



AGRICULTURE



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TRC dreams of 20,000km of railway, from 4,700km now

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA needs to have at least 20,000 kilometers of railway from the current 4,700 to properly link the country and place itself on an adequate position to compete at the regional and global logistical platforms.

Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) Managing Director, Masanja Kadogosa made this observation at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, maintaining that this was the reason the government invested heavily in the construction of the Standard Gauge Rail (SGR) and renovation of the meter gauge railway.

In a media briefing on successes achieved in the four years of President John Magufuli, he said construction of SGR and the Tanzania - Intermodal and Rail Development Project (TIRP) are aimed at assuring a critical link in the regional rail network. That is necessary for competitiveness and deepening regional and global economic integration, he stated.

"While the government has massively

Treasury nets 4.28bn/- dividends, while cautioning slack parastatals



Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank managing director Japhet Justine addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on how the bank has fared during the four years it has been issuing loans to, and otherwise supporting, farmers. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

"We can only get out of this awkward situation of begging for support from other countries if government institutions pay out rightful dividends"

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has given state-owned and partially state-owned companies which have not paid dividends until January 23 to submit the government share or have their boards dissolved.

Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango said yesterday that Treasury will not tolerate boards of institutions that fail to heed President John Magufuli's directive.

Dr Mpango made this assertion upon receiving about 4.28bn/- in dividends from public institutions, where he said that 129 institutions are yet to pay out dividends.

Since President Magufuli gave the directive in November, 58 out of 187 parastatals and public institutions have submitted dividends, he said.

The government was looking for money to help fund development projects, so Treasury would not continue the begging spree while the country is endowed with a lot of resources, he said.

"We can only get out of this awkward situation of begging for support from other countries if government institutions pay out rightful dividends," he said, posting the next dividends acceptance ceremony as 23rd January, 2020.

Revenues increased from 17bn/- to 30bn/- from 2014/15 to 2018/19 for cargo wagons while passenger trains netted over 8.4bn/- earlier and attained over 10.7bn/- in the past fiscal year

invested in the construction of SGR using domestic funds to connect the main ports and landlocked countries, it is also renovating its meter gauge rail lines through TIRP, a project valued at \$300 million funded by the World Bank," he explained.

In SGR construction, the government had up to date disbursed 2.1 trl/- for the Dar es Salaam/Morogoro section (300 kilometres) where the project is expected to be completed next March or April.

Upon completion, SGR from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza Tanzania will have a new rail network of 1,219 kilometers apart from other rail networks awaiting reconstruction, he said.

The SGR facility shall increase the carriage capacity to 10,000 tonnes at a time and thus stimulate economic activities, he said.

Kadogosa, who once headed the Reli Assets Holding Co. (RAHACO) that merged with TRC, listed successes achieved as increase in carriage capacity from 186,000 tonnes to 426,000 tonnes in financial years 2014/15 to

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TADB lends 148bn/- in the last four years

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has said it has issued loans amounting to 148bn/- to farmers across the country in the past four years as a way of addressing various challenges slowing growth in the sector.

TADB managing director Japhet Justine also revealed that the bank has embarked on a feasibility study to earmark areas to work on in the coming year, including the chances of establishing industries to facilitate value addition.

He gave plans to revive ginneries in the cotton sector and extending support to sisal

There are currently various challenges adversely affecting cooperative unions, these including mismanagement and unpaid loans

industries as specific examples.

"As of November 2019, the bank had financially supported 1.6 million farmers in developing and implementing 140 projects. The financing was provided, with a view to addressing value chain challenges in agricultural sub-sectors," he said at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

TADB also allocated 1bn/- to support the fishing industry, 10bn/- to livestock, 136bn/- to coffee and 60m/- to projects in forestry.

The bank intends to make history by ensuring value addition for major cash crops countrywide before the crops reach export markets, the director noted.

He said the idea that agriculture is not bankable has troubled farming for decades, with commercial banks virtually shutting their doors on the sector ostensibly on grounds that it was risky business.

Justine said TADB views the biggest challenge as that of borrowers lacking adequately drawn up project proposals. Some propose projects which do not indicate how smallholder farmers

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Buhari promises Africans visas on arrival

ABUJA

NIGERIA says it will give all African travellers visas on arrival from next month, dropping the requirement that they apply in advance.

President Muhammadu Buhari (pictured) said it showed Nigeria's commitment to "free movement of Africans within Africa."

The announcement comes five months after Nigeria signed a deal aimed at promoting free trade on the continent.

But Buhari's critics accuse him of being a protectionist, undermining the vision of pan-African unity.

He has kept Nigeria's land borders with all its neighbours closed since August, making



it impossible for businesses to do cross-border trade by road.

President Buhari has rejected pressure to lift the blockade, saying it was aimed at ending the smuggling of goods into Nigeria and to make the nation self-sufficient, especially in the production of food.

The borders were shut despite the fact that Nigeria is part of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), a 15-nation regional bloc which allows visa-free travel among its estimated 350 million citizens.

Buhari gave no indication of when the blockade will be lifted when he announced the government's latest policy on visas for African

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Buhari to Africans on tour: You'll get visas on arrival

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passport-holders.

"Nigeria is committed to supporting the free movement of Africans within Africa. Yesterday at the Aswan Forum in Egypt I announced that, in January 2020, we will commence issuance of visas at the point of entry into Nigeria, to all persons holding passports of African countries," he wrote in his twitter account yesterday.

Currently, applicants for visa to Nigeria often need to make a request in their country of origin, and it will be issued when they arrive in the West African state, BBC reported.

This would change in the New Year, when citizens of all African states would be able to board a plane to Nigeria and get a visa on arrival, the reports indicated.

Nigeria is seen as an African superpower, with the biggest economy and population.

Research released by the African Development Bank shows that in 2018, Africans needed visas to travel to just over half (51%) of other African

countries. They could get visas on arrival in just under a quarter (24%) of states and did not need visas in a quarter (25%) of countries.

Compared with 2017, this marked an improvement in "visa openness" in 37 African states, the research specified.

Out of Africa's 54 countries, the five with the best "visa openness" policies were small states - Seychelles, Benin, Rwanda, Togo and Guinea-Bissau.

The five worst countries were Equatorial Guinea, Sudan, Libya, Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Nigeria was ranked at number 29, better than Africa's other economic powerhouse, South Africa, which received a score of 34.

Kenya - the biggest economy in East Africa - was ranked at number nine.

There is pressure to make travel easier, as last year, Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, complained that he needed 38 visas to travel within the continent on his Nigerian passport.

Many European nationals, meanwhile, can enter most African countries visa-free, he had lamented.



CCM national Chairman President John Magufuli leads Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein and Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ali Kakurwa (R) as well as other dignitaries including Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in leaving the Mwanza city venue of a meeting of the party's National Executive Committee he had opened shortly earlier. Sources said the main item on the agenda was in relation to preparations for the party's 2020/2025 election manifesto. Photo: State House

TADB lends 148bn/- in the last four years

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would be incorporated whether directly or indirectly, he remarked.

He further explained that TADB is working with a range of partners in assisting farmers and livestock keepers to develop bankable proposals for financing by banks and other financial institutions.

"In order to facilitate the delivery of balanced and inclusive financing of agriculture - and as part of TADB's overall orientation, we have adopted the clustering and value chain financing approach, which basically presumes group lending on the basis of

collective proposals," the MD said.

Working with the Livestock and Fisheries ministry, the bank has established a dedicated Private Sector Desk which, among other things, prepares and screens project proposals before the drafts are submitted.

The bank has expressed optimism on the envisaged changes in the legislation on cooperative unions, the thrust being ways to better support SMEs.

"There are currently various challenges adversely affecting cooperative unions, these including mismanagement and unpaid loans," the MD said.

Treasury nets 4.28bn/- dividends, while cautioning slack parastatals

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University of Agriculture (100m/-), National Institute of Transport (100m/-) and Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (100m/-).

The contributions were for the financial year ending June 30, 2019. During the financial year 2019/20, the government has projected to collect 33.1trn/- in which 59.7 per cent of expected collections or 19.1trn/- would

come from tax sources.

Contributions of government institutions and dividends constitute 50 per cent of non-tax revenues. Records remain clear that contributions have risen to 1.05trn/- this year from 161.04bn/- in the 2014/15 financial year where only 24 institutions were involved.

In 2015/16 there were 25 firms that paid 249.5bn/-

while in 2016/17 the dividends collection to 637bn/- from 38 firms, while in 2017/18 the number of institutions reached 40, paying a remarkable 842.13bn/-.

Although the trend of public entities contributing increased with time, the level of dividend collection remains below the government target, the president had earlier asserted.



Tanzania's delegation led by the Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Mussa Sima (2nd-R), attends the 2019 UN Climate Change Conference (December 2 to 13) in Madrid yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania pleads for more actions in combating of climate change

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania has called for more actions and concerted effort to address climate change since its adverse impacts has already started to affect the country.

Speaking during the ministerial segment at the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Mussa Sima, Deputy Minister of State, - Vice President's Office asked delegates to the august assembly to continue taking appropriate actions in addressing the challenges of climate change.

"We need to accelerate momentum for action and move ahead towards more ambitious goals in all areas deemed important to address climate change," he said.

In his statement, Sima expressed that climate change adverse impacts are already affecting Tanzania through extreme rainfall events and temperature rise causing widespread flooding associated with loss of life and devastating socio-economic impacts including destruction of infrastructure such as roads and bridges in many parts of the country.

He said that, according to the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) records, the month of October this year has been the wettest in many parts of Tanzania.

"In addition, Tanzania is already feeling adverse impacts on all sectors: such as agriculture, health, fisheries, livestock, water, and health sector whereby incidences of some diseases such as dengue and malaria has been on the rise on some parts of the country," he added.

On the other hand, Sima revealed that the government has been taking ambitious steps to contribute to global adaptation and mitigation efforts, despite contributing less to the cause of the problem.

The deputy minister informed the conference that measures that are already taken include procurement of two weather radars that have enhanced weather monitoring and prediction capacity of TMA.

"others are ongoing expansion and building of Rapid Transport System network in the City of Dar es Salaam; construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) system and Mwalimu Nyerere hydropower plant which is poised to generate 2115MW," added.

