreme poverty-stricken counties in Yunnan got rid of extreme poverty from 2013-18, China News Service reported in August, 2019. Gansu vowed to lift all of its extreme poverty-stricken counties including cities and prefectures out of extreme poverty by 2020, Xinhua reported.

Global Times

# Capitalism seen doing 'more harm than good' in global survey

LONDON

A MAJORITY of people around the world believe capitalism in its current form is doing more harm than good, a survey found ahead of this week's Davos meeting of business and political leaders.

This year was the first time the "Edelman Trust Barometer", which for two decades has polled tens of thousands of people on their trust in core institutions, sought to understand how capitalism itself was viewed.

The study's authors said that earlier surveys showing a rising sense of inequality prompted them to ask whether citizens were now starting to have more fundamental doubts about the capitalist-based democracies of the West.

"The answer is yes," David Bersoff, lead researcher on the study produced by US communications company Edelman.

"People are questioning at that level whether what we have today, and the world we live in today, is optimized for their having a good future."

The poll contacted over 34,000 people in 28 countries, from Western liberal democracies like the United States and France to those based on a different model such as China and Russia, with 56% agreeing that "capitalism as it exists today does more harm than good in the world".

The survey was launched in 2000 to explore the theories of political scientist Francis Fukuyama, who after the collapse of communism declared that liberal capitalist democracy had seen off rival ideologies and so represented "the end of history".

That conclusion has since been challenged by critics who point to everything from the rising influence of China to the spread of autocratic leaders, trade protectionism and worsening inequality in the wake of the 2007/08 global financial crisis.

## 'Into the void'

On a national level, lack of trust in capitalism was highest in Thailand and India on 75% and 74% respectively, with France close behind on 69%. Majorities prevailed in other Asian, European, Gulf, African and Latin American states.

Only in Australia, Canada, the United States, South Korea, Hong Kong and Japan did majorities disagree with the assertion that capitalism currently did more harm than good.

The survey confirmed a by-now familiar set of concerns ranging from worries about the pace of technological progress and job insecurity, to distrust of the media and a sense that national governments were not up to the challenges of the day.

Agencies

# Possible pardoning of convicted Israeli woman to be discussed by Putin in Israel - Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin expects that the topic of possible pardoning of Israeli national Naama Issachar, who was sentenced to 7.5 years in prison in Russia on drugs smuggling charges, will be raised during Russian President Vladimir Putin's contacts with the Israeli leadership later this week, Putin's press secretary, Dmitry Peskov told journalists on Monday.

When asked about possible pardoning of the Israeli woman, Peskov stressed, "We never announce such matters." He noted however he knew that this was a high-profile topic in Israel.

"It is highly likely that this topic will be raised during [Putin's] upcoming contacts with Mr. [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu," he said, adding that it was better to wait and see.

## Issachar case

Naama Issachar, 25, was detained at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport on April 9, 2019 when she was in the airport's transit zone before boarding a connecting flight to Tel Aviv after arriving from New Delhi. The airport's security guards found 9.6 grams of cannabis in her luggage.

On October 11, 2019, the Khimki City Court in the Moscow Region found Issachar guilty of drug possession and smuggling (part 1, Article 228 and part 2, Article 229.1 of the Russian Criminal Code) and sentenced her to 7.5 years in a standard regime penal colony.

Issachar admitted her guilt of possessing the drug but denied smuggling charges, saying she had no access to her luggage checked in for the transit flight. She claimed she never took drugs and had no idea of how the cannabis could happen to be in her backpack. Moscow's region court upheld the verdict on December 19.

In October 2019, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin asked the Russian president to pardon Issachar. In December 2019, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said he had also raised this issue at a meeting with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, in Rome to express the hope that the Russian president would look at possible pardoning of the Israeli woman. Agencies





Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday for a state visit to Myanmar. Waving national flags, Myanmar students lined up along the road in the capital city to greet the first Chinese president to pay a state visit to the Southeast Asian country in 19 years.

## China, Myanmar share close bond with sincerity

CHINA and Myanmar, linked by mountains and rivers, have enjoyed close people-to-people bond since ancient times, leaving numerous touching stories of bilateral exchanges.

During my stay in Myanmar for interviews, I was profoundly impressed by the close ties shared by the two peoples and their efforts for joint progress.

U Khin Maung Lynn, senior researcher of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), hailed China-Myanmar friendship on a wheelchair at a think-tank exchange meeting.

The 73-year-old Mya Than Than Nu, who is the daughter of former Prime Minister of Myanmar U Nu, still has a clear memory of her visits to China with her father during childhood.

Wutye Tun, a 13-year-old girl from Dala Township, Yangon, had her congenital heart disease cured in China through a Chinese medical program aiming to saving Myanmar children with such problems.

When finishing the interview, she held my hands and saw me off at the village entrance.

These people from different generations and different backgrounds, established a bond with China and made their unique stories, forming a ceaseless flow for the river of China-Myanmar friendship. A "Chinese knot" is tightly tied in the heart of each one of them.

At present, China and Myanmar are seeing robust momentum in trade and cultural cooperation. In the first 11 months of 2019, bilateral trade volume between the two countries hit \$16.8 billion, up 21.6 percent from a year ago. Under the efforts of the enterprises from both countries, the mobile communication penetration in Myanmar surged from less than 2 percent to over 100 percent in just a few years.

China's textile industry has created over 400,000 jobs in Myanmar, helping the latter earning foreign exchange of more than \$3 billion on an annual basis.

In the first 10 months of last year, Myanmar received more than 500,000 Chinese tourists. The number registered a huge growth.

These figures represent the expanding pragmatic cooperation between the two countries under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), as well as an epitome of the increasingly closer people-to-people exchanges between them.

I once read a bilingual book in both Chinese and Myanmar languages that collects articles on China-Myanmar relations published by Myanmar media in recent years.

It records the feelings and thoughts of Myanmar experts, scholars and journalists who visited China. They believe China is a country that advances with the time and shares the same responsibilities and destinies with Myanmar.

