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Appeal: Sign, ratify charter to make sure PWA secure

By Guardian Reporter

CIVIL society organisations in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) yesterday called on member states to swiftly sign, ratify and domesticate the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the welfare of Persons with Disabilities as a regional measure to promote the rights of persons with albinism (PWA).

Albinism associations, members of national parliaments and civil society organizations from across Southern Africa made the call earlier this week in Dar es Salaam, ahead of the 39th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government to discuss regional measures to promote the human rights persons with albinism in SADC countries.

They also called upon the countries to issue an unequivocal condemnation of attacks and discrimination, and adopt a resolution for protection of persons with albinism in the SADC zone.

Hundreds of persons with albinism have experienced attacks, including mutilations, kidnappings and attempted kidnappings in recent years.

"Commit to regional collaboration for the protection of persons with albinism to ensure a coordinated regional response to challenges faced by persons with albinism among SADC member states," the statement urged.

The human rights activists said SADC member countries need to put an end to all harmful practices which lead to rape

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South Africa bills Mazimbu as tourist, investment spot

TANZANIA offered a base for Southern Africa's liberation struggle. At times, it had to destroy its own infrastructure, including bridges and roads, to stop colonialists from attacking freedom fighters. The sacrifice that Tanzania made towards making South Africa free will never be forgotten...We thank you eternally," he told the audience.

By Felister Peter, Morogoro

VISITING South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has mooted the idea of making the Mazimbu area in Morogoro Region a tourist and investment destination.

The area, which is now under the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), was for two decades used as a base for freedom fighters from South Africa in particular.

Ramaphosa who is in the country for a three-day state visit, made the announcement yesterday when addressing delegates at SUA's Solomon Mahlangu Campus in Morogoro. The president is in the country principally for the 39th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State and Government Summit.

He asserted that deepening bilateral relations should go together with opening up investment and market opportunities, especially encourage South Africans to take up investment opportunities in Tanzania, where the Mazimbu area has a symbolic significance for that country and its ruling party, the ANC.

"South Africans consider Mazimbu as an investment and tourist attraction. We should continue forging and deepening our relations through economic cooperation and youth empowerment through job creation," he emphasized, reiterating hearty feelings of the people of South towards Tanzania and especially Morogoro region.

Academic partnership between secondary schools and universities between the two countries was another area the president broached, commending the host university, SUA for forging relationships with a South African university.

He said the two governments will look at possibilities of establishing an academic partnership between the Chief Albert Luthuli second-



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (R) and his host, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, visit the cemetery for fallen South African freedom fighters in Morogoro municipality's Mazimbu suburb yesterday. They are accompanied by, among other dignitaries, Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (2nd-L). Photo: PMO

Hope rises as Japan rice project triples harvests

By Henry Mwangonde

A RICE development project that uses modern farming methods has helped farmers increase harvests from less than two tonnes per hectare to six and even eight tonnes.

Supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Tanrice project implemented in the Lower Moshi Irrigation Scheme involves developing training packages

Data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) shows that rice production in Tanzania has increased about 13 times in 40 years, from 223,000 tonnes in 1974 to 2,871,963 tonnes in 2017.

on irrigated and upland rice cultivation.

Speaking during the press tour of Japanese funded projects, Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Center (KATC) principal, Nicodemus Shauritanga said through JICA the centre has been conducting a series of training sessions for extension officers and farmers on rice farming on irrigated land as well as in rain-fed conditions, covering 90

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Academic partnership between secondary schools and universities between the two countries was another area the president broached, commending the host university, SUA for forging relationships with a South African university.

ary school at Mazimbu with a selected school in South Africa for an exchange programme that will involve both students and teachers.

"Forging partnerships will facilitate the exchange of skills, knowledge and technology for industrialization," the president noted.

"Tanzania offered a base for Southern Africa liberation struggle. At times, it had to destroy its infrastructures including bridges

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Gas cylinder plant to open October

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA'S first gas cylinder manufacturing plant is scheduled to start operations in October and reduce reliance on importation and related costs.

Ally Awadhi, the founder of energy trading and transportation conglomerate Lake Group said this during the laying of the foundation stone for its construction that all equipment for building the plant had already been purchased.



He told the guest of honour, Coast Regional Commissioner Evarist Ndikilo that locally-manufactured cylinders will increase the use of gas since the containers will be available at cheaper prices.

"All the machines are at the port of Dar es Salaam awaiting some clearing processes," he said.

Last month, the government appealed to investors in the oil and gas sector to put up gas cylinder manufacturing plants to reduce the

cost of importation which hinders the majority of Tanzanians from shifting to the clean energy.

Speaking at the official opening of the sixth LPG summit in Dar es Salaam, Minister for Energy Dr Medard Kalemuni said the price of LPG for domestic use is too high for low-income earners and the culprit is the cost of imported cylinders.

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for rituals and sexual violence against women and girls, along with supporting the appointment and mandate of an African Union Special Envoy on Albinism.

They also urged SADC member states to adopt national action plans to protect persons with albinism in line with the Regional Action Plan on Albinism in Africa. The SADC partner states need to dwell on coordinated public education on albinism, the resolution underlined.

Across the SADC region, persons with albinism (PWA) are victims of violent attacks and transnational crimes, including murder, maiming, abductions and trade of body parts by individuals and criminal gangs operating within and across borders. Attacks, discrimination and abuse are fuelled by erroneous beliefs and myths that body parts, organs and tissues of PWA have magical powers that can be used for multiple ritual purposes.

Hundreds of persons with albinism have experienced attacks, including mutilations, kidnappings and attempted kidnappings in recent years. Approximately 150 persons with albinism have been reported killed in countries such as Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo since 2004.

Civil society reports indicate that Tanzania recorded several killings for some times from 2004, while Mozambique and Malawi have each recorded 13 and 22 killings and kidnappings, respectively. While there has been a decline in the number of attacks in recent years, persons with albinism continue to live in fear of attacks across the region, with a 14-year-old girl with albinism reported killed in South Africa as recently as January 2018.

In Mozambique a 12-year-old girl with albinism was kidnapped and murdered during the weekend of 1-3 March 2019. Cases of attacks remain underreported across the region as many countries in the region lack a systematic mechanism of monitoring these attacks.

Persons with albinism continue to face human rights violations including stigma and discrimination, inadequate access to health and education services, apart from other social exclusions. Women and children with albinism are particularly vulnerable as they are exposed to intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination. In addition, children are particularly targeted for ritual killings and women are sometimes victims of sexual violence in part owing to beliefs that they can cure HIV.

However, there has been some progress recorded towards combating these attacks. The SADC Parliamentary Forum recently adopted a motion condemning attacks, abductions, killings and discrimination against persons with albinism in the region during its 45th Plenary Assembly held in Maputo on 24th July. "This is a step in the right direction that brings the region closer to genuinely addressing the cycle of human rights violations against persons with albinism," activists emphasized.

South Africa bills Mazimbu a tourist, investment spot

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and roads to stop colonialists from attacking freedom fighters. The sacrifice that Tanzania made towards making South Africa free will never be forgotten...we thank you eternally," he told the audience.

Earlier, Prime Minister Kasim Majaliwa said the two coun-

tries will continue cementing existing unity and cooperation through SADC since the countries share important aspects of history, political and economic pursuits.

The premier said Tanzania is ready to work with South Africa towards attaining the industrialization agenda.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation,

Prof Palamagamba Kabudi referred to Mazimbu as South Africa within Tanzania.

"What South Africa has today was planned in Tanzania," he stated.

Prof Joyce Ndalichako, the minister for Education, Science and Technology, outlined plans to expand the facility, saying that renovations and construction of new structures will not

change the look of existing old buildings.

Prof Ndalichako assured South Africa of full support as the country prepares to start teaching Kiswahili in its schools, with Tanzania expecting to extend support from secondary to university level.

SUA Vice Chancellor Prof Raphael Chibuda said that Mazimbu was given to the govern-

ment by the ANC in 1978, as the party shifted its base to Zambia and later Zimbabwe. He said the area which covers more than 1,000 acres encompasses a nursery, primary and secondary schools.

SUA campus, having more than 11,000 students, welcomes students from South Africa, the VC added.



Burton Komba (R, with stick), manager of Terminal 3 of Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport, briefs 42 Tanzanian ambassadors and high commissioners accredited to various countries who toured the recently opened facility yesterday. Photo: John Badi

Tomato yields to multiply after launch of bacteria wilt tolerant variety in East Africa

By Special Correspondent

Tomato farmers have a reason to smile following the launch of a new variety resistant to bacterial wilt in East African region.

The fruits of the Seminis Tomato Ansal are not only intolerant to bacterial wilt but firm, lasting up to three weeks

after harvest. The hybrid variety produces five to eight fruits per cluster.

It was launched commercially by Bayer East Africa in Kagio, Kirinyaga, a year after it was introduced to farmers late last year. On- and off station trials were undertaken on demonstrations plots in Kirinyaga, Oloitoktok and

Nyanza.

The variety is also resistant to tomato mosaic virus, verticillium wilt, and fusarium wilt and root-knot nematodes.

Bacterial wilt is a soil and waterborne disease caused by bacteria. This disease can survive for up to 40 years in water. This explains its high incidence where river and lake

waters are heavily relied on for irrigation by tomato farmers.

Bayer East Africa Commercial lead vegetable manager Elizabeth Mranda said during the launch at Kangaru village: "Following extensive trials with farmers, we can confirm that the new variety is the answer to bacterial wilt in tomatoes. It is a great seed variety that

will save the farmer huge costs in pesticides in fighting the disease."

Kirinyaga County is the largest producer of commercial tomatoes in Kenya.

Mranda said tomato farmers lose between 50 to 100 per cent of their crop due to bacterial wilt.

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irrigation schemes and 77 rain-fed areas.

He said JICA's support for the irrigation facility development and its operation and maintenance have contributed to boosting rice production in the country.

"Together with improvement of infrastructure, capacity building in irrigation management plays a significant role in promoting rice industry development in various regions," he said.

Through the project farmers have learned things like irrigation scheme management, gender roles in agriculture and agro-processing, crop marketing and handling agricultural machinery.

These technologies and skills resulted in about 40percent increase in rice production for irrigated plots, 50-percent increase for rain fed lowland areas and 140percent increase under rain fed upland conditions, he elaborated.

The training programs are organized by KATC and Ministry of Agriculture Training Institutes (MATIs) at Igurusi, Ilonga, Mtwara, Tumbi, Ukiliguru and Kizimbani Agricultural Training Institute (KATI) in Zanzibar.

Data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) shows that rice production in Tanzania has increased about 13 times in 40 years, from 223,000 tonnes in 1974 to 2,871,963 tonnes in 2017.

Japan places emphasis on agriculture development in Africa through various initiatives, including the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), aiming at supporting efforts of African countries to double rice production in ten years.

JICA's series of cooperation projects started with the Kilimanjaro Region Agricultural Development Project in 1974. It was followed by the development of Lower Moshi Irrigation Scheme and the Kilimanjaro Agricultural Development Center, currently the Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Center (KATC).



Rukia Makeetta (R), head of crop production at the Kilimanjaro Agriculture Training Centre, takes Japan's Ambassador to Tanzania, Shinichi Goto, around the centre's rice demonstration farms in Moshi District earlier this week. Photo: Henry Mwangonde.

EAC to harmonise education systems, curricula

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) partner states are working to harmonise education systems and curricula to facilitate movement of labour of the same standard in the region, it was announced yesterday.

EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of planning and infrastructure Steven Mlote said here that the harmonisation would ensure quality and standardised education which

would in turn guarantee skilled and tech-savvy manpower for the labour market in the region.

He said the region already had a common framework of reference to facilitate comparability, compatibility, equation and mutual recognition of education/training systems and qualifications among Partner States.

Mlote said that Partner States also had a shared view on quality, criteria, standards and learning outcomes on the education sector, adding that this would

spur mobility of students and labour in East Africa and foster integration.

The DSG was speaking at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania when he flagged off a team of 48 children from the Upendo Friends Sports Academy in Arusha who were heading to Nairobi, Kenya to participate in a soccer tournament slated for 17th and 18th August, 2019. The students were selected from both public and private schools in Arusha.

Gas cylinder plant to open October

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A survey conducted by The Guardian showed that a 15kg of LPG (gas and cylinder) retails at 100,000/- to 120,000/- while the 6kg goes for 55,000/- to 60,000/-. But for the refill-gas only—the cost comes to 50,000/- and 20,000/- respectively, implying that the cylinder alone gobbles up half the cost for the first gas purchase.

Awadhi said the new manufacturing plant will create new job opportunities and other forms of commerce to the community around its premises and the region as a whole.

"Our programme to establish new plants resonates with the fifth phase government of becoming an industrialized country, also coping with this year's theme of the Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) summit events," he specified.

The CEO noted that apart Lake Steel industry slated for the same venue will also help to bolster the country's economy.

In another development, Awadhi said that Lake Group was in the final stages of establishing a new water pipe plant that will be the first in East and Central Africa.

RC Ndikilo reaffirmed that the government was committed to ensuring a conducive environment for investors.

He said at least 50,000 people have benefitted from job openings in the past three years since the government drive for industries was launched in the region.

Out of these, 20,000 opportunities are direct jobs while 30,000 are indirect, whereas once Lake Group open its two plants, the numbers will sharply increase, he stated.

There are 1192 industrial units and establishments in Coast Region, with 56 being larger industries, 85 being medium and 350 being small industries, while 701 are micro units or home based industries, he elaborated.

RC hinted that the two manufacturing plants will be launched by the President anytime later this year when its installation was over.

Kibaha District Commissioner Assumpta Mshama said there was still plenty of land in the district set aside for investors who wish to establish factories.

"We have set a conducive environment for those wishing to invest in our district. My office in collaboration with RC's office has set a helpful networking system to eliminate cumbersome processes for investors," she added.



Paramilitary personnel from the Tanzania Forest Services, Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) and Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority mount a passing out parade in Mlele District, Katavi Region, yesterday shortly before being presented with course completion certificates. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

Tanzania mulls use of firearms in fight on global warming

By Guardian Reporter, Katavi

IN efforts to intercept negative effects of climate change, brought about by global warming, Tanzania may now be forced to use physical firearms.

That was among the resolutions reached in Mlele District, Katavi region, during the pass-out ceremony of more than 280 members of staff for the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA); Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA); Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) and the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), that have just completed their paramilitary training.

Speaking at the Mlele centre yesterday, Major General Khamis Semfukwe explained that global warming, or climate change and their related negative effects are being propelled by series of environmental destructive human activities.

Maj Gen. Semfukwe was on view that when people invade forests and nature reserves to illegally harvest trees and plundering other plants or poach wildlife, eventually the country loses its green cover, rains disappear and drought hits the nation as a result of the impacts of global warming. "That is why it is now important to equip our paramilitary personnel with real weapons, especially firearms, because poachers and other criminals targeting natural reserves are usually armed to the teeth with modern artillery," he pointed out.

"So, essentially we are now compelled to deploy real and modern firearms to combat global warming and climate change effects, because when faced with poachers or illegal loggers, our rangers need to be well equipped since their enemies are well protected and ready to kill," said the Major General.

During the occasion, the graduands were pre-

sent with certificates as representatives from their conservation institutions looked on, among them Assangye Bangu of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area; William Mwakilema from TANAPA, James Wakibara the Director General for TAWA and Khamis Semfuko of the TFS.

The intake 280 paramilitary training for conservation personnel started their courses at Mlele last May and completed on 16th of August 2019. They were practical and theoretical subjects on weaponry, parade, physical exercise; global positioning system; digital and ordinary map reading; conservation; basic law and immigration procedures as well as anti-graft. Out of the 280 graduands who passed-out at Mlele, there were also 194 rangers among them 97 females. The intake also featured training of trainers in which 28 teachers from TAWA, TANAPA and TFS graduated among them 7 female teachers.

The chairman of TFS advisory board Brigadier General Baraka Mkeremi pointed out that all the four organisations operating under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, that is TFS, NCAA, TAWA and TANAPA have over 7000 employees.

"They all need to be initiated into paramilitary system of conservation which will not only make them ready to face all challenges coming with the task of protecting natural resources and wildlife, but also cultivate them into new tradition of maintaining discipline while also prioritize issues of conservation ahead of everything else," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the Katavi regional Commissioner, the Tanganyika District Commissioner, Salehe Muhando, appealed to the government to transform the Mlele training centre into fully-fledged para-

'Govt to end menace of vehicle check-points in national parks'

By Guardian Reporter

NATURAL Resources and Tourism ministry has assured members of the public that it will continue addressing challenges facing tourism sector including unnecessary check-points by traffic police to tourists' vehicles.

The ministry's deputy minister Constantine Kanyasu said this at the tourism stakeholders' conference in Arusha.

According to him, the government in collaboration has built vehicle check-points in national parks to address the issue of traffic police.

He said that the new check-points among others will be used to screen drivers to find out if they are using alcohol while driving.

"The check-points will also be used to strengthen security to tourists including controlling crimes," he said.

Kanyasu said that tourism has continued to play an important role in the country's economy and is rated among the fastest growing sectors in the country.

He said that the government is committed in developing and promoting sustainable growth on the travel and tourism sector in the country in order to preserve its natural and cultural resources.

For his part, Arusha Regional Police Commander Jonathan Shana called on tourists and stakeholders to adhere to the country's laws so as to avoid unnecessary inconveniences.

He wanted any tourist who could encounter any challenge from the police officers to report so that measures were taken.

Arusha Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo said that the major aim of introducing the check-points in national parks was to address blues that tourists' vehicles frequently face when sending visitors to the parks. "Now tourists will have more time to

spend when visiting various attractions in our national parks as there will be formal check-points to stop instead of being stopped by traffic police informally," he added.

Tourism is the largest foreign exchange earner since 2012, contributing an average of \$2 billion annually, which is equivalent to 25 per cent of all exchange earnings, according to the government data. It also contributes to more than 17 per cent of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and creating more than 1.5 million jobs, 500,000 of which are direct.

ACT-Wazalendo blocked from addressing a press conference

By Guardian Reporter

POLICE in Dar es Salaam yesterday barred opposition party ACT-Wazalendo leader from holding a press conference for unknown reasons.

The law enforcers who were in plain clothes, arrived at the party's headquarters in a privately registered vehicle numbered T83 DFS shortly before the press conference was to start.

After a short while, uniformed police officers arrived and asked for the whereabouts of the party's leader Zitto who was at that time not available before the police declared the meeting unlawful.

"This meeting is unlawful, everyone should disperse this place," said John Malulu who was introduced as the RCO for Kinondoni.

As the journalists were preparing to leave, Ado Shaibu the head of communication and publicity arrived, he immediately ordered to board a waiting police vehicle.

Shaibu, however told the journalists that the police had gone to Zitto's house in search of him for questioning.

Shaibu told journalists that his party's leader had nothing to inform the public but the ongoing Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) summit.

In his explanation on the arrest of the party's spokesperson, Regional Police Commander for Kinondoni Mussa Taibu said the police had no problems with Shaibu.

"They brought him here at the Oysterbay Police and I have asked who is he because I even do not who he is. I had an issue with Zitto," he said.

He said he has tried to call Zitto but he had at that time switched off his phone saying the police were looking for him.

The 39th ordinary Summit of the heads of state and government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) begins today in Dar es Salaam until on Sunday August 18th, 2019.

The summit is responsible for the overall policy direction and control of functions of the community, ultimately making it the policy-making institution of SADC.

Congratulations



The Management and Workers of IPP Group of Companies wish to congratulate the President of the United Republic of Tanzania **Dr John Pombe Magufuli** for his election to become Chairman of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)



The Guardian

Nipashe

UN Women from partnership with private sector to promote, protect women's rights

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE United Nations WOMEN (UN WOMEN) has entered into partnership with the country's private sector to promote and protect women's rights in line with meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs) target.

UN Women country representative for Tanzania, Hodan Addou told reporters yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the partnership is the joint efforts that will see women inequality is getting to an end in the country, and to support women to take part in the senior positions.

She made the remarks during the session to discuss better means of ending inequalities to women that was prepared by the CEO round table of Tanzania.

She said it is an important opportunity to meet and discuss matters affecting women in their business and in their daily life.

The session brought on board different stakeholders to develop methodologies for empowering and supporting women development.

According to her, Tanzania has got very strong constitution and labour laws in protecting the rights of women in the employment and in the

business," and we as the UN we have been working close with the government to support women development.

"The session is therefore meant to establish good partnership with the private sector in order to promote gender equality in the country, basing on the fact that the private sector are the main contributor of sustainable economy," she explained.

The official clarified that, promotion and protection of women rights is not only the responsibility of the government, but it is the duty of both the private and the public sector so that no women and girls will be left behind.

She said that through the partnership, we will be able to investigate new ideas through our experiences, but also to look on the women empowerment principles that has been developed with International organizations to promote the environment that are conducive for women in business.

In Tanzania, only 5 percent of the chief executive officers (CEOs) are women, so there is a need to raise it by looking on various opportunities and businesses that women can do themselves to ensure they are also in the list of main contributor of the country economy.

"So we are looking for envi-

ronments and factors that determines women development in terms of gender pay gap, how many women are coming up for business, protection from sexual violence, maternity leave and the related issues mainly to ensure that women engagement is growing," she detailed.

The World Bank 2018 estimated that if women were earning as much as men in the workplace, the global economy would be enriched by US\$160trillion

Women in leadership and management positions will inject new ideas and new perspective at situations that will improve competitiveness of businesses.

For his part chairman for CEO round table Sanjay Rughani said the session is basically to improve business between environment to women and men in all levels in order to enhance women engagement in the managerial positions.

He added that so far, total of 7 women CEOs have joined the CEO round table of Tanzania being part of the initiatives to increase women participation in the position.

"We believe that women engagement in business is possible and can be achieved if all responsible stakeholders will work effectively," he said.



Witonde Filippo (R), Tanzania Ports Authority's acting deputy director general, pictured in Tanga yesterday presenting to Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella two incubator machines worth 25m/- donated by the firm for use by the city's Bombo referral hospital. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

Business training by ActionAid Tanzania bears fruit for women in Newala District

By Beatrice Philemon

A series of business training conducted by ActionAid Tanzania has started bearing fruit as hundreds of women in Newala district, Mtwara region are now able to export their merchandise to the East African Community's member states.

This was revealed recently when a group of journalists visited the district to see the

execution of the ActionAid-supported projects, which are aimed at empowering women in business and agriculture since was started to implement the Local Rights Programme (LPR) in Tandahimba and Newala districts in 2002 to date.

Zainab Mohamed is one of the beneficiaries of the projects, who revealed that some of her group members are now exporting goods in EAC

member states. "To me, I see this as achievement, thanks to the initiatives made by the ActionAid Tanzania, who trained women on entrepreneurship skills, business management, marketing, and packaging," said Zainab, who is also a secretary of Tukazane Women Group.

She described ActionAid empowerment drive as an eye opener to many women in southern Tanzania's regions,

who are dealing in different businesses such as cashew nut processing, poultry farming, batik, tie and dye project.

"All these have improved women's incomes and the money obtained from our businesses," Zainab said, adding that so far two members of the group purchased modern cashew-nut spraying machines to be used in their farming activities.

"Before ActionAid Tanzania

provide capacity building to us, it was very difficult to reach where we are today as women because we were lagging behind in business and operate our business unprofessionally, but right now we have confidence for what we did and we can search market for what we produce," she said.

ActionAid Tanzania has decided to embark on this program after observing that ma-

majority of women and youths in those areas are not knowledgeable on entrepreneurship skills, business management and how to access market for what they produce.

For her part, Suabu Musueta, a farmer from Ruchingu village who is also a chairman of Tukazane Group commended ActionAid Tanzania for training them on gender equality issues because through this project

we are seeing men in our village changing and help their wives in all family responsibilities.

"Right now men have begun to recognise what women do in businesses and agricultural activities and now we can make decisions together on what we grow or what to do with funds we obtain from the sale of the produce/crops than before," she says.



Ado Shaibu, opposition ACT-Wazalendo's ideology, publicity and communications secretary, boards a police car shortly after being arrested at the party's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Sources said he was lining himself up for a botched press conference that was to be addressed by the party's head, Zitto Kabwe. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Consume certified goods, Kagera residents challenged

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

KAGERA inhabitants have been challenged to use certified goods particularly those imported from various neighboring countries.

Speaking at the ongoing Kagera business and investment forum, the public relations officer of Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Neema Mtemvu, said that the region has many borders.

"Kagera has many borders; residents have to ensure the standards of the imported products for their health and nation.

She also urged small and medium entrepreneurs countrywide to certify their products free of charge for three years by channeling their requests through Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO).