According to the minister, these projects apart from contributing to national development will also help to reduce emissions from the atmospheric carbon dioxide which is the main cause of global warming.



We need to accelerate momentum for action and move ahead towards more ambitious goals in all areas deemed important to address climate change

TRC dreams of 20,000km of railway, from 4,700km now

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2018/19.

Others areas of good performance are revenues from commuter train services increasing from 316m/- in 2014/15 to 1.9bn/- in 2018/19, with 845,607 users rising to 4.2 million in 2014/15 and in 2018/19 respectively.

Revenues increased from 17bn/- to 30bn/- from 2014/15 to 2018/19 for cargo wagons while passenger trains

netted over 8.4bn/- earlier and attained over 10.7bn/- in the past fiscal year.

In the past four years, the government injected over 5bn/- for equipment where already over 150 wagons had been renovated to increase rail carriage capacity.

He said renovation of passenger coaches was proceeding, noting that the main preference was to renovate the numerous nearly abandoned

wagons.

In another development, TRC has added another trip from Dar es Salaam to Moshi and back, making the service available thrice rather than twice a week.

He said the move was aimed at meeting increased demand as customers urged TRC to increase frequency of travel to reduce congestion.

Yapi Merkezi of Turkey and Mota-Engil of Portugal two years ago won a \$1.2bn contract to build the 300km SGR section from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro.

Contracts were expected to be awarded for three other sections, Makutupora - Tabora (294km), Tabora - Isaka (133km), and Isaka - Mwanza (248km), apart from Morogoro to Dodoma, and then to Makutupora.



Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (L) is welcomed by CRDB Bank Plc chief commercial officer Dr Joseph Witts shortly before opening an empowerment workshop for contractors and bidders from Shinyanga, Geita, Kigoma and Tabora regions. It was organised by the bank and held in Shinyanga municipality yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government will not set caps on prices of cash crops - Hasunga

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURE Minister Japhet Hasunga said on Wednesday the government will not set indicative prices for various cash crops including cashew nuts insisting to let it be determined by the market.

"Starting this farming season 2019/2020, prices of agricultural crops will be determined by market forces. We used to set indicative prices, the thing that was causing uncertainty to farmers especially when prices of produce drop at the world market," said Hasunga.

The minister made the remarks when speaking at a meeting with various officials at the Lindi Regional Commissioner's office. Hasunga was in the region for a day tour which included review of payments to cashew nut farmers for the 2018/2019 season.

He however insisted the government will closely monitor and supervise the agriculture sector as well as crop prices at internal and international markets. He assured farmers that prices to be

determined by the market would be reasonable. Minister Hasunga asserted the government had in the 2018/2019 farming season set indicative prices for cashew nut, cotton, coffee and tobacco, but were almost offended. We now want farmers to set prices since they are the ones producing the crops.

He said the government through Ministry of Agriculture is planning to ensure availability of professional extension officers with highest level of expertise so that they can help farmers to produce quality products.

He said the ministry intends to put in place an arrangement for supervision of extension officers whereas they will be provided with special forms to evaluate their performance.

The minister faulted banks and financial institutions over failure to provide farmers with loans to enable them secure agricultural inputs.

He was saddened with the news that some cashew nut farmers have not been paid for the previous season (2018/2019), insisting the government has already disbursed all the funds.

Magufuli reiterates need for investment in agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has reiterated need for investment in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sub-sector insisting the three are major components of industrialisation.

The president who is also the CCM national chairman, made the statement yesterday in Mwanza when speaking at the party's National Executive Committee meeting.

He also insisted on strategies to manage strategic cash crops' value chains from inputs, production, harvest, storage, processing and markets.

"Let us aim to end seed dependency

especially on strategic agricultural crops. We are currently importing nearly 70 percent of all the seeds, this shouldn't continue in coming year," asserted the president as he stresses to enhance cooperative unions and protect farmers.

Magufuli was of the view that more irrigation schemes should be established to enhance crop productivity. He said rain-dependency agriculture would hardly take the nation to where it wants to be.

"There should be strategies to promote fish farming as well as reviving the Tanzania Fishing Corporation (TAFICO) which is responsible for managing

fishing activities in the country," Magufuli said noting that the government aims at transforming Tanzania into an industrialised nation with manufacturing sector leading in job creation and national income generation.

He said efforts are made to ensure value addition to all exported agricultural goods as well as investing in simple technologies for establishment of processing factories.

Let us aim to stop importing goods which its raw materials are produced locally such as clothes, shoes, edible oil and furniture, he said.

"It is discouraging seeing imported fish products while we have a number

of lakes and rivers. There are no reasons for the country to import shoes while we are the second in Africa with 32.5 million cattle," Magufuli said as he insisted on technology transfer depending on each sector's requirement.

He said the country's population of nearly 55 million people is a big market for locally made products. He said locally made goods shouldn't be exported to China and India with a population of 1.3 billion people, but rather sold within the country.

The president noted that Tanzanian manufacturers also stand to benefit with the huge market in the Southern African Development Community as

well as several other markets in the eight neighbouring countries.

He said to facilitate business, the government is investing in infrastructure development such as roads, ports and railways. He said the five major ports namely, Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Zanzibar and Pemba are key in economic growth.

"We are rich in natural resources especially lakes and rivers. We occupy 51 percent of Lake Victoria and huge proportions of Lake Tanganyika and Nyasa. We have all the resources we need to develop and change into a middle income sized nation," the president asserted.

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HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA



MNADA WA UUZAJI WA VIWANJA

Mkurugenzi wa Halmashauri ya Jiji la Dodoma anawatangazia Wananchi wote kuwa zoezi la uuzaji wa Viwanja kwa njia ya Mnada litafanyika tarehe **14 Disemba, 2019** siku ya Jumamosi. Mnada utafanyika katika eneo la wazi la Manispaa ya zamani (karibu na Sabasaba) kuanzia saa 4:00 Asubuhi. Zoezi la kutembelea viwanja hivyo litafanyika Ijumaa tarehe 13/12/2019 saa 4:00 asubuhi eneo la mnada. Usafiri utakuwepo.

Viwanja vinavyouzwa ni Maeneo ya:

ENEO	MATUMIZI NA BEI TSHS KWA (SQM1)
IYUMBU (New Town Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viwanja vya Nyumba za kupangisha (Apartments) Viwanja vya Biashara Viwanja vya Viwanda Vidogo
NALA (Industrial Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viwanja vya Viwanda vya aina mbalimbali
NJEDENGWA (Investment Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viwanja vya Nyumba za kupangisha (Apartments) Viwanja vya Biashara
NZUGUNI (Jirani na Uwanja wa Mpira, Soko Kuu na Stendi kuu mpya ya mabasi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viwanja vya Hoteli Viwanja vya Biashara Viwanja vya Maduka makubwa (Shopping Malls)

NB:

- Asilimia 50 ya Malipo italipwa siku ya Mnada
- Asilimia 50 inayobaki italipwa ndani ya siku 14 baada ya Mnada.

Tangazo hili limetolewa na:

**Mkurugenzi wa Jiji,
DODOMA**



TECHNICAL SERVICE TO UNDERTAKE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE IN SIMANJIRO AND LONGIDO DISTRICT

Heifer International Tanzania (HIT) is a non-profit and non-governmental international organization with the mission to alleviate hunger and poverty while caring for the environment through sustainable agriculture practices. It has been operating in Tanzania since 1974 with Reg No. S0. 8367 and its activities have led to improved household nutrition and income by sharing of livestock and knowledge.

Project Overview

Heifer International Tanzania is implementing a five-year Belgian Food Security Program in Longido and Simanjiro districts known as MAISHA BORA. The project goal is to contribute to a higher and more sustainable income and improved nutrition through availability of food to 9,000 households in both districts. As part of the overall goal, the project focuses on two main objectives: (i) Equitable access and sustainable use of livestock resources securing a progressive form of pastoralism and (ii) Improved productivity and quality of animals and the safety of their products. In order to fully understand the project beneficiary's animal health status, HIT invites applications from eligible, competent and qualified individuals/firms to undertake short term consultancy on animal health surveillance in the named districts.

Key Deliverables

- Investigate disease outbreak root causes or predisposing factors and frequency/pattern of occurrence;
- Document livestock productivity and mortalities from sampled project beneficiaries;
- Collect specimen relevant for further analysis and reporting;
- Provide recommendation on disease control strategies.

Qualification & Technical Competencies:

- Advanced degree in relevant field preferably in veterinary studies;
- At least 5 years of demonstrated experience in animal health related assignments;
- Extensive knowledge on livestock management and research;
- Good knowledge and proven experience in survey design, implementation of surveys and statistical data analysis is required;
- Experience in the use of participatory appraisal techniques in data collection and analysis;
- Excellent communication skills in both Kiswahili and English.

How to apply

Interested individuals/firms may obtain detailed Terms of reference (TOR) for this assignment by sending a request to procurement-tz@heifer.org with subject line "VSF PROJECT-ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE".

Deadline for receiving applications is 1600hrs on 19th Dec 2019. TOR request received after the deadline shall not be considered.

Education stakeholders want to see boost in efforts to end challenges facing the sector

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Education Network (TENMET) has called on the government to help solve key challenges facing education sector despite the recently recorded improvements.

Speaking on the sidelines of the ongoing 11th Annual Quality Education Conference (QEC) here, the organisation's Coordinator, Ochola Wayoga said there are still teething problems facing the education sector, calling on the government and other stakeholders to increase efforts in improving quality of education in the country.

He named some of the problems as congestion of pupils in classrooms, caused by increased enrolments as a result of fee-free education policy being implemented by the government.

"Increased enrolment of pupils, especially at primary schools is a very important step towards inclusive education but this should go alongside improving infrastructure," he said.

He mentioned other challenges as shortage of desks, toilets, special rooms for girl children on monthly periods, teaching and learning aids. "There are schools in the country where six pupils are forced to share one book, a situation that is not in line with efforts to improve education," said Wayoga.

He said the meeting that brought together over 210 stakeholders has among other things, discussed how best to improve the improvement of education sector in the country.