Many people in Myanmar are exploring the secrets to China's development. Officials of Myanmar's publicity department discussed with me the Chinese Dream; the editor-in-chief of Myanmar Alinn Daily paid close attention to China's poverty alleviation; Joint Secretary of the MISIS frequently mentioned the Chinese experience of "no road, no economy".

People from China and Myanmar share close bond and are sincere to each other.

The similar experiences and development tasks they share are enhancing their communication over their traditional friendship and their governance philosophies.

Their common aspiration and joint efforts are promoting the public support for the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

As the year 2020 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, the China-Myanmar 'Phauphaw' (fraternal) friendship is gaining new connotation, releasing new vitality and energy in the new era.

People's Daily



These people from different generations and different backgrounds, established a bond with China and made their unique stories, forming a ceaseless flow for the river of China-Myanmar friendship. A "Chinese knot" is tightly tied in the heart of each one of them

## Venezuela's Guaido defies ban to arrive in Bogota, due to meet Pompeo

BOGOTA

VENEZUELAN opposition leader Juan Guaido arrived in Colombia on Sunday, defying a court-imposed travel ban, and was expected to meet with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday when both will attend at a regional counter-terrorism conference.

Recognized as the crisis-ridden nation's legitimate president by more than 50 countries including the United States, Guaido had not left Venezuela since February, when he also defied the ban to travel to Colombia.

Pompeo told reporters earlier on Sunday that he hoped Guaido would make the trip and he looked forward to meeting him.

Sources close to Guaido have said they will meet on Monday.

A representative for Guaido declined to comment on Sunday.

According to the Washington Post, Guaido plans to travel from Colombia to the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he will urge European officials to increase pressure on the socialist government of President Nicolas Maduro.

Senior figures in Venezuela's opposition hope that Guaido will also get to meet US President Donald Trump at Davos, the newspaper said.

On Sunday, Guaido met with Colombian President Ivan Duque at the presidential residence.

"Very productive meeting with the President of Venezuela," Duque said on Twitter late on Sunday.



Handout picture released by the Colombian Presidency press office showing Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido (left) upon arrival at Casa Narino palace, in Bogota on Sunday. (AFP)

## Gambia vows to arrest ex-leader

BANJUL

THE Gambia's Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Aboubacarr Tambadou has vowed that former president Yahya Jammeh will be arrested and prosecuted for crimes against humanity anytime he steps his feet into the country.

Tambadou (pictured) said Jammeh will face accountability of the highest order as the act of crimes against humanity has been established by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), after last Thursday's protests by Jammeh's Al-



liance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction party (APRC) demanding his return.

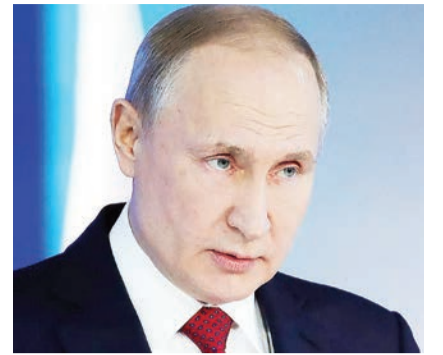
"There will be accountability of the

highest order for these crimes and I assure the victims that it is now only a question of when, and not if," Gambian Minister of Justice said this Sunday at the opening of the 2020 Legal Year in Banjul.

According to him, "if former President Yahya Jammeh ever comes back to this country, he will face immediate arrest and charges of the most serious kind, and no amount of irresponsible idle talk or political brinkmanship will prevent this from happening".

The TRRC was set to resume its public hearing yesterday following a new year's break.

Xinhua



## Putin hopes dialogue will continue on Libya and conflict will be solved

BERLIN

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said on Sunday he believes that Russia and Turkey have made a good step by calling for ceasefire in Libya and thus creating preconditions for holding a conference in Berlin.

"In my view, together with you we have made a very good step during a meeting in Istanbul by calling on the Libyan parties to cease fire, stop fighting and although some incidents are taking place, both parties listened to our call and large-scale combat actions have been stopped," the Russian president said at a meeting with his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "I believe this is a very good result, which created preconditions for today's meeting in a multilateral format here in Berlin."

He also said he hopes dialogue on Libya will be continued and the conflict in that country will be ultimately resolved. "We don't lose hope that the dialogue will be continued."

And we will spare no effort to have this conflict resolved," Putin said at a meeting with his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, commenting on the results of the Moscow talks between Libya's conflicting parties.

The Russian leader noted that Russia and Turkey have been efficiently cooperating on the key matters of international politics, especially of the regional agenda. "I mean Syria. I mean everything that is linked with the Iranian nuclear program. I mean, of course, the settlement of the Libyan conflict," he said.

Putin stressed that Russia supports German Chancellor Angela Merkel's position on the Libyan settlement. "Everyone is worried over this situation: both the Libyan parties and we, as the leaders of the countries that are located close to this region, of course, are worried about it, and the entire Europe is worried about it because flows of refugees from the Middle East and Africa are flooding Europe via the "Libyan gate" wide open after Gaddafi's murder," he noted, adding that Turkey and Russia "jointly worked towards positive outcomes of the Moscow meeting between the conflicting parties."

Xinhua

## Iran aims to inspect jet's black boxes, not send them abroad yet

DUBAI

IRAN said on Sunday it was trying to analyze the black boxes of a Ukrainian airliner that its military shot down this month, denying a report that a decision had been taken to send the voice and flight data recorders to Ukraine.

Canada, which had 57 citizens on the flight in which all 176 people aboard were killed, said on Sunday there were still no firm plans for downloading the recorders. Ottawa and other capitals have called for the black boxes to be sent abroad.

The Jan 8 plane disaster has heightened international pressure on Iran as it grapples with a long-running dispute with the United States over its nuclear program and its influence in the region that briefly erupted into open conflict this month.