She noted that the decision

by government to assign new roles from the former TFDA would reduce challenges facing SMEs.

She said from now onwards, SMEs who want to conduct business will have to forward their requests to TBS. "We will inspect the building immediately and issue a license if you meet requirements, she said.

Narrating she said they participated in this year investment forum in Kagera

region to educate producers and SMEs on various issues related to standards and support them in industrialization drive.

She said they also used the opportunity to inform them on the new roles assigned from TFDA and free services that are available for SMEs to enable them compete at any market.

The one week business and investment forum which ends

on Saturday was opened early this week by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

According to Kagera Regional Commissioner, Marco Gaguti, Kagera is on strategic area where people from those neighboring countries are met, hence, it was a right time for Tanzanians to promote all investment opportunities available in the region as well as both food and commercial crops.

Kenya and Somalia in Indian Ocean dispute, as tension seen rising

NAIROBI

ANALYSTS warn that tension could rise as a U.N. hearing nears on a Kenya-Somali territorial argument.

Kenya's parliament recently called on President Uhuru Kenyatta to send troops to the Indian Ocean to protect the country's territory from what it calls Somalia's aggression.

"In the event that diplomacy is going to fail and any other process fails, then our constitution permits the use of Kenya defense forces to protect our boundary, and the authority to use Kenya defense forces is vested in the parliament," said lawmaker John Mbadi.

"The president can declare war or use our forces to protect our boundary, but the deployment of those troops must be sanctioned by the parliament. We told the president ... that parliament would support any means to protect our territory."

The threat by Kenya comes less than a month before the U.N.'s International Court of Justice holds a hearing on the dispute.

Somali lawmaker Mohamed Omar Talha told VOA that his country would counter Kenya by sending troops of its own to the 100,000-square-kilometer (38,600-square-mile) area.

"If they send their troops to Somalia, we, the parliament of Somalia, will also bring a motion that will counter such a threat and give permission to our soldiers to defend our people and territory," Talhar said.

The neighbors' maritime dispute began in 2014 when Somalia filed a complaint against Kenya in the International Court of Justice saying it had exhausted all other avenues of finding a resolution.

Kenya wants negotiations with Somalia, while Somalia insists the court process must stop before negotiations

take place.

Security expert Mwachofi Singo said a conflict between the countries would benefit the al-Shabab terrorist group. "Catastrophic. Nobody wants to worsen an already bad situation, because the security situation in the Horn [of Africa] is already not good," Singo said. "You have al-Shabab roaming around everywhere. Kenya is part of the AMISOM [African Union Mission in Somalia] force that is fighting al-Shabab inside Somalia.

Now, if you open another front ... this can only fan the fires. I think al-Shabab will celebrate, because chaos thrives in chaos."

Mumo Nzau, who teaches diplomacy and international studies at the University of Nairobi, said the military threats were political statements.

"Those are kind of political statements by politicians, and they are normal," Nzau said.

"But that cannot be the official position of the country. It's just positions that politicians take once in a while, but ... there are no troops at the disputed area for any reason.

This is a matter that the United Nations Security Council and the African Union are observing very closely, and they are working very closely with the two countries."

The hearing on the Indian Ocean dispute will begin Sept. 9 at International Court of Justice headquarters in The Hague.



But that cannot be the official position of the country. It's just positions that politicians take once in a while, but ... there are no troops at the disputed area for any reason

IOM organises maritime security workshop on transnational crime, ensuring migration becomes safer

By Guardian Reporter

THE international Organisation for Migration (IOM) is next week expected to organise the second maritime security workshop on addressing transnational organised crime and strengthening border security to promote safer migration in the horn of Africa, East, and Southern Africa.

According to IOM statement issued yesterday, the two-day workshop is a continuation of fulfilling the mandate to ensure orderly and humane management of migration and to promote international co-operation on migration issues.

The regional workshop is being organised by IOM in the framework of the Better Migration Management (BMM) programme and will take place in Kenya's capital, Nairobi between August 20 and 21, this year.

BMM programme is a regional, multi-year and multi-partner programme funded by the EU Trust Fund for Africa and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), coordinated by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The overall objective of BMM is to improve migration management in the region, and in particular to protect migrants within the horn of Africa.

BMM supports the cooperation of maritime actors along the East Coast of Africa to enhance safe, orderly and regular migration in the region and supports national authorities in addressing migrant smuggling and trafficking.

This activity aims to bring together stakeholders to address human trafficking and smuggling through capacity building related to international, regional, and national frameworks.

This regional workshop builds upon outcomes of the first regional maritime security workshop which took place in October of 2018. This original event brought together regional member states and organisations who prioritise safety and security relating to the maritime environment. Overall, this event marked the shared priority to improve safety and security related to maritime context.

The 2nd Maritime Security Workshop aims to expand awareness of maritime migration and set the stage for information sharing

and unified collaboration across member states and regional experts. The overriding purpose of the workshop is to emphasize the role of Maritime Security in providing a framework for migration management.

One major objective of this workshop includes the presentation of the draft Operational Handbook on Maritime Security, which features international, regional policies and initiatives to best serve migrants in the Maritime context.

This draft is consistent with the African Union's 2050 Strategy on Maritime Security and is intended to result in the implementation of "Best Practices" in Maritime Security, while also empowering member states to strengthen operationalization of international and national maritime security strategies.

As maritime migration continues to remain in the spotlight due to heightened risks inherent to selecting maritime migration routes, IOM is committed to support stakeholders in identifying solutions related to migration in all contexts and environments.



Industry and Trade deputy minister Stella Manyanya (R) browses a Vodacom Tanzania Foundation impact report and strategy during a visit to the firm's pavilion at the just-ended Fourth Southern African Development Community industrial exhibition held in Dar es Salaam. Vodacom Tanzania is the main connectivity partner for the two-day 39th SADC Summit, which is scheduled to open in Tanzania's commercial capital today. Looking on is the mobile phone service provider's relationship manager, Alex Bitekeye. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Foundation empowers villagers with affordable improved cooking stoves

By Guardian Reporter

THE Morogoro-based Sustainable Holistic Development Foundation (SUHODE) has embarked on a project aimed at empowering villagers in Kilwa District, Lindi Region with affordable improved cook stoves to reduce more than 50 percent of biomass consumption.

SUHODE Foundation is implementing the project with support from World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

Geoffrey Rweyemamu, programme officer of the foundation said in an interview on Monday that the project dubbed: 'Leading the Change: Civil Societies, Rights and Environment' is implemented in Mchakama Village, Kilwa District, Lindi Region.

He said that local communities have confirmed that they have reduced frequencies of entering the forests in search of firewood by 50 percent.

Rweyemamu said that the foundation supports one of the goals stipulated in the Tanzania's Sustainable Energy for All Action Agenda namely "Doubling

the rate of improvement in energy efficiency."

It also works on Affordable Improved Cook Stoves aligns well with one of the objectives in the National Energy Policy of 2015, which among other issues is geared towards promoting energy efficiency and conservation in all sectors of the economy.

"Our idea is see all households in Tanzania use affordable improved cook stoves or other types of improved cook stoves for the purpose of saving our natural forests, wildlife habitats, water sources hence contributing towards a sustainable economy whereby humans live in harmony with nature," he said.

Director of the foundation, Frank Luvanda called on the government to deliberately increase efforts in combating deforestation and inefficient biomass consumption.

"These efforts will in the long time help in reducing poverty and food insecurity and contribute in mitigating the negative effects of climate change," he said, noting that natural forests in Tanzania face a huge pressure of extinction which if not checked might contribute towards total loss of natural forests

hence turn our country into a desert.

According to Tanzania government report entitled: "Tanzania's Forest Reference Emission Level Submission to the UNFCCC" of November 2017, Tanzania losses 469,420 ha of natural forests per annum! This makes Tanzania amongst countries with high rate of deforestation of natural forests in Africa. Forests in the general land are the most affected compared to forests in protected areas as they are subjected to various forms of degradation.

Among others, the most leading drivers of deforestation in Tanzania are agricultural expansion (shifting agriculture), energy demand in the form of firewood and charcoal, extraction of timber and logging, high increment of human population, and rural livelihoods that are heavily dependent on natural forests especially for extraction of charcoal and firewood.

Luvanda further said: "Taking alone energy demand for charcoal and firewood, one can realize how this one driver affects largely the country's natural forests. Energy demand stands out to be amongst key drivers of deforestation in Tanzania."



PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In accordance with Non-Government Organisations (Amendment) Regulation, 2018 Tanzania Health Promotion Support is pleased to publish its financial statements and funding status for the period ended 30 September 2018.

| STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018 | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| | TZS | TZS |
| INCOME | | |
| Revenue Grants | 25,742,066,605 | 22,369,349,052 |
| Release of Capital Grants | 2,418,279,281 | 1,650,783,381 |
| | 28,160,345,886 | 24,020,132,433 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Staff cost | 6,402,674,855 | 5,311,724,877 |
| Equipment | 1,007,342,706 | 1,520,429,179 |
| Administrative expenses | 4,565,766,004 | 4,454,608,333 |
| Travel and other transport costs | 2,067,333,991 | 1,267,441,822 |
| Other expenses | 11,698,949,049 | 9,815,144,841 |
| Depreciation | 2,418,279,281 | 1,650,783,381 |
| | 28,160,345,886 | 24,020,132,433 |
| Results before tax | - | - |
| Other comprehensive income | | |
| Translation differences | (201,830,426) | 346,267,558 |
| income for the year, net of tax | (201,830,426) | 346,267,558 |

| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2018 | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| | TZS | TZS |
| ASSETS | | |
| Non current assets | | |
| Property and equipment | 9,207,677,825 | 6,442,992,540 |
| Current assets | | |
| Staff Advances | 159,469,369 | 189,556,870 |
| Receivables | - | 57,340,133 |
| Travel and other transport cost | 3,731,008,189 | 853,727,720 |
| Approved project fund receivables | - | 2,028,884,868 |
| | 3,890,477,558 | 3,129,509,591 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 13,098,155,383 | 9,572,502,131 |
| FUND BALANCE AND LIABILITIES | | |
| Fund balance | | |
| Accumulated fund balance | 4,095,351 | 4,095,351 |
| Translation reserve | 202,397,770 | 404,228,196 |
| | 206,493,121 | 408,323,547 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Non-current liabilities | | |
| Capital grants | 9,207,677,825 | 6,442,992,540 |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Deferred revenue | 2,668,697,574 | 692,301,175 |
| Payable | 1,015,286,863 | 2,028,884,869 |
| | 3,683,984,437 | 2,721,186,044 |
| Total liabilities | 12,891,662,262 | 9,164,178,584 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES | 13,098,155,383 | 9,572,502,131 |

| FUND ANALYSIS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018 | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | C&T | Central Fund | UNAIDS | BASI | UMN CCS | NHLS | GF | Grand Total |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | | | | |
| Staff cost | 5,634,824,738 | | | | | 370,373,904 | 397,476,213 | 6,402,674,855 |
| Equipment | 1,007,342,706 | | | | | | | 1,007,342,706 |
| Administrative expenses | 4,106,631,781 | | | | | 440,208,192 | 18,926,031 | 4,565,766,004 |
| Travel and other transport cost | 1,705,684,496 | 56,638,032 | | | | 117,604,921 | 187,406,542 | 2,067,333,991 |
| Other expenses | 9,960,251,059 | 112,977,951 | | 31,324,191 | | 1,345,752,075 | 248,643,774 | 11,698,949,049 |
| Depreciation | 2,418,279,281 | | | | | | | 2,418,279,281 |
| Grand Total | 24,833,014,060 | 169,615,983 | - | 31,324,191 | - | 2,273,939,092 | 852,452,560 | 28,160,345,886 |
| INCOME | 24,114,602,764 | 71,251,697 | 52,827,769 | 36,396,618 | 15,541,736 | 2,891,187,000 | 978,538,302 | 28,160,345,886 |

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Management on June 2019 and were signed on its behalf by: Tanzania Health Promotion Support Management

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Cleaning up: Cameroon chemist recycling oil, fat waste into soap

By Julien Chongwang

THE disposal of used cooking oil and fat from food waste is an issue facing cities around the world. Without proper management, it can clog up sewers and drains, pollute the environment, and spread disease.

Martial-Gervais Oden Bella, an industrial chemistry technician from Cameroon, has turned his scientific expertise to finding an innovative solution to this problem.

His Douala-based company, GIC Bellomar, finds local solutions to the problems and needs of the population. Its operations range from manufacturing essential oil from orange peels, to making pot bags that help households save gas by finishing cooking without a heat source.

But the company's most popular products are the soaps and detergents it produces from used cooking oil - a raw material that Bella and his collaborators collect from hotels and restaurants in the coastal city.

"A study done in 2013 showed us that the majority of used cooking oil from Douala's hotels was being thrown into the environment. This was more than 20,000 litres of oil which was being dumped each year, and that's a huge amount,"

said Bella.

"As part of our research, we wondered what can be done with these oils. We then carried out some analysis that showed us that these oils still have physicochemical properties that can help saponification [the conversion of fat or oil into soap]. So we started using them to make laundry soap, household soap and now powdered detergent."

These products, which are sold locally, have proved extremely popular, says Bella.

Paul Nyoma who works at a neighbouring firm specialising in heavy machinery rentals and metal carpentry, said: "These are products that don't leave any marks and are incredibly pure. I was very surprised that we have young people on site who have this technology."

Bella and his team currently produce 100kg of soap a week, but he says he is keen to scale up operations.

"To be able to produce more, we need means, especially financial means, since we have already proved that the finished product is good," he added. "We now need a unit that can produce maybe a tonne a week. For that, we need funds."

The company is also keen to share its knowledge of the soap-making process and offers training to those wishing to replicate the initiative elsewhere.



Public Service Social Security Fund senior public relations officer Rehema Mkamba (L) and a colleague attend to visitors at the firm's pavilion at an ongoing youth exhibition in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

TGNP goes out empowering cross-border women traders

By Correspondent MashakaMgeta

WHEN you currently visit border posts across some East African Community (EAC) member states, it's often to find gender desks and the use of simplified certificates of origin particularly for women cross border traders.

The certificates were introduced by the common market protocol of EAC to make the businesses easier for the small-scale cross-border trade.

The achievements were among the outcomes of the project on capacity building to informal Women Cross Border Traders (WCBT) and duty bearers on gender mainstreaming in trade.

The project which was conducted by Tanzania Gender Network Program (TGNP) through financial support from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) was intended to protect full economic rights and

justice for women.

TGNP had previously collaborated with the Ugandan based Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Support Initiative (EASSI) to review the Non-Tariff Barriers Act 2015 of which, some findings were used to develop a one year project which ran from August 2017 to August 2018.

The WCBT Project Coordinator, Clara Kalanga, noted that TGNP managed to reach about 50 out of 150 business women identified in cross border trade between Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

According to Kalanga, other project objectives were to lobby for the implementation of the East Africa Elimination of Non-Tariff Barrier (NTB) Act 2015 in a gender responsive manner and to enhance women's capacity and awareness of EAC rules and regulations pertaining to cross border trade.

"We put that objective to in-

clude information on rules of origin, health regulations, packaging requirements, standards, branding, customs classifications (tariffs, taxes and duties) and intellectual property regulations," she explained.

Also, Kalanga noted that through the project implementation, TGNP had to improve women's capacity in accessing the regional and other international markets in the course of experience sharing and learning through case studies, application of ICT for market accessibility and market analysis.

Success Kalanga pointed that one of the factors that contributed to undermine women's participation in cross-border trade was the lack of trainers in promoting their understanding and capabilities in cross border related business.

But she clarified that the implementation of WCBT project

came up with a number of success stories like expansion of a pool of resource person on women cross border trading and entrepreneurship from two to 14, as a result of conducting training of trainers.

She also highlighted that the project contributed to the improved service provision at the borders such as common list of goods that qualify for the Simplified Trade Regime (STR) and simplified customs documents to informal cross-border traders by customs officials.

"Assistance was also provided in completing customs documents for those who cannot read properly; in addition, answering of trade-related queries is provided by the information desk officers at the borders," Kalanga noted.

She emphasized that through the WCBT project, TGNP has been able to identify and resolve a number of gender-related is-

ssues, including removing of police roadblocks along central corridor, establishment of One Stop Border Post (OSBP) and gender sensitive services.

"We used to find women with infants following long border procedures including those who stand in the queue, but now the situation has improved," she says.

According to Kalanga, the elimination of NTBs was previously advocated by TGNP and EASSI, in collaboration with other like-minded organizations who had reviewed the act and found it gender blind.

Kalanga disclosed that the beneficiaries have created their network to exchange various business information including markets, commodity prices, environment, travel and transportation.

"They also developed a gender app in order to increase communication among the ac-

tive members of the network, although at present the system was not working efficiently," she said.

Simplified certificates Kalanga disclosed that initially the process of reviewing products across borders was the same regardless of their value.

She cited an example that Kenya and Uganda have started issuing the simplified certificates for goods worth less than US \$ 2000, thus calling on other EAC countries, particularly Tanzania to follow suit.

Improvement "The project beneficiaries have admitted that their businesses have improved as some of them have been able to obtain passports and are currently using formal borders," Kalanga noted.

She added that, "some women have improved their business

skills and are currently packaging their products well, book-keeping, separating capital from the profit and some have opened bank accounts for savings."

She said the achievement was not possible before the intervention as most of the women were using informal routes which had several challenges including monetary and sexual corruption, loss of their merchandise and sometimes beating from police.

Kalanga stressed that prior to the interventions, they were trading with the aim of providing basic needs at the household level; but they are currently able to expand their business and invest in productive resources such as land.

"Some women have also reported that they have managed to buy land, renovate their houses, and one woman reported that she has started building her own house."

Muheza-Amani road rehabilitation to hook more tourists into forest reserve

By Beatrice Philemon

THE government has been asked to improve the 35-km road from Muheza town to the Amani Nature Forest Reserve (ANR) to attract more tourists in the area, which offers a wide-range of thrilling tourist attractions.

ANR is the largest forested block within the East Usambara Mountains and occupies the southern extremity of these mountains.

Reserve's Acting Conservator, Bob Matunda made the appeal recently while briefing journalists on how they work together with the Nature Tanzania organisation and Tanzania Forest Conservation (TFCC) to conserve the endangered Long-billed birds and other threatened flora and species found at Amani Nature Forest Reserve.

Matunda said that currently, the road getting to the Reserve was in a devastating situation thus urged the government to address the challenge to improve tourism.

"Lack of quality road makes it difficult for visitors to come and see what Amani Nature Reserve has to offer in ecotourism sector...so we are appealing for the government to see how it can solve this challenge," he said.

The conservator said: "We continue to engage people to conserve biodiversity of Amani Nature Reserve, we believe will see the increase in endangered Long-billed birds and other species so as to attract more tourists."

Construction of this road will help more than 40 villages located at the East Usambara Mountains to transport their produce more easily, attract more tourists to visit at Amani.

He expressed the Reserve's gratitude to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for granting funds to Nature Tanzania organisation that it can work together with TFCC to improve

the conservation status of natural resources and sustainable development through enhancing conservation of birds, forest and supporting sustainable use of biodiversity in Tanzania." He noted

Matunda said that despite challenges, the number of tourists has been slightly increasing yearly whereby in the year 2015/2016, a total of 685 tourists from different countries visited the Nature Forest Reserve and the number grew to 762 tourists in 2016/17.

In 2017/2018, at least 870 tourists come to the Reserve growing to 1,079 visitors in 2018/2019.

For her part Amani Ward Executive Officer, Hadija Nassoro commended Nature Tanzania and TGCF for introducing a new project at Shebomeza village to restore the Long-billed Tailor bird's habitat as well as educate people on the benefits of biodiversity to human and the effect of the invasive trees (*Maesopsis eminii*) that harm biodiversity and habitat of the tailorbird at Amani Nature Reserve.

Currently majority of communities at Shebomeza villages have begun to plant indigenous trees in their farms to remove *Maesopsis eminii* tree species.

"It is a good project and has received good response from the community, because right now local farmers have begun to plant indigenous trees in their farms, embark on livestock keeping and organic spice farming to conserve biodiversity of Amani Nature Reserve and conserve the tailorbird," she added.

Through this project, children were trained on how to understand the bird's behavior, its natural habitat, how to protect and conserve the habitat of the Long-billed Tailorbird species and other species found in the area and other issues relating to bird.



Major works in progress on a road in Dar es Salaam's Tandale kwa Mtogore suburb under the oversight of a Chinese contracting firm, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Nigeria finds itself at the heart of illegal pangolin business

By Orji Sunday, Lagos

A BABEL of voices hangs in the misty air over the Oluwo bushmeat market in Epe, in Nigeria's southwestern Lagos state. Smoke curls toward women selling live fish from faded plastic basins, and flies buzz over cuts of bloodied meat. Traders are haggling over prices for porcupine, antelope, crocodile – and pangolins.

Bushmeat traders here tell Mongabay that when it comes to pangolins, their biggest clients are Chinese expatriates living in Nigeria.

"Most of our customers are the Chinese who come every weekend to buy," says a 40-year-old who gives her name only as Egbawa. "They pay us to stockpile bags of scales for them. We used to have three and sometimes four of them every weekend. Sometimes they ask for live ones too."

She specializes in descaling pangolins and says there are now far fewer of the scaly ant-eaters brought to the market. "Hunters control most of this supply. Without enough pangolins, there would be scarcity of scales. That's what we are seeing today. The number of pangolins that come to this market continued to decrease every year."

In less than a year, more than 25 tonnes of pangolin scales and 2.5 tonnes of ivory have been seized by customs officials in Japan, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Singapore in shipments originating from Lagos, Nigeria's biggest commercial city. A further 13 tonnes of pangolin scales have been seized inside Nigeria.

In just one of these seizures, in April, Singapore Customs and the National Parks Board found 12.9 tonnes of pangolin scales, worth an estimated \$38.7 million, along with 177 kilograms (390 pounds) of carved and cut-up elephant ivory worth approximately \$88,500.

"The pangolin scales from the two recent seizures came from the four species of pangolins found in Africa," the National Parks Board said in an email to Mongabay. "Previously, in 2015 and 2016, Singapore intercepted shipments in transit at Singapore and made two pangolin scales seizures, amounting to 440 kg," or about 970 pounds.

In a press release on World Wildlife Day this year, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) expressed concern that Nigeria is emerging as a transit hub for the illegal wildlife trade, particularly pangolins, which it said may now be nearly extinct in Nigeria. There is inadequate research to confirm this claim, but wildlife traders agree there are fewer pangolins being brought to bushmeat markets in Lagos, while hunters report they are increasingly hard to find in the wild.

"What we know is that there is a general decline in pangolins (globally)," says ecologist



Jake Williams, the Asia program coordinator at the Zoological Society of London. "But what is very difficult about pangolins is to actually say anything quantitative about numbers because researchers don't have reliable population data in the wild. And the underground nature of trafficking makes it even more difficult to track trends or insinuate figures accurately."

Pangolins have long been hunted for food and traditional medicine. They are traded openly in bushmeat markets in Nigeria and neighboring Cameroon. But strong demand from Asia has attracted organized criminal syndicates to set up trafficking networks in the country, and the illegal trade in pangolin parts has gone deeper underground.

While gauging the overall scale of the trade based on seizures is inexact, the growing number of interceptions is a worrying signal. A 2015 report into global trafficking of pangolins published by TRAFFIC, an international NGO that researches and analyzes the trade in wild animals and plants, found that at least 120 tonnes of pangolin parts and scales were seized by authorities worldwide between 2010 and 2015. TRAFFIC also found evidence that new smuggling routes were proliferating, stretching across 67 countries or territories.

Nigeria appears to be a profitable new transit point for this trade. In March 2018, the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) arrested Li Chaomin, a Chinese national living in Nigeria, with 2 tonnes of pangolin scales and 218 elephant tusks in his Lagos apartment. He is the second Chinese citizen to be arrested with a large quantity of pangolin scales in Nigeria in the space of two weeks.

According to Nigeria's Sun newspaper, Li claimed he had a permit from the Chinese government to import pangolins, but that he was unable to get export permission from the Nigerian authorities and so decided to smuggle the scales out to meet orders placed by customers in China.

Pangolins of all species are protected by local laws throughout their range, and international trade of live pangolins, their scales or other body parts is prohibited under Appendix I of CITES. Today, all African pangolin species are classed as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List, but the upsurge in reported seizures shows that legal protections are not being enforced.

There are eight species of pangolin, four each in Africa and Asia. The giant ground pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*), black-bellied tree pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla*) and white-bellied tree pangolin (*P. tricuspis*) are found across West Africa, including Nigeria, while the fourth African species, Temminck's ground pangolin (*S. temminckii*), ranges across Southern and Central Africa.