Meanwhile, TENMET Programme Manager, Nicodemus Shauri said in the past they called on the government to increase enrolment in primary schools but now there is need to analyse the kind of education they get.

"It is important to see whether education provided to our pupils and students is strong enough to help face challenges in the job market since there is a common hearsay that most university graduates in the country are

not employable," he said.

He also argued that there is need for a national dialogue on the quality of education and why young boys and girls should go to school. He said this might help those who complete studies to employ themselves.

Speaking at the opening of the meeting on Wednesday, the Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Education, Science and Technology Dr Leonard Akwilapo paid tribute to TEN/MET for supporting the country's education sector, insisting that because of its contribution, the government was waiting the deliberations that would come out of the conference, so that it can be able to address the challenges that would be suggested.

"As you continue with your efforts to improve the sector, still we are facing several challenges and I believe that your network in collaboration with scholars and other development partners will come up with recommendations that the government is ready to receive and work on them.

He called upon other stakeholders to support the government initiatives in improving education in the country, saying the government alone cannot bring all the desired changes.

According to the PS, the government was aware of some of the key challenges facing education in the country and is doing all it takes to ensure quality education.



Increased enrolment of pupils, especially at primary schools is a very important step towards inclusive education but this should go alongside improving infrastructure



Tanzania Education Network (TenMet) members deliberate on the state of education in the country at a meeting held in Dodoma yesterday. It was attended by education stakeholders including government officials and researchers as well as representatives of civil society organisations and education institutions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Plans for expansion of Zanzibar's national fibre backbone infrastructure in the offing

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

THE Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar is extending its national Information and Communication (ICT) backbone to cover even the remotest of remote areas.

The move is part of a wider strategy to digitise the economy while also ensuring that ICT becomes a cornerstone for service delivery across the semi-autonomous Indian Ocean archipelago.

The executive director for the Zanzibar ICT Infrastructure Agency, Engineer Shukuru Awadhi Suleiman

told journalists here yesterday that the plan was to ensure that the national ICT backbone passes through all new roads that are currently being built around Unguja and Pemba.

Rolled out about six years ago, Zanzibar's national ICT backbone gets technology boost from a Chinese multinational telecommunications equipment and systems company, ZTE Corporation.

"This is an ongoing project. Wherever a new road is being built, we will always go there," he said.

The plan also endeavours to ensure that the national ICT backbone is able

to reach all government institutions at all levels. "Actual implementation of this started as soon as Zanzibar ICT Infrastructure Agency was initiated on 6th August, 2019. "Currently, we are at Mfenesini-Mkokotoni Road in Unguja North where the road is being built," he said without revealing the actual project cost.

So far, over 120 government institutions are already connected and enjoying services through the national ICT backbone.

The 120 also includes all 11 district offices of the Zanzibar Civil Status Registration Agency which deal with

the issuance of civil status amenities, including access to marriage, divorce and births certificates as well as the Zanzibar Identity Card.

The institutions are also connected to the data centre at Mazizini area in Unguja in what Engineer Suleiman said was a business continuity plan.

"For instance, in case of a fire incident at the headquarters of any public office, one can still be assured of business continuity since similar data will be obtained from the data centre," he said.

This has improved service delivery and communication among them.



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN)

Tender No NCT: SMZ/K01/G/NCT/2019-2020/12

**SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MOTOR VEHICLE
(STATION WAGON AND BUS)**

Invitation for Tenders

Date: 13th December, 2019

1. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training during the financial year 2019/2020. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicle (Station Wagon and Bus).

2. The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training now invites sealed tenders from eligible and qualified Suppliers of:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTIONS	UNIT	QTY
1.	Motor vehicle (Station Wagon)	Pcs	2
2.	Motor vehicle (Bus)	Pc	1

3. Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive Tendering (NCT) in accordance with procedures set out in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act, 2016 (Goods, Works, and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Section 66(1) and is open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.

4. Interested eligible Tenderer may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Secretary, Ministerial Tender Board, and P.O. Box 394 – Zanzibar from 7.30 am to 3.30 pm on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays or email: pmu@moez.go.tz and info@moez.go.tz.

5. A complete set of Tendering Documents in English may be purchased by interested tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Tanzanian

Shillings One Hundred Thousand only (TZS. 100,000). The method of payment will be by Banker's Draft, Banker's Cheque or Cash payable to the Account Number 0403888000 with a Title name Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training-Zanzibar, The Peoples Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ).

6. Tender shall be valid for a period of at least Ninety (90) days after tender opening and must be delivered to the address below at or before 10.00 am on Tuesday, 31st December, 2019. Electronic tendering shall not be permitted. Late tender shall be rejected. Tenders shall be opened physically in the presence of the bidder's representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at 10:30 am of Tuesday, 31st December, 2019.

Tenders MUST be accompanied by an "Original Tender Security" from reputable commercial Bank in an acceptable form as described in the Tendering Document amounting to at least TZS. 9,000,000/- properly addressed to the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar.

7. The address referred to above is:

**The Secretary of the Tender Board,
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training,
Zanzibar
Ground Floor, Room number 17/18,
Mazizini, Airport Road
P.O Box 394, ZANZIBAR.
City: Zanzibar
Country: Tanzania
Telephone: +255 24 223282,
Facsimile No: +255 24 2232827**



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN)

Tender No ICT: SMZ/K01/G/ICT/2019-2020/10

**Supply and Delivery of Exercise Books
for Zanzibar Secondary Schools**

Invitation for Tenders

Date: 13th December, 2019

1. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training during the financial year 2019/2020. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Exercise Books for Zanzibar Secondary Schools.

2. The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training now invites sealed tenders from eligible and qualified Suppliers of:

S/N	Description of Goods	Quantities
1.	Single line Books pages 200	337,018
2.	Single line Books pages 400	337,018

3. Tendering will be conducted through the International Competitive Tendering (ICT) in accordance with procedures set out in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act, 2016 (Goods, Works, and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Regulations, 2006 – Government Notice No. 62 of 2006, and is open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.

4. Interested eligible Tenderer may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Secretary, Ministerial Tender Board, P.O. Box 394 – Zanzibar from 7.30 am to 3.30 pm on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays or email: pmu@moez.go.tz and info@moez.go.tz.

5. A complete set of Tendering Documents in English may be purchased by interested tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Tanzanian Shillings One Hundred Thousand only (TZS. 100,000). The method of payment will be by

Banker's Draft, Banker's Cheque or Cash payable to the Account Number 0403888000 with a Title name Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training-Zanzibar, The Peoples Bank of Zanzibar Forodhani Branch.

6. Tender shall be valid for a period of at least One Hundred Twenty (120) days after tender opening and must be delivered to the address below at or before 10.00 am on Wednesday, 15th January, 2020. Electronic tendering shall not be permitted. Late tender shall be rejected. Tenders shall be opened physically in the presence of the tenderers representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below on Wednesday at 10.30 am of 15th January, 2020.

Tenders MUST be accompanied by an "Original Tender Security" from reputable commercial Bank in an acceptable form as described in the Tendering Document amounting to at least TZS. 37,000,000.00 properly addressed to the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar.

7. The address referred to above is:

**The Secretary of the Tender Board,
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training,
Zanzibar
Ground Floor, Room number 17/18,
Mazizini, Airport Road
P.O Box 394, ZANZIBAR.
City: Zanzibar
Country: Tanzania
Telephone: +255 24 223282,
Facsimile No: +255 24 2232827
Email: pmu@moez.go.tz or info@moez.go.tz**

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

INFORMAL human settlements and poor uses of land have been cited among factors that deny the government a professional chance to distribute key social services among communities in big cities within the country.

However, experts have observed that in most big cities within the country populations continues to grow rapidly but poverty remains prevalent, particularly in Dar es Salaam and

Stakeholders meet to chart ways to deter growth of unplanned settlements in cities

Mwanza.

The challenges have been outlined by varied experts in land and human settlements during the National Policy Dialogue on Urban Land and Nexus convened in capital city for two

consecutive days among others, to deliberate on how best the country can counter the challenge of poor human settlement and uses of land in major cities.

The workshop which attracts experts

from Ardhi University (ARU) and local government officials from different wards in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam has been tailored to give a crucial platform for tabling outcomes of the two-year research on Land Uses and Human Settlement in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam cities.

Entitled 'The Urban Land Nexus and Inclusive Urbanization in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza' the timely research focuses on best ways to make the cities' urbanisation more inclusive by building the capacity of local ward and neighbouring officials and leaders so they can become central to a more inclusive regularisation process.

Speaking in an interview on the sideline of the key gathering, Professor Alphonse Kyessi, a Researcher

Professor from Ardhi University said the focus of the research was also to develop and implement corporation models for simplified sewers that not only improve sanitary conditions, but result into greater formal acceptance of settlements.

"The research also determines to develop and putting into use an evidence base for informing and coordinating the multiple actors involved in the governance of the urban and nexus in each of the big cities," he added.

However, it was raised during the dialogue that, the populations of both Dar es Salaam and Mwanza are growing at between 5 and 6 per cent per year, a very rapid rates by current international and national standards.

"Over half of the growth is due to net immigration. Neither the national nor the local governments have fully come to terms with this growth," observed Professor Wilbard Kombe, a Researcher Professor at Ardhi University.

The two-year research on The Urban Land Nexus and Inclusive Urbanisation in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza is led by the Institute of Development Studies, UK, in partnership with Ardhi University, Centre for Community Initiative (CCI), Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), Estitama-Khartoum, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) University of Khartoum, and Utrecht University-Netherlands under financial patronage of East Africa Research Fund (EARF).



Canghui Traders Ltd director Dennis Jerry (L) is interviewed in Dar es Salaam earlier this week by East Africa Television (EATV) presenter Samson Charles on 'Kibishara Zaidi', a popular business promotion programme run by EATV and East Africa Radio. The company deals in building materials. Photo courtesy of EATV

Government to build another cargo ship for Lake Victoria

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE government plans to construct a cargo ship with the capacity to carry 50 tonnes to only ply in Lake Victoria, according to Chief Executive Officer of the state-owned Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL), Eric Hamissi.

The water body is shared by Tanzania, Uganda as well as Kenya with more than half of it being occupied by Tanzania in proportionality followed by Uganda.