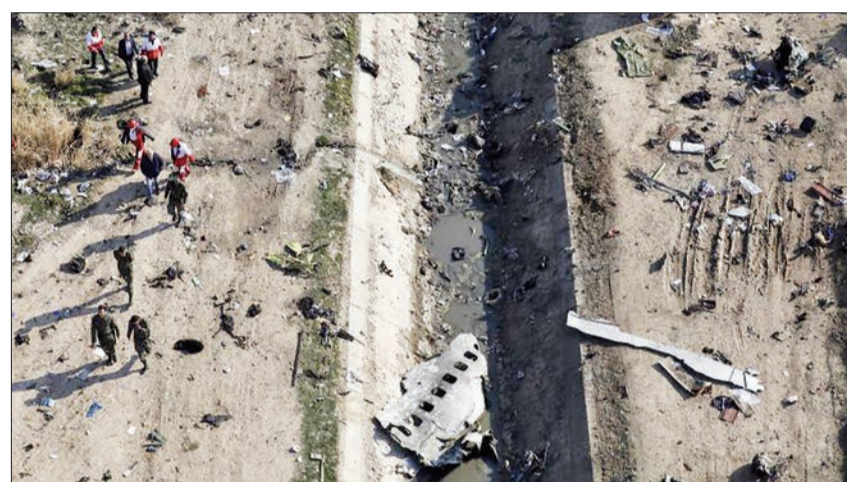
The military has said it downed Ukraine International Airlines flight 752 in error in the aftermath of tit-for-tat strikes by the United States and Iran. But authorities delayed admitting this, prompting days of protests on Iran's streets.

"We are trying to read the black boxes here in Iran. Otherwise, our options are Ukraine and France, but no decision has been taken so far to send them to another country," Hassan Rezaifar, a director in charge of accident investigations at Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, told state news agency IRNA.

Rezaifar had been quoted by Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency on Saturday as saying the black boxes could not be decoded in Iran and would be sent to Ukraine after Kiev's repeated requests. IRNA also reported on Sunday that the official had made similar comments a day earlier.

It was not immediately clear what prompted Rezaifar to backtrack.

The Boeing 737-800 was en route from Tehran to the Ukrainian capital. Most of those on board were Iranians



In this Jan 8, 2020 photo, rescue workers search the scene where a Ukrainian plane crashed in Shahedshahr, southwest of the capital Tehran, Iran. (AP)

or dual nationals.

Canadian Foreign Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said he wrote to his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif, on Sunday to urge the boxes be sent quickly to Ukraine or France.

Canada's Transportation Safety Board said two of its investigators left Tehran on Sunday after a six-day visit during which they examined the wreckage.

Iranian investigators were "cooperative and helpful" but said there were still no firm plans on how and when the black boxes would be downloaded, it said in a statement.

Paying respect

Ukraine has previously said it expected the recorders to be handed over, while Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said France was one of the few countries with the ability to read information on the recorders.

France's air accident agency BEA said on Saturday it was awaiting an official request for assistance.

The bodies of 11 Ukrainian victims were brought home on Sunday in a ceremony at Kiev airport. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko said

that "bereaved families and the whole nation have an opportunity to pay their respects".

The plane was brought down when the military was on high alert in the tense hours after Iran launched missiles at US targets in Iraq in response to the killing of a top Iranian commander in a US drone strike on Jan. 3 in Baghdad.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has called the downing an "unforgivable error" and promised to hold those responsible to account. The Revolutionary Guards also issued profuse apologies, as protesters raged against the Guards and the clerical system that the elite force was set up to protect.

The Islamic Republic's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said on Friday that "some tried to use it as an excuse to overshadow the martyrdom of our great commander" Qassem Soleimani, the powerful general killed in the US strike.

The death of Soleimani, portrayed as a national hero at home but seen as a dangerous enemy in the West, led to huge mourning ceremonies in Iran, followed just a few days later by angry protests over the plane disaster.

## Botswana committed to process aimed at women's empowerment - minister

GABORONE

THE government of Botswana is committed to the process particularly aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the African continent, Botswana's nationality, immigration and gender affairs minister said yesterday.

Anna Mokgethi was addressing a validation workshop of African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) study on governance, gender and peace building - strengthening the nexus in Gaborone, Botswana's capital city.

The APRM is a mutually agreed in-



strument voluntarily acceded to by the African Union (AU) member states

as an African self-monitoring mechanism adopted by African Heads of state and Government as a systematic peer learning and self-assessment mechanism, according to its website.

Through APRM, African countries envisage the process of adopting gender budgeting which should provide a holistic approach to address challenges emanating from conflict including prevention in non-conflict situations.

Mokgethi (pictured) called for adopting an integrated approach which is multi-spectral to effectively manage conflict. According to Mokgethi, the active engagement of women in prevent-

ing and resolving conflicts in Africa as well as formulating durable solutions for women refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees will yield the peace that the whole continent requires.

"It is said to note that women and children remain the majority of victims of armed conflict, refugees and internally displaced persons, as they are easy target of combatants," said Mokgethi.

It is important that they are key participants in peace negotiations and reconciliation at all levels, she said.

Xinhua



San Antonio Spurs' Lonnie Walker IV (1) and Miami Heat's Kendrick Nunn fall as they chase the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in San Antonio. (AP Photo)

## Aldridge, DeRozan help Spurs escape to beat Heat 107-102

SAN ANTONIO

PATTY Mills celebrated his heritage Sunday with a performance that typified his career.

Mills provided a late spark, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 21 points and the San Antonio Spurs held off the Miami Heat 107-102 Sunday.

The win came as San Antonio became the first NBA team to hold Indigenous People Night - a meaningful cause to Mills, who is an Australian of aboriginal descent.

"It's an important night and it's really important to Patty," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "For the indigenous people here in Texas it's important to all of us, but it's sort of double for him because of his history and his background."

"He didn't play like he did because of that; he does that every night. His energy has been there his whole career. It's who he is."

Mills had 18 points and DeMar DeRozan added 20 as San Antonio snapped a two-game skid.

Mills requested the Spurs honor his ancestry as well as those of Native Americans, and the franchise obliged on the eve of Martin Luther King Day.

"Besides basketball, it was a win for us to be able to use basketball as a platform to be able to share culture and traditions and you saw it tonight," Mills said.