A pangolin prepared for cooking in Cameroon. Photo: Eric Freyssinge

Pangolins are widely eaten in many parts of West and Central Africa. Photo: Eric Freyssinge, Wikimedia Commons CC BY SA 4.0

As demand for pangolins soars in Asia, and Asian pangolin populations come under pressure – two of the species are listed as endangered and the other two as critically endangered – it appears that the African species are now being fiercely poached to meet this demand.

"I strongly suspect that it is increasing because in a number of key demand countries there is an expansion of cultural traditions that value such products, the growth in middle class with greater capacity to purchase at a higher volume and the increase in the population of the region," Williams says.

The growth of Nigerian and offshore syndicates working in mobile and complex networks poses a severe threat, says Olajumoke Morenikeji, who heads the Pangolin Conservation Guild, a biodiversity NGO focused on pangolin protection, awareness and research in Nigeria.

She says Nigeria is a useful hub for traffickers because of its porous borders and poor law enforcement. "There is a lot of bribery and corruption in the country and it is very easy for anything to come in or pass through. Law enforcement is not effective. Culprits are getting away and our borders leak," she tells Mongabay.

Excellence Akeredolu, from the Department of Zoology at the University of Lagos, recently spent six months surveying traders, community heads, hunters and wildlife vendors about pangolins at Epe and three other bushmeat markets in Lagos state. Most of the vendors he spoke to said they had been selling pangolins for more than five years, with strong demand and high prices paid by both Chinese expats and locals. A majority said they'd entered the trade for lack of alternative employment. Hunters agreed that pangolins are lucrative business and acknowledged the animals were now harder to find in nearby forests. Nearly 70 percent claimed they didn't know, or didn't care, that the animals are protected by law.

In this context, it's easy for trafficking syndicates to organize networks of local middlemen who work with local hunters and bushmeat traders to secure pangolins destined for Asian markets but collected first in Nigeria.

Some pangolins are caught when people come across them by chance while farming, gathering firewood, or harvesting and processing palm fruit. Hunters and bushmeat traders, who in the past only bagged pangolins as a delicacy for local markets, are taking an active role as scale suppliers and middlemen, and even illegally exporting pangolin parts themselves.

Traffickers know these communities well and circulate their phone numbers and offer good money to locals to let them know when pangolins are caught. In other cases, they pay hunters to obtain agreed quantities of scales or whole carcasses.

"This stage can be complicated and might involve many networks of middlemen," Williams says. Expats, local fixers, informants and sometimes compromised law enforcement agents

collaborate to drive this illegal hunting.

These pangolin parts or scales are then channeled into offshore networks supplying countries where demand is high. "It is these demand markets," Williams says, "that drive the trade."

Chinese buyers will pay anywhere between \$3 and \$20 for a pangolin – a relative fortune for local bushmeat traders. Traffickers can then get as much as \$250 for the scales from one pangolin in markets in Asia, according to the UNODC's World Wildlife Crime Report (2016).

Akeredolu says increasing numbers of well-off Nigerians, attracted to the profits, are now joining the trafficking, bringing new finance for hunting, and money and connections to thwart enforcement. "Some of the people involved are in authority. Others buy their way through litigations. They are not poor, we are talking about rich and influential people."

Law enforcement at state and federal government levels is poor because the responsible agencies lack the means, will or exposure to track elusive traffickers. There's very limited information available about the actors, the actual volumes trafficked and the trafficking routes used to transport pangolins locally.

Traffickers advertise contraband on websites and via social media, complicating efforts to track supply chains.

This lack of enforcement takes on added importance because of Nigeria's growing role as a transit point, which impacts poaching in other parts of West and Central Africa.

That said, seizures of shipments destined for Asia, the United States and Europe, have also been recorded in most West, Central and Southern African countries with pangolin populations. In 2018, authorities in Benin, next door to Nigeria, seized 513 kilograms (1,131 pounds) of pangolin scales at Cotonou airport, according to local newspaper La Nouvelle Tribune. Other seizures of large quantities have been reported in countries including Cameroon, Guinea, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda and Togo.

Most of the seizures also include other contraband, such as elephant ivory and rhino horns, underlining the broader threat that wildlife traffickers pose to global biodiversity.

Traffickers are also using technology to connect to more markets and communicate over vast distances in a way they couldn't in the past. They advertise their contraband on websites and via social media, sometimes using codes and signs understood only by others within their networks. Tracking the supply through these channels is proving difficult for local wildlife investigators.

Irrigation earns flood-prone farmers US\$4,344 a hectare

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

INTERVENTIONS such as supplementary irrigation could make the growing of a mixture of crops in soils left behind by floods improve smallholders' incomes, food security and livelihoods, a study says.

According to researchers, several African communities in areas prone to floods grow crops in soils left behind by floods – a practice called flood recession agriculture – and thus they aimed to identify conditions under which this practice yields maximum benefits in northern Ghana.

"As a low-input, less fertiliser ... agricultural practice, flood recession agriculture can help farmers increase food production and thereby enhance

food security," says Bedru Balana, co-author of the study and a senior research scientist at the International Food Policy Research Institute.

The study published in the July issue of Agricultural Systems says that promoting flood recession agriculture has the potential to reduce seasonal migration during the dry season to cities.

Balana tells SciDev.Net that the study involved obtaining farm level data such as agricultural water management, crop types, crop yields and sale of agricultural produce from two rounds of surveys with more than 300 randomly selected smallholders in August 2016 and February 2017, and two rounds of focus group discussions in flood-prone areas of northern Ghana.

Using a modelling approach, the

researchers estimated the optimum benefits of practicing flood recession agriculture.

Findings from the study show that in a low rainfall scenario, the total estimated net cash income of a representative household that relied on rainfall was US\$316 per hectare whereas supplementary irrigation yielded US\$4,344 per hectare.

Combining cowpea, groundnut and melon with high value cash crops such as onion, pepper and tomato would optimise household income and enhance food security, Balana says.

"The cash income generated from the sale of cash crops will be sufficient to buy up to three months of food to reduce an average household's food insecurity," explains Balana.



'Green gold': Kenyan farmers abandon food crops to grow herbal stimulant

NAIROBI

AT this time of year, Albert Njeru's farm would usually be blanketed with shoulder-high rows of maize.

But not anymore. Now the fields of grain are gone, replaced by 2 acres (0.80 hectares) of bushy green muguka leaves, a potent legal stimulant that relieves fatigue.

"Muguka gives me a lot of money. Farming maize or beans used to give me losses," said the 45-year-old farmer at his home in Kanyuambora, a village in central Kenya.

As drought and erratic weather wreak havoc across rural Kenya, a growing number of farmers are abandoning traditional crops like maize and rice for the more lucrative muguka.

Njeru can make Sh30,000 (\$290) in just one week selling muguka – five times more than he used to make selling maize or beans.

"It is green gold," he said. A variety of khat, which produces a mild high when chewed, muguka is fast-growing, making it less vulnerable to large swings in weather conditions, and uses about half as much water as maize, Njeru explained.

The strain grown in Embu County, home to Njeru's farm, is strong and so consumers can buy less than with the other popular variety, miraa, which is grown further north in Meru.

That is good news for muguka producers like Njeru, who said he was struggling to cultivate enough to keep up with demand.

But it is bad news for food supplies,

said agriculture experts and local politicians, who warned of a potential food crop shortage as farmers clear their fields of staples to make way for muguka.

"Farmers are not interested in growing maize anymore. They want money in their pockets. Muguka is giving them that and a lot more, since they can use the profits to buy more nutritious food," said Martin Mwangi, a member of Embu County's assembly. "But the long-term consequences could lead to food insecurity due to reduced production."

He pointed to neighbouring Kirinyaga County, where farmers are known for growing Kenya's highest-quality rice.

"Water used for irrigating rice is now being diverted into muguka fields," he

cautioned. There is no official record of how many farmers have switched from growing food crops to muguka, said Mwangi.

Nor is there data on how much land is being used for muguka, according to Kenya's Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA).

But Francis Kimori, chairman of the Mbeere Muguka Farmers Sacco, a savings and credit cooperative, estimated four out of every five households around the Mount Kenya region, including in Embu County, are farming the stimulant in some quantity.

Many have upgraded from mud huts to modern stone houses, he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"It is changing livelihoods," he added.

Factors like failing rains and new

pests, linked to climate change, have likely played a role in muguka's popularity at the expense of time-honoured crops such as maize, said Dickson Kibata, a technical officer at the AFA.

Yet despite the extra income muguka brings, Kibata warned against relying solely on the narcotic plant.

"Cash-crop farming cannot be the silver bullet that will pull farmers out of poverty, because consumption patterns keep changing," he said by phone.

"My advice to muguka farmers is to mix it with food crop farming to ensure the family food basket is secure, even as they look for money."

Environmentalists and lawmakers have also voiced concerns over the impact of the stimulant cultivation boom on forests.

Every few months, the Atiriri Bururi ma Chuka community conservation group in Tharaka Nithi County reports several locals illegally growing an edible form of cannabis known as bhang in local forests, said its chairman Ngai M'Uboro.

He expects it is only a matter of time before he and his colleagues start uncovering muguka farming in the area.

"If the forest is already suffering because of grazing and bhang, it will not be long before we see muguka growing in the forest," he said.

Muguka's potency is also making the authorities uncomfortable. In 2018, legislators in Mombasa and Kwale counties lobbied unsuccessfully for a sales and consumption ban on muguka over fears of addiction among young people.

The Guardian

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Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Making the world safer from humanitarian, other catastrophies

WORLD Humanitarian Day is a day dedicated to recognize humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes. It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as part of a Swedish-sponsored resolution on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency assistance of the United Nations, and set as 19 August. It marks the day on which the then Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq, Sérgio Vieira de Mello and 21 of his colleagues were killed in the bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad.

The designation of 19 August as World Humanitarian Day is the outcome of the relentless efforts of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Foundation and his family working closely with the ambassadors of France, Switzerland, Japan and Brazil in both Geneva and New York to table and steer the draft Resolution through the General Assembly. The Foundation conveyed its deep gratitude to the United Nations General Assembly and all member states for the worthy gesture of recognition that has ensured that the tragic loss of Vieira de Mello and his 21 colleagues and all humanitarian personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifices in relieving the suffering of victims of humanitarian crises have not been in vain.

A national of Brazil, Sérgio Vieira de Mello dedicated a lifetime spanning over thirty years in the United Nations, serving in some of the most challenging humanitarian situations in the world to reach the voiceless victims of armed conflict, alleviate their suffering and draw attention to their plight. His death together with 21 colleagues on 19 August 2003 in Baghdad,

deprived the victims of armed conflict worldwide of a unique humanitarian leader of unmatched courage, drive and empathy who championed their cause fearlessly and etched their plight on the world map. The tragic event also robbed the humanitarian community of an outstanding humanitarian leader and intellectual whose thinking, philosophy, dynamism and courage inspired all and remains a timeless legacy for coming generations to emulate.

Mindful of this legacy, in 2006 the Vieira de Mello family and a group of close friends founded the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Foundation dedicated to continue his unfinished mission of encouraging dialogue between communities and relieving the plight of victims of humanitarian crises. The Foundation is dedicated to supporting initiatives and efforts to promote dialogue for peaceful reconciliation and co-existence between peoples and communities divided by conflict through an annual Sérgio Vieira de Mello Award, an Annual Sérgio Vieira de Mello Memorial Lecture, a Sérgio Vieira de Mello Fellowship and advocating for the security and independence of humanitarian actors, wherever they may be operating and wherever they may be operating for. The Foundation views the World Humanitarian Day as a befitting tribute to all humanitarian personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifices to make the world a better place for all victims of humanitarian crises and an encouragement to all their serving colleagues to aspire to even greater heights in accomplishing that laudable goal.

World Humanitarian Day was commemorated for the first time on 19 August 2009.

Immunisation: Society obliged to protect children against disease

IMMUNISATION is the process by which an individual's immune system becomes fortified against an agent known as the immunogen.

When this system is exposed to molecules that are foreign to the body, called non-self, it will orchestrate an immune response, and it will also develop the ability to quickly respond to a subsequent encounter because of immunological memory. This is a function of the adaptive immune system. Therefore, by exposing an animal to an immunogen in a controlled way, its body can learn to protect itself: this is called active immunisation.

The most important elements of the immune system that are improved by immunisation are the T cells, B cells, and the antibodies B cells produce. Memory B cells and memory T cells are responsible for a swift response to a second encounter with a foreign molecule. Passive immunisation is direct introduction of these elements into the body, instead of production of these elements by the body itself.

Immunisation is done through various techniques, most commonly vaccination. Vaccines against microorganisms that cause diseases can prepare the body's immune system, thus helping to fight or prevent an infection. The fact that mutations can cause cancer cells to produce proteins or other molecules that are known to the body forms the theoretical basis for therapeutic cancer vaccines. Other molecules can be used for immunisation as well, for example in experimental vaccines against nicotine (NicVAX) or the hormone ghrelin in experiments to create an obesity vaccine.

Immunisations are often widely stated as less risky and an easier way to become immune to a particular disease than risking a milder form of the disease itself. They are important for both adults and children in that they can protect us from the many diseases

out there. Immunisation not only protects children against deadly diseases but also helps in developing children's immune systems. Through the use of immunizations, some infections and diseases have almost completely been eradicated throughout the United States and the World. One example is polio. Thanks to dedicated health care professionals and the parents of children who vaccinated on schedule, polio has been eliminated in the U.S. since 1979. Polio is still found in other parts of the world so certain people could still be at risk of getting it. This includes those people who have never had the vaccine, those who didn't receive all doses of the vaccine, or those traveling to areas of the world where polio is still prevalent.

Active immunisation/vaccination has been named one of the "Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century".

Germany has committed Euro 35 million to East African Community to be invested in vaccination programmes in the partner states.

Speaking at the EAC headquarters, senior policy officer from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development recently, Claudia Imwolde-Krämer said Germany is contributing Euro 35 million to immunisation programmes in the EAC.

"I appreciate and acknowledge the EAC's efforts to immunize every child in the region," he said.

In his remarks, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote said the visit by Imwolde-Krämer reaffirms the strong ties of friendship and cooperation between the EAC and the Federal Republic of Germany.

"Indeed, the Federal Republic of Germany and the EAC have historically had strong and cordial relations dating back to the founding of the EAC, 20 years ago", added Eng. Mlote.

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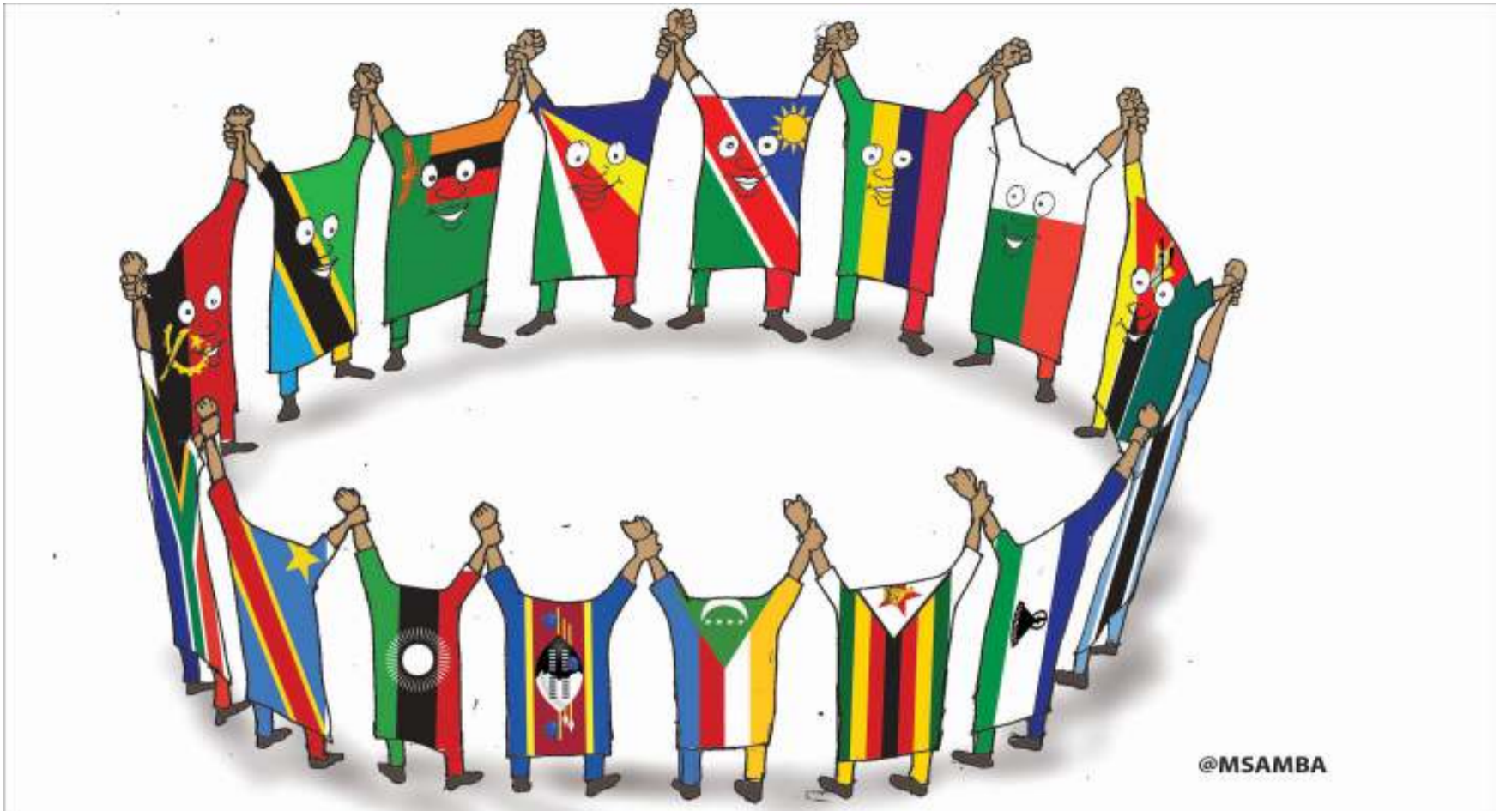
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The WB needs to understand poverty and what it actually costs a family to live on

By Sharan Burrow

THE World Bank claims poverty is decreasing around the world but UN research shows it depends on what you measure. If we are serious about reducing poverty, we need to start by properly identifying it.

The World Bank has repeatedly claimed that extreme poverty is on the decline. In its Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report, it states that 'the world has made tremendous progress in reducing extreme poverty. The percentage of people living in extreme poverty globally fell to a new low of 10 percent in 2015 -- the latest number available -- down from 11 percent in 2013, reflecting continued but slowing progress. The number of people living on less than \$1.90 a day fell during this period by 68 million to 736 million.'

What are we measuring?

The World Bank's extreme poverty line of US\$1.90 a day is in fact not based on real estimates of people's cost of living within countries. This explains why it fails to capture the desperation experienced by so many.

As soon as we focus on people's lived experience, the picture becomes more stark. At a most intuitive level, we know that poverty is determined by a person's inability to meet their material needs. Perhaps the most basic of these needs is food. The UN's 2018 figures on hunger show that it is on the rise globally. It estimates that 821 million people are currently going hungry. It is striking then that the World Bank considers millions of those living in hunger as living above its poverty line.

While the World Bank estimates that 400 million people live in extreme poverty in the Asia-Pacific Region, a 2018 report from the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific highlights that 520 million people in the region are undernourished, and 1.2 billion people lack access to basic sanitation.

Regional snapshots also contradict the World Bank's poverty findings. While the World Bank estimates that 400 million people live in extreme poverty in the Asia-Pacific Region, a 2018 report



from the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific highlights that 520 million people in the region are undernourished, and 1.2 billion people lack access to basic sanitation.

The World Bank also estimates extreme poverty in Latin America, at 4.1%, to be low, and suggests it has been declining over the last years. Meanwhile, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's (ECLAC) 2018 figures indicate that both poverty (29.6%) and extreme poverty (10.2%) have been increasing since 2012.

ECLAC defines its poverty and extreme poverty lines based on the costs of food and other essential goods and services. While the World Bank claims that extreme poverty has nearly been eradicated in the region, ECLAC figures show that nearly a third of people in Latin America are unable to cover the costs of basic goods and services, and one in 10 cannot even afford the basic costs of food.

So what is the World Bank's poverty line based on? The US\$1 a day indicator was set out in the World Bank's 1990 World Development Report. While the 'dollar a day marker' was easily understandable to the public, it was primar-

ily symbolic and not based on any estimate of the income people would need to live on. The poverty line has since been updated according to inflation and changes to the consumer price index, and it currently stands at US\$1.90 for the poorest countries. The Bank did develop additional poverty lines for lower-middle and upper-middle income countries, at US\$3.20 and US\$5.50 a day, largely to reflect higher prices in those countries.

If it is broken, fix it

The arbitrary nature of the Bank's approach to poverty measurement has critics abound and many have identified the need to move towards a basic needs approach. This would define the amount of money needed to cover food, housing, and other essential goods and services, including health and education.

It is estimated that if the Bank were to measure poverty on the basis of needs, international poverty rates would be considerably higher. The Bank has resisted such a call, arguing that the US\$1.90 poverty line is valid and meaningful as it corresponds to the median of the national poverty lines of the world's poorest countries.

What's really happening is

the World Bank validates its poverty line largely on that basis of other World Bank-developed national poverty lines, a flagrant case of partiality and circular logic. Research by Professor Sanjay Reddy showed only 9 of the 87 national poverty lines cited by the Bank have been derived independently.

The Atkinson Commission on Global Poverty, which was set up to advise the Bank on global poverty measurement, set out several recommendations to improve its poverty monitoring and measurement. It recommended that the World Bank partner with other agencies to construct a basic needs estimate of poverty. This is entirely feasible and some regional agencies are already successfully doing it. Nevertheless the Bank argued against it, putting the onus for adopting a more accurate approach on individual countries and preventing the development of internationally comparable estimates.

The Bank's own Acting Director for Research Francisco Ferreira recently conceded, 'there is significant room for arbitrary decision making' in setting the World Bank's international poverty estimates. He went on to argue that correcting against such arbitrary consequences is unfeasible as the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) poverty reduction target is based on World Bank poverty measures. For an international institution to argue that an inaccurate measure should be maintained because the international community is using it, highlights a profound lack of ambition and responsibility-taking.

The World Bank, and the greater international community, should not fear changing a measure that is not working. In fact, it is necessary in order to achieve the Bank's stated goal of poverty reduction.

Under-reporting poverty does not make it go away. Rather, inaccurate indicators make it harder to identify the policies that truly address it, such as raising wages, reducing precarious work, extending social protection coverage and enhancing access to essential public services such as health and education.

It is high time the World Bank moves away from an arbitrary indicator towards one that captures the cost of living, based on the real needs of people.

Fine-tuning gender dimension in SADC quest for food security

By Michael Eneza

A MIXED message to the gathered heads of ministerial divisions and agencies in the SADC zone, readying for the summit at the weekend, was issued by non-state actors in the agricultural sector, representing basically what were described as women small holders. Their first message was that the SADC summit should reaffirm the need to prioritise agriculture, by focusing on investment in agriculture for food security but also ensure land ownership rights for women. This looked like a campaign poster rather than a program.

They expressed concern that most governments in the SADC region are yet to implement the 2014 Malabo Declaration which requires member countries to allocate around 10 percent of their total budget to agriculture. But their own suggestions, even if taken forward, would scarcely make a difference in how things are done, and are moreover clustered under a basic unrealism that what gathers votes is what is prioritized. Agro-sector needs are business, or belong to the sphere of regulation like certification of seeds or formalization of titles.

When the NGOs say they want agriculture to be prioritized and not considered as an alternative activity, the question is whether there is an alternative activity and to what. All activities are an alternative to sitting at home, or in obtaining better pay, and no single reason exists to prioritize agriculture above hospitals, schools, roads, railways or water can be cited. In that case the NGOs failed to move beyond lobbying to attain objective counselors rank to the governments.

Saying that governments should also invest in research to come up with quality seeds that are suitable for specific types of soil is to ignore the work done by so many agro-sector institutions around the world and their results on the field. It is typical of a self-reliant attitude which ends up wishing to reinvent the wheel. This wasn't really surprising hearing that the theme for the events underlying the meeting was 'rebuilding people's movements within Southern Africa's climate, political and socioeconomic emergencies: Towards radical democratic alternatives and a just transition.' It is the pursuit



of justice between classes, whereas the problem is the quest for justice within the classes, e.g. the family.