Hamissi said tender for the construction work will be announced next month. He said that currently, MSCL owns a wagon ferry-Mv Umoja that has a carrying capacity of 19 tonnes of wagons.

Hamissi made the statement here yesterday when briefing members of the ruling party's central committee who visited various projects implemented by MSCL in Mwanza city.

He informed that the government also plans to build another cargo ship that will be plying in Lake Tanganyika. He said the new ship is expected to

dominate cargo transportation within East and Central African region as Tanzania is bordered by almost all inland water bodies in the area.

"These cargo ships will ease transportation within the country but also transfer cargos to neighbouring countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We expect to earn a lot from the businesses," he noted.

He pointed out that company's ships



We have not properly used our marine potentials to promote tourism in the country. We should have at least one ship for the purpose

can make good business by transporting cotton seed cake from Tanzania to Uganda and other countries and at the same time come back with iron sheets from Uganda.

According to him, the company also anticipates to have a ship to tap marine tourism potential as the industry is one of the sources of the country's economic drivers.

"We have not properly used our marine potentials to promote tourism in the country. We should have at least one ship for the purpose," he said adding that it is high time the country exploits the opportunities for economic development.

He noted that the company should go beyond and serve as a serious player in promoting tourism industry in the country in its operations.

The CEO revealed that the state-owned company is working on a plan to start ship operations in the Indian Ocean between Tanzania and Comoros to tap the opportunity of transporting goods from Comoros to other countries within East Africa.

Comoros is closer to Tanzania ports than the ports in Mombasa, Kenya and Durban in South Africa, he said.

Use natural gas, minister calls on investors, traders

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

THE government yesterday said that although Tanzania has plenty of natural gas, it was paradoxical that only a small percentage was used while investors and business people frantically used other forms of costly fossil energies.

Deputy Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Musa Sima told a consultative meeting of government officials and private sector representatives held here: "The amount of natural gas used by industries is very small compared to the available gas. We call upon investors and business people to cooperate with Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to build the necessary infrastructure to access and use the available gas."

He added that use of natural gas

meant a huge step towards a cleaner global energy solution, something Tanzania was expected of.

Use of natural gas would reduce carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere and protect environment, he said, adding Tanzania was obliged to contribute towards building a sustainable energy future in the world.

"We have every reason to encourage use of our natural gas," he emphasised.

He appealed to investors to plant trees and start tree seedling nurseries in their premises, echoing an appeal frequently made by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC).

The deputy minister used the occasion to express government's thanks to the private sector, more so investors, for observing laws and protecting Tanzania's environment.

NEMC Eastern Zonal manager, Eng Benjamin Mchwampaka, said NEMC would continue working closely with investors and business people in implementing and observing the Management Environment Act of 2004.

He said NEMC officials had visited over 300 industries in Coast Region. "We wanted to see if the law is observed and advise them on protection of environment. This included urging them to use appropriate forms of energy in production," he said.

Consultative meetings are being held in implementation of President John Magufuli's call. The president called for such meetings to enable the private sector representatives to air their view and recommend how to improve the investment environment and build conducive climate for doing robust businesses in Tanzania.

The Guardian Limited JOB VACANCY

The Guardian Limited (TGL), widely acclaimed as the Home of Great Newspapers, is part of the IPP Group of Companies – one of Tanzania's leading private sector entities with dignified presence in the print media as well as television and radio broadcasting.

TGL currently publishes two upmarket daily newspapers – The Guardian (in English) and Nipashe (in Kiswahili).

In our ongoing endeavour to ensure that we have a team of highly qualified, diligent and motivated professionals in our various departments and units, we are looking for suitable people to fill the following vacancy:

Job Title: SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER

Responsibilities:

- To professionally lead the sales team to achieve the set targets for all publications.
- To Plan, pitch and sale advertisement spaces directly and through our network of freelancers and Agencies.
- To oversees the advertising activity of our publications by ensuring that The Guardian and Nipashe maintain the strong market share in the advertising sector.
- To stay in close communication with the clients, explaining strategy and providing status updates about our publications.
- To build a network of reliable clients who have strong and mutual trust to our brands and thereby give the company an extra advantage in terms of revenues generation.
- To plan and develop special projects like supplements with a purpose of generating additional revenues to the company.

Qualifications:

- Degree in Business Administration/ Sales/ Marketing
- Five years working experience in Sales and Marketing

Skills:

- Excellent communication and negotiation skills
- Ability to positively and meaningfully connect with clients
- Time management skills, particularly as relates to dealing with calls to – and by – clients
- Experience in meeting retention and sales negotiation goals
- Basic computer software skills and ability to work within relevant data spreadsheets
- Ability to work diligently and efficiently in a fast-paced environment
- Attention to detail and ability to reason and think quickly during negotiations

Interested candidates meeting the above-mentioned criteria should send their applications, complete with detailed CVs, addressed to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
THE GUARDIAN LIMITED
P. O. BOX 31042
DAR ES SALAAM

Alternatively, deliver the documents at The Guardian Limited offices in Mikocheni Light Industrial Area – opposite ITV studios or send the application via Email: to vacancy@guardian.co.tz

Deadline: 24th December, 2019

- Please note that only shortlisted candidate will be contacted.

Morogoro traders see Brela bent on burying red tape, corruption

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Morogoro traders said here yesterday that introduction of online registration of business names and companies has eliminated unnecessary travel costs, corruption, connen and would finally bury red tape in provision of services.

In a random interview here soon after a consultative meeting attended by senior government officials, investors and business people, one Mvomero trader, Hamza Kambaulaya, said online services had eliminated journey costs, corruption and had introduced modernity in doing business in rural Tanzania.

"In the past we were harassed by officials. This is now history. We had to travel to Dar es Salaam; now we don't have to. When you register your business online everything is done at the same time: you get your TIN (tax payer's identification number), you get your certificate and so on. If this service will be sustained by Brela, corruption and bureaucracy will be buried and forgotten," Kambaulaya said.

Kambaulaya also said young people were now joyful and content to start and run small business because of the modernity element introduced by online services.

Hashim Maulidi, a wholesale trader of bottled water in Morogoro municipality said people were now confident while doing

business.

"We have a peace of mind. We are doing business without worries," he said.

He also praised the just-ended consultative meeting saying delegates spoke their mind and solutions were found to some irritating small problems.

Acting Brela Chief Executive Officer, Loy Mhando, said the agency would cooperate with other government institutions in encouraging people to register their businesses so that business would be done lawfully and orderly in Tanzania. Lawful and orderly businesses and investments are important components in achieving the national vision of making Tanzania a middle-income industrial nation, she explained.

Brela had positioned itself well to fight corruption, deceit and red tape in serving the public, Mhando stressed.

Last week Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), Angellah Kairuki, told the meeting that the government was happy with Brela's performance because the agency had introduced online services which, she said, had eliminated lots of inconveniences to clients.

In the past, besides travel and lodge costs, unsuspecting upcountry applicants lost money to connen who charged a lot of money posing as insiders who can help applicants get services fast.



Busega district commissioner Tano Mwera (2nd-L) and other stakeholders hold a placard with a message pleading for action against gender-based violence and stigmatisation at an event held earlier this week to mark the anniversary of '16 Days of Activism against GBV'. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Iringa RC suspends district officials' leave over lack of classrooms

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

MORE than 3,000 students in Iringa Region who have passed this year's Standard Seven national examinations will not join secondary schools over lack of classrooms.

Iringa Regional Commissioner, Ali Hapi made the revelation here yesterday when speaking during the education stakeholder's conference which aimed at discussing various issues related to provision of education services as well as to evaluate the region's education performance countrywide.

The stakeholders also discussed

challenges, successes and came up with strategies to enable primary and secondary school students in the region to perform better in the national examinations.

The Regional Commissioner noted that a total of 22,130 Standard Seven leavers passed the national examination but 3,480 among them won't join secondary education in January 2020 over lack of classrooms.

He however suspended all leave applications for District Commissioner, District Executive Directors, District Administrative Secretaries, education officers, planning officers and heads of departments until construction of

classrooms at public secondary schools is completed.

"You will not go on leave until you complete construction of classrooms at your respective districts. I want the job to be completed as soon as possible for students to join their fellows by early 2020," said Hapi as he congratulated Mufindi and Mafinga districts for constructing enough classrooms whereas all the 3,505 passed students will join secondary education in January 2020.

The RC insisted that government's education policy, 2014 states every Tanzanian citizen has the right to education, hence the need to ensure

all passed students join secondary education.

He also called on education stakeholders to partner with the government in creating a conducive learning environment by supporting construction of classrooms, toilets and teachers' houses.

Tanzania is among the countries that have signed and agreed to implement the Millennium Development Goals (SDGs) and among them is goal number four which requires countries to ensure provision of quality education.

Recently, when announcing the 2020 Form One selection in Dodoma, Minister of State in the President's

Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Seleman Jaffo said at least 58,000 primary school pupils who passed this year's Standard Seven national examinations will not join secondary schools in January 2020 over lack of classrooms.

Jaffo said a total of 58,699 pupils equivalent to 773 percent of passed candidates of which 28,567 were boys and 30,132 girls have not been selected.

Minister Jaffo directed District and Regional Commissioners facing shortage of classrooms to complete construction of the remaining rooms by February 29, 2020.

He insisted on regional and district

administrative secretaries to ensure the directive are implemented accordingly for students to join Form One studies by March 2, 2019.

The minister applauded 13 regions that have been able to select all the pupils to public secondary schools mentioning them as Dodoma, Geita, Kagera, Katavi, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Mtwara, Mwanza, Njombe, Ruvuma, Shinyanga, Singida and Tabora.

He however noted that a total of 701,038 pupils equivalent to 92.27 percent, (335,513 boys) and (365,525 girls) have been selected to join secondary schools in 2020.

TBS reaches out to producers in southern zone

By Correspondent Felix

Andrew

MTWARA district commissioner, Evod Mmunda has asked officials of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to closely monitor and support small manufacturers to ensure they produce quality goods.

Speaking during the opening of a seminar

to manufacturers, food processors and cosmetics traders in Mtwara, Mmunda said monitoring them would be part of solutions to ensure production of quality products to suit both internal and external markets.