Miami's Duncan Robinson missed a 3-pointer with 10.2 seconds left and the Heat trailing 105-102. Miami fouled Marco Belinelli, who made both free throws to cap the scoring.

"It's a big moment," Robinson said. "I want to make that shot for this team. I didn't do it. I'm disappointed in myself, but it's nice to know these guys have my back no matter what."

Bam Adebayo had 21 points, 16 rebounds and six assists for Miami, which had won its previous two games. Goran Dragic added 19 points and Kendrick Nunn had 18.

"I actually liked the way we competed," said Heat forward Jimmy Butler, who had 16 points.

The Spurs rebounded - barely - after blowing a 14-point lead in the fourth quarter against Atlanta in a 121-120 defeat Friday.

"We fresh off a feeling of letting a game slip away from us," DeRozan said. "Being right back in that position, just kind of understanding how hard we needed to play down the stretch, how hard it was going to be."

Mills fueled a late run by diving out of bounds and throwing the ball off Miami center Meyers Leonard to salvage an offensive possession. With cheers of "Patty, Patty," still ringing throughout the AT&T Center, Aldridge drained a hook shot to pull the Spurs within 98-97 with 4:39 remaining.

A few possessions later, Derrick White used a backhanded stab to deflect and steal an attempted entry pass at the top of the key by Adebayo. That led to a three-point play by Aldridge for a 102-98 lead with 3:20 remaining.

"It was a big play," White said. "I was just

trying to be active, get my hands on the ball and make a play."

Meanwhile, in Denver, despite playing from behind for most of their game against the Denver Nuggets, Domantas Sabonis never felt the Indiana Pacers were out of it.

Sabonis had 22 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double, Doug McDermott scored 18 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and the Pacers rallied late to beat the Nuggets 115-107 on Sunday night.

"I just felt like we were always right there, down 5-6 points all game," Sabonis said. "I felt like this was the game we needed to get to start the road trip right and just believed in my teammates that we could make that next step. And in the fourth quarter everybody stepped up and made big-time plays."

In one sequence with just under three minutes remaining, Sabonis helped protect the Pacers' late lead by fighting through traffic in the low post to grab three offensive rebounds before finishing with a tip-in.

"McDermott killed us. Sabonis killed us," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "The fourth quarter, they had six offensive rebounds. The very few times they did miss, they just pushed us around, much more physical than us. Disappointing loss."

Malcom Brogdon and T.J. Warren added 22 points each for the Pacers, who snapped a 10-game skid at Pepsi Center. They overcame a 30-point performance from the Nuggets' Nikola Jokic to win their fifth straight.

"We just played really well together out there in the fourth quarter," McDermott said. "We had a lot of shots fall and I thought we did a good job on defense and rebounding."

Jerami Grant and Will Barton added 16 points apiece for the Nuggets, who were again without injured starters Paul Millsap, Gary Harris and Jamal Murray.

Denver had the lead for most of the game but was outscored 41-26 in the fourth quarter. The Nuggets missed 10 of 32 free throws and were 3 of 23 from 3-point range while the Pacers connected on 13 of 29 from beyond the arc, including six 3-pointers by McDermott.

"I think we got real relaxed and we didn't play with a sense of urgency, especially in the second half," said Michael Porter Jr., who scored 10 points for Denver. "I think we kind of gave that one away."

Brogdon connected on a 3-pointer in the waning seconds of the third quarter and the Pacers pulled within 81-74 going into the final period.

Successive 3-pointers by Aaron Holiday and McDermott followed by McDermott's layup evened the score at 91 with 6:59 left. The sides alternated scores in the closing minutes, with the Pacers taking their first lead, 98-97, with 4:13 remaining on a 3-pointer from the corner by McDermott.

Consecutive baskets by Sabonis put Indiana in front 104-99 with 1:30 left and McDermott answered two free throws by Jokic with another 3-pointer as the Pacers pulled out to a six-point advantage with 1:08 remaining. The Nuggets could not close the gap.

AP

## New storms gathering with Europe-based players

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

POLITICS being what it is, and there is plenty of it in football as well, it will take time to learn the real motivations of changing the dating of Africa Cup of Nations finals from June-July to January-February. The secretariat of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has explained that the shift was made at the request of Cameroon, implying that two individuals could have made the change between them, and it stands.

The president of the Cameroon federation, for reasons best known to himself, says there is too much rain in January, and the CAF president agrees, whereas many other countries have rain in June too.

In the final analysis the matter is being decided singlehandedly by the host country, whereas it would have been expected that a country agrees to host the finals on the basis of an agreed format, including dating of the tournament. What this CAF explanation indicates is that the tourney and its dating hasn't been or isn't a constitutional issue, part of statutes of CAF to align with the FIFA calendar.

Traditionally the tournament used to be held in January-February to howls of protest from UEFA Champions League clubs in particular, as they have scores of players from the continent. This time around it is Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp doing the cursing, losing two of his best players and a few others while pursuing three titles or thereof.

The question is still out in the field as to the proper motivation for removing what had appeared to be a historic shift to align with the FIFA calendar, and thus bring about harmony in the soccer mood in Africa and in Europe. It is situation where there is a congruence of expectations, for instance we have similar breaks for international friendly matches, and then we had aligned the club championship and the national tournament to go in tandem with the FIFA calendar. It



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars'.

all seemed rational as the triumph of globalization, until the political music chairs shift arrived.

Looking around for possible starters to the bad blood between CAF and FIFA expressed in the reversal of the CAF finals timing can be tedious, but some things were being admitted freely, that the Cameroon federation believes it will earn more money with a June-July finals as the early year finals would spell disaster due to rains.

This may not quite be as airtight, but for one who knows the perennial ties of dependency between Africa and Europe, it means UEFA would have to compensate CAF for the losses for holding the tournament in June-July. Naturally it would follow that the European federation has no such budget, nor trusts CAF accountability.

There is the issue of poisoning the relationships of Europe-based African players as to their loyalty to national teams during the peak of the premier league calendar, a point of

tension that works to the advantage of CAF - to reinforce the rationale of compensation.