This ought to be the principal issue when analysts seek out solutions for malnutrition and stark poverty, as to what are the target populations or sections of population, where action leveraged in that direction is likely to be most effective. NGOs asserted that most governments in SADC set a small amount of budget funds for research with agricultural budgets cut every year.

While all this is valid it is also evident that governments don't need to pour huge funds for seed research as a lot of capital is leveraged in that area. At the same time the whole problem of extension officers is premised on a peasant outlook where the learning never ends because only minimal results are targeted, as surpluses are used in temporary comforts. When the sector is more business oriented, the actors themselves search out the farming and enterprising knowledge needed to sustain those activities, and 70 per cent of what NGOs demand is likely to go up in smoke; it merely baby sits inefficiency.

There is hence little need to have a common voice for small holder farmers for instance on issues of land ownership as there is no sphere of social conflict and inclination to violence as in that sphere.

A resolution that demands 'the right to own land especially for smallholder farmers who are mostly women' is next to incomprehensible, for it doesn't distinguish women's land occupancy rights from those of men, and talks loosely about 'ownership' merely as occupancy.

What is hence crucial for economic growth and food security is not generalized land 'ownership' rights but a redefinition of the productive unit to revolve around women with children, and outside a sphere when a man is in control. So long as one is talking about a traditional family unit on ancestral land there is little that governments can do to change formal rights of occupancy or the use of proceeds from cash crops, livestock, etc or use of men's labour for gainful purposes. Poverty and stunting are anchored in this traditional matrix and the solution is land formalization and state-programmed habitat change to enable women to be in control of habitat and gainful activities, and care for children.

That is why non-governmental organizations ought to go back to the pivotal 1967 pamphlets by Dr Julius Nyerere to obtain a method for resolving this problem. In the first pamphlet, Education for Self Reliance, Mwalimu shows how youths being put to school ought to learn skills they can use after school, thinking of a home-based gainful activity. These days experts talk about post-college 'agribusiness' whereas that notion is for all intents and purposes a non-starter, and in policy terms, the first item is to revisit habitats so that producing food for family use is embedded in the notion of habitat, especially for women.

Needless to say this can't be done on ancestral land, and indeed not in a village, as the latter are inseparable from village institutions and male prerogatives, tied up with marriage rituals, rigorous inheritance customary laws that the government can't alter as women's NGOs routinely demand. What is needed is a spate of 'council housing' as it was the case in the past, where families are put in first priority, and a family is defined as a mother and her children. It is possible a few other minors or elderly persons especially grannies are added.

To this sort of allocation is needed corollary space for planting vegetables and keeping poultry, for when these two basic needs are assured, women will be able to exchange surpluses especially from poultry to obtain grain. When this is universally applied malnutrition and stunting will be things of the past, not when women labor to sell this or that item to obtain money to purchase sufficient materials for a balanced diet, as it is unattainable. Those dependent on the women, if they are of post-school age, will be able to contribute by gainful labour on the facilities or outside as it may be, with women in control.

Men will of course be able to keep 'ornaments' in their living premises as the case may be, as Scripture describes women as 'ornaments' of men in their premises. How this plays out will organize itself but governments need to reverse stunting and oppression of women and children when they have to depend on men's fancies on their use of labour and income, that this will be directed to the family. It is a grotesque infamy that ought to be stopped now.



Measuring the heartbeat and direction within SADC stock markets, integration potential

By Nimi Mweta

EFFORTS to bring up and nurture stock markets in sub-Saharan Africa, and even in the case of South Africa which has often been seen as an exception, are at times efforts at imitation, with minimal rather than optimal success. There is a degree to which stock markets are making a difference in African economies and SADC states in particular, but their growth varies in nearly extreme forms as they depend on the extent of both monetization and capitalization of economy, the extent to which economic units are freed from family control. It is a vast building site, as yet.

Even experts making studies on the situation, who would otherwise be inclined to speak the best of what is happening, are incapable of hiding the deception they encounter. One such study on the SADC stock markets says that 'the empirical literature confirms that for decades African stock markets are characterized by small sizes, poor liquidity, high concentration and insufficiently developed market infrastructure.' This is the reality but it is hard to grasp the solution that the author(s) present, saying 'so we contend that greater stock market integration is much needed and should be the way forward.' The author elaborates on the proposal but the grain is the same, that of unifying or propelling the 'federation' of stock markets, which a critic would say it is to put the cart before the horse. The basic requirement is to bring national assets - land firstly and many productive assets now in public hands - into the private sector, into stocks.

When the author says that 'regional integration, if carried out at the right pace and in a pragmatic way, could improve the liquidity, efficiency, and competitiveness of the region's stock exchanges,' chiefly because 'cooperation and integration of national stock exchanges could offer a way of overcoming some of the impediments to development that most of the African stock markets now face as relatively fledgling and illiquid exchanges,' it seems all this is to escape from the battle scene. Each of the stock markets is capable of growing into a highly liquid environment and attract large amounts of capital, if one looks at population size, where many countries have over 40million people. The problem is public ownership of land and most key sectors of economy, such that stock exchanges are reduced to elevated speculation in industrial shares, simply as an alternative to keep money in banks as it loses value over time, habitually.

There is an assertion that 'the empirical literature shows that on balance the benefits of regional stock market integration tend to outweigh the costs; yet the

progress towards significant stock market integration for African stock exchanges has been rather slow.' It is hard to figure out clearly what is stock market integration as a stock market is little more than a shop, where buyers visit different shops to look for products, in this case shares, bonds, bills, etc. When one talks about integrating, does it mean fusing capital bases and closing some of them? Is the argument not really one of trading shares across stock exchanges, which means de-regulation of share trading (for instance how Tanzanian stock dealers were hindered from purchasing Safaricom shares)? Yet if this impediment was removed it would lead to a hemorrhagic flow of funds to that destination, and that is precisely why operating the listing from DSE had to be stopped. That is why analysts ought to look for ways to ease capitalization inwardly, not ballooning outwardly.

At a different level, the author notes that 'capital flows to Africa relatively speaking are still low and they can be increased substantially through regional stock market integration. Capital flows which Africa badly need.' There is a factually unquestionable observation that capital flows are low and that Africa and the SADC zone badly need such flows, but the question is the reasoning that this comes out of regional capital markets integration. This sort of reasoning is picked by liberal scholars or analysts (in the US sense of the term) who would prefer not to ruffle feathers as to how to grow local stock exchanges, what ought to come into the stock exchanges and thus become a factor for attracting large capital flows. It is easy to see that this goes back to the 1981 structural adjustment program by World Bank President A. W. Clausen, but put to a halt in 1999 when the Third World dominated board of directors for both IMF and World Bank decided to direct IMF to say that most African countries had reached 'decision point' for debt cancellation. This measure led to the resignation of the IMF managing director and halted reforms in Africa.

In other words regional analysts ought to be objective enough to accept that SADC economies and sub-Saharan economies in general are not ripe for a fitting role of the stock exchange, as the public sector dominates these economies. In Tanzania for instance revenue collection is put at 22.5trillion shillings per year and foreign debt servicing takes around nine trillion shillings out of that. When one adds data from the IMF that revenue collection levels might be overstated, it follows that nearly one half of revenue collection is used to pay maturing portions of the public debt. These aren't conditions where the stock exchange can grow, thus it is stymied to the core.

Mass poverty in SADC region: What role for philanthropy?

By Anil Kija

THERE is a way in which foreign countries have constantly come to the aid of African countries to help Africans against themselves, that is, help them get out of their self-inflicted crises and wounds. Since these acts of salvage constantly hurt the sentiments of African intellectuals and especially those in governing roles, a narrative is constantly sought to explain those same problems as stemming from the outside world. Another aspect of the narrative is to map out the sort of activities that philanthropic organizations do, to pick contentions and act.

Southern Africa or the SADC region has not usually had grotesque emergencies arising from sheer political mismanagement, so the presence of foreign rescue missions in the SADC zone has been limited, or some will say non-existent. While this might actually be the case for armed conflicts except for the Congo (DRC) where the debate never ends among some quarters on the presence of the UN force there, it is the economic part of salvage that is daunting and tantalizing. Gross embezzlement of public funds had been a hallmark of governance in Africa, and even where the funds have not been siphoned, priorities on the manner of its use can be perplexing.

When for instance in 1998 the gross domestic funds for the annual budget were 720bn/-, the portion out of it directed at development projects stood at 10bn/-, and around 400bn/- would be procured from outside, during times where aid was flowing. Around 20 years later the scene has radically changed as European economies have changed marginally in some respects with what they were in 1998, while Africa is nearly 'unrecognizable' except for its hard core poverty in rural areas in particular. An urban middle class has grown nearly out of proportion with the resources available as a result of that same tendency of mismanagement, 'chopping' by the ton.

While the role of philanthropy accompanied the rise of modern society in the West, and it has usually featured in traditional Asiatic societies though the record is patchy in this case, it is hard to



say that Africa has ever been driven by philanthropy. A number of organizations that came up after independence have habitually been identified with the Asian merchant classes and their social representatives, despite that they sought to build bridges especially in medical flights philanthropy. A bit of this tradition is now being internationalized with regular visits of doctors from India, the United States and elsewhere for training local doctors, conduct screening camps.

When it comes to indigenous expressions of philanthropy, it is hard to pick examples of activities that are fairly well entrenched in the fabric of society. Even then, there appears to be an aspect of experimentation as to what sphere of philanthropy is more effective than others, with helping disabled people a relatively common and obvious object of philanthropy. Health sector mass assistance comes up once in a while, but practicing philanthropy in relation to poverty itself is a conundrum. Efforts for instance of empowering the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) while making strides in the community, are not a blanket cover but tend to select locations of those to be assisted. Thus despite the presence

of intense pockets of poverty in Dar es Salaam, the city doesn't qualify for TASAF assistance; its work is closely intertwined with rural poverty.

Troubling questions come up when one looks into how philanthropic work makes headway in Africa or in SADC area in comparison with the rest of the world, and some astonishing features come up, that the more depressed a community is, the more likely philanthropy will come up, or make a difference. For instance there is just one organization for youth entrepreneurship that is known around the continent, but propagated more the foreign media than locally, namely the Tony Elumelu Foundation. Locally there are foundations by retired presidents, with the late Dr Reginald Mengi a pioneer in that field, without having a public leadership legacy to start with.

Certain elements of philanthropy were misused in the past as conveyor belts for causes that espouse extremist attachment to one or other line of interpreting world history from a visionary perspective, like the way Middle East charities piled up cash for movements like Al Qaeda. More commonly, philanthropy is attached to building houses of prayer, while religious foreign aid is diminishing, with local believers constantly making pledges of this or that sort to build facilities dear to a particular community. There was an attempt to raise auxiliary education for girls in particular, putting orphans in priority that was started by the government, but it isn't common to hear any major donations directed to the

Tanzania Education Fund, listed directly.

As they say, charity begins at home, and on both sides of the philanthropy coin, SADC states appear to have sharp climbing to do so that philanthropy can make a difference in social organization, especially with massive poverty and chronic youth unemployment. Traditionally people are available to contribute large amounts of cash for weddings, scarcely for education - except in Kenya where the colonial government prohibited countryside welfare organizations in preference to local ones. At the time of independence they had developed a culture, which in Tanzania could have been conveyed via cooperative unions had they remain member-based instead of agencies of the state, to pool resources to send young people to study overseas, but they were curbed early. They were rival centres of power for the TANU government, clearly.

At the time of shifting to socialism and even in the aftermath of reform, a generally negative image was created of those with more cash than is ordinary, either as immigrant exploiters or more recently, tax evaders. Little example can be cited in many countries of individuals like

George Weah, now president of Liberia, sponsoring the national team as coach and financier. Nor do we have the likes of Moise Katumbi, owner of TP Mazembe and a key figure in the ranks of opposition in DR Congo - a legacy that has its negative side, in the creation of formidable warlords.

Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute vows to ensure that President's vision of industrial economy is realised

By Gerald Kitabu, recently in Simiyu

TO ensure industrial economy as per President Dr John Magufuli's vision, Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has put in place different plans and strategies. One of them being the Oil Seeds Research Programme (OSRP) which is one of many programs under the Institute. TARI Naliendele nurtures a national mandate in Cashew and Oils seeds particularly Sesame and groundnuts research.

According to Joseph Nzunda who is Agricultural Research Officer and the National Coordinator of Oil Seed Research Program, Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Naliendele), Sesame and groundnuts are oil crops containing oil. The oil content in sesame is 50-55 percent and 40-58 percent oil content in groundnuts. Sesame and groundnuts provide opportunity to lift a large number of farmers out of food, nutrition insecurity and poverty. Furthermore, investing in oil processing creates



The National Coordinator of Oilseed Research Program (Groundnuts and Sesame) Joseph Nzunda (Right) explaining oils seed technologies to the participants during Nane nane exhibition at Simiyu, first from left is The Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture Eng. Mathew Mtigumwe and second from left is the Director General of TARI Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo.

employment. The amount of sesame produced in the world is used for oils extraction and it is about 70 percent. The five major markets for seame oil are European countries like Italy, Germany, Greek. Other countries are arabic countries mainly Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

So far, these crops act as cash crops in many parts of the country like Manyara, Dodoma, Mtwara, Lindi and Ruvuma. In the southern part of Tanzania, the crop (sesame) has remained as cash crop since 1940s while commercial production of groundnuts has also a long history and it started in 1946 at Kongwa in Dodoma, Urambo in Tabora and Nachingwea in Lindi. Major groundnuts growing regions are Dodoma, Tabora, Shinyanga, Singida, Mtwara and Mwanza.

Commenting on the objectives of conducting research on the two crops, Nzunda said that the main objective conducting research on sesame and groundnuts is to identify and develop market and farmer preferred varieties which are drought tolerant, high yielding, pest and disease resistant and demonstrate good agronomic practices to farmers and oilseed crop stakeholders.

Achievements in Oil Seeds Research

TARI Naliendele in collaboration with partners in Sesame and Groundnuts, with support of government and donors have made a great achievement by identifying and releasing many improved varieties as follows: on groundnuts for example, this program has released a total of 17 varieties of groundnuts. Five groundnuts varieties were released in 2019 namely Mnanje, Masasi, Mangaka, Nachingwea and Naliendele; three varieties released in 2015 which are Kuchele 2015 Nachi 2015 Narinut 2015, and three varieties released in 2016 namely Naliendele 2016, Mtwaranut 2016, and Tanzanut 2016. These varieties are tolerant to diseases and drought. For Sesame, a total of seven varieties have been released. Varieties which are currently being cultivated are Lindi 02, Mtwara 09, Mtondo 13 and Ziada 94.

Due to contribution of good varieties, the production and productivity of groundnut increased from 300,000 MT in 2005 to about 1.8million MT in 2015 and sesame increased from 100,000 MT to 1.2 million MT in 2015 respectively (FAOSTAT 2015).

The released varieties are drought tolerant, high yielding and disease resistant. Moreover these varieties contain high amount of oils and other important nutrients such as vitamins, protein, zinc and iron that are very important for human health.

The oil seed program has succeeded to deliver seed to farmer through farmer groups, government agency and private sector.

Commenting on the challenges faced, Nzunda explained that there are some challenges such as low production: The area under sesame in 2015 estimated to be 978,824 hectares with production of 1,174,589 MT; while groundnuts had an area of 1,624, 683 hectares with production of 1,835,933 MT. According to FAO 2019, the area under sesame in 2017 estimated to be 750,000 hectares with production of 805,691 MT. Although the United republic is the leading country in Sesame production in the world according to FAO (FAOSTAT 2019), but the trend shows drop in the production, this could be due to several factors such as drop in price that influence production.

TARI strategies

To address the challenge of technology transfer to farmers, the oil seed program under TARI is strengthening partnership with private sector in seed production. The private sector and government agencies will contribute in different aspects such as seed production and promotion of new technologies. Oil seed program is also involving Local Government Authorities, Faith based organization, Non-government organization, Farmers organization. In so doing, the program conducts farmer field days, prepares and distributes leaflets, conduct demonstration and Seed fairs.

He said that TARI is making sure that the technologies from research reach many farmers. Therefore, it is working together by joining efforts of researchers at TARI, government, farmers and other stakeholders in sesame and groundnuts.

Therefore, Tanzania is currently strengthening the production of sesame by empowering and investing in the sesame research. Tanzania is in a good position to start processing these crops to earn money through oil extraction from sesame and groundnuts.

Investment in terms of funds will enhance research work, dissemination of, technology, (materials and good agronomic practices). Seed maintenance, and multiplication of seeds from the improved materials, promotion of available improved materials and maintenance of breeder seeds. Furthermore, strengthening of sesame sector can be achieved by introduction of Sesame crop board which may facilitate several activities such as linking together all stake holders involved in the chain of research, production and marketing.



INSURANCE GROUP OF TANZANIA LIMITED

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always with you

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2018

| | Notes | 2018 Tzs. | 2017 Tzs. |
|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| NON CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Property and Equipment | 2 | 317,932,610 | 256,645,285 |
| Investments | | 354,625,000 | 354,625,000 |
| TOTAL NONCURRENT ASSETS | | 672,557,610 | 611,270,285 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Cash in Hand and Bank | 3 | 824,004,873 | 828,397,687 |
| Fixed Deposits | 4 | 1,336,506,907 | 1,482,923,018 |
| Other Receivables Accounts | 5 | 2,956,684,820 | 2,251,705,074 |
| Premium Receivable | 6 | 1,632,432,055 | 4,499,568,944 |
| Taxation Account | 11 | 579,996,741 | 242,496,741 |
| Reinsurers Share of Tech. Provisions | 14 | 690,769,301 | 638,405,078 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | | 8,020,594,696 | 9,943,496,540 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 8,693,152,305 | 10,554,766,826 |
| FINANCED BY EQUITY | | | |
| Share Capital | | 2,985,935,686 | 2,985,935,686 |
| Contingent Reserve | | 1,810,613,988 | 1,550,592,371 |
| Retained Earnings | 7 | (514,283,961) | 579,647,687 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | | 4,282,265,713 | 5,116,175,744 |
| CURRENT LIABILITY | | | |
| Duties & other Taxes | 8 | 331,208,047 | 305,601,742 |
| Claims Payable with adjusted IBNR. | 9 | 1,649,092,301 | 1,802,454,974 |
| Other Payables Accounts | 10 | 204,034,578 | 205,274,914 |
| Unearned Premiums | 13 | 1,028,001,691 | 1,243,891,127 |
| Reinsurers Premium Payable | | 522,501,930 | 1,341,782,233 |
| Bank overdraft | | 728,856,010 | 496,627,244 |
| Provision for Audit Fees | | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | | 4,483,694,557 | 5,415,632,234 |
| NON CURRENT LIABILITY | | | |
| Deferred Tax liability | 11 | (72,807,964) | 22,958,847 |
| TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES | | (72,807,964) | 22,958,847 |
| TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | | 8,693,152,305 | 10,554,766,826 |

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018.

| | Notes | 2018 Tzs. | 2017 Tzs. |
|---------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Gross Written Premium | 12 | 10,280,016,913 | 12,438,911,271 |
| Gross Earned Premium | 13 | 10,495,906,348 | 12,517,246,688 |
| Outward Reinsurance | 14 | 1,828,519,142 | 1,848,738,003 |
| Net Earned Premium | | 8,667,387,207 | 10,668,508,685 |
| Commission Income | 15 | 418,779,761 | 598,059,853 |
| Investment Income | 16 | 92,025,171 | 199,002,746 |
| Other Income | 17 | 313,210,031 | 345,721,409 |
| Total Other Income | | 824,014,962 | 1,142,784,009 |
| Total Income | | 9,491,402,169 | 11,811,292,694 |
| Less: | | | |
| Claims Expenses | 18 | 4,966,357,700 | 5,295,679,818 |
| Commission Expenses | 20 | 1,883,480,142 | 2,814,324,796 |
| Marketing Expenses | 21 | 701,016,934 | 472,154,873 |
| Operating Expenses | 22 | 1,136,346,396 | 1,231,012,050 |
| Professional Expenses | 23 | 473,336,529 | 451,934,736 |
| Staff Costs | 24 | 1,036,700,152 | 1,057,274,034 |
| Statutory Expenses | 25 | 158,256,493 | 180,138,975 |
| Depreciation | 2 | 65,584,665 | 63,322,593 |
| Total Expenses | | 10,421,079,012 | 11,565,841,874 |
| Profit before Tax | | (929,676,842) | 245,450,820 |
| Corporate Tax for the year | 11(a) | - | 73,635,246 |
| Deferred Tax | 11(b) | (95,766,811) | 25,954,052 |
| Net Comprehensive Income | | (833,910,031) | 145,861,523 |
| Share in Issue | | 2,870,633 | 2,870,633 |
| Earnings per Share | | | 51 |

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018.

| | 2018 Tzs. | 2017 Tzs. |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| From Operating Activities | | |
| Profit before Tax | (929,676,842) | 245,450,820 |
| Add adjustable items: | | |
| Disposal loss | - | - |
| Depreciation | 65,584,665 | 63,322,593 |
| Profit after noncash adjustments | (864,092,177) | 308,773,413 |
| Less: | | |
| Decrease in Fixed Deposits | (146,416,111) | (673,099,620) |
| Increase in Other Receivables Accounts | 704,979,746 | 1,199,863,684 |
| Decrease in Premium Receivable | (2,867,136,888) | (73,362,029) |
| Increase in Reinsurers Share of Tech. Provisions | 52,364,223 | (97,566,743) |
| Increase in Duties & other Taxes | (25,606,305) | (4,974,226) |
| Decrease in Claims Payable with adjusted IBNR. | 153,362,673 | 343,788,994 |
| Decrease in Other Payables Accounts | 1,240,336 | - |
| Decrease in Insurance Liabilities | - | 8,776,015 |
| Decrease in Unearned Premiums | 215,889,436 | 78,335,417 |
| Decrease in Reinsurers Premium Payable | 819,280,303 | 247,544,406 |
| Increase in Bank overdraft | (232,228,766) | (496,627,244) |
| Tax paid during the year | 337,500,000 | 727,750,077 |
| Total change in working capital | (986,771,352) | 1,260,428,732 |
| Total flow from Operating Activities | 122,679,175 | (951,655,319) |
| From Investing Activities | | |
| Property and Equipment | (126,871,989) | (78,667,590) |
| Total flow from Investing Activities | (126,871,989) | (78,667,590) |
| From Financing Activities | | |
| Share Capital | - | 585,000,000 |
| Total from Financing Activities | - | 585,000,000 |
| Change in Cash equivalences | (4,192,814) | (445,322,909) |
| Balance b/d | 828,397,685 | 1,273,720,594 |
| Balance c/d | 824,204,871 | 828,397,685 |

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018.

| | Share Capital | Contingent reserves | Retained Earnings | Total |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Bal. as at 01/01/2017 | 2,400,935,686 | 1,230,537,111 | 1,118,311,199 | 4,749,783,996 |
| Comprehensive Income | - | - | 145,861,523 | 145,861,523 |
| Retained Earnings | - | 320,055,261 | - | 320,055,261 |
| New Issue of Share | 585,000,000 | - | - | 585,000,000 |
| Contingent reserves | - | - | (320,055,261) | (320,055,261) |
| Bal. as at 31/12/2017 | 2,985,935,686 | 1,550,592,371 | 579,647,687 | 5,116,175,744 |
| Bal. as at 01/01/2018 | 2,985,935,686 | 1,550,592,371 | 579,647,687 | 5,116,175,744 |
| Comprehensive Income | - | - | (833,910,031) | (833,910,031) |
| Retained Earnings | - | 260,021,616 | - | 260,021,616 |
| Contingent reserves | - | - | (260,021,616) | (260,021,616) |
| Bal. as at 31/12/2018 | 2,985,935,686 | 1,810,613,988 | (514,283,961) | 4,282,265,713 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements. The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorized for issue and signed on its behalf by:

Amb: Abubaker Ibrahim

Chairman

Date

Samuel Muhindi

Director

Europe-bred rhinos join South African cousins to repopulate Rwanda park

By Jim Tan

FIVE eastern black rhinos translocated from European zoos to Rwanda's Akagera National Park have successfully completed an initial period of acclimatization and been moved into larger, 1-hectare (2.5-acre) enclosures. They will eventually be released into the wider park, joining a group brought over from South Africa in 2017, the first of these critically endangered species to roam in Rwanda since 2005.

Since the 1970s, rhino populations have been decimated by a poaching epidemic driven by demand for rhino horn, with a 96 percent decline in the number of black rhinos (*Diceros bicornis*) from 70,000 to just 2,410 between 1970 and 1995. The eastern black rhino (*D. b. michaeli*), originally ranging across East Africa, from southern Sudan to northern Tanzania, is the most endangered of the three black rhino subspecies. There are fewer than 1,000 wild individuals left in small isolated populations scattered across Tanzania and Kenya.