Mmunda said time has come for the officials to go out of office and look for producers at their premises.

He said manufacturers can

also be educated through social networks, radio, television and newspapers.

The DC stated that small and medium scale entrepreneurs are important in economic growth and country's development, hence the need to educate them on better practices in the manufacturing sector.

He commended TBS for educating them insisting

such trainings helps them to improve skills, share experience and transfer knowledge to their fellows who have not attended.

He said education on use of standard marks, quality assurance, packaging and hygiene at working premises will transform the way most SMEs operate.

However, Mmunda urged stakeholders to be patriotic and be faithful when producing or selling their goods since contrary

to that could endanger health of users. "Production of goods that meet required standards protects the health of consumers, having low quality products in the markets would result into adverse outcome," he said calling upon TBS to also help manufacturers to secure markets.

Earlier, speaking on behalf of Lindi Regional Commissioner, Godfrey Zambi, the District Administrative Secretary, Thomas Safari, said food producers and processors should shun away from producing goods without following standards.

He said Lindi Region mines a lot of salt but most of producers are selling randomly without adding value through iodination and certify their products which retard back their development.

He said time has come for salt producers to certify their products in order to add its value and sell quality finished goods.

TBS has been sensitizing processors, producers and traders of food and cosmetics in Southern zone in districts of Mbinga, Songea, Mtwara and Lindi, with the aim of educating stakeholders on standards, the seminars are sustainable.



INVITATION FOR BID RE-ADVERTISEMENT PURCHASE OF SPARES

1. Tanga Cement Public Limited Company is hereby inviting bids from interested eligible plant spare parts dealers to purchase different spares at its plant located at Pongwe Industrial Area, Korogwe Road, Tanga.
2. Interested eligible bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents from the office of the Procurement Manager located at Pongwe Industrial Area, Korogwe Road, Tanga; between 08H00 to 14H00 on Mondays through Fridays (excluding public holidays).
3. Inspection of spare parts will be conducted between 08H30 to 15H00 on Mondays to Fridays (excluding public Holidays) from 08H30 to 15H00 only at the company's plant, Pongwe Industrial Area, Korogwe Road, Tanga.
4. All bids must be deposited in the tender box located at the visitors' gate in Tanga by 12H00 on 2 January 2020
5. All bids must be marked with the bid title and number, and addressed to

The Managing Director
Tanga Cement PLC
P O Box 5053
Tanga

6. This is a mere invitation to bids; it does not in any way constitute an offer to a contract or bind Tanga Cement PLC in any way.
7. Tanga Cement PLC is not bound to accept the highest or other bid.



ADVERT FOR NEW PROJECT – CONSERVING FORESTS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FOREST-BASED ENTERPRISE SUPPORT IN TANZANIA-CoForEST

TFCG is a national Non-Governmental Organisation, established in 1985 with registration number 1760. TFCG's priority geographical areas are the Eastern Arc Mountain and Coastal Forests. These forests are globally important biodiversity hotspots, and provide vital ecosystem services including water catchment, soil conservation, and carbon storage.

TFCG is governed by a voluntary committee comprised of dedicated conservationists from development partners, government, academia, civil society and private sector.

Our mission

To reduce poverty in rural communities and to conserve the biodiversity of globally important forests in Tanzania for the benefit of the present and future generations. We achieve this through capacity building, advocacy, research, community development, and protected area management, in ways that are sustainable and foster participation, gender equity and partnership.

Our vision

We envisage a world in which Tanzanians and the rest of humanity are enjoying diverse benefits from well-conserved high biodiversity forests in Tanzania.

In November 2019 TFCG signed a three-year contract agreement (December 2019 to November 2022), to receive a grant from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for the amount not exceeding USD 3,400,000 to implement the project of Conserving Forests through sustainable forest-based Enterprise support in Tanzania-CoForEST.

For contact
Tanzania Forest Conservation Group,
Box 23410,
Dar es Salaam
Email: tcfcg@tfcg.or.tz
Website: www.tfcg.org

By Guardian Reporter, Tabora

Tabora gets 250 cement bags for construction of girls' dormitories

THE Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) has donated 12.5 tonnes of cement for construction of girls' dormitories at various secondary schools in Tabora Region.

Speaking at an event to hand over the 250 bags of cement at Itonjanda ward in Tabora municipal, TAA Acting Commercial Director, Rose Comino said the authority provides various support to the community as part of community social responsibility (CSR).

She said the authority supports educational projects because it

believes that all children are equal and deserve quality education as well as being protected from any challenges that may result into failure to achieve their life dreams.

Comino urged Tabora residents to

continue supporting their legislator-Munde Tambwe (Special Seats-CCM) in her endeavours to improve provision of education in the region.

"Let us join hands with our MP in ending early pregnancies to school

girls. We do not want girls to walk for long distances to and from school, the dormitories will protect our children from early pregnancies and other forms of violence", said the TAA official adding that with the dormitories more girls will complete their secondary school education

She said being the government entity established in 1997, TAA is responsible for supporting community projects. She said the authority also provides opportunities to Tanzanians to operate businesses at airports as well as transporting agricultural produce.

Special Seats MP, Munde Tambwe commended TAA for the support insisting the aim is to construct

dormitories at every ward secondary school in Tabora region.

"The government is implementing a free education policy; we must support



We do not want girls to walk for long distances to and from school, the dormitories will protect our children from early pregnancies and other forms of violence

government's efforts by ensuring our girls stay at school and complete their secondary education. Walking for too long distances contributes into some girls failing to fulfill their life dreams due to pregnancy," said the legislator.

Tambwe said that 100 cement bags will be given to Itonjanda ward while the remaining 150 cement bags will be distributed to various schools across the region.

CCM chairman at Itonjanda ward thanked TAA for the support as the girls will comfortably attend classes. He promised to provide support to the Special Seats MP to ensure the targeted aim of having dormitories at each of the public secondary schools it achieved.



Tabora regional commissioner Aggrey Mwanri demonstrates to residents of Mtapenda village in Kaliua District yesterday how best to spray cotton plants with pesticides. Photo: Correspondent Vincent Tiganya

Ikungi district officials applauded for proper supervision of projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Ikungi

THE Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments Seleman Jaffo has expressed satisfaction with the progress on implementation of various development projects in Ikungi District, Singida Region.

Minister Jaffo commended the Ikungi District Executive Director, Justice Kijazi for properly supervising the projects as well as ensuring value for money. He said the Director has through 'forced account' managed to spend just 420m/- to construct a modern conference hall and another 200m/- for construction of an office block.

Jaffo is in the district for an official visit which includes inspection of various development projects such as construction of health centres and others. He said his ministry has been inspecting various projects across the country, but he has been impressed with the way Ikungi District has supervised its projects.

"You have managed to properly use

the monies, construction of a modern conference hall and office block is such a milestone," said the minister calling upon other districts to learn from Ikungi on how to supervise projects.

He hailed the district director noting that all the constructed structures have value for money and have been built in accordance with the required standards.

He appealed to the Kondo and Iramba councils to come and learn from Ikungi district.

The minister was concerned with the poor supervision and



You have managed to properly use the monies, construction of a modern conference hall and office block is such a milestone

implementation of development projects in Iramba district council since authorities have failed to complete construction of two health centers.

"I am disappointed with the way officials at Iramba have handled the health centre project, there is negligence because the central government has already disbursed all the required funds," complained Jaffo.

Jaffo issued a four-day ultimatum to Iramba DC and DED to provide reasons as to why they should not be held accountable.

Earlier, Ikungi District Executive Director, Justice Kijazi said they arrived to a decision to construct a conference hall because since the district was established in 2013, staffs have been renting private buildings for various meetings and official work.

Kijazi explained that the new modern conference hall will not only be used by district officials, but will also serve as a source of income for the council.

District chairman, Juma Ali Mwangi, requested the minister to facilitate the process for construction of a district hospital.

JUA technologies, BrazAgro to supply solar crop-drying trays in East Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

JUA Technologies International, a Purdue University-affiliated startup developing solar-powered crop-drying devices has partnered with BrazAgro Ltd, a supplier of Brazilian farm machinery, to distribute its solar-drying trays to countries within East Africa.

Under the partnership with BrazAgro, the company will distribute the trays in Tanzania, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

Dehytray is a solar-drying solution for small and mid-size growers, food processors and home gardeners.

Its convenient size and ease of use are backed by years of research into drying technology. It is durable, approved for food use, and designed for optimum drying of foods using natural solar energy.

It is designed for drying grains, fruit, vegetables, fish, meat and more.

JUA Technologies International

was co-founded by the husband-wife team of Klein Ileleji, a professor in agricultural and biological engineering at Purdue, and Reiko Habuto Ileleji.

When they visited Nairobi during the summer to demonstrate the Dehytray at the 6th Agritech Exhibition and Congress, they received immense interest in the product from local farmers and processors, who quickly realised its benefits to the profitability of their operations.

Securing distributors across wide-ranging regions, four continents and counting, is a challenging endeavor.

Throughout East Africa, the Dehytray will be used to dry specialty crops like leafy green vegetables, okra, mango, bananas, guava, tubers such as cassava and sweet potato, coffee, and grains, among other food products.

The Dehytray meets a high hygienic standard for sun drying of crops, is quite portable, and can be adapted into

a wide range of processing operations for the farm or small to mid-size processor.

The Dehytray was developed at Purdue's agricultural and biological engineering programme. The research was funded partly by USAID and USDA.

Field tests on drying specialty (horticultural) crops and grains using the Dehytray have been carried out in the US, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Kenya, South Africa and Peru.

The Dehytray has been shipped to customers on four continents since it became available on the market in December 2018.

Some of the technology used by JUA Technologies International is licensed through the Purdue Research Foundation Office of Technology Commercialisation.

JUA Technologies also received entrepreneurial support from the Purdue Foundry.

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JOB VACANCY

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TGL currently publishes two upmarket daily newspapers – The Guardian (in English) and Nipashe (in Kiswahili).