They earn big when the likes of Sadio Mane and Mohammed Salah are left to play for Liverpool till the end of the season, but UEFA wants this matter to be a simple point of aligning the soccer calendars, providing the most appropriate conditions for the players to appear both for their clubs and their countries. That presumes a rather neutral look at the matter, whereas CAF is interested first in the royalty, and increasingly FIFA pays fewer royalties now.

The change is even more likely to be related to rising animosities between CAF and FIFA as the latter dump the stereotype relations during the long reign of ex-FIFA president Joseph 'Sepp' Blatter and take those ties to a civil service relationship, instead of one between sovereigns.

A recent example for Tanzania where FIFA issued their own verdict against ex-TFF president Jamal

Malinzi while court proceedings continued, tantamount to prejudicing the likely outcome of the case, was locally met with a virtual acquittal, to stress the need for judicial independence, even in sports. The change in FIFA was ignited by US prosecutors who nailed Blatter and forced his removal from FIFA leadership, arraigning.

There has even been an attempt to systematize the new patronage relations, where FIFA reminds the CAF membership on ethics and duties according to their respective constitutions and FIFA rules - that sort of thing, where one can imagine just how bored the CAF membership will be at such sermons.

What the change of calendar implies in a sense is that clubs will have to compensate national federations for the non-releasing of their players, as federations can request them as of right, unless a player actually stops playing for the national side. It is to push players to the limit for the leverage, fat of federations' chiefs.

## First smog, now rain as conditions cause havoc at Australian Open

MELBOURNE

SERENA Williams and Roger Federer made winning starts before heavy rain caused chaos on day one of the Australian Open Monday, further disrupting the Grand Slam after a build-up hit by haze from raging bushfires.

Hazardous smog left several players with coughs and breathing difficulties during qualifying last week, prompting speculation about whether the year's first tennis Major would be delayed.

Air quality was rated as 'good' as the tournament started on schedule but play was suspended on outside courts about four hours later as a downpour deluged Melbourne Park at about 3:00 pm (0400 GMT).

World number three Federer was briefly hauled off court while the roof was closed on Rod Laver Arena, before returning to complete a routine 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory over American Steve Johnson.

Play also continued under the retractable roofs of Margaret Court Arena and Melbourne Arena, but was impossible elsewhere as the heavy rain persisted.

More rain is forecast for Tuesday, further threatening a tournament more often associated with extreme heat at the height of the Australian summer.

Officials said play would resume on the outside courts once the rain stops, but at least 18 of the 64 scheduled matches were called off for the day.

Defending champion Osaka was done well before the downpour as she dismissed Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-4 in 80 minutes, smashing one powerful serve that broke a net fastening.

"It was really tough for me trying to control my nerves," said Osaka. "It's tough to play someone you've never played before in the first round of a Grand Slam."

Williams, on the hunt for a record-equaling 24th Grand Slam title, won the first set against Anastasia Potapova in just 19 minutes as she



Serena Williams opened her Australian Open campaign with a memorable victory in Melbourne. (Agencies)

cruised to a 6-0, 6-3 win in less than an hour.

"I feel like I can still improve and get better throughout this tournament, for sure. This is a good stepping stone for right now," Williams said.

However, Williams' elder sister Venus was ousted in stunning fashion by 15-year-old Coco Gauff, who won 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 in a repeat of her first-round upset at Wimbledon last year.

In the evening session on the covered centre court, Australian world number one Ashleigh Barty plays Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko and men's defending champion Novak Djokovic takes on Jan-Lennard Struff.

- Shapovalov row -

Player anger over smog dominated the final days before the tournament, which is taking place after deadly bushfires ravaged large parts of Australia.

Slovenia's Dalila Jakupovic was forced to retire from her qualifier after a coughing fit, while Britain's Liam Broady claimed "multiple" players needed asthma medication.

Federer was one of the players who criticised a lack of communication from tournament officials, who were forced to suspend practice and delay some qualifying matches last week.

Tournament officials are closely monitoring pollution and will halt play and close the three main

stadiums' roofs if particulate matter suspended in the air hits PM2.5 200.

In other results, Canadian 13th seed Denis Shapovalov argued with the umpire in a tempestuous defeat as he lost in four sets to Marton Fucsovics after earning a code violation for throwing his racquet.

Croatia's 25th seed Borna Coric was also an early casualty as he went down in three sets to experienced American Sam Querrey.

But former champion Caroline Wozniacki, playing her last tournament before retiring, safely reached the second round as she beat Kristie Ahn 6-1, 6-3.

AFP

## Liverpool could've scored more vs. Man Utd - Klopp

LONDON

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp felt his side should have beaten Manchester United by a more emphatic scoreline that Sunday's 2-0 victory but was still left eulogising his team's "sensational football."

The European champions are now 16 points clear of second-placed Manchester City in the Premier League, with a game in hand on Pep Guardiola's team.

"I enjoyed the game a lot. I would have preferred we're 2, 3, 4-0 up after 60 minutes -- good for nerves," said the German, with his trademark grin.

Liverpool took the lead through a Virgil van Dijk header in the 14th minute but had to wait until added time to make sure of the win with a breakthrough goal from Mohamed Salah.

Klopp though was forgiving of his players failing to turn spells of domination into a more emphatic victory.

"I understand sometimes concentration levels drop. In the past I would have gone crazy, but now I'm calm," he said.

"We played sensational football. We could have scored more and maybe should have scored more."

"Then United came back at the end of the first half. In the second half we created chances and played super football. But we're not in business since yesterday - we know they would come back and they did," he said.

Klopp said he was not surprised by the levels which his team continue to produce during a Premier League season in which they have yet to lose.

"To be honest, not really. We had exceptional sessions [in training] against the kids -- 11 v. 11. The boys go like crazy. I don't take it for granted but I see them during the week so I'm not surprised."

Meanwhile, former Manchester United defender Patrice Evra has

said he recently received a letter from Liverpool CEO Peter Moore, apologising for the racist abuse directed from Luis Suarez in 2011.