In a partnership between the government of Rwanda, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and African Parks, an international NGO, five rhinos from EAZA's rhino-breeding program completed an arduous 6,000-kilometer (3,700-mile) journey from Europe to their new home in Akagera National Park in Rwanda.

This is the second attempt to establish a population of eastern black rhinos. Rhinos were brought into the park in the 1950s from neighboring Tanzania, growing to a population of more than 50 by the 1970s, before being wiped out by poaching. The last confirmed sighting was in 2007.

The rhinos were initially confined in a release boma before being released into a wider enclosure to allow easy monitoring whilst they adapt to their new environment and diet. Photo: Scott Ramsay

"They've settled in really well and they're taking well to the local, native vegetation," says Jes Gruner, Akagera's park manager, of the European-bred rhinos. "We'll soon be taking the first steps releasing them into a small enclosure around the boma."

There is an ex situ population of around 90 eastern black rhinos in private reserves in South Africa, grown from nine individuals imported in the 1950s. Eighteen rhinos from this group in South Africa were translocated to Akagera in 2017.

The latest additions from EAZA's eastern black rhino breeding program will strengthen Rwanda's fledgling rhino population by diversifying the gene pool.

"We've got really important genetic stock that's going to help bolster genetic populations," says Mark Pilgrim, CEO of Chester Zoo, who coordinates EAZA's eastern black rhino breeding program.

EAZA is a membership organization of more than 400 zoos across Europe and the Middle East. One of the conditions of membership is that species that fall under EAZA's European Endangered species Program (EEP) are managed in a coordinated breeding program across all institutions.

EAZA's eastern black rhino program began with an original population of around 40 individuals that were brought to Europe in the 1950s and '60s.

Today, EAZA's carefully managed population of nearly 100 rhinos represents around 10 percent of the entire eastern black rhino population on Earth. Pilgrim says the EAZA population will now be able to provide a few individuals to supplement wild populations every five years.

"We've got some very sophisticated software now that I can look at and see which rhinos need to move to ensure we are keeping the genetic population healthy," he says. "It's basically a big rhino dating game."

However, an underlying assumption of the software is that the founding population were unrelated. EAZA are currently conducting research to find out exactly how genetically diverse their population is.

Pilgrim says he believes that given the number of different places rhinos were imported from, it is highly likely that they have genes in the population that no longer exist in Africa – and that could be really important for the future of the



The rhinos were initially confined in a release boma before being released into a wider enclosure to allow easy monitoring whilst they adapt to their new environment and diet.

eastern black rhino.

"The good news is that even with very inbred populations, it doesn't take too many genetically distinct animals entering the population to make a big difference," Pilgrim says.

There are challenges for zoo-bred rhinos embarking on a life in the wild. Their digestive systems need time to adapt to their new diet; tsetse flies need to be controlled around their boma until they have developed some resistance to trypanosomiasis; and they must learn how to interact with the other inhabitants of their new home – especially the rhino bulls already in residence.

"The [release] process will be done slowly and monitoring them the entire time," Gruner says. "It could be a couple of years before they have access to the wider park."

Conditions for success

Relocating rhinos is an expensive business. Gruner estimates that the project has cost around \$1.5 million over the last two years.

Critics of ex situ conservation point out that the programs are often expensive, and the history of reintroductions has produced mixed results.

In the case of the eastern black rhino, though, the hope that ex situ conservation in zoos could provide a genetic "ark" from which to replenish wild populations appears to be bearing fruit. Pilgrim says he believes one of the important differences is the reason for the rhinos' decline.

"The majority of species are completely at threat because of habitat destruction," he says. "Until you can remove the reason they've become endangered in the first place, reintroduction makes little sense."

By contrast, rhino numbers have been devastated by poaching, leaving large areas of suitable habitat devoid of rhinos, including the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem that once supported large numbers of black rhinos.

"If we can stop poaching and protect them,

then there's plenty of habitat to go back into," Pilgrim says. "Being a herbivore and having very few natural predators as adults, if any, that gives [reintroduced rhinos] a great chance."

Controlling poaching has been a major focus for African Parks since it assumed management of Akagera National Park in partnership with the Rwanda Development Board in 2010.

"Poaching will always be a concern everywhere," Gruner says. "However, we have hugely reduced bush meat poaching in Akagera over the last decade and put measures in place to ensure the protection of the rhinos."

The existing population of rhinos imported from South Africa have adapted well and are now starting to reproduce. With the vital injection of fresh genetics from the EAZA breeding program, the future looks bright for the rhinos of Akagera National Park.

Campaigners push for reform of outdated CITES wildlife trade system

By James Fair

GROUNDBREAKING reforms to the \$320 billion legal wildlife trade are being put up for discussion at a major international conference this month as campaigners seek to modernize a system they say hasn't changed in nearly 50 years.

Trade in everything from rhino horn and elephant ivory to python skins, wild orchids and timber is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a treaty dating back to 1975 and backed by more than 180 countries around the world.

But campaigners say that the way in which CITES manages the global wildlife trade has not been updated since it was first set up. In particular, it still relies on a paper-

based permit system that does not integrate with international customs protocols, leading to a lack of transparency and traceability in the industry.

In addition, the basis on which CITES operates – to list those species for which trade is limited or banned completely – is the opposite of many other industries, campaigners say. It should be reversed, they contend, so that those only those species in which trade is permitted are listed, and those wishing to profit from the trade must demonstrate that it is sustainable. Lynn Johnson is the CEO and founder of the Australia-based nonprofit Nature Needs More, which initially looked at the illegal trade in wildlife products and quickly realized there were many

fundamental loopholes and flaws in the legal system that needed addressing first.

"We started to look at all the research that had been done, and the two major pieces of work we found was one study that showed that only 73 percent of CITES permits were discrepancy-free, and research published this year which showed that it took an average of 12 years for a species listed on the IUCN Red List and therefore at risk of extinction to be regulated under CITES," Johnson said. Discrepancies in the permit system could be as simple as officials not recording how many of a particular item are being exported, according to Peter Lanius, a co-director of Nature Needs More. "Most of these permits are filled in by hand, and the

people doing it lack the training or the knowledge to do it properly," he said.

Johnson and Lanius say the permit system is so antiquated that it allows the illegal wildlife trade to flourish; the latest figure for the scale of this trade is \$258 billion a year. They say that since 2010, CITES and the signatory countries have discussed creating a wholly electronic system that is fully integrated with customs, at a cost of an estimated \$40 million. To date no one has been prepared to fund it.

Conservation groups, which attend CITES conferences but in a non-voting capacity, have not given the Nature Needs More campaign their whole-hearted support, say experts. Shruti Suresh, the senior wildlife campaigner

for the U.K.-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), described this year's CITES conference as a "critical opportunity" to increase protection for species threatened by the wildlife trade.

"While CITES does have its shortcomings, it is currently the primary internationally binding treaty dedicated to addressing trade in animal and plant species of concern," she said, "and we need to ensure that the precautionary approach is at the heart of any changes to the CITES framework." Mark Jones, head of policy for the U.K.-based Born Free Foundation, said that although the wildlife trade continued to devastate the welfare of individual animals and the conservation of many species, CITES was a vital

tool for reducing its impact.

"The current systems for regulating and managing wildlife trade are clearly failing to protect wildlife and biodiversity across the globe," Jones added. Decisions made by governments at CITES should not serve the commercial interests of traders, he said. "To this end, we fully support any measures aimed at reducing wildlife trade and improving associated monitoring and law enforcement processes through CITES and other mechanisms." Johnson said conservation NGOs tend to be focused on the protection of individual species, rather than how the system works as a whole.

"A lot of individuals in the larger NGOs said to us, 'We are only at the working group meetings by grace

and favor of signatory countries. If we challenge them too much, we [could be] uninformed, and if we are uninformed, that impacts on our donor-funding opportunities."

According to Nature Needs More, creating a better regulated legal wildlife trade could have huge knock-on impacts on the illegal one. "We have looked at different types of industries, from pharmaceuticals to airlines parts, and speaking to people, there is an expectation that [the trade in] illicit products stays under 10 percent if you have a system that is well regulated," Johnson said. "But when you are talking about the illicit trade in endangered species being up to \$260 billion, then you are talking 80 percent of the legal trade."

Ghana wants to grow more cashews, but what about unintended consequences?

By James Bofo and Kristen Lyons

OVER at least the last decade, one of Ghana's most vital breadbaskets has been converted into cashew nut production to feed export markets.

Bono East, Bono and the Ahafo regions—previously known as the Brong Ahafo region—are being transformed by cashew production.

This growth has positioned Ghana as one of the largest producers of raw cashew nuts in Africa.

Cashew nut production has increased fourfold across the continent since 2000. In Ghana, a number of social, economic and political circumstances in Ghana have enabled spectacular expansion.

For a start, there has been strong government support as well as backing from international donors. Organisations such as USAID and the Gates Foundation have also been instrumental in Ghana's cashew sector expansion. This has included sponsored initiatives aimed at increasing production.

Of significance, over 98 percent of Ghana's cashew nuts are exported in their raw form to India and Vietnam. Here the nuts are processed and re-exported to the US, Europe, the Middle East, China and Australia.

Globally, demand for cashew nuts has grown at around 7 percent each year. On this basis, cashew is predicted to represent 29 percent of the global nut market by 2021.

A challenge for food security

In Ghana, expansion of cashew production for export markets is championed as part of its plan for agricultural development. But it poses potential challenges at the local



level, particularly around food security.

This article draws from research undertaken as part of a Ph.D., that has sought to understand the drivers and impacts of Ghana's cashew expansion. The research found that farmers in the area previously referred to as the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana have come to dedicate increasing portions of their land to cashew nut production, with only a small portion of land set aside for household food cropping.

The conversion of fertile land into cash crop

production—and the transformation of Ghana's breadbasket into cashew exporter—presents significant challenges for ensuring long-term food security in Ghana.

Ghana has, in recent years, relied on ad hoc programs to drive domestic food security. But most of these programs have not achieved effective results. This is partly due to the dominance of short-term approaches. One such program is the Planting for Food and Jobs, an initiative launched in April 2017 by President Nana Akufo-

Addo. The program was designed to enhance food security and create job opportunities. But critics argue it is an assemblage of old policy interventions that have largely failed.

Setting exports as a priority

Ghana has come to depend on both imported and locally produced food. Reflecting this, about 70 percent of one of Ghana's major staples—rice—is imported.

Meanwhile, some 15 percent of maize—another major staple—is also imported, alongside several other processed foods. At the same time, domestic food production also contributes significantly to national food supply. Local smallholder farmers therefore play an important role in feeding local populations.

What is worrying is the extent to which smallholder and local farming has become increasingly "un-competitive." This is because they have limited access to technology and poor infrastructure, among other social, economic and political factors. This is nothing new, with the food crop sector historically marginalised in policy terms, and export commodities the priority of government over the long term.

On this basis, smallholder farmers in Ghana's breadbasket are increasingly taking up government support packages that enable them to convert land into cashew nut production for

export.

What next?

Given the current—and expected future—challenges facing Ghana's domestic food security, there is an urgent need to critically assess agricultural development policies and donor aid initiatives. There is also an urgent need to examine export led priorities, including in particular, cashew nut sectoral planning. This will be important to ensure the lure of export led growth does not compromise local food security.

To date, national agricultural planning and policy appears to prioritize production of export commodities and agricultural "modernization" above local food production. While the national government can continue to support the development of Ghana's export cashew industry, there is a vital need for programs that increase support for local food crop farmers and domestic food provisioning.

There is also an—as yet unmet—opportunity for Ghana to benefit from investments that enable in-country processing and value adding as part of expansion of the cashew sector.

Such policy and planning initiatives may ensure Ghana is able to benefit—socially and economically—from the growing global demand for cashew nuts, while at the same time centering national long term food security.

Tanzanian innovator sets up Fixchap application to link handymen with customers

By Guardian Correspondent

LITERATURE have indicated that in Tanzania the production technologies and ICT facilitated the growth of small enterprises, extending their national and regional coverage for provision of goods and services.

In this development it is expected that the use of the internet would facilitate the adoption of E-commerce as a means of offering fast, flexible, and cost effective ways of doing business as well as enhance their competitiveness.

Speaking with this paper in an exclusive interview, at the just ended 4th SADC Industrialisation Week and Exhibition in Dar es Salaam, the Team Lead of FixChap, Mr Prince Tillya said that internet is driving the new economy by creating unique opportunities for countries, companies and individuals around the world.

FixChap is a digital Marketplace (web and Mobile App) through which clients can book for home/office repair and installation services and get connected instantly verified handymen within their locations.

Tillya, who holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration says that he came up with the idea after encountering some challenges when he was looking for professional handymen to fix up his new apartment with furniture, and other house repair services.

He further says that as a way of supplementing government's efforts in addressing unemployment, his organization is sourcing handymen from vocational training institutions who have graduated in electrical, plumbing, tv/satellite dish, painting, computer repair, carpentry, air conditioning, tiles and masonry.

So, through his organisation many trained youth are linked to home owners and office owners who look and wanted to be attended by competent people.

"The versatility of FixChap allows handymen to only take repair/installation jobs that are convenient with their individual schedules, thus spurring self-employment."



Acting Communication Officer with the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, Deuseddit Leonard insists a point on the importance of innovations for the national development during the just ended 4th SADC Industrialisation Week and Exhibition in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tillya notes that the App was available on Google Play store for Android users and they have begun public testing for iPhone users through a link available on their social media pages.

Customers can see standard prices to get a tentative view of how much it would cost, upon handyman's arrival a quote is prepared according to the standard prices thus spurring transparency.

Customers ratings and feedback are used to monitor handymen's performance and reward the top performers, thus spurring competition which is likely to result to better quality services.

He has called upon for customers looking for handymen to fix up their homes to download and use FixChap

as their one-stop solution for all their home repair needs. Tillya noted that in order to reach them, customers were required to simply download the "FixChap" App from Playstore or visit fixchap.com for more information.

Having downloaded FixChap App and booked for a service they will be matched with one verified and background checked handyman who will come through to assist you.

"Here's the best part; you only pay when you are satisfied with the service. Adding:

We are committed to delivering you timely and top-notch repair services," he boasted.

Tillya also urges youths with vocational skills to grab the opportunity by joining FixChap by simply sending through their contact details and they will be guided on the next steps on vetting and onboarding process

FixChap's vision is to be the leading one stop center for all your home/office repair service

needs in Tanzania by 2022.

And on the other hand their mission is to provide their clients with fast and top quality repair services as they enjoy the experience of being serviced with well-trained handymen.

Some of the clients of FixChap who had an interview with this paper commended their services.

Mr. John Isazu, a Bunju resident said "The serviceman arrived on time, very professional, got my satellite decoder fixed in minutes."

Another customer Neema Maro, a Mikocheni resident said "I took me three weeks looking for a service man to fix my Air conditioner, but Fixchap got me one in minutes. Keep up the good work and please look into adding more services," she urged.

Grace Lungwe, a Msanani resident, expressing the good task done by Fixchap, she said "the service is fast and reliable. I am simply delighted with your service."

For his part, Acting Communication Officer with the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), Mr. Deuseddit Leonard said that the Commission under the leadership of COSTECH's Director General Dr Amos Nungu, has been encouraging more innovations in the country to spur government's industrial drive.

He said in order to ensure innovations brought positive results in the government's industrial drive, Costech, has been organising some competitions to identify the best innovators.

He said that the aim of these competitions was to get the best performers who will be granted some funds to enhance their innovations and discoveries.

Leonard said that so far, COSTECH has injected over one billion shillings to support emerging innovators.

Findings have shown that the growth of e-commerce as a business technology was the result of such internet driven initiative.

It has created a universal platform for buying and selling goods and services and driving important business process inside the organisations. E-commerce is referred to the use of the global Internet for purchase and sale of goods, services, including service and support after sale.

It automates the conduct of business among enterprises, their customers, suppliers and employees anytime, anywhere.

Further, it creates inter-dependencies between company's value chain and suppliers and customers enhancing competitive advantage by optimising and re-engineering value-chain links to the outside.

'Currency manipulator' label of US groundless -analysts

FOLLOWING US

President's series actions which are leading to global trade and financial chaos, the US Treasury moved to name China a "currency manipulator" on August 5, which was denounced by China's central bank and Chinese economists as groundless and self-destructing.

The unwarranted accusation, made after the yuan weakened against the greenback, sets the stage for the US to brandish its tariffs weapon, analysts said. They believe China would stay unaffected by US actions that would obstruct bilateral trade talks, and push ahead with financial opening.

Both the onshore and offshore yuan breached the 7 mark against the US dollar for the first time in more than a decade on Monday, August 5. The yuan's weakness continued Tuesday.

The yuan's daily fixing rate weakened by 458 basis points to 6.9683 against the dollar on August 6. In China's spot foreign exchange market, the yuan is allowed to rise or fall by 2 percent from the central parity rate each trading day.

A few hours after US President tweeted, "China dropped the price of their currency to an almost historic low. It's called 'currency manipulation,'" on August 5, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced the currency manipulation designation in a statement on the Treasury's website.

Mnuchin will engage with the IMF to "eliminate the unfair competitive advantage created by China's latest actions," according to the statement. The IMF has yet to comment.

There is no such issue as exchange rate manipulation, as the yuan exchange rate is by nature determined by market supply and demand, the People's Bank of China (PBC), the country's central bank, said in a statement on August 6.

"A capricious act of unilateralism and protectionism, it will severely undermine international rules and have material impacts on the global economy and finance," said the PBC.

US stocks plummeted on Friday, August 5, after the US administration announced new tariffs on China. The administration wanted to deflect criticism against it by finding a scapegoat like China, labeling the latter as a "currency manipulator," said Guan Tao, a former senior official at the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

The Trump administration threatened to impose 10 percent in tariffs on another \$300 billion in Chinese goods. China then vowed countermeasures to safeguard its core interests, saying that the country will not accept any "threat and blackmail, nor 'make any concessions' on issues of principle."

"The US move is random and groundless, which will not be approved by the IMF," Guan told the Global Times on August 6. In the IMF's just-concluded Article IV consultation, the fund said that the yuan was broadly in line with the fundamentals, the central bank said, reiterating that China has kept its commitments of not resorting to devaluation for competitive purposes, though the US has continued to escalate the trade conflict since early

2018. "China has never used and will not use the yuan exchange rate as a tool to deal with the trade frictions," said the statement, reiterating the stance of PBC governor Yi Gang the previous day.

The US Treasury statement cited a portion of a post by China's central bank on the same day to substantiate its claim that China is experienced in manipulating its currency.

The portion it quoted narrates the central bank's push for continued innovation and the enrichment of China's policy toolbox to fight against short-term speculative bets and stabilize market expectations, which was nonetheless claimed by the US Treasury to be an open acknowledgment of the central bank's currency manipulating moves.

"Labeling another country a currency manipulator is unjustified. The US doesn't have the right to make such a wanton claim," Dong Shaopeng, an adviser of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, told the Global Times.

The US has been using this to disrupt China's economy and financial system since 2004. "It's a groundless frame-up and pure bullying act," Dong said.

In May this year and October 2018, the Trump administration declined to label China a currency manipulator. China was labeled a manipulator between 1992 and 1994.

"Such a label is not consistent with the quantitative criteria set by the US Treasury itself for the so-called 'currency manipulator,'" PBC said on August 6.

The US Treasury's criteria to judge whether its trading partners are engaging in currency manipulation include a material current account surplus, which has been lowered to 2 percent of GDP from the previous 3 percent.

China's current account surplus stood at 1.55 percent of its GDP in the first quarter, lower than the ratcheted-down number, according to Wu Jinduo, head of fixed income at the research institute of Great Wall Securities, citing data from China's foreign exchange regulator.

The criteria, essentially subjective and vague, have turned out to be another US weapon together with its trade tariffs threats, but the accusation appears to be failing, said Wu.

Ultior motive

In a note sent to the Global Times on August 6, strategists at DBS Group Research said, "Naming China a currency manipulator could open the door for US tariffs to eventually increase to more than 25 percent on Chinese goods."

Apart from the manipulation designation, Trump's election campaign pledge was to lift import tariffs to 45 percent on China, according to the note, estimating the risk to be skewed to the upside for the dollar versus yuan as well as the dollar versus emerging Asian currencies.

But as Lynda Zhou, equity portfolio manager of Fidelity International, said in a research note sent to the Global Times on August 6 a weak yuan, albeit likely to stem overseas expansion, should augur well for Chinese companies "as exports are still a big, albeit declining, part of the economy."

Global Times

Another year, another Marikana commemoration

By Greg Nicolson, Chanel Retief and Yanga Sibembe

ZAMEKA Nungu on Wednesday stirred pap on the stove in between washing dishes in her two-bedroom apartment in Karee Hostel, Marikana. An Amcu calendar was pinned to the wall.

It was Nungu's day off from her job cleaning the K3 shaft at Lonmin, the platinum giant recently taken over by Sibanye-Stillwater, the same shaft where her husband Jackson Lehupa worked before he was shot by police 11 times – in his back, shoulder, thighs, buttock, groin and feet – on 16 August 2012.

Life has changed for Nungu in the seven years since the Marikana massacre. Her children lost their father and she had to move from Mount Fletcher, Eastern Cape, to the platinum belt to take up a job working for the same company many believed was complicit in her husband's murder.

There has been one constant since the day SAPS officers killed 34 striking mineworkers, with 78 more injured at the scene of the massacre – the feeling of betrayal, neglect and injustice.

Since then, there have been a handful of actions taken to achieve accountability and improve the livelihoods of mineworkers and the Marikana community. They have largely come in spite of, and not because of, efforts from government, the platinum company and SAPS.

"They say in this country we're free, but only some are free, others are not. A policeman has the power to kill and it's not a big deal. Justice is not a real thing. I have not seen it," said Nungu.

Mineworker Mlungiseleli Makhathshwe, who still wonders how he survived the police onslaught while he was part of the strike seven years ago, said:

"It pains me that no one has been held accountable for what happened, that the police who were responsible have never been held accountable. There are families who lost loved ones. I also lost my comrades. It's very difficult because these policemen are free, but us as mineworkers are still oppressed."

Eight police officers face criminal



charges in the North West High Court. They were charged in 2018 for concealing how one injured miner was left to die in a police vehicle on 16 August 2012 and for causing the chaos on 13 August 2012 that led to the killing of two SAPS officers and three mineworkers.

Activists have welcomed the charges, but they are related to the five deaths on 13 August – a gruesome precursor to the massacre – and appear hard to prove, a strange first step for the NPA, which has evidence from the two-year Marikana Commission of Inquiry of more direct failures in SAPS leadership on 16 August as well as cases of cold-blooded murder.

They have been the most successful in avoiding accountability. Ten people were killed in the week leading up to the massacre. The Marikana Inquiry failed to make conclusive findings, but it heard arguments that striking mineworkers killed two SAPS officers and two mine security guards in the week leading up to the massacre. Three mineworkers thought to be against the strike were also killed.

Until the SAPS officers were recently charged for issues largely unrelated to the massacre, however, accountability has only gone one way. Hundreds of striking mineworkers were initially

Lonmin employees gather on a hill called Wonderkop at Marikana, outside Rustenburg in the North West Province of South Africa August 15. (Photograph by Greg Marinovich)

charged for causing SAPS to kill their own comrades and 17 mineworkers have long faced charges for the violence in the week leading to the massacre.

Like the other dependents of those killed, Nungu only became a part of the violence once her husband was slaughtered. She still wants to know the truth about what happened and to see the culprits charged. She also wants the state to pay her and the other widows and their dependents the compensation they deserve.

"There is a narrative out there that the president compensated the families of the slain miners. However, we have only received a portion of what we were promised," she said.

"We're not saying money will replace the void left by the death of our husbands, or that it will erase the pain, but it would be something to show that government cares about us."

In 2018, the government agreed to pay compensation for loss of support to the families of those who were killed. The families are arguing they should be paid R1.5-million each for the pain they suffered beyond losing their breadwinners. Those injured are still fighting to receive

any compensation.

In the wake of the massacre, Lonmin offered jobs to the family members of the deceased and offered to pay the school fees for their children, education which at least one report has suggested is sub-par.

Living conditions were a major driver behind the 2012 strike and Lonmin committed to improvements such as upgrading single-sex hostels for workers to bachelor and family units, but Marikana residents complain that little has changed, either for workers or the surrounding community still dependent on the economy generated by the mine.

Local activist Wiseman Dibakwe, who has worked for a nearby mine since 2013, said:

"The 2012 massacre could have been something that is teaching the government, the mines, the community, the municipality that they must get together, they must come with a solution to solve, eradicate poverty, unemployment."