In our ongoing endeavour to ensure that we have a team of highly qualified, diligent and motivated professionals in our various departments and units, we are looking for suitable people to fill the following vacancy:

Job Title: CREDIT OFFICER

Responsibilities:

- Collection of outstanding payments in respect of advertisements
- Issuance of credit notes and control of credit
- Reconciliation of customers' accounts
- Leading freelancers in making follow-ups on uncollected debts
- Ensuring that the debt status is as accurate and current as possible
- Developing reports on aged debt accounts and outstanding day sales
- To identify delinquent debts and take necessary action to recover the debts
- Offering customers quality services in a prompt manner
- Ensuring timely transfer of credit made to, and payments made by, customers
- Reviewing collection queue to perform collection activities accordingly
- Adhering to customer credit policies and procedures
- Closing outstanding amounts in monthly collection accounts to meet set targets
- Contacting debtors and implementing repayment schedules and terms
- Assisting in efforts to take legal action against debtors, including by providing necessary information
- Maintaining security and confidentiality of Company and customer information
- Ensuring compliance with the law during the collection of debts

Qualifications:

- Degree in Finance/Accounts/Credit Management
- Three years working experience in Debt Collection and Credit Control

Skills:

- Excellent communication and negotiation skills
- Ability to positively and meaningfully connect with clients and encourage them to make timely payments of debts owed
- Time management skills, particularly as relates to dealing with calls to – and by – clients
- Experience in meeting retention and sales negotiation goals
- Basic computer software skills and ability to work within relevant data spreadsheets
- Ability to work diligently and efficiently in a fast-paced environment
- Attention to detail and ability to reason and think quickly during negotiations
- Interested candidates meeting the above-mentioned criteria should send their applications, complete with detailed CVs, addressed to:

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
THE GUARDIAN LIMITED
P. O. BOX 31042
DAR ES SALAAM**

Alternatively, deliver the documents at The Guardian Limited offices in Mikocheni Light Industrial Area – opposite ITV studios or send the application via Email: vacancy@guardian.co.tz

Deadline: 13 December, 2019

- Please, note that only shortlisted candidate will be contacted.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Agricultural bank crucial, but is it adequately 'fed'?

IT has been said countless times, and very correctly so, that agriculture is the backbone - or the main part - of Tanzania's economy.

By some authoritative accounts, the country had until some three years ago over 44 million hectares of arable land but with only one-third of this cultivated.

Also not altogether inspiring are reports that roundabout 70 per cent of Tanzanians live in rural areas and most of these are engaged in small-scale or subsistence farming overwhelmingly dependent on availability of rain.

So, while the country is blessed with an abundance of arable land, it is yet to fully transform that potential wealth into an asset to ensure its food security even if it is only with regard to the major food crops.

Of course, this is not to belittle the part cash crops play by contributing to the country's foreign exchange earnings, particularly with respect to coffee, sisal, cashewnuts, tea, cotton and tobacco.

The country's agriculture is faced with daunting challenges, which is precisely why the government views it as a priority sector that must be supported and developed to enable the country to boost productivity and combat poverty. The frequency with which the government has devised and implemented various agriculture-related programmes and projects over the decades in collaboration with the country's development partners and various other stakeholders is evidence of the nation's attachment to the sector.

The much-touted but ill-fated 'Kilimo Kwanza' is one such example that readily comes to mind. But the truth remains that, as numerous records show, we are yet to engage in really efficient and truly productive agriculture - that is, relative to the resources and potential so generously at our disposal.

This is one of the reasons our people had for long demanded the creation of a "bank with a difference" that would

cater specifically for farmers both big and small, including by affording them credit facilities for the purchase of crucial inputs and implements at concessional rates.

Numerous studies show, and largely tally with the experience Tanzanians themselves have, that funding constraints and lack of appropriate farming education constitute part of the undoing of the country's agriculture.

Among the other challenges, as noted, are the vagaries of the weather and problems with accessing modern agricultural technology.

It was partly in recognition of all this as well as the fact that a troubled agricultural sector would translate into a rise in the incidence and prevalence of unemployment, hunger, malnutrition and starvation, and diseases rates that the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) was set up a few years ago.

We are told that, officially, the bank is expected to lead capacity-building strategies and programmes to strengthen the agriculture financing value chain and to support government initiatives meant to shape and implement policies and initiatives for agricultural and rural lending.

TADB is also tasked with implementing the government's financial sector reforms and the national policies and strategies for the development of agriculture in the country.

The degree to which the state-owned development finance institution is faring in catalysing the development of agriculture and generally promoting economic growth, boosting food security and easing income poverty in Tanzania in line with the law under which it was established is subject to discussion.

However, in our view, of most importance and relevance is the need for the bank to land as much support as possible to efficiently play the patriotic role it is both expected and supposed to play.

Registering four million children for birth certification is laudable

WHILE millions of people are finding it a pain in the neck to get properly registered for national identification cards, a window of opportunity has been showing results for families wishing to obtain birth certificates for children under five.

Reports say that nearly four million such children have been registered and obtained birth registration certificates across 13 regions since the introduction of a decentralised registration system in 2013.

It has taken five years but they were not being hassled, merely finding the time to take the baby and register, or a toddler as it may be.

In a programme that has a number of key stakeholders, current data suggest that the registration rate rose to 49 per cent of eligible children - from 13 per cent before the decentralised procedure commenced.

It is jointly implemented by the government, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Canadian government and a mobile phone service provider, and is being scaled up gradually, via selected regions.

The picture that comes up is a hassle-free user friendly catch up drive for most children to be registered and thus actual social welfare needs be known right at the start.

For instance, a number of regions have been tasked with completing the construction of rooms for secondary school classes, which had to do with poor estimates. Keeping records properly and projecting needs enables the country to be more prepared to meet challenges when they come, including getting organised.

Already four million children had been reached in 13 regions, and a roll out in two more regions promised to add 560,000 children under five

years of age, on the basis of remarks by the Constitutional and Legal Affairs ministry.

It is an example that if studied and compared to other rapid registration exercises especially during elections, can sort out the NIDA cards conundrum that has defied deadlines, twice.

There appears to be a problem in the way in which the NIDA side of registration is being undertaken, as the vetting is do exhaustive and the work parceled out to so many people as to make voting registration look like a wedding invitation.

Yet there isn't a moment where being a citizen matters more or is more effective than when one votes, in which case the same procedure that enables people to register without hassle in voting, or in the current issue, getting birth certificates for under-five kids, ought to be the case for NIDA.

That is what President John Magufuli tasked the authority to do as he toured Morogoro Region recently, but not much has been heard as to what the authority will do to sort out the registration and card issuance matters.

What is also remarkable is that the registration of children under five benefited from collaboration involving planning and synergies of different organisations, which does not appear to have been considered in the card issuance matter. At a certain moment in the past it was declared by NIDA top officials that they would use data by the National Electoral Commission to issue identity cards.

Later, it was as if this promise was forgotten and everything was to start afresh, and we hear 29 million SIM-cards are yet to be registered while the second deadline nears. Messages are conflicting on what happens next, a regulatory caveat. The confusion must end - and the sooner, the better.

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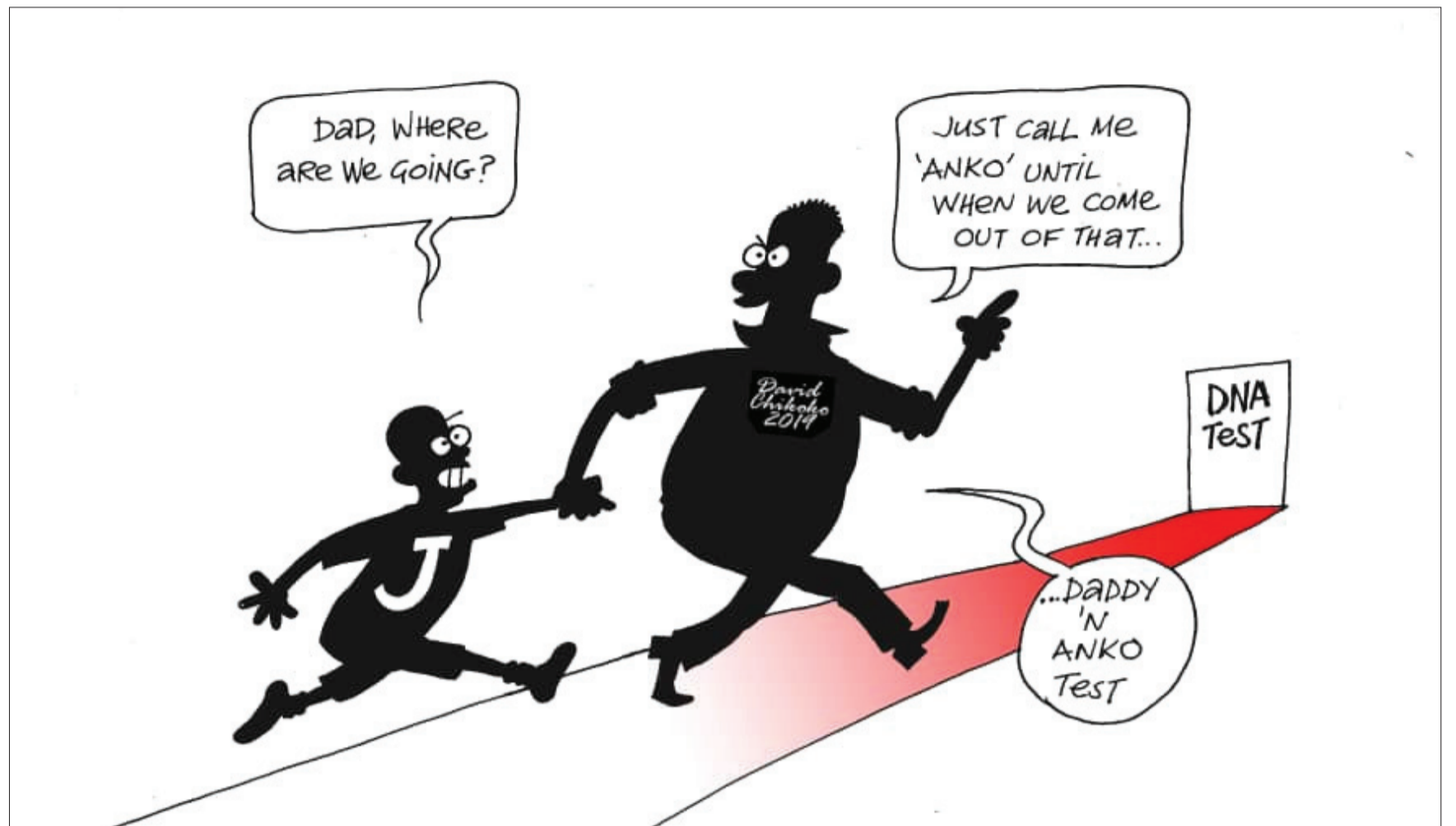
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Tanzania's tech innovators on the future of work

By Special Correspondent

MUCH of the ongoing debate around digitisation and automation often focuses on fears that technology will lead to an avalanche of job losses.