Suarez was banned for eight matches following the incident and Liverpool wore t-shirts ahead of their next match after the verdict had been handed down to show support for their ex-forward.

However, during a Sky Sports broadcast in October 2019, former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher apologised to Evra for the incident and the Frenchman said Liverpool reached out shortly after.

Evra was a guest once again on Sky Sports for the clash between Liverpool and United, and was asked if the Anfield club had contacted him, to which the five-time Premier League winner replied: "Yes."

"First of all I was really pleased that Jamie Carragher apologised and, of course, I received a personal letter from Peter Moore and I was really touched about it."

"He told me he hoped it's never too late because this incident happened nine years ago, but I'm someone really positive."

Asked by fellow pundit Graeme Souness if this was a recent incident, Evra added: "I would say three days after the show, and I was like: 'Thank you very much, this letter is really touching my heart.'"

"I was really disappointed as such a big club as Liverpool to support a big cause like that, but now I can see it's real people, honest people working for this club and I even get more respect for Liverpool because they are fighting against problems of the human race."

"So I was really pleased. It was really important for me. Even though we have a big rivalry for us, this showed you Liverpool is a top, class club."

(Agencies)

## Setién rekindles Barcelona's passing style in first game

BARCELONA, Spain

COACH Quique Setién only needed one match to leave his mark on Barcelona.

Barcelona set season highs for ball possession and passes in a 1-0 win over Granada on Sunday, Setién's first match since replacing Ernesto Valverde six days earlier.

The defending champion's level of 82% ball possession came close to reaching the all-time Spanish league record of 84% established by Pep Guardiola's Barcelona in 2011, according to the club. The team's 1,005 attempted passes smashed its previous season high of 788 passes against Real Betis.

One thing, however, remained the same after the coaching switch: Barcelona turned to Lionel Messi to find the winning goal. The club's all-time leading scorer scored in the 76th minute after Granada had lost a defender for picking up a second yellow card for fouling Messi.

"You feel much better having Messi because he has been deciding these types of matches for more than a decade," Setién said.

Setién, a former Atlético Madrid player and coach of several Spanish clubs, is a declared admirer of Barcelona's passing style established by late Johan Cruyff.

The 61-year-old Spaniard divided fans at his previous two jobs with Las Palmas and Real Betis. He started well at both with supporters enjoying his insistence on imitating Barcelona's style. But many fans then grew tired of seeing his teams dominate the ball while scoring few goals and proving brittle on defense.

Now with Messi and his talented teammates under his command, Setién's has passed the first test at Camp Nou. His new side only conceded one shot on goal that, fortunately for Setién, hit the post minutes before Messi decided the game.

Setién did not touch Barcelona's 4-3-3 formation or make any big changes in his first starting 11 compared to Valverde. Ansu Fati, the teenager who was discovered by Valverde, started for the injured Luis Suárez. Arturo Vidal, a key player for Valverde, took the place of the suspended Frenkie de Jong. Despite his reputation of not being a great passer, Vidal set up Messi's goal with back-heel pass.

Setién insisted on the importance of his players pressing quickly to recover the ball after losing it. They responded and worked several incredibly long possessions, especially in the first half, that ended in attractive chances in the box.

"The fact that we made so many passes? The only thing I need is to have control," he said. "We had talked about being brave and going forward to recover the ball in their territory and that helped us to create danger after recovering the ball."

Setién's second-half substitution of Riqui Puig for Ivan Rakitic definitely bore his seal.

The 20-year-old Puig had earned his debut in 2018 from Valverde, but at the start of this season Valverde sent him back to the reserve team. Setién's first move was to call Puig back up to train with the first squad.

Puig proved key to the victory when he stole the ball near Granada's area. That led to the attack finished by Messi.

"(Puig) was very good," Setién said. "He showed patience and he read the match well."

AP



Quique Setién

## Liverpool fans already celebrating title after United win

LIVERPOOL, England

AFTER providing the assist, Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson wasn't going to miss out on joining the celebrations.

Even if it meant racing the length of the field to slide into Mohamed Salah.

By that time, on a freezing winter's evening on Merseyside, Salah was shirtless, torso exposed to the chill. The Liverpool jersey had been ripped off as the striker celebrated in front of the Kop after running onto Alisson's long ball at the halfway line and scoring with the final kick of Sunday's game against Manchester United.

It completed a 2-0 victory, and Salah's exultation seemed like an unburdening for an uneasy Liverpool. However, it was anything but that for a team now 16 points in front at the top of the Premier League and 16 games remaining.

"The thought came to my mind that I would not score today," Salah said. "But I came back mentally, I prepared myself, to keep calm."

The slender score until stoppage time - established by Virgil van Dijk heading in Trent Alexander-Arnold's corner in the 14th minute - belied Liverpool's supremacy over its fiercest footballing foe in a game that exposed the divergent paths the sides are on.

While United is 30 points behind in fifth place, Liverpool is ready to end a 30-year English title drought. With a formidable lead and a game in hand on distant second-place champion Manchester City, Liverpool has started the title party.

At least the fans on the Kop have. "Now you're gonna believe us," they sang after Salah put the ball past goalkeeper David de Gea in the third minute of stoppage time. "We're gonna win the league."

The players or their manager won't join in the chorus. Not while there's a mathematical chance of being part of what would be the greatest collapse in the English game.

"Of course they are allowed to dream, to sing, whatever they want," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said, "as long as they do their job as well in the moment when we play, all fine. We will not be part of that party yet, but it is not a problem because we know our job."



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah, centre, celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Manchester United at Anfield Stadium in Liverpool, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020. (AP Photo)

This is a group of players creating a new dynasty at a club which dominated English football through the 1970s and 80s. The Reds were the record 18-time champions until Alex Ferguson collected 13 titles for United to overhaul them and take the mark to 20 before retiring in 2013.

Even United never won the league in the manner this Liverpool side is doing so dominantly this season. It's 22 games unbeaten, with the only dropped points in a draw at United in October.