"Go around the location, you'll see the community are suffering that because they believed that one day things will be right, but since the whole years that I've been staying here I've never seen any progress."

DM

BUSINESS

GROWTH

British American Tobacco aiming at 70 million African smokers with Twisp deal

JOHANNESBURG

British American Tobacco's acquisition of South African e-cigarette maker Twisp paves the way for targeting 70 million adult African smokers to switch to vaping products, BAT Southern Africa chief executive Soraya Benchikh said on Wednesday.

BAT's proposed acquisition of Twisp won approval from SA's Competition Tribunal on Tuesday after the UK-based group agreed to a series of conditions. Twisp is a multi-channel distributor of vaping products and flavours in South Africa. With close to 70 dedicated stores nationally, Twisp generates more than 50 000 consumer interactions per month, according to a statement issued by BAT.

"South Africa is the most profitable market in value in the African continent, with 10.9 million smokers and a total adult population of 38 million

people," said Benchikh. "The vaping market has grown exponentially in recent years, and it is estimated that 1.5 million South African adults have already interacted with potentially reduced risk products, mainly in vaping."

About 9 million consumers globally have already switched to these "potentially reduced risk" products, and the company is experiencing strong growth in Europe, Asia and in the US in new categories, the statement added.

In the last 24 months, BAT has accelerated its pace with strategic acquisitions, including VIP in the UK in 2017; and Highendsmoke in Germany in 2018. Recent years have seen vaping increase in popularity, particularly among adolescents. While some experts argue it dramatically reduces the risk associated with smoking, critics say the long-term effects are unclear.



Twisp's vaping products.



Tech savvy African children have fun working on a table

TECH SAVVY

There's need for more disruption on Africa's tech scene

LAGOS

For most people living outside Africa, they imagine the continent as the home of poverty, corruption, internet fraud, infrastructure deficit, and everything that describes under-development, marginalization, oppression, bad leadership, insecurity, diseases, and many more.

Although the continent is truly beset with some perennial development issues, some of these notions are preposterous and not entirely peculiar to Africa. No doubt, for a continent that is richly blessed with numerous natural resources, the economies of the countries within it should be enviable and have the capacity to truly compete with the First World countries.

Home to 54 countries, with Nigeria and South Africa having the biggest economies, the continent has a population of 1.2 billion people, projected to rise to 2.5 billion by 2050. It is the second most populated after Asia and second growing economy in the world after East Asia, with a 3.5% annual growth rate.

Average age is about 20 years, and 30% of its population make up the middle class which is expected to grow by 80% between 2020 & 2030. An estimated 473 million people are connected to the internet in Africa, which represents 36% of its population, while 1 billion people who have access to mobile phones, represents 80% of its population.

There are a number of laudable achievements the continent has earned for itself. These achievements, although rarely spoken of, have positioned the continent on a global map, earned it positive recognition from First World countries, changed its narrative to something better and more appealing, and made it a sought-after destination for business investment, leisure and entertainment. This article will dwell on the business investment opportunities that have changed the fortunes of the continent, and how these businesses are impacting and transforming the quality of lives in Africa.

E-commerce is one of the business sectors powering the engines of commerce and trade in the continent. It has brought many untold opportunities for both the consumers and the micro, small, medium enterprises. In Nigeria

for instance, Jumia paved the way for e-commerce in 2012, provided consumers access to hundreds of thousands of products, and expanded access for discerning entrepreneurs who quickly took advantage of the many unique opportunities presented by these platforms, to reach more consumers and sell more products. The convenience of e-commerce made a compelling case for early adoption of online shopping by customers who until then only shopped from brick and mortar stores.

The bold move by Jumia and other e-commerce players paved the way for many e-commerce startups in the country today. Although many of these platforms have been phased out due to a number of challenges, the truth still remains that the story of how Jumia led the way for e-commerce in the country continues to reverberate the entire sector, and has today, yielded many positive results. It was not too long after Jumia launched in Nigeria that it expanded its operations to 13 other African countries, in which it has operations today, covering 75% of the entire continent's GDP, and about 75% of internet users.

The case of e-commerce and Jumia Yet, the continent is still perceived to be growing slowly compared to other developed continents such as Europe, Asia, South & North America when it comes to online commerce. For instance, online retail penetration accounts for less than 1% of all the transactions in Africa, compared to 12% in the US and 20% in China.

There is a ratio of 1 shop to 67,000 Africans versus 1 shop to 1,000 Americans. The shift from physical stores to online stores is happening gradually as a result of e-commerce platforms becoming increasingly relevant to both the consumers and sellers in Africa. Let's use Jumia, a Pan African e-commerce platform as a yardstick to illustrate this gradual but steady growth.

On the Jumia platform as at March 31st 2019, there were over 81,000 active sellers across Africa selling over 30 million products to about 4.3 million active customers, according to the company's prospectus on the New York Stock Exchange. Who are these sellers, and where did the consumers come from?

Sellers who until 2012 were primarily selling offline and reaching very few consumers within their geographical

proximity. Same consumers who grew up going to physical stores to make a purchase, wasting time and effort, and in some cases money. These same traditional offline shoppers and sellers embraced a convenient method of shopping, started to spend money and time saved from walking a distance to physical shops on other priorities, whereas the sellers started reaching more buyers, even those outside of their geographical reach.

Where are the products they sell sourced from? The sellers and consumers are not the only beneficiaries of e-commerce. The economy of the various countries with e-commerce presence benefits the most through the promotion of locally made products i.e. Made in Nigeria. Majority of the sellers on the Jumia marketplace sell locally made products, especially fashion items.

These local producers enjoy unprecedented exposure and access to millions of customers across Africa. This therefore makes for a strong case because 75% of most African economies derive their revenue from micro, small and medium enterprises. It thus means that the more exposure these local businesses enjoy on the Jumia platform, the more revenue will be generated for the countries. As a result of the precedence set by the pan African e-commerce platform Jumia, investment opportunities started knocking on the continent. Established e-commerce platforms in other regions, such as Amazon, started eyeing the many opportunities to establish its presence in Africa. For instance, Souq, a Middle East player was bought by Amazon in 2017 to establish a presence in Egypt; Naspers owns Takealot in South Africa, competing with Jumia's fashion retail platform, Zando.

Others are local competitors such as Mall for Africa, Afrimarket in West Africa, and KiliMall in Kenya. From time immemorial, Nigerians, and maybe some Africans, prefer to physically see and inspect a product they are buying before making a purchase; it was more cultural and behavioural than instinctive.

As a result, many thought the idea of e-commerce might not hold waters in the continent because unlike the physical stores, it doesn't provide an opportunity to feel and touch a product before it is purchased. Yet, over 4 million Africans today enjoy the conveni-

ence of e-commerce, especially due to the provision of Cash on Delivery as a mode of payment, and return policies put in place by most platforms including Jumia.

But, the pie needs to grow. Less than 1% of all retail transactions in the entire continent is still a very small pie. In the words of Jumia co-CEOs Sacha Poignonec and Jeremy Hodara, the company will continue to remain focused on its core operations in driving consumer adoption and engagement on its marketplace, will continue to invest in infrastructure such as warehousing & logistics. It will also continue to increase the penetration of JumiaPay, its proprietary payment solution which is a one-stop solution for any customer that buys on Jumia and enables him to pay with any of the available payment methods in the respective markets.

Jumia's operations in Africa have proved sceptics wrong that there's a viable opportunity for e-commerce to help sellers grow their businesses exponentially by giving them access to millions of consumers; to help consumers find any product they desire from a large pool of product assortment, which the company continues to expand to accommodate new consumer demand; and to help individual and large logistics companies who are part of the Jumia logistics network grow their businesses and make more deliveries. In fact, in 2018 alone, through these logistic partners, Jumia made 14.6 million deliveries across Africa.

According to the African Tech Startup Report published by Disrupt Africa, 210 African tech startups raised a total of US\$334.52 million in funding in 2018 from foreign investors. The number of startups that raised funds grew by 32.1 per cent, and total funding jumped by an impressive 71.5 per cent. In terms of sectors, the fintech space continued to dominate, remaining a clear favourite among investors and, at US\$132.75 million, accounting for 39.7 per cent of total funds raised.

This was an increase on previous years, but nonetheless, there are strong signs of progress in other sectors, with multiple ed-tech, e-commerce, e-health, transport, logistics and agri-tech startups raising funding as investors saw opportunities in a large number of areas (Source: CNBC Africa).

KIGALI

CONCERN

When Manuella Ineza (not real name) joined her first year of education at the University of Rwanda, she thought she had an opportunity to chase her degree ahead of the world of work that would come after.

She knew this would not come on a silver platter so the only way to get where she wanted to be was to work hard in class and do better in exams. There was no other avenue for this, or so she thought. However, this was not to be the case, as she later found out.

"I would study hard as a first-year student but every time we did exams and results came out, to my shock, I would get totally different results from what I expected

to have worked for," she narrates. Ineza, now a third-year student, adds that she eventually found out when a lecturer approached her to ask why she wasn't performing better, despite the efforts.

The 24-year-old claims the lecturer kept hitting on her, although she always made it clear that she was not interested in any relationship beyond one of a teacher and student. "One day, this lecturer invited me to visit him at his house with promises that he would guide me on how to perform better in class. I became suspicious because of his previous advances, so I declined," she recounted.

"When I turned down the invite, he never spoke to me again," she says, adding that everything turned for the worst for the rest of the year. She says she struggled throughout the whole year of school until she was fortunate enough to go to the second year and never came into contact with this lecturer.

The young lady, however, highlights that a number of girl students in college have undergone or still undergo similar experiences of their lecturers seeking sexual favours in exchange of marks. Things are not helped, she adds, when there is no clear system on how such

cases are reported and the societal dogmas associated with it.

"It is hard to report such cases because you risk stigma among fellow students and at the same time, it is difficult to conjure evidence that is prosecutable." Different students who spoke to The New Times said they have heard similar cases from fellow students but that it was hard to prove the evidence in that case.

Varsity cautions An extraordinary senate meeting at the country's biggest university - University of Rwanda (UR), on Wednesday, raised a red flag against corruption in education, saying some of its lecturers were seeking

sexual favours from students in exchange of better grades. A subsequent statement said some of the lecturers were collaborating with "students who are academically corrupt in terms of marks."

"Some lecturers ask money for marks from some students, as well as asking 'sex for marks' from girls," reads the statement that was signed by the vice president of the students' guild. The meeting was held at the university's headquarters at the Gikondo Campus, bringing together the students' representatives and the leadership of the university.



Prof Philip Cotton, University of Rwanda's Vice-Chancellor, greets students at the graduation ceremony held in Huye last year.

OUTSTANDING

CEO with passion for persons with Albinism

Mohamed Zakir does not come from a long line of businessmen and traders in the Coast. He grew up in a small sleepy town called Samburu in Kwale, before moving to Mombasa for his education.

School was not his bag, so after secondary education he started a glass company in 1990. A few years later, together with his three brothers and brother-in-law, they started Fairdeal Group that also added furniture in their portfolio, with Fairdeal Furniture as their mothership.

They are also in real estate, hardware and energy business. The company has grown over the years with 200 employees currently and they import furniture from China, Malaysia, Vietnam and the US.

JACKSON BIKO met him in his office in Mombasa; a swanky minimalist-contemporary space with brick and wood panelling and overhead lighting shaped like atoms. He talks about business and his new passion as a person living with albinism.

Do you think you were destined to sell furniture or it is just something that came along your way and then you took it up?

I started selling glass first and my younger brother was handling furniture. After a while, we swapped roles and I started handling furniture. The furniture market was changing and China's doors were opening to great deals so I took it.

How do you run a business with brothers and one brother-in-law? What happens when you have



major rows? How have you managed to do business as a family without splitting?

The first thing we did when we set up this company was to make our own constitution called the Fairdeal Family Constitution. We were thinking about 50 years from today.

How are our children, the second generation, going to join business? And if they decide to join what is the procedure? We may be sending our children abroad to study but they might want to come back and join the business. We have also thought of the third and fourth generations. Therefore, we have a clear structure of dos and don'ts, which means conflicts are solved by just opening the constitu-

tion and asking, "what does this say?"

Are your children keen to join the business of selling furniture?

I have one daughter who has just turned 18. She has just finished her A-levels and she is going to study food and nutrition in Dubai. She isn't into furniture or getting into anything related to furniture. (Laughs)

Does that break your heart a little? (Laughs) No. Young people have a right to follow their dreams. This was my dream. But interestingly, we are five brothers and their sons are already in the business. It's only I who has a daughter so it's good to have one of them doing something else.

What does it take to get where

you have got in business?

Focus. When you get to a certain point in business, you ask yourself questions that are bigger than you or your business. You wonder if you are making a difference. I have been asking myself that for a while now and I'm in the final process of founding the 'Mohamed Lukmanji Foundation' to work with albinos and disabled people. You don't see a lot of Indian albinos, do you? I suppose it's not very common. It's very rare. At least in Kenya, it's rare. I want to rally other CEOs and company owners to provide job opportunities for albinos because we cannot do jobs that expose us to direct sunlight. This foundation will also help set up education and scholarship opportunities. I want to help albinos in rural areas to rise and become people

in the corporate and work environment, to empower them and have them recognised.

How was your experience as an Indian PWA, especially in your own community?

I didn't have any issues. Not any that I can remember because look at me I could pass for a European. (Laughs). I have never been categorised as less fortunate or something. I think I'm always an equal.

Do you see yourself as somebody with a disability?

No, I don't. In Kenya, we are classified as persons with disability but in Europe they are not. Of course, there are benefits that we get from the government, so it's fine. I have to say that the new Constitution is really friendly towards us.

I didn't experience any discrimination in my community but I plan to get into public service to champion the rights of albinos. So I have enrolled in a degree programme as the first step. I'm 48 years old now and going back to school.

Did you not have this fire when you were younger?

When I started doing business it was difficult to do these two things together; philanthropy and business. You need money for the former. I promised myself that I'd work to make money and when I hit 45 years I'd embark on this philanthropy journey. Then I forgot to get on it when I was 45, I only remembered at 46 but it's never too late.

What's the biggest advantage of living with albinism?

I think I stand out. (Laughs). It's easy for me to be recognised. When I went to the US a few days ago, I met my class-

mate after 30 years. He came and said, "Mohamed, how are you?" I said, "I don't know you." He said, "You do, we last met in 1987!" It's hard to meet me and forget me, which is a good thing.

Do you remember the experience of when your daughter first realised that you were 'different', so to speak. And what kind of conversations did you two have at that point?

(Pause) I don't really recall any exact moment when we had this conversation. I don't remember her coming from school and saying people had made fun of her father. I don't think those things happened.

But at some point I told her what albinism was and that I had it and what that meant. I made it normal because she heard it from me, I guess. I don't remember her asking any questions or being overly interested in the fact that I looked different.

What do you have to do or leave on this earth that will make you immensely proud when you depart?

(Long pause) To see one of us rise to the highest seat in the land. To see an albino as a president of this country. I think it will send the strongest and most powerful message that we are also people and we are capable for everything that anyone else is capable of.

I mean, look at me, am I not running this business as any other person would? There are many people living with albinism that think they are not capable because society has made them believe they are not capable. So, an albino for president!

And it starts with you, in this nice office of yours...

(Laughs) Yes, right here! Why not!

APPOINTMENT

Byanyima: 'Green' Enthusiast with soft spot for the minority

KAMPALA

Winifred Byanyima, a former Ugandan MP and women rights activist – and now next chief global anti-Aids warrior – has something of a talisman. Whether it is in her infectious smile, trademark headscarf or the dark-rimmed glasses, the lucky charm particularly tends to create hope for victims of sexual abuse.

The graduate of aeronautical engineering is credited with turning around Oxfam International, a humanitarian organisation that she joined as executive director in May 2013 at the height of damaging claims of a sex scandal involving staff.

Ms Byanyima was not at Oxfam when the alleged offences took place but anger swelled around the organisation because her predecessor, Barbara Stocking, was not seen as being firm on staff accused of sexual abuse during the 2010 humanitarian operations in Haiti and Chad. Ms Byanyima had to move fast and



Winnie Byanyima, new UNAids executive director.

clean up the mess after over 7,000 donors dumped the organisation.

"This was an appalling mark against the high standard that Oxfam has set for itself," she would say in a reaction video uploaded on Oxfam's website and shared online. On Wednesday, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres placed another bet on Ms Byanyima, appointing her as the next executive director of the United Nations Programme on HIV and Aids (UNAids), an agency that co-ordinates global action on the pandemic.

In this new role, she replaces the previous UNAids boss, Michel Sidibe, who left the agency in May after allegations that he inadequately handled sexual assault claims against one of his deputies.

In a statement issued by UNAids following the appointment, Ms Byanyima said: "The end of Aids as a public health threat by 2030 is a goal that is within the world's reach, but I do not underestimate the scale of the challenge ahead. Working with all its partners,

UNAids must continue to speak up for the people left behind and champion human rights as the only way to end the epidemic."

In Uganda, Ms Byanyima is a renowned champion of marginalised communities and women, a role she has played in the last 30 years, including her 11-year stint as a legislator. Or better still, Ugandans know her as the wife of Dr Kizza Besigye, a key opposition figure and a perennial rival of President Yoweri Museveni.

For the rest of the world, she's a women rights advocate who for seven years, from 2004, worked as the director of gender and development at the United Nations Development Programme. As boss of Oxfam International, she is credited with successfully lobbying for the relocation of the organisation's headquarters from Oxford to Nairobi, with effect from 2017.

"In my head and my heart, I felt the "centre" of Oxfam was not where it needed to be and that voices within Oxfam were not balanced globally," she wrote in a 2016 opinion. "The new location will help us to recruit locally more easily..."

In a statement issued on August 14, chair of Oxfam Board of Supervisors Henrietta Campbell described Winnie as "a hugely influential figure during her tenure here", citing relocation of the secretariat. "She has been a passionate and highly effective advocate for all Oxfam's work, particularly around gender justice and in tackling inequality."

She may be a diplomat but she doesn't know how to remain politically neutral when it comes to women issues. On August 12, the Daily Nation published a front page story suggesting that a six-man political alliance had been built by President Uhuru Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga to push for referendum.

"Yes, we are cooked if we are not at the table! Kenyan women rise! We East African women are standing with you for equality in decision-making," she tweeted in response to the article. But her life is not always about gender activism. Being a 'green' enthusiast, she spends most of her time tending fruits and flowers in her small garden.

"Nothing refreshes me, uplifts my spirit more than pottering in my garden," she says, adding the garden rejuvenates her spirit and gives her energy to go back to work. "We have five avocado trees in our garden. They give us fruit and shade all year round. There is an avocado salad at our table every day." She tweeted on August 12: "Finally, a cute squirrel has decided to live in our garden! We are honoured. I've been waiting for sooooo long."

Most of the time when she appears on TV, is because journalists want her to talk about global inequality. She hardly hides her displeasure with the world's proverbial seven billionaires and seven billion beggars.

"The super-rich and corporations have over time worked themselves out of paying their fair share of taxes. In turn, governments have withdrawn from delivering vital public services like a full round of education for all citizens," she laments in one of her latest tweets.

DESTINY



South African Reserve Bank Deputy Governor, Fundi Tshazibana.

JOHANNESBURG

New Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Fundi Tshazibana, an accomplished economist, says at university she never thought she would find herself at the central bank, as she picked up economics as a "by the way" major.

Tshazibana was appointed to the position in July, together with Rashad Cassim, as part of three deputies to Governor Lesetja Kganyago. The 42-year-old is a trailblazer in the macroeconomic space, having served as deputy director-general in charge of the economic policy and forecasting division at National Treasury.

In an interview with Fin24, Tshazibana says economics was not her original focus at university. Her intention was to study law, as she thought lawyers had a decent life. But her interest soon veered towards a

BCom Degree with a marketing major. It was only when she was informed that she needed to take up a second major as part of her degree that she "picked up economics as a by the way."

It's a chance that has paid off after she made a sharp career change from corporate sector marketing to the top echelons of public finance and policy. "It is always amazing that I have landed up in a Reserve Bank," she says.

Not an outsider
"My first job in the public sector was with the National Energy Regulator of South Africa, as a policy analyst," she said. She started working at Nersa during the period when inflation targeting was introduced, which gave the Reserve Bank a mandate to maintain consumer price inflation at between 3% and 6%. As research she had to establish how the new policy would impact the regulator's

How new SA Reserve Bank Deputy Governor 'discovered' economics by chance

electricity price adjustment, which marked her first interactions with institutions such as the Reserve Bank and National Treasury.

"Public policy is a big area to explore, you can give back to your country, develop yourself and have fun at the same time, it has been a very good learning environment," she said. It is a journey that she saw her occupy a seat on the executive board of the International Monetary Fund as an alternate executive director.

A former advisor to Reserve Bank governors, Tshazibana was also a member of the bank's Monetary Policy Committee and its Fiduciary Committee, making her an insider in the institution whose independence and original mandate has come under threat from some politicians.

She says the debate around the bank often conflates the issues of its ownership and its mandate, in what often displays a lack of understanding about the institution.

IMF succession
Asked about her choice for a person to replace the outgoing chief of the IMF, Christine Lagarde, Tshazibana said the finance minister would provide direction on SA's preferred candidate. But she stresses that future head of the global lender should be alive to the dynamic economic challenges of the countries the institution mostly lend to which are developing economies. "It is useful to get a candidate that understands the areas where the IMF is needed the most, that is something that we would take into account in our discussions." The position of IMF managing director has always been held by a European national and no African has held the position yet.

WORLD

Harare quiet as police dampen Zimbabwe opposition protest

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S police patrolled the streets of the capital, Harare, yesterday morning while many residents stayed home and shops were shut fearing violence from an anti-government demonstration.

The opposition Movement for Democratic Change has launched a legal challenge, urging the courts to declare their protest to be lawful and to dismiss the police ban on their street demonstration, said party spokesman Daniel Mokohele.

Police in riot gear and with water cannons maintained a heavy presence in downtown Harare and in residential areas across Harare early yesterday morning. Police cordoned off central Africa Unity Square, where the demonstrators had planned to gather. Police and government officials warned that the demonstration would be illegal and protesters would "rot in jail."

To avoid any possible trouble, many residents avoided going out. Many shops were closed and Harare's streets were unusually quiet yesterday morning.

The opposition party had planned

what it said would be a peaceful protest to press President Emmerson Mnangagwa to set up a transitional authority to address economic problems and organize credible elections. The protests will spread to other cities next week, the opposition said.

Zimbabwe's economic turmoil with inflation at 175%, widespread power cuts lasting up to 19 hours a day and shortages of water are blamed for the rising political tensions.

From the hope that swept across the country with the forced resignation of repressive ruler Robert Mugabe in November 2017, the nation has returned to widespread resentment and fear, according to government critics and residents.

Six anti-government activists were abducted and tortured this week ahead of the protests, according to human rights groups.

Zimbabwe's president urged the opposition to engage in dialogue, but at the same time his government pushed parliament to quickly adopt new security legislation criticized as repressive.

To discourage the protests teams of police officers searched vehicles at checkpoints on roads leading into the



A woman shows her identity card to a police officer in Harare, on Thursday. (AP)

city. Police said the protests are likely to be violent, and warned people to stay away.

"Do not take part, you will rot in jail," shouted police officers through megaphones on Thursday in downtown Harare and some residential areas.

Mnangagwa, 77, came to power with promises of sweeping political and economic reforms. But now his government is widely viewed as an extension of Mugabe's economic mismanagement and even more heavy-handed on security, according to human rights groups.

READ MORE: Military deploys in Zimbabwe fuel hike protests; 5 killed

In addition to the debilitating shortages of power and water, about a third of Zimbabwe's 15 million people are in dire need of food aid, according to aid agencies.

Amnesty International Thursday accused Mnangagwa's administration of "using some of the brutal tactics seen under the government of Robert Mugabe," said Muleya Mwananyanda, Amnesty International's deputy regional director for southern Africa. "Instead of listening to protestors' concerns about the economy, the authorities have used torture and abduction to crush dissent and instill fear."

Agencies

US is behind Kiev's citizenship offer to Russian 'political refugees' – Duma speaker

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin believes that the United States is behind Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky's decision to introduce a fast-track system for allegedly "politically persecuted" Russian nationals to get Ukrainian citizenship.

"It is clear that the US Department of State is behind these decisions," Volodin said. "Those who have violated the laws of the Russian Federation, who have pilfered and seek to dodge punishment and get a politi-

cal hideaway by way of an asylum, will be sent to Ukraine instead of the US or the UK," the Duma speaker said.