However, on the other side of the debate are the optimists who argue that harnessing new tech naturally leads to increased productivity through the deployment of innovative business strategies - and this means bigger revenues and a rise in employment opportunities.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), whichever side of the debate you stand on, one thing is certain - and it is that we all will need to embrace new ways of working. Countries, corporate bodies and training institutions will all need to rethink their strategies and incorporate new mode of operation if they are to survive in the digital age.

Every worker, student, entrepreneur and what not will also need to keep this in mind and vigorously seek ways to reskill or upskill, or risk redundancy.

But just where do developing countries such as Tanzania stand in these fast-moving times? How can we catch up with the rest of the world in the 4th Industrial Revolution when we are fighting to become an industrialised nation?

Experts believe that, although currently lagging behind in terms of technological advancements, developing nations could find themselves having a surprise advantage over the more developed ones.

The term 'leapfrogging' is often used to describe this advantage. African countries, which are riddled with infrastructural deficiencies, have used innovative solutions to bypass some of these shortcomings and challenges.

Game-changing interventions include access to, and deployment of, mobile money services, mobile health insurance, biomedical smart jackets which diagnose pneumonia four times faster than any doctor ever could, as well as a variety of chatbot-based services which share valuable knowledge with rural farmers, expectant mothers and medical professionals.

Given Edward, CEO of Mtabe App and My Elimu, said in a recent interview that Tanzania could safely boost the use of technology in accelerate social and economic development.

"If we spend two weeks doing one thing in our own traditional ways but only a day if assisted by appropriate technology, we would surely be accelerating whatever processes we are pushing," said Edward, adding: "Technology anywhere works to improve three things: speed, quality and accessibility. For any society to see true, meaningful or genuine development, these three things are a



must," added Edward.

The statement was backed by Isaya Yunge, another Tanzanian youth tech innovator at Kaya Smart and Somaapp Technologies, who also said that entrepreneurs are using tech to accumulate wealth while solving a whole range of social and other challenges.

"These days, many entrepreneurs are building wealth despite these and other challenges, and this is the advantage that present-day society is reaping," said Yunge. "It's the Mtabe App, NALA Money, Visomo App, Dakarti App and the like that comes from young people that are meeting these challenges head-on," he added.

He said the use of technological solutions from the lowest levels of society is important to the people, "and if well executed it will generate income, create employment, boost payment of taxes and generally reward those who devised them".

"This would be by way of creating wealth and, by logical extension, touching off a rise in the number of philanthropists and people and institutions interested in further investing the tech ecosystem in Tanzania," according to Yunge.

However, he wondered how hard and creatively Tanzanians could be doing to put in place appropriate conditions for more youth and university graduates to use technology and come up with home-grown solutions.

A response to this could be by casting a keen glance at initiatives by the like of ILO as implemented in Tanzania, with a view to empowering people with regard to the use of environment-friendly technology.

The UN agency launched the Global Commission on Future of Work in Geneva on January 22, 2019, the focus being on three pillars of action: investing in people's capabilities, investing in the institutions of work, and investing in decent and sustainable work. A Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work was adopted by ILO in June 2019.

The centenary was marked at a time of transformative change in the world of work, driven by technological innovations, demographic shifts,

environmental and climate change, and globalisation.

An ILO report says: "The future is certainly marked by technological advancements which are facilitating new business models and new ways that workers engage in. Increased automation and computerisation, however, are causing major disruption and, in some cases, a replacement of tasks leading to job loss."

It further notes that this means that we need to rethink our skills development strategies to meet new demands, and does not have to spell disaster.

"In fact, technological advancements can yield more employment opportunities. Think about the increased number of drivers in Dar es Salaam after the advent of services such as Uber," says the report.

Advancements in the world of technology are changing the world of work alongside spelling golden opportunities for young people in Tanzania. One of these is Tulinana Bohela, co-founder of Ona Stories - a storytelling and technology company. Bohela and colleagues in the firm have been capitalising on the rewards new trends of technology offer to improve the scope and quality of their storytelling.

"We are always on the lookout for new ways and techniques that will help us tell our stories better. The future of work is developing really fast, but I think this happens differently for different sectors," notes Bohela.

Despite engaging technology to improve their work and lives, she insists on having more desirable soft skills and a more adaptable character so as have the capacity "to adjust more comfortably in a world that is heading into the 4th industrial Revolution - and Tanzania cannot afford to continue lagging behind".

"Young people need to integrate that and know that their value is the sum of what they bring to the table in terms of their skills, their thinking and their creativity, rather than the titles behind it all," adds Bohela.

Sahara Ventures CEO Jummane Mtambalike meanwhile said that the future of work requires young people to be equipped with knowledge well beyond whatever they would get from school.

"They need to think critically and learn how to analyse issues and how to communicate and engage with people, things that a computer and other machines just cannot do to satisfaction," he said.

"Jobs can be taken over, but there will always be more that innovative minds will create. The issue is how we prepare our young people by arming them with relevant skills and relevant resources to enable them to take up these new jobs," he added.

Young tech innovator Mtambalike

explained how, for instance, thousands upon thousands of people use Instagram to generate income, a new opportunity towards work grasped by tech enthusiasts".

He elaborated: "If you visit Instagram even now, you are sure to find thousands of women are using the platform to do business. We've just finished do some work with UN Women, dealing with women in business. A total of 700 women registered to engage in our event last year, with 64 per cent of them using Instagram to do their businesses."

Despite all this, Mtambalike says he remains convinced that the most important thing is not just skills "because computers have reaching a stage where they can do almost everything, and therefore we need to invest more in soft skills, extra-curricular programme". He is categorical that the future of learning "shouldn't be left within the four walls of the classroom".

One of the recommendations put forward by the ILO's Global Commission on the Future of Work is the formal recognition of people's universal entitlement to lifelong learning and the establishment of an effective life-long learning system.

As noted, if people are to benefit most from new opportunities in the constantly changing world of work, they need to re-skill and up-skill throughout their working lives.

New skills will be needed in the future, while some skills will have outlived their usefulness. Analytical, problem-solving, creative thinking skills will be more in demand - as will technological designing and programming as well as emotional intelligence.

These modern-day skills cannot be acquired on an ad hoc or one-off basis; they are attained through constant updating, and hence the need of life-long learning.

An estimated 15 to 20 million increasingly well-educated young people are expected to join the African workforce every year for the next three decades. Delivering the quality jobs needed to fully leverage the continent's demographic opportunity is set to be one of sub-Saharan Africa's defining challenges over the coming years.

LO proposes the devising and implementation of a human-centred agenda for the future of work, an agenda that helps strengthen social contracts by placing people and the work they do at the centre of economic and social policy and business practice.

Many could be viewing the future of jobs as a threat, but technology is proving that it has the capacity to bring in new opportunities and new jobs despite the odds. This is enough cause for some celebration, while humankind continues to appreciate the need to engage in all manner of gainful employment.

This is precisely how high taxes on leather processing machines thwart sector's growth

By Correspondent James Kandoya, Dodoma

ANNA Malongo (25) is one of shoemakers living in Nkunhangu suburb, few kilometres from the country's capital - Dodoma, benefiting from the leather sector.

Her story dates back in 2013, after she attended a shoes designing and manufacturing training from Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO).

She further attended another training organised by the Agricultural Non Actor Stakeholders Forum (ANSAF) in 2014 to further her capacity in the similar field.

Malongo now owns her small shoes making factory near Nanenane grounds, enabling her to earn a living for her family and the nation using hand machine at her workshop.

She says that her idea resonates with the fifth-phase government target of becoming an industrial economy and middle income country by the year 2025.

"I'm currently owning a small shoe designing and making workshop. Together with me, I have employed more three workers. I sell my products to customers in Singida and some in Dar es Salaam region," she said.

She has a special message, "I call upon the government to waive or lower tax charged to imported tanning and leather processing machine to enable us to buy raw materials at low cost."

Malongo is not alone, she represents majority of small entrepreneurs who face similar challenges in different parts of the country and would one day want their dreams be achieved.

In her views, she describes lack of modern machines as one of big the challenges she encounters hence drawbacks efforts to realise her dream.

As a result, she uses hand machines



Anna Malongo, a woman shoe maker working in her own workshop located near Nanenane grounds in Dodoma city. Photo: ANSAF

that sometimes take longer time to finish one pair of product compared to if she had used machines.

"If there are many skin processing plants, I could easily manufacture many shoes and at cheaper prices contrary to how it is now," she noted.

Besides that, low investment in value addition denies individuals and nation earnings, as nearly 90 percent of exports are raw hides and skins.

Explaining her future plan, Malongo said "I want to be a larger scale entrepreneur owning a modern shoe factory that can employ many people as well as producing related products."

What worries her, is the exorbitant prices charged to the imported tanning

and leather processing machine amounting to 80 m/-. calling upon the government and the private sector to volunteer supporting her.

According to her, improvements in hides and skins handling can enhance the role of leather industry in creation of employment and poverty reduction.

Country situation Despite the fact that Tanzania is second country to have large livestock population in Africa (accounts II per cent of African cattle population), the contribution of leather sector to GDP is remarkably minimal.

This is attributed by a number of factors including low public financing set through the budget allocated in the sec-

tor.

In view of the fact, there is a direct relationship between the level of investment in the livestock projects, (like any other economic sector) and its GDP contribution.

The experience has also shown that when a serious public financing to the livestock sector especially on development budget is made, there is a great potential for the livestock sector to contribute to the national economy.