Stretching into last season, when Liverpool was pipped to the title by Manchester City by a point, Liverpool has collected 91 of the last 93 available. At the same time,

Liverpool has become European champions for a sixth time and world champions for the first time last month.

"It is special," captain Jordan Henderson said. "We're enjoying our football but you've got to stay hungry, you've got to keep learning and keep wanting more. To be fair, this group of players wants to do that."

"Of course, the manager is on us all the time to improve and we know we can certainly improve."

United certainly can improve, but it's showing little sign of doing so under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. The domestic target now is just closing the five-point gap on

fourth-place Chelsea to qualify for the Champions League.

LEICESTER COLLAPSES

Leicester missed a chance to join Manchester City sitting 16 points behind Liverpool when it threw away the lead at Burnley to lose 2-1.

Burnley striker Chris Wood canceled out the first-half opener from Harvey Barnes 11 minutes into the second half and Ashley Westwood struck the winner in the 79th minute.

By ending a four-game losing run in the league, Burnley moved five points clear of the relegation zone.

AP

## Champions-elect Liverpool look down from their perch at Man United

LIVERPOOL, England

THE genie is out of the bottle. When Mohamed Salah lifted the tension inside Anfield by making it 2-0 against Manchester United in the 93rd minute, the roar from The Kop was almost on the same decibel level as the night Liverpool came back from 3-0 down against Barcelona in the Champions League last season.

It was relief, meshed with belief, and for the first time, the home supporters chanted "We're gonna win the league," despite it being pretty obvious to everyone else for weeks that Jurgen Klopp's team are going to be crowned champions of England this season, maybe even in record time.

The fans had not dared to sing it until now because, since the last title success in 1990, the club has had so many false dawns and near misses that even mentioning impending glory had been regarded as tempting fate and the surest sign that something will go wrong, as a result of premature confidence.

"I have no problem with that," Klopp said after the game. "Everyone should celebrate the situation, apart from us. Nothing has changed; we have the same situation plus three points. I will tell you immediately the moment if it feels different; at the moment, it doesn't."

There is no need to worry, though. It is still only January and Liverpool are 16 points clear of the pack, having played one match fewer than their rivals. If results go their way, Klopp's side could be 22 ahead clear by Wednesday, when they play their game in hand against West Ham at the London Stadium.

The mathematics are now so heavily in Liverpool's favour that even the most pessimistic supporter can start preparing for a title party in the spring. Indeed, the only question is when the trophy will have red and white ribbons added, ready for Jordan Henderson to hoist it aloft.

But while the numbers point firmly to glory, the reason this day was the cue for songs about being top of the tree was because of who they were beating, as well as who was there to watch it. United have always been the yardstick by which Liverpool measure themselves and it works the other way.

Sir Alex Ferguson, who was in attendance on Sunday with former United chief executive David Gill, famously claimed that his biggest challenge upon taking over at Old Trafford in 1986 was to "knock Liverpool off their f----- perch." And when he left Old Trafford 27 years later, he had done just that.

Under Ferguson, United eclipsed Liverpool's record haul of 18 league titles by taking their tally to 20, although he could not get close to the Anfield club's record of European Cups; Liverpool have won that competition six times, compared to United's three.

Chelsea, Arsenal and Manchester City have emerged as rivals to English football's Big Two during the Premier League era, but when it comes to point scoring, Liverpool must beat United and vice-versa.



Jurgen Klopp

Which is why Salah's goal felt like such a moment in time, not only for this title race but also in terms of Liverpool exorcising the ghost of United's dominance under their former manager. Until Liverpool win the Premier League, they will not be able to claim to have returned to the perch from which Ferguson so comprehensively toppled them.

Painful as it might have been for Ferguson to witness the pendulum swing, he will have braced himself for the moment. He tipped Liverpool for success soon after Klopp arrived in English football, and, while United have treaded water, the German has worked his magic at home and in Europe.

Whereas Liverpool are the best team in the world and play exciting, attacking

football, with star players in every position of the pitch, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's United are hopeless and timid.

With their best two players, Paul Pogba and Marcus Rashford, sidelined due to injury and first-choice midfielder Scott McTominay also out, United arrived with their prospects already diminished, but they ended up with a 2-0 defeat that could easily have been 8-3.

Their colours were listed on the team sheet as cream, but whipped cream would have been more appropriate. Virgil van Dijk's 14th-minute opening goal came when he was left unmarked, six yards out, to head home Trent Alexander-Arnold's corner and was typical of the poor defending that has blighted United's campaign.

VAR ruled out one Liverpool goal, an offside flag denied them another, and Henderson hit the post as David de Gea's goal was peppered, but it meant United somehow stayed in the game until the final seconds; indeed, Anthony Martial and Harry Maguire missed chances to equalise before Salah made the points safe after racing onto Alisson Becker's long clearance.

It was the moment Anfield knew the title is bound for Liverpool and signified to Ferguson that his work had been undone. Liverpool are back on their perch and it looks set to be years before United are capable of knocking them off again.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Liverpool fans already celebrating title after United win

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Bluefins Club swimmers celebrate after winning the Morogoro International School (MIS) Invitational swimming championship, which took place in Morogoro last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BLUEFINS CLUB

## Vandenbroeck hails Simba SC comeback victory

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AFTER a 4-1 away victory over Alliance FC, which put Simba SC nine points clear at the top of the Vodacom Premier League, the latter's head coach Sven Vandenbroeck praised his team's reaction after going a goal down early on.



Israel Mwenda put hosts Alliance FC in front on the 30th minute of the clash at CCM Kirusaba Stadium in Mwanza, beating Simba SC keeper Beno Kakolanya with well-taken free kick.

Simba SC, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', though, were back on level terms as Jonas Mkude found Alliance FC's back of the net just before the half time break.

Meddie Kagere then put Simba SC ahead with a header, his 11th league goals of the season, at the hour mark.

Clatous Chama extended Simba SC's lead further with a brilliant free kick before Hassan Dilunga added the fourth.