"They will be facing an unfortunate fate there – to sow the seeds of strife and create tensions between our countries after renegeing on the mother-tongue and belief," Volodin warned.

According to the speaker, Zelensky's offer actually testifies to a decision by Washington and London to limit or stop granting political asylum to Russian nationals.

"The US and the UK no longer



need Russians seeking political asylum. It is costly to support them, after a certain period of time they stop doing the bidding, get disillusioned with their bosses and start making incriminating statements, or in short – bringing nothing but prob-

lems," he said.

At the same time, it is "sheer populism" to invite citizens from other countries to a state where every sector is hit by a crisis, he noted. "These days, millions of Ukrainian nationals are migrating to Russia and European countries. People are leaving Ukraine en masse in search of work," he went on to say.

"Up to three million Ukrainians are working only in Russia, and almost every eighth Ukrainian national is working outside the country. There are no jobs in Ukraine, and living standards are low," Volodin

added.

Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky's proposal is a populist ploy, since Russia has no political prisoners, Chairman of the State Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee Leonid Slutsky echoed him on Tuesday.

Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky has ordered the government to draw up a bill on streamlining the procedures to obtain Ukrainian citizenship for Russians who are "persecuted based on political grounds." The decree was published on the Ukrainian president's website on Tuesday.

Agencies

Anti-Brexit party reveals candidates for emergency UK govt

LONDON

THE leader of the anti-Brexit Liberal Democrats party said yesterday two senior lawmakers from the ruling party and opposition have indicated willingness to lead an emergency government to prevent a no-deal divorce with the European Union.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson wants to take Britain out of the EU on Oct 31, with or without a negotiated transition, foes are plotting how to bring him down and stop a no-deal Brexit they say would be disastrous for the economy.

The main opposition party Labour's leader Jeremy Corbyn wants a no-confidence vote, caretaker government with him as head, then an election, while the Liberal Democrats prefer to find alternative leaders for a unity government.

Liberal Democrat leader Jo Swinson told BBC radio on Friday that former Labour deputy leader Harriet Harman and ruling Con-

servative party veteran Ken Clarke had both told her they would be prepared to assume that role.

"They put public duty first and they don't want to see a no-deal Brexit," Swinson said.

"If the House of Commons asks them to lead an emergency government to get our country out of this Brexit mess and to stop us driving off that cliff to a no deal, then yes they are prepared to do that."

With Johnson staking his premiership on Brexit, the EU refusing to re-open a previously-negotiated withdrawal deal and a majority of lawmakers opposed to a no-deal divorce, Britain is heading for a parliamentary showdown and constitutional crisis.

Opponents of no deal say it would be a nightmare for what was once one of the West's most stable democracies. A disorderly divorce, they say, would hurt global growth, send shockwaves through financial markets and

weaken London's claim to be the world's preeminent financial centre.

Brexit supporters say there may be short-term disruption from a no-deal exit but that the economy will eventually thrive if cut free from what they cast as a doomed experiment in integration that has led to Europe falling behind China and the United States.

Labour wants a vote of no-confidence in the government shortly after parliament returns from its summer break on Sept 3. Energy Minister Kwasi Kwarteng told Sky News the government would win such a vote.

"I don't see Jeremy Corbyn being able to come together with the numbers, nor do I see any prospect of him leading a so-called national unity government," he said.

"He's the most unpopular leader of the opposition we've ever had and the idea that he's going to lead a unity government I think is ridiculous," he said. Agencies



Leader of the Liberal Democrats Jo Swinson delivers a keynote speech on Brexit in London on Thursday. (AFP)

Commissioner's office of Chinese foreign ministry in HK criticises foreign media's 'irresponsible' comments

HONG KONG

THE Office of the Commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) has criticized certain foreign media's irresponsible comments on the situation in Hong Kong as "full of ignorance, prejudice and arrogance."

In a statement published on its website late Thursday, the commissioner's office said its spokesperson lodged stern representations with the Wall Street Journal immediately after the newspaper published an editorial on Thursday, expressing strong disapproval and firm opposition.

The spokesperson said the editorial, titled "The Hong Kong Stakes for Trump", distorts the truth and arbitrarily comments on the Hong Kong situation.

"Such irresponsible remarks are full of ignorance, prejudice and arrogance," the spokesperson pointed out.

"Hong Kong is an inalienable part of China, and its affairs are completely China's internal affairs which allow no foreign intervention. The editorial, however, talks about a possible 'invasion of Hong Kong' by China which 'would violate China's treaty with Britain'. Isn't that typical ignorance?"

"It also alleges that the SAR government is 'the real provocateur', accuses the police dedicated to enforcing the law and maintaining the order for 'brutality', and whitewashes the rioters by claiming they have 'reasonable' worries and are part of 'peaceful protests'. Isn't that typical prejudice?"

"Moreover, it puts on an air of a global policeman, petitions to US policymakers and even urges US president to meddle with Hong Kong affairs with 'blunt candor'. What an epitome of arrogance!"

The spokesperson emphasized that the truth can never be overshadowed by ignorance, prejudice and arrogance, and the public will not be easily fooled.

"We urge the relevant media to immediately correct its mistakes, cover Hong Kong in an objective, impartial, balanced and responsible manner, and make constructive efforts to facilitate understanding of Hong Kong and maintain the city's rule of law, prosperity and stability," the spokesperson said.

Xinhua

Salvini keeps immigration front and center before crucial vote

By Bloomberg

DEPUTY Prime Minister Matteo Salvini picked an immigration fight with his coalition partners as he looks to keep his signature issue center stage ahead of a showdown in the Italian Senate next week.

Salvini's order to keep Spanish rescue ship Open Arms from docking has put him at odds with the courts and with Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and his allies in the splintering coalition government. The vessel remained at sea yesterday with more than 130 migrants aboard after 13 were allowed to disembark to receive medical attention, according to local media reports.

"Conte says that I am obsessed with clandestine immigration," Salvini told reporters Thursday. "I confirm that I am obsessed with the security of Italian citizens."

The standoff allows Salvini, also the interior minister, to play the anti-immigration champion as the League party leader starts a push for new elections that could see him heading the next government.

Last week, he pulled his support for the fractious coalition with the anti-establishment Five Star Movement and a vote to dissolve the government could come as soon as Tuesday.

Conte (pictured), who does not belong to any party and who has become one of the main obstacles to Salvini's ambitions, accused his deputy of disloyalty Thursday and said Salvini had misrepresented his comments regarding the migrants.

Salvini wasted no time responding. In a lengthy news conference on a public holiday in Italy he called Conte's accusations unfair and said that his actions conform with the constitution.

The League leader's attacks on immigration policy have been key to the party's soaring popularity. Initially the junior partner in Conte's government, the League is now backed by about 40% of Italians, polls show. That could set up an election win that would allow the party to govern without a coalition partner.

Agencies



JUST as China and the U.S. prepared for the 12th round of high-level economic and trade consultations, some American politicians once again found ants in their pants and tried to destroy the potential for cooperation.

They claimed that Chinese negotiators "always change the deal in the end to their benefit" and that "they should probably wait out our Election to see if we get one of the Democrat stiffs like Sleepy Joe. Then they could make a GREAT deal, like in past 30 years".

Is it a necessary step before the two sides actually reach an economic and trade agreement? Absolutely not!

Such frequent disturbance is both groundless and illogical, and the intention behind all this is simple - the U.S. politicians just want to grab as much as they can.

It seems like that they have complete-

US should stop making troubles for trade talks

ly forgot their commitment to "restarting economic and trade consultation based on equality and mutual respect", in an attempt to intimidate their negotiation partner and force the latter to make concession.

However, these American politicians are not aware that for a country like China that has the capability and strength to deal with whatever comes to it, repeatedly resorting to the tactic of exerting pressure will not work at all.

China will never break its principles and make concession, and it will resolutely safeguard its core interests and the fundamental interests of its people. The American politicians had better stop their unrealistic illusion.

Some American officials never feel ashamed to fight for the so-called "America First" at the negotiation table. On one hand, they are telling the world that the U.S. would never stand to lose; on the other hand, they claim that the U.S. has been "plundered" by China, for even up to 30 years.

International relations are never something that can be played with, and it must be made clear that such act of cooking up stories and making false accusations against China is purely making trouble out of nothing in total disregard of facts.

China has never had the motivation or the practice of "plundering", and the U.S., a big country that has stood at

the top of the global value chain for so long, would in no way have stood by and watched itself being plundered by China for 30 years.

People around the world can tell right and wrong. They know clearly that China has always been endeavoring to discuss and seek ways to pursue win-win results with various countries faithfully. And they welcome such efforts from China.

Leaders of China and the U.S. have reached consensus on the development of China-U.S. economic and trade relations, and the people of both countries are looking forward to continuing bilateral cooperation as agreed in this consensus.

"Had we not barred Chinese companies from putting their money to work in our economy, they would be pumping about \$80 billion annually into expanding the U.S. private sector and creating jobs in America," said Charles W. Freeman Jr., former U.S. Ambassador to China and chief interpreter of former U.S. President Richard Nixon.

The essence of China-U.S. economic and trade cooperation is mutual benefit and win-win results. The Chinese and U.S. people have joined their hands to write a chapter of sincere cooperation, and this chapter can't be destroyed by the noises made by certain people.

What attitude will the U.S. adopt for resuming economic and trade consul-

tations with China? What will it do to respond to the expectations of the Chinese and American people and the people of the world?

As the answers are yet to be confirmed, it might be wise to review a line from the famous ancient Chinese philosopher Meng Zi, who said "arrogant and disdainful attitude and pretentious remarks would repel people."

Instead of creating problems, these American officials had better keep themselves sober and show some self-respect and good faith if they really want to continue consultations with China.

To obtain good results, the U.S. should focus on the common interests it shares with China. Only by working together with sincerity and facing the problems can the two countries achieve outcomes that are favored by both sides.

People's Daily

After ban, Israel permits US Rep Tlaib to make humanitarian visit to family in West Bank

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL decided yesterday to allow U.S. congresswoman Rashida Tlaib - a critic of Israeli policy toward the Palestinians - to visit family in the occupied West Bank on humanitarian grounds after barring her from making an official visit to Israel.

Under pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday he would not allow Tlaib and fellow Democrat congresswoman Ilhan Omar, to make a planned trip to Israel.

However, Netanyahu said that if Tlaib submitted a request to visit family on humanitarian grounds, Israel would consider it as long as she promised not to promote a boycott against Israel.

Tlaib and Omar have voiced support for the pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement which opposes the Israeli occupation and policies toward Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Under Israeli law, BDS backers can be denied entry to Israel.

Tlaib sent a letter to Israel's Interior Ministry on Thursday requesting permission to visit relatives, including her grandmother, who is in her 90s. It could be her last opportunity to see her, she said.

"I will respect any restrictions and will not promote boycotts against Israel during my visit," Tlaib wrote in the request, which was circulated by the website Ynet and other Israeli media.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement it "decided yesterday to approve the entry of U.S. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib for a humanitarian visit



U.S. congresswoman Rashida Tlaib

to her 90-year-old grandmother." Tlaib's office could not be reached

for comment, and it was not immediately clear when she might travel.

Tlaib and Omar are the first two Muslim women to be elected to Con-

gress, and the Detroit-born Tlaib is also the first Palestinian-American congresswoman.

Both are members of their party's progressive wing and sharp critics both of Trump and Israeli policy.

Their official visit was to have included visits to the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, territories Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war and which Palestinians envisage as part of an independent state along with Gaza.

Israel had initially chosen to allow the visit, but changed course on Thursday after Trump called on his ally not to let them in.

Trump has in recent months accused Tlaib, Omar and two other first-term Democratic congresswomen of color - dubbed "the Squad" - of hostility to Israel in a barrage condemned by critics as racist and widely seen as a way to drum up votes for 2020.

Tlaib, 43, has roots in the West Bank village of Beit Ur Al-Fauqa, where her grandmother and extended family live.

The prospects of ending the occupation and resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict under the so-called two-state solution which had guided international peace-making efforts since 1993 have all but evaporated, while Israeli settlements in the territories have expanded.

The Trump administration, which is particularly close to the Netanyahu government, has touted its own peace plan but details remain vague. It fueled Palestinian anger by recognizing disputed Jerusalem as Israel's capital in 2017.

Agencies

African entrepreneurs urged to work to competitive edge

NAIROBI

AFRICAN entrepreneurs should cooperate in order to enhance their competitive edge, an official from the Jack Ma foundation said on Friday.

Jason Pau, senior adviser for international programs at Jack Ma Foundation told journalists in Nairobi that the continent consists of dozens of countries each with fragmented markets, which provides a challenge for local businesses seeking to scale up their operations.

"African entrepreneurs should build teams in order to benefit from different innovative ideas from across the continent. This will help them to access international markets," Pau said while giving an update on the the Africa Netpreneur Prize Initiative (ANPI) that is spearheaded by the Jack Ma Foundation.

Pau said that currently, 20 semifinalist entrepreneurs from Africa are in Nairobi pitching their business concepts to seven esteemed entrepreneurs, investors, and business people from across the continent.

"Out of these, ten will be picked to pitch to Jack Ma and seven celebrity judges in Accra, Ghana," he added.

According to Pau, ANPI is part of Jack Ma Foundation's ten-year strategy to support and inspire the next generation of African entrepreneurs across all sectors with a one billion shillings (10 million U.S. dollars) fund, to build a more sustainable and inclusive economy for the future.

Pau said that through close collaborations, African business community can ensure the continent reaps the benefit of its demographic dividend.

He noted that Jack Ma is committed to assisting African entrepreneurs to develop innovative solutions that will make a difference in the continent.

Xinhua

Sudan to celebrate official signing of political, constitutional declarations

KHARTOUM

THE Sudanese capital Khartoum is getting ready to celebrate today the official signing of two documents instituting for a transitional period in Sudan.

Sudan's Transitional Military Council (TMC) and the opposition Freedom and Change Alliance are scheduled to sign today the political and constitutional declarations.

The political declaration, signed by the two sides with initial letters on July 17, determines the structures of the transitional period including the sovereignty council, the council of ministers and the transitional legislative council.

The constitutional declaration, signed with initial letters on Aug. 4, meanwhile, determines the powers of the transitional period structures and members of the transitional government which will last for 39 months.

"During the celebration, the documents of the transition to the civilian government will be signed on Aug. 17 at 1:00 p.m. local time (1100 GMT) at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum," said the TMC in a statement yesterday.

A number of head of states, representatives of regional and international organizations and diplomatic missions, leaders of parties and civil society organizations in the country will

attend the signing ceremony, it added.

Meanwhile, Sati Al-Haj, a leading member in the Freedom and Change Alliance, said in a statement that all arrangements have been finalized to sign the two declarations.

A joint higher committee between the TMC and the alliance has supervised the arrangements for the event, including the invitation of officials from neighboring countries to take part in the ceremony, he added.

The signing of the two documents will be a new beginning for the country that fulfills the aspirations of the Sudanese people and ensures the democratic transformation in achieving sustainable peace and establishing the State of citizenship and rights with the participation of all Sudanese, he noted.

The alliance on Thursday agreed to name Abdalla Hamdok as prime minister in the transitional government, while it is expected to announce their nominees for the membership of the sovereignty council on Friday.

Despite the recent understandings reached among the components of the Freedom and Change Alliance, the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, a component of the alliance, declared boycotting the signing ceremony of the two documents.

"We have not been informed



Abdalla Hamdok

yet if our vision has fully been included in the constitutional declaration, and therefore, the celebration and appointments do not concern us," said Mohamed Zakaria, spokesman of the revolutionary front, in a statement.

However, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)/northern sector, led by Malik Aqar, one of the armed movements in the revolutionary front, announced that it would take part in the signing ceremony of the two documents.

In this regard, Deputy Chairman of the SPLM/northern sector Yasir Arman urged the leaders and members of the movement to participate in the signing ceremony, and work within the structures, bodies and committees of the Freedom and Change Alliance, including the celebrations committees.

"The SPLM/northern sector is keen on incarnating the unity of the forces of the Freedom and

Change Alliance, and make the task of the transitional period successful," said Arman in a statement.

According to a concerning establishment of the transitional period structures, the appointment of the members of the Sovereignty Council is set for Aug. 18, and the appointed members will take the constitutional oath on Aug. 19, which indicates automatic dissolution of the TMC.

The prime minister will be appointed on Aug. 20 and take the constitutional oath the next day.

Then the members of the Council of Ministers will be announced on Aug. 28, and approved by the Sovereignty Council on Aug. 30 before taking the constitutional oath on Aug. 31. The new government will hold its first meeting immediately after the oath taking.

Xinhua

Russia hails miracle after plane makes emergency landing

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will demonstrate the export versions of the fifth-generation Su-57 fighter jet and the Il-112V military transport aircraft at the MAKS-2019 international air show, the state arms seller Rosoboronexport said in a statement yesterday.

"The Su-57E fighter (the Gagarin Aircraft Plant in Komсомolsk-on-Amur) and the Il-112VE military transport plane (the Voronezh Aircraft Enterprise) will be the main exhibits of the Russian exposition's military segment at the MAKS-2019 air show," the statement says.

Rosoboronexport CEO Al-

exander Mikheyev has said he is confident that both planes will evoke huge interest at the MAKS air show.

CEO of Russia's state hi-tech corporation Rostec Sergei Chemezov noted that the exposition would feature more than 40 new exhibits.

"This year, Rostec's exposition includes over 250 new models, including more than 40 items that will be demonstrated at the MAKS for the first time: aircraft, avionics, aircraft engines and aerodrome equipment," the chief executive said.

The Su-57 export version differs from generation 4++ fighter jets by its multi-functionality,

automation and the high degree of intellectualization of combat employment processes, super-maneuverability and other characteristics.

The Il-112VE light military transport plane is the export modification of the Il-112V aircraft developed for Russia's Aerospace Force and designated to transport, air-land and airdrop cargoes, vehicles, ammunition and personnel.

The plane features versatile employment options, expanded capabilities for cargo carriage, round-the-clock operation capability and other competitive advantages.

Agencies



China's success in the past 40 years is remarkable

By Dirk Jan van den Berg

IN 2005, I assumed the role of the Dutch ambassador to China and started my nearly 3 years of experience working in China, during which my direct contact with China had enabled me to forge a deep bond with the country.

As I've remained in close touch with China since then, I have witnessed China's rapid development and changes over the past 40 years since its reform and opening-up, especially the great economic, political, and social development and changes since the 21st century.

I think 40 years is really not a long period of time in human

history, but China has gained remarkable success during this period.

China's reform and opening-up has created an economic boom in China. It was quite a challenge to simply feed more than one billion of Chinese people. However, China has not only done that, but also become the world's second largest economy, showing the world a development miracle.

In my opinion, the secrets of China's tremendous economic achievements lie in the two aspects listed below.

On one hand, China has maintained long-term stability in its political system. The socialist political system with Chinese

characteristics has effectively avoided the negative effects of political cycle on the stability of political system, thus giving the Chinese government more room for policy options, so that it can make long-term development strategies and focus its efforts on solving major and important issues.

On the other hand, China attaches high importance to investment in scientific and technological research and development as well as industrial upgrading. Currently, China is transforming its economic development from the volume-driven mode into a pattern featuring high quality.

With China's continuously



rising position in the global industrial chain, "made-in-China" products have started to make positive impacts around the world together with the increasing popularity of a number of world famous Chinese brands.

When I was the President of Delft University of Technology, I had kept close engagement with Chinese scientific research

teams, which are world-class teams. Besides, China makes great efforts to attract global technological talents. Today, China is in the forefront of the world in terms of cutting-edge scientific and technological achievements.

Regarding improving people's living conditions as a major purpose of its policies, the Chinese government responds actively to the concerns of the people, taking constant measures to solve the problems in such areas as environment and security.

As urbanization rate is rising fast in the country, China is getting increasingly experienced in urban governance and making cities more livable. In recent

years, China has spent a lot of efforts in improving its legal environment, business environment, and administrative efficiency, which is great news for foreign-funded enterprises in China.

In the past 20 years, China has constantly accelerated its integration into the international community, participating in and promoting the development of the international order more and more.

The current international order and system, which are based on rules, require us to respect and follow the rules. In the face of global financial crisis, the international order needs necessary adjustment and reform, while it shall never

deviate from the core essence of equality, openness, and cooperation which is the key foundation of long-term peace, stability, and development after World War .

At present, protectionism and unilateralism is mounting. Some countries attempt to make new rules that fit their own interests unilaterally, which has created uncertainties to the world.

The challenges we are faced with today are in no way such issues that can be tackled by any single country, but the ones that need intensified cooperation among various countries around the world.

(Dirk Jan van den Berg is the former Dutch ambassador to China.)



Andy Ruiz Jr in action with Anthony Joshua during their WBA Super, IBF, WBO & IBO World Heavyweight Titles fight at Madison Square Garden in New York, United States in this June 1, 2019 file photo: Reuters

Ruiz wants Joshua rematch in New York, Hearn warns of legal action

LONDON

WORLD heavyweight champion Andy Ruiz Jr. has said he would like his title rematch with Anthony Joshua in December to be in New York instead of Saudi Arabia as announced.

Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn, who said this week that both parties had signed up to the fight in Diriyah, near Riyadh, raised the threat of legal action if the Mexican-American refused the terms set out.

"I have not signed anything yet, we are negotiating everything," Ruiz, who holds the IBF, WBO and WBA belts after stunning Joshua at Madison Square Garden in June, told ESPN Mexico.

"They want the fight to be there (in Saudi Arabia) but we have to see where we negotiate with my team.

"I would like it in New York again, where I beat him. I'm giving him a chance to try and beat me and if he wants the belts, he has to do it there."

Hearn has dismissed talk of the fight not happening in the Middle East.

"The contract for the rematch was signed prior to the first fight," Hearn told Sky Sports television. "They are both signed at the same time. There is no other contract.

"We have to let (Ruiz) know the time, date

and venue which we have done. That's it.

"His choice is to have a legal battle that could put him out of boxing for years, or to defend his belts for a lot of money against a guy he has already beaten. There isn't any doubt he will take the fight."

The choice of venue has been questioned in some quarters, with Saudi Arabia coming under heightened international criticism over its human rights record.

Hearn has said a title fight in Saudi could be a game changer for boxing.

"If Saudi Arabia are going to invest in these kind of fights, with the population that they have and the potential to grow the sport, you could be seeing a big change in the dynamics of the sport," he said on Monday.

Ruiz said his next opponent after Joshua, assuming he again beats the Briton, would likely be IBF mandatory contender Kubrat Pulov of Bulgaria before a possible unification fight against WBC champion Deontay Wilder.

He expected Joshua, 29, to be more cautious in the rematch but with a similar outcome.

"I think he's going to want to run a bit more, to move, but he's too big, he's got a lot of muscle and it's going to be very difficult for him," he said.

REUTERS



: Aretha Franklin)

DETROIT

REGARDLESS of her reputation as a performer, Aretha Franklin's cancer doctors say she was no diva as a patient.

As the anniversary of her death approaches, two of her doctors tell The Associated Press that the Queen of Soul handled the diagnosis and treatment with grace – and the grit to keep performing for years with a rare type of cancer.

"As a person, she was extremely kind, she was respectful, she was funny – she treated people like me and my

team members as her friends," said Dr. Manisha Shah of Ohio State University. "There is no phone call that would end without her asking about us. Most of the time she would ask about us first. ... It's because who she was: She was really down-to-earth."

Franklin, who died in Detroit on Aug. 16, 2018, at 76, had pancreatic neuroendocrine cancer, which starts in the pancreas but is far different and much slower developing than the more common, aggressive type of pancreatic cancer known as adenocarcinoma. Franklin's kind is

exceedingly rare: Neuroendocrine cancers comprise about 7% of cancers originating in the pancreas, according to the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation.

Shah said she first saw Franklin after her 2010 diagnosis, surgery and treatment at Detroit's Karmanos Cancer Center.

"I think she had her priorities very clear in her mind. ... She would ask me how long this treatment would go for, what would be her restrictions," Shah said. "As far as I can see, she was able to live that dream, or her plan."

Ruthless Australia take control at Lord's

LONDON

JOSH Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon took three wickets each as Australia bowled out England for 258 and reached 30 for one in reply to take control of the second Ashes test at Lord's on Thursday.

After rain washed out the first day, Australia won the toss and put England in to bat, Hazlewood taking two early wickets to give the touring side the initiative which they never surrendered.

Rory Burns and Jonny Bairstow made half-centuries but it was a disappointing batting performance by England, and Australia will be confident of claiming a first-innings lead and pushing on for a win that would put them 2-0 up in the series.

"I don't think we have had our best day, we dropped a few catches but if we are batting at the end of the day we are pretty happy," Lyon said.

"We want to be a team that no matter what we do first we are competing and playing a positive brand of cricket."

Jason Roy lasted three balls, flashing wildly at his first before edging a lifting Hazlewood delivery to wicketkeeper Tim Paine for nought.

Captain Joe Root twice drove Cummins sweetly to the extra cover boundary before, on 14, he was trapped lbw by Hazlewood with a delivery that jagged back and kept low.

Burns, who made a patient century in the first test at Edgbaston, dug in to play the anchor role again but he was given a life when he drove loosely at a wide ball from Peter Siddle and Usman Khawaja spilled a sharp catch at gully.

Hazlewood, recalled to the side, bowled two probing and accurate spells in the morning, conceding



Australia's Josh Hazlewood celebrates taking the wicket of England's Joe Denly during the Ashes 2019 - Second Test at Lord's Cricket Ground in London, Britain on Thursday. Reuters

only 14 runs in 10 overs to lift Australia's quest to win the Ashes in England for the first time since 2001.

Burns slog-swept spinner Lyon for four to bring up England's fifty and the left-hander was 34 not out with Joe Denly unbeaten on 27 as the hosts reached 76 for two at lunch.

As has happened regularly in Denly's fledgling test career, however, he failed to capitalise on a solid start.

ROUTINE CATCH
The right-hander added three runs before he nibbled at a full-length Hazlewood delivery and edged another routine catch to Paine.

Burns completed his third test fifty, off 119 balls, and he was the victim of a brilliant reaction catch by Cameron Bancroft at short leg as the

batsman looked to turn a short delivery from Cummins off his hip.

Jos Buttler made 12 before he hung his bat limply at a wide delivery from Siddle to nick it to Paine and Ben Stokes missed a straight ball from Lyon to depart lbw for 13 with England reeling at 138 for six.

Bairstow and Chris Woakes steadied the ship with a seventh-wicket partnership of 72 in bright sunshine at the home of cricket before the latter gloved Cummins down the leg-side to Paine to fall for 32.

Jofra Archer made 12, Stuart Broad 11 and Bairstow was last man out, caught in the deep for 52 off Lyon who moved alongside great Australia fast bowler Dennis Lillee on 355 test wickets.

"It is pretty hard to see

my name alongside the true legends of Australian cricket," Lyon said. "It's a special moment and hopefully a few more will come."

Australia had about 20 overs to bat on an extended day and they lost David Warner, who was bowled by a fine delivery from Broad for three.

Bancroft (five not out) and Khawaja (18 not out) survived a fiery spell by Archer on his debut, however, and with rain forecast to disrupt day three, England face an uphill task to level the series and boost their hopes of regaining the Ashes.

"There was some good bowling, a bit of nibble and we have seen in that period if you stick enough balls in the right areas it can be difficult," Burns said.

REUTERS



TIST International Limited Company's official, Neema Mbuya (R), speaks to journalist in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the launch of the Africa Folk Music festival scheduled for August 30 in the city. Looking on is the firm's marketing officer, Annie Moses. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT GETRUDE MPEZYA

Aretha Franklin's cancer doctors recall her grace, grit

Of course, her illness meant some cancellations, which was to include performing on her 76th birthday in March of last year in Newark and at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in April. But she gamely carried on as her illness progressed: Performances of note included closing a gala in November 2017 for Elton John's 25th anniversary of his AIDS foundation, and bringing President Barack Obama and many others to tears in 2015 with a triumphant performance of "You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman" at a Kennedy Center tribute for the song's co-writer, Carole King.

"How can the same person who is going through this cancer journey continue to do what she did all her life? It's amazing how she went through it so gracefully," Shah said. "She wasn't afraid."

Both Shah and Dr. Philip Agop

Philip, a professor at Karmanos and Wayne State University, recalled how she wanted to continue her life as normally – and positively – as possible.

"She was full speed – she wasn't even complaining," said Philip, who first saw Franklin in early 2011 and was her doctor of record at the time of her death. "That was different than what I expected. ... She never showed signs that she was close to thinking that she may give up ... until the end, close to the end."

In the public eye, she even embraced the "diva" tag, once saying, "What do YOU think?" when an AP reporter asked Franklin if she thought she was the ultimate diva while discussing a VHI Divas concert honoring her music. Still, Philip also saw a patient who didn't demand star treatment, saying she never made him or his staff "feel that we need to treat her as a celebrity." Of course, given her

fame, some accommodations were made: She came and went through a side door and there were more frequent changes in appointments because of her performing schedule. While there, however, she was keen on doing whatever needed to be done, he said.

"She knew her body, she knew herself," he said. "A lot of patients will ask for treatment that doesn't really make much difference to her body. She didn't do that."

Shah says Franklin's cancer – the same kind Apple co-founder and longtime leader Steve Jobs had – has many treatment options, and her doctors employed both targeted drug therapy and chemotherapy.

Shah said she talked with Franklin about traveling to Europe for a treatment before it was approved last year in the United States. It was then the doctor learned of her patient's

famous fear of flying, which anti-anxiety tapes and classes couldn't help.

"She said, 'Oh no, I can't go – I don't fly,'" Shah recalled. "We had several other options for her."

Both Shah and Philip recall Franklin's positivity in the face of cancer, and the positive effect that had on them as well as their colleagues.

"Aretha as a person who was fighting cancer, she was very curious, she was very calm. She was hopeful, she was an optimist. This was kind of her attitude. She didn't let cancer cripple her. She did not have that feeling that cancer was the main center of her life," Shah said. "She lived her life as simply and beautifully and as full as possible every day. For us, it was such an inspiring journey of several years with her."

AP

Van Dijk, Messi and Ronaldo vie for UEFA Player of the Year award

LONDON

LIONEL Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Virgil Van Dijk have been short-listed for the UEFA Player of the Year award, the sport's European governing body said on Thursday.

While Ronaldo, a three-time winner, has been ever-present in the final three since the award was created in 2011, centre back Van Dijk makes his first appearance after helping Liverpool win the Champions League title last season.

Van Dijk was voted both the Premier League Player of the Season and the Players' Player of the Year, and was instrumental in the Merseyside club's sixth European Cup triumph.

Two-time award winner Messi was the leading scorer in both La Liga (36 goals) and the Champions League (12 goals) last season but his Barcelona side fell in the semi-final stage to Liverpool, who overcame a

three-goal deficit in the second leg to advance.

Ronaldo, who has won five Champions League titles, did not fare too well in Europe in his debut season with Juventus, the Italian side losing in the quarter-finals to Ajax Amsterdam.

However, he helped Juve seal their eighth successive league title with 21 goals and was voted the Serie A's 'Most Valuable Player'.

For the women's award, treble-winners Olympique Lyonnais made it a clean sweep with striker Ada Hegerberg, right back Lucy Bronze and midfielder Amandine Henry shortlisted. Hegerberg was the first recipient of the women's Ballon d'Or last year.

The awards will be presented during the Champions League group stage draw ceremony in Monaco on Thursday Aug. 29.

REUTERS

PSG and French football braced for Neymar exit

PARIS

THE saga of Neymar's seemingly inevitable departure from Paris Saint-Germain is proving a long, drawn out affair bringing the curtain down on what will ultimately feel like a fleeting and failed experiment.

Having arrived in France in 2017 hoping a world-record transfer to PSG would help him emerge from the shadow of Lionel Messi at Barcelona and win the Ballon d'Or, two years on he looks set to leave with his reputation having taken a serious hit.

There is no doubting the 27-year-old forward is a brilliant player, and there is every chance he will get the success he craves -- collectively and, chiefly, individually -- by returning to Spain, whether with his old club or Real Madrid.

However, there is every reason to believe a Kylian Mbappe-led PSG, and football in France in general, will ultimately be better off without him.

The French champions' first Ligue 1 game of the campaign last Sunday, a 3-0 win against Nimes, saw supporters unfurl banners insulting the 222 million-euro (\$264 million at the time) man.

Neymar himself was not involved in that game, left out amid the uncertainty over his future. He already missed the season-opening Champions Trophy against Rennes in China due to suspension.

Since moving to the Parc des Princes, he has played in almost exactly half of his club's matches.

When he has been on the field he has frequently been brilliant, scoring 51 goals in 58 games, but when it has really mattered he has been absent.

Foot injuries saw him miss three of the four Champions League knockout matches the Qatar-owned

club have played in since his arrival. Without him, they lost in the last 16 to Real Madrid in 2018 and then to Manchester United this year.

"I like Neymar, I want to keep playing with him, with Kylian and with everyone," coach Thomas Tuchel said last weekend.

"But the reality is that we must find solutions without 'Ney'. You can't lose Neymar and just find someone else who will do the same things."

Mbappe added that "without Neymar, it's not the same team," but PSG can still improve by investing in a more balanced squad -- summer signings made so far under sporting director Leonardo are a step in the right direction.

Centre-back Abdou Diallo, midfielders Ander Herrera, Pablo Sarabia and Idrissa Gueye have arrived. With the money recouped from the eventual sale of Neymar, not to mention the saving on his 36 million-euro annual wage, more reinforcements can be brought in.

- Off-field circus -
The off-field circus around Neymar has been an unwelcome distraction for too long. On the field, Paris will still have Mbappe.

The other side of the coin is what this means for PSG's brand. After all, Neymar's following on social media far outstrips that of his current club.

Similarly, when the French league (LFP) put their television rights up for auction last year, they capitalised on the Brazilian's presence. Rights for the four seasons from 2020 were sold to Chinese-owned group Mediapro for 1.15 billion euros a year, a huge increase on previous deals.

Television stations could be forgiven for being a little concerned now, but LFP chief Didier Quillot remains bullish.

AFP

Man United will win Premier League title before Liverpool, claims Neville

LONDON

GARY Neville believes Manchester United will emerge from their post-Alex Ferguson rut to win the Premier League before Liverpool manage to end their drought.

United have not won the title since Ferguson's last season in charge at Old Trafford in 2012/13, which has been followed by six seasons of toil under David Moyes, Louis van Gaal and Jose Mourinho.

Neville's former teammate and close friend Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has since been tasked with investing in youth to get United back to the top of English football, having seen Manchester City and Liverpool assert themselves as the dominant pair over the last two seasons, and United made a strong start to the new campaign last weekend with a 4-0 demolition of Chelsea.

But the victory at Old Trafford clearly has Neville feeling optimistic

once more as the former United defender boldly claimed that he expects United to regain the title before Liverpool can, with the Reds having not conquered the top flight since 1989/90.

"Liverpool, City, Tottenham - all these clubs have had poor recruitment policies over the last 25-30 years at times, so United are going through one at the moment," he said on Sky Sports.

"Eventually they'll stumble across the right recruitment system, the right recruitment people. We'll get a great manager - hopefully that's Ole - and they'll start to win again. That's going to happen, I can guarantee you as clear as day Manchester United will win again, they'll win again no problem. They'll win a league - probably win the league before Liverpool in my opinion, I'm not being disrespectful."

(Agencies)

Man City win vs. Spurs could end title race before it starts

MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

THE Premier League season is just 90 minutes old for each of the top flight's 20 clubs. Hopes and dreams remain alive for all of them, regardless of any defeats on the opening weekend, but the cold, harsh reality is that Matchday 2 could turn out to be a defining moment of the campaign.

Quite simply, if Manchester City beat Tottenham at the Etihad on Saturday evening, the challenge facing the chasing pack in terms of catching Pep Guardiola's champions will only become much more difficult.

No team has beaten City in any competition since Spurs secured a 1-0 victory in last season's Champions League quarterfinal first-leg at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium. Guardiola's men have won all nine of their competitive games (the Community Shield is not classed as a competitive fixture by the English FA) since that defeat on April 9, including home victories against Spurs both in the Champions League and Premier League, and already sit atop the table on goal differential having won 5-0 at West Ham last Saturday. Since losing 2-1 at Newcastle on Jan. 29, City have played 15 Premier League games and won every single one of them.

Spurs, at least, showed they know how to beat City during that Champions League win, which paved the way for an away goals victory following a frenetic second leg. That said, if they can't repeat that feat on Saturday, there is a real possibility that the champions could



Pep Guardiola

Mauricio Pochettino

have disappeared over the horizon by the time they visit Anfield to face Liverpool in the most-eagerly-awaited fixture of the season on Nov. 9.

The record for successive Premier League wins, which City set by winning 18 on the bounce in 2017-18, is already under threat and could be equalled when City host Brighton on Aug 31. After facing Spurs this weekend, City embark on a run of nine league games against opponents from outside the so-called "Big Six," so they could obliterate their own record of 18 straight wins and raise the bar to an impossibly high level.

And if City are on 25 successive league wins by the time they visit Anfield -- is it really that difficult to imagine? -- will the title race already be over bar the shouting?

While City plot their route through

a fixture list that sees them face Tottenham, Bournemouth, Brighton, Norwich, Watford, Everton, Wolves, Crystal Palace, Aston Villa and Southampton before they travel to Anfield, last season's runners-up Liverpool -- the team regarded by most as the only likely challengers to City this term -- face home games against Arsenal and Spurs, plus away trips to Chelsea and Manchester United.

Maybe this season will prove to be like a 400-metre race, with City breaking clear down the back straight before Liverpool close the gap once the stagger unwinds in the second half of the season. But there is a danger that the Premier League fixture computer may have distorted the title race before it has even begun by handing City such a comfortable start to the campaign.

For Liverpool to keep pace, they must overcome all of their other top-six rivals by maintaining the incredible form that saw them amass 97 points -- and lose just once in the league -- only to finish second to City by a point last season (even if ESPN's Luck Index suggests the margin should have been wider).

Liverpool powered out of the blocks by beating Norwich 4-1 on the opening weekend, but City still ended Matchday 1 ahead of Jurgen Klopp's team following the rout of West Ham. With the fixtures that lie in front of them over the next three months, Liverpool might not get this close to Guardiola's men again.

So when it comes to keeping the title race as compelling as it was last season, the rest of the Premier League will be desperate for Spurs to halt City's winning run this weekend.

Newcastle showed last season that, on a bad day, City can be beaten even by the struggling teams, but they have not displayed too many signs of suffering an off-day since that defeat at St James' Park. Maybe Bournemouth, Brighton or Norwich can repeat Newcastle's success, but really, Spurs are likely to be the only credible threat to City over 90 minutes in the league until they travel to Anfield in November.

In other words, City look likely to serenely bank win after win after win in the coming weeks as they pursue a third successive title. Mauricio Pochettino and Spurs are the one major roadblock standing in their way. Can they find a way to knock City off course at the Etihad on Saturday? (Agencies)

Man City seek Spurs revenge, Lampard hoping for home comforts

LONDON

MANCHESTER City will seek revenge against Tottenham on Saturday for their dramatic Champions League exit last season as Liverpool and Manchester United also look to build on impressive Premier League starts this weekend.

City completed the first ever domestic treble of trophies in England last season, but fell short once more in the Champions League as Tottenham progressed from their quarterfinal tie on away goals.

VAR disallowed Raheem Sterling's strike deep into stoppage time of a thrilling second leg 4-3 win for the English champions in April, robbing Sterling of his hat-trick on the night and City a place in the last four.

Yet, Sterling has started the new campaign as he finished the last, scoring a hat-trick on the opening weekend as City thrashed West Ham 5-0 to already move to the top of the table.

Tottenham were also victorious against Aston Villa, but needed to come from behind and two goals in the final five minutes from Harry Kane to secure a 3-1 win over promoted Aston Villa.

Kane has warned that Spurs cannot fall behind so early in the campaign if they want to maintain a title challenge.

"We have to make sure we get off to a good start," said the England captain.

"It's important that we stay in touch as long as we can.

"We have full belief that we can go all the way but there's a long road ahead."

Liverpool will hope to have forged ahead by the time City and Spurs kick-off at the Etihad when they travel to a Southampton side reeling from a disappointing 3-0 defeat at Burnley to start the season.

Lampard comes home
Chelsea were the only member of the 'big six' to get off to a losing start as the Blues were humbled 4-0 by Manchester United in Frank Lampard's first game in charge.

The former England midfielder fairly argued that the scoreline was very harsh on his side after they enjoyed the better of the opening hour.

And there was further encouragement for Lampard in his side's per-



Frank Lampard

formance despite losing the UEFA Super Cup to Liverpool on penalties after a 2-2 draw in Istanbul on Wednesday.

"To lose the game was disappointing but if it means Chelsea's season can be something like how we played today, we'll be OK," he said.

After a summer in which Lampard could not sign new players and Chelsea lost Eden Hazard to Real Madrid, facing a refreshed United and relentless Liv-

erpool was a baptism of fire for Lampard.

Chelsea's all-time top goalscorer is still assured of a hero's welcome for his first home game as manager against Leicester at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

But he badly needs a win to quieten the doubters over Chelsea's decision to hand a club legend with just one year's managerial experience such a high-profile job.

True test for new United

After the negativity that greeted Manchester United securing just three new signings in the transfer window, the comprehensive margin of victory over Chelsea was the perfect tonic for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Harry Maguire, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Daniel James all made a big impact as United registered just their second clean sheet at home in the Premier League under the Norwegian, while James came off

the bench to score the final goal.

However, a Monday night trip to Wolves will be another tough test of United's ambitions this season.

Solskjaer's men lost on both visits to Molineux last season.

"When you start the season like this, the club, the supporters, everyone goes home bouncing and happy. Now it's about levelling out," said Solskjaer.

"We know the last two games went against them when I was there. We just have to make sure we do everything we can and there's no repeat of that scoreline."

Fixtures (1400 GMT unless stated)

Today
Arsenal v Burnley (1130), Aston Villa v Bournemouth, Brighton v West Ham, Everton v Watford, Norwich v Newcastle, Southampton v Liverpool, Manchester City v Tottenham (1630)

Tomorrow
Sheffield United v Crystal Palace (1300), Chelsea v Leicester (1530)

Monday
Wolves v Manchester United (1900)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man City win vs. Spurs could end title race before it starts

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Film targets to fight corruption

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

A Swahili film titled Bahasha, which highlights corruption in Tanzania, is currently screened in various streets in Dodoma that are hosting the Uhuru torch race.

The Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) launched the film with a view to educating the society on the battle against the vice in their pursuit of their rights.

Sosthenes Kibwengo, the PCCB Dodoma's Head, noted the film is screened in the region's streets in an effort to educate the society on the issue, which is unknown to most of the people.

"A mobile truck is used in screening the film, the truck moves to various areas with a view to educating people of the issue, the approach will make it easy for people to understand the issue given people like to watch films," Kibwengo noted.

He added most of the people like films and the Bahasha film stands to win their hearts and help them understand corruption, a vice which should not be tolerated.

He disclosed the PCCB is planning to spread information on the issue in workshops with a view to motivating the society to get rid of the vice.

"A good number of people like to watch films. We for that matter felt we should use the film to see to it our messages reaches people fast," he noted.

There are also several entertainment troupes in the region that are as well educating the society on the issue via songs.

The approach helps people understand corruption and fight the vice.

Traditional music troupes have also been staging shows in the race.

Sauti Sol set to perform in Rhumba Festival 2019

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

KENYA's music group, Sauti Sol, is set to stage show in a festival which will be held in Dar es Salaam on August 30.

George Kyatika, the TIST International Limited's Director whose firm has organized the festival noted the event dubbed 'Rhumba Festival' will be an annual feature.

Kyatika pointed out rhumba is a unique music genre which hardly loses its appeal to music followers, therefore, he believes music fans in the city will enjoy the event.

"We have planned to see to it this festival is a success by giving the music fans the much needed entertainment from Sauti Sol and other domestic musicians," he noted.

He noted the TIST International Limited is in discussion with a section of prominent domestic artists with a view to seeing to it they take the stage in the festival which will take place at the Next Door venue at Masaki.

"Once we seal the agreement, we will unveil domestic artistes that will stage show with Sauti Sol. There are prominent artistes who will take part in the festival," he disclosed.

"Rhumba is a music genre which is mostly enjoyed by gentlemen, a person does not need to spend much energy when he or she dances it, the genre has African roots and people love it a lot."

"We have therefore opted to organize this festival every year, we have brought Sauti Sol to stage show in our first event, we call on fans to turn up to get a taste of the music."

Neema Mbuya, TIST International Limited Event Manager, noted they are about to complete preparations for the event.

"There will be tight security, we advise music fans to buy tickets early on, they will be sold at 50,000/- and 100,000/-," she disclosed.

Simba SC takes on Azam FC in Community Shield



Azam FC striker Obrey Chirwa (R) challenges Namungo FC defender during a friendly match which was played at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ALL roads in Dar es Salaam are today expected to lead to the National Stadium where Simba SC will face Azam FC in a Community Shield match in what promises to be an interesting clash.

The Community Shield match, which pits the previous season's Mainland Premier League champions against winners of the season's Azam Sports Federation Cup, signals the kickoff of a the league's new season.

Both teams said they are ready for the encounter and urged their respective supporters to come to the National Stadium in big number.

Simba SC Head of Information and

Communication Department is ready for the match and

Haji Manara said his team promised that they will emerge

as winners in today's game.

He said his side's mission

this season is to win all football tournaments played at the domestic level.

"Our aim is to win every silverware in this country, we will start with the Community Shield," he disclosed.

"I'm asking all football lovers to come to the National Stadium and cheer the team, our players know the importance of winning this trophy," he said.

On his part Azam information officer Jaffary Maganga said his side is also ready for the game.

He promised people who are underrating his side that they must be ready for a surprise as his team is ready.

"We have prepared well for this match and I can assure all our followers that we are ready for this clash," he said.

Today's game promises to be very interesting as both teams had not so impressive results last week in the Confederation of African Football (CAF) club competitions' preliminary round assignments.

Simba registered a goalless draw with UD Songo of Mozambique in the CAF Champions League's preliminary round's first leg in Beira.

Azam FC lost 1-0 to Fasil Kenema of Ethiopia at the latter's backyard in the preliminary round of the CAF Confederation Cup.

Both squads need victory in the second leg duels, to be played in Dar es Salaam next week, to secure qualification for the first round of the continental competitions.

Annadil Burhani face DCC acid test in GP Gymkhana Shield



Annadil Burhani cricket squad's batsman in action against Punjabi Kings during this year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition's match that was played in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

By Guardian Reporter

ANNADIL Burhani cricketers will be looking to keep alive hopes of progression to the last eight stage of this year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition when they confront Dar es Salaam Cricket Club (DCC) in a Group C match the city today.

The match, which will be held at the Dares Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) venue, will be the day's only fixture, as disclosed by organizers DGC Cricket Section.

Having succumbed to losses to Punjabi Kings and Kutchi Leva, Annadil Burhani will obviously be eager to grab victory over DCC that have equally experienced a less impressive outing.

Experienced performers, namely Murtaza Kardebhai, Mustafa Lukmanji, Khuzema Janoowala, Akil Raja Adnan Paliwala and Abbas Adamji have to step up their performance if they are to help Annadil Burhani snatch the much needed win today.

The five players failed to live up to expectations in their squad's previous match against Kutchi Leva,

letting Kutchi Leva easily chase the 105-run target set by the former and come out victorious.

Three games have been slated for Sunday. In the first, Ismaili Community side will be looking to seal progression to the last eight as they confront MCC in a Group D clash.

Ismaili Community registered wins in their first two matches, beating Sandy Super Strikers and Surat Stars, and for that matter, victory in today's duel will help the side end the round robin stage in an impressive fashion.

In the second duel Gujrat Lions will be eager to snatch a second win in a row in as they lock horns with Kanbis in a Group A game.

Gujrat Lions started their campaign impressively given they cruised to victory over TNCC early this week.

Jain Sangh will come up against Tarangini in the last match of the day. Much as Tarangini are close to losing out on progression to the knockout stage, they are hardly expected to let Jain Sangh walk all over them.

Jain Sangh that settled for the runners-up spot in the previous season's tournament are in better position as far as qualification for the knockout phase is concerned, therefore, victory over Tarangini will see the former book a place in the last eight.

Participating sides in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament have been put in Groups A, B, C and D.

Young Muslims, TNCC, Lions Club and Kanbis make Group A, Group B has been made up of Union Sports Club, Jaat Blasters, Jain Sangh and Tarangini.

The DGC Cricket Section-organized tournament has General Petroleum and Premier Refinishes as main sponsors.

ASAR Limited, SBC Tanzania, Mgen Insurance, AFRO Turk, Catridge World, PS Limited, I & M Bank and Jaykey Trading are the event's co-sponsors.

The T20 -formatted competition, as disclosed by DGC Cricket Section captain, Ashish Nagewadia, will run for 14 weeks with matches taking place at the club's oval.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