"When you win it is always nice to give an interview. I think in the end we deserved to win the game. 1-0 down, in the first shot on target but we controlled the game and ball possession," Vandenbroeck (pictured) said in a post match interview.

He went on to say: "We had some good runs, a lot of movement, very good positioning, we were controlling the game even when we were 1-0 down. I am very happy with the reaction my team showed because most of the time when you are down the mental is down too."

"We kept on playing, we did not stop putting energy in the game and in a good moment we scored the equalizer just before halftime. In the second half, I think we did not have any problem and we could score even more."

Alliance FC head coach Fred Felix 'Minziro' watched his side match Simba in the first half on Sunday but looked punch drunk and on the ropes in the second half.

The passionate Minziro lamented that his charges lost their focus the longer the game went and the players lost their game plan in the second half in which Simba scored three goals and were hardly threatened.

"I respect Simba, they are a big team but you have seen how we started well but faltered as the game went on. We lost our game plan in the second half, my boys lost concentration," he said.

The results, which is a third consecutive loss, leaves Alliance FC two points safe from the relegation play-off spot after 17 matches.



Taifa Stars

## Taifa Stars set to face challenging 2020 fixture

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals will revert to its former time traditional slot of January and February for the next edition in 2021, hosts Cameroon confirmed last week.

The continent's football governing body, Confederation of African Football (CAF), later on explained that the tournament will be played from January 9 to February 6, 2021 due to concerns about the weather.

The tournament had been moved to a June-July slot for last year's first 24-team edition in Egypt, with a view to avoiding clashing with the European club season.

This development has changed the entire schedule of qualification for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations and 2022 FIFA World Cup which affects Tanzania's senior national football side 'Taifa Stars' preparation programs and could also affect the domestic league schedule.

The World Cup qualifiers were scheduled to start in the March international window, with the draw for the group stages

set to take place today, but will now only get underway in October.

This may not work to Stars' head coach Etienne Ndayiragije's advantage as he has to consider both the AFCON qualifiers and the CHAN 2020 matches, leaving him with no time to experiment and play friendlies.

Taifa Stars started their AFCON 2021 qualifiers campaign with a home victory over Equatorial Guinea in Dar es Salaam before conceding an away loss over Libya.

Taifa stars will now face home and away ties with Group J favourites, Tunisia, between March 23 and 31.

It will be tough for Tanzania as group leaders Tunisia will be looking for at least four points to confirm qualification.

After the crucial back-to-back meeting with Tunisia, coach Ndayiragije and his charges will quickly shift their attention to the 2020 African Nations Championship scheduled for April 4-25th in Cameroon.

When Taifa Stars return from Cameroon, there will be only one month to conclude the league as the 2021 AFCON qualifiers campaign resumes in June.

Taifa Stars will visit Equatorial Guinea between June 1 and 9 for their penultimate qualifier and will hope to host Libya between August 31 and September 8 with hopes that victory will see them qualify as one of the top two teams in the group.

Tanzania qualified for the group stage of the African qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup after knocking out Burundi in the preliminary round and the former are seeded in the fourth pot.

The qualifiers will be played over a year, starting in October (5-13) and November (9-17), before a double-header in March (22-30) 2021, by which time the group should have taken shape.

The penultimate round will be staged on August 30-September 7, 2021, and the pool stages will conclude on October 4-12, 2021

## Bluefins Club wins Morogoro swimming tournament

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

DAR ES SALAAM'S Bluefins Swimming Club has won the Morogoro International School (MIS) Invitational swimming championships after beating the other three clubs.

Bluefins collected 2,621 points to win their first title since the club's establishment, in the competition held at the MIS swimming pool last weekend.

The club scored 1,224 points in girls' category and 1,397 points in boys to win the title.

The victory is milestone for the club which in 2018 finished second in the event, which had hosts MIS, alias Piranhas, winning the title and last year Bluefins also finished second behind Taliss-IST which won the title.

The victory was also received with positive note from the club coaches, swimmers and stakeholders who accompanied with the team in Morogoro.

Bluefins founder and head coach, Rahim Alidina, said the victory results from good cooperation among the team leaders, coaches, swimmers as well as fighting spirit showcased by swimmers.

Bluefins' female swimmers who competed in the event are Aliyana Kachra, Zainab Moosajee, Maryam Ipilinga, Alexis Misabo, Aminaz Kachra, Lina Goyayi, Muskan Gaikwad, Filbertha Demello, Niharika Mahapatra, Yumna Hassan and Natalia Ladha.

The boys in the team are Mohammadhusein Imran, Kaysan Kachra, Sahal Harunani, Moiz Kaderbhai, Jay Govindji, Raihan Abdulatif, Hassan Harunani, Idris Zaverry, Isaac Mukani, Kabeer Lakhani, Salman Yasser, Gervas Sayi, Delbert Ipilinga, Zac Okumu, Adam Patwa, Qais Kanji, Kahil Walli, Christian Fernandes, Avinav Mahapatra, Aaron Akwenda, Shunael Bharwani, Enrico Barretto, Burhanuddin Gulamhusein and Rayyan Khan.

Alidina said they fielded 35 swimmers in the competition and all of them fought hard to make sure the club collects many points in the event.

He said most of the clubs, which battled it out in the competition, had competitive swimmers who also targeted the top finish.

"This is a good start in this year. Our club featured young swimmers and experienced one, the combination had made our mission to be accomplished. I thank coaches, swimmers, parents as well as event organizers for the best hospitality," Alidina disclosed.

The championships also saw Taliss-IST finish second after collecting 2,583 points. Taliss-IST scored 963 points in girls' category and 1,620 points in boys.

The third position was won by MIS Piranhas with a total of 1,914 points whereby, female swimmers scored 1,016 points and male swimmers registered 898 points.

Dar Swim Club (DSC) finished in the fourth spot with 1,907 points. The club scored 1,017 in girls' category and 890 in boys.

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**NIRVANA**

**EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msimbazi Kilaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kaili Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 5SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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DAR ES SALAAM

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

OFFICER WHAT HAPPENS TO SOMEONE WHO STEALS YOUR HEART?