At present, the livestock sector is predominantly done by smallholder's keepers and pastoralists, many of whom are women constrained by a lack of access to inputs, services, information and markets.

Providing incomes for smallholders, the livestock sector has the potential to create thousands of jobs through increased production and commercialization of processed products both for domestic and regional demand.

On the other hand, more efforts in improving leather value chain is very important to make the sector vibrant, currently, it is performing at a very low level.

Traditional based animal husbandry practices, poor slaughtering facilities, old technologies in both tanning and leather manufacturing industries are some of constrains along value chain that limits the development of the leather sector in the country.

The government recently launched the Tanzania Livestock Master Plan (TLMP) to address all challenges facing the sector to achieve the Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) by 2025.

One of the TDV goals is that by year 2025 there should be a livestock sector, which, to a large extent shall be commercially run, modern and sustainable

using improved and highly productive livestock to ensure food security, improved income for households and the nation while conserving the environment.

The Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Luhaga Mpina said that at the launching of the plan held in Dar es Salaam that 64 percent of the fund set 1.4tr/- will come from the private sector while government contribution is about 36 percent.

The plan is an integral part of Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP II).

He said the TLMP sets out livestock sector investment interventions on improved genetics feed and water resources, health services, huge investment on industry and factory.

Other interventions are on promoting private sector investments and business environment and hence complementary policy support which will help to meet the sector wide approach programme.

Furthermore, the plan sets also to develop and improve red and white meat production, milk and other priority livestock products.

"I call on the development partners and private sector to join hands with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to ensure that the plan is effectively and efficiently implemented for the betterment of the livestock sector, the nation and the world as a whole," he said.

In a similar sentiment, the (ANSAF) Executive Director Audax Lukonge said it was an important opportunity for the government to continue creating conducive environment for important stakeholders and the private sector as well.

He advised the government to review the livestock policy saying the current policy is outdated and need to be reviewed.

"The policy should be reviewed. It should focus on livestock, their owners and the value chain, increase efficiency, link production and the industries, link the private sector and industries and open employment opportunities.

According to the minister, Tanzania accounts for about 14 per cent of the global cattle population and 11 per cent of African cattle population.

It has about 30.5 million cattle, 18.8 million goats, and 5.3 million sheep. Others include 1.9 million pigs, 38.2 million local chickens, and 36.6 million improved chickens.

The sector employs about 50 percent of the population which is equivalent to 4.6 million households who their incomes depend on livestock.

However, the Trend Analysis of Public Financing to the Livestock Sector in the country shows that for the last six fiscal years, Tanzanian national budget has been increasing at different rates, from over 15bn/- in the fiscal year 2012/13 to over 31bn/- in the fiscal year 2017/18.

While the national total budget doubled between the fiscal year 2012/13 and 2017a/18, the public agricultural sector basket has not exceeded 7 percent.

Maputo commitment and Malabo declaration demand 10 percent national budget allocation to agriculture sector so as to attain annual 6 percent sector net growth.

Climate financing being undermined by rich nations, NGOs charge

UNITED NATIONS

THE successful battle against climate change - which has triggered a rash of natural disasters, including floods, droughts and rising sea levels - will be predicated largely on the availability of financing.

The World Bank last year pledged \$200 billion to finance the fight against climate change, between 2021 and 2025.

In October, the US offered \$1.21 billion to support Blue Economy - an offer described as a proverbial drop in the world's besieged oceans.

But Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is aiming high.

Last week, at the Conference of Parties (COP25) climate change conference in Madrid, he said: "We should ensure that at least \$100 billion dollars a year, is available to developing countries for mitigation and adaptation taking into account their legitimate expectations to have the resources necessary to build resilience and for disaster response and recovery."

Guterres said there was a need to replenish the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to meet the commitment to mobilize the estimated \$100 billion per year for climate action.

But at the GCF Pledging Conference in Paris last October, rich nations pledged only \$9.8 billion to the Fund leaving a yawning gap.

But not surprisingly, climate financing was one of the key issues at the two week long COP25 meeting which concludes December 13.

A coalition of over 150 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and climate change activists has called on developed countries "to stop using bullying tactics to block funding for climate disasters".

"But developed countries - those most responsible for the climate crisis - including the UK, US, EU, Australia and Japan, have spent years blocking concrete progress to create funding and debt relief for countries in the global South most affected by rising global temperatures", said the coalition in its letter.

Tim Jones, Head of Policy, Jubilee Debt Campaign and a signatory to the letter, told IPS that a new fund has to be agreed; otherwise countries suffering from the impacts of climate

change will be pushed into taking on ever higher unjust debts.

"There are multiple sources of finance from taxes on financial transactions to international air travel. All developing countries hit by disasters should get moratoriums on debt payments so vital funds stay in the country for rebuilding in the immediate aftermath," he pointed out.

Furthermore, said Jones, funds should stop being wasted on expensive private schemes such as climate insurance, which lead to public money being wasted on private sector profit.

For example, he said, one climate insurance scheme in the Caribbean has received \$293 million in premium payments and grants from donors since it began in 2007 but has paid out just \$131 million in claims.

In contrast, \$105 million from the scheme has gone to private insurance companies as profit, he added.

The open letter from the NGO coalition says: "The under-signed organisations, recognizing that the UN finds that climate disasters are now occurring at the rate of one per week and are set to cost at least \$300 billion per year by 2030, call for an end to the stalemate in negotiations and the creation of a comprehensive financing facility, including debt relief, for developing countries experiencing such disasters.

"Without finance to help countries cope with climate-induced loss and damage, the most vulnerable parts of the world will sink deeper into debt and poverty every time they are hit by climate disasters they did not cause."

The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM), which is being reviewed at COP25, was established in 2013 to support vulnerable countries already experiencing extreme and slow onset climate disasters, such as flooding, droughts and rising sea levels.

Six years on, the WIM has failed in its main purpose - to propose concrete, rights-based financing solutions for communities being hit by climate disasters, the letter adds.

Cameron Diver, Deputy Director-General, the Pacific Community (SPC), who is at the COP25 in Madrid, told IPS sea-level rise is already underway.

"We have seen its effects in the islands of the Blue Pacific continent, as we have in countries and communities



around the globe. If we truly want to limit the impact on our populations, what we need, to paraphrase Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the opening of COP 25, is ambition in mitigation, ambition in adaptation and ambition in finance".

He said ambition in mitigation is to ensure that "we limit levels of greenhouse gas emissions to levels compatible with the Paris Agreement and that contribute to the transformative approach necessary for our economies and societies to make the low carbon transition."

Without enhanced mitigation actions, global warming will continue, the climate emergency will become ever more dire and our communities will suffer the consequences, he warned.

"This must be accompanied in equal measure by increased ambition in adaptation, so that we accompany the most vulnerable countries and communities in their efforts to adapt to a changing environment and, for coastal communities, to increased salinization of soils and groundwater, to ocean acidification and coral bleaching that destroys coastal ecosystems and livelihoods, to an ocean that encroaches on sometimes already limited land masses," he noted.

Without adaptation and mitigation working hand in hand, we will not get the full benefit of concentrated climate action to stem sea-level rise and its effects.

"And the achieve all of this, we need ambition in finance", said Diver. "We need to unlock and increase existing international and national climate funds to transform promises on the paper into outcomes in the field and we need public and private finance to accompany the low carbon transition, invest in the green and blue economies, divest investment portfolios of non-Paris Agreement compatible assets and provide the level of funding required to meet global climate ambition," he argued.

Harjeet Singh, ActionAid's global lead on climate change, told IPS: "Concrete financing solutions are urgently needed to repair the devastation already being caused by climate change and to prepare for an uncertain future."

"Our analysis shows that ending state subsidies for fossil fuels and a progressive tax on the oil and gas industry would raise the billions needed to adapt to and repair the harmful impacts of global warming. These solutions put the onus on those responsible for the climate crisis and protect the rights of those most at risk," he added.

ActionAid's report, Market solution to help climate victims fail human rights test, looks at the various financing options that help survivors of climate disasters and protect their human rights.

The report examined the current options for market, state and 'innovative' funding mechanisms available to cover the soaring costs of loss and damage related to rising global temperatures, reviewing their effectiveness against key human rights principles.

Singh said most market solutions put the financial burden back on developing countries, who are least responsible for causing the climate crisis. These mechanisms also fail against transparency and accountability measures and do not involve the people most at risk in decision making to protect their rights.

The analysis identified clear winners:

- Progressive taxes such as a Climate Damages Tax on oil, gas and coal extraction and the Financial Transaction Tax, a small levy to raise revenue from the trading of financial instruments.
- Shifting state subsidies away from fossil fuels and towards addressing the impacts of climate change and funding a 'Just Transition' to a low-carbon global economy.

On the GCF, he said: "We expect rich countries to at least double their previous commitments to the Green Climate Fund, recognising that this remains inadequate to address the full scale of the crisis.

"To effectively tackle the climate crisis, we need to see a massive shift in financial flows, far greater than countries have pledged to the fund so far. Helping the world's most marginalised people in developing countries tackle climate impacts requires grant-based public finance, not loans or private investments."

Is organised crime fuelling terror groups in Liptako-Gourma region?

BY WILLIAM ASSANVO

ILLICIT activities such as weapon, drug, motorcycle and fuel trafficking, cattle rustling, artisanal gold mining and poaching are at the heart of terror groups' survival. These activities also finance their establishment and expansion.

Violent extremism and organised crime have long been considered intrinsically intertwined. However the nature of their links, the functions they perform and the mechanisms they use to establish and maintain themselves are not always understood in their diversity and complexity.

A study conducted by the Institute for Security Studies over the past two years shows links between violent extremist groups and these illicit activities in the border areas of the Liptako-Gourma region. These activities are means and not ends. The groups are beneficiaries, service providers or 'regulators' of these activities.

Getting involved, even indirectly, in these activities or maintaining links with traffickers serve three main purposes for extremist groups: they generate financial resources, provide livelihoods and operational capabilities, and strengthen their local roots, including through recruitment.

The groups have developed strategies for mobilising financial resources locally, from cattle rustling and artisanal gold mining.

Cattle rustling is widespread in the region. It is particularly prevalent in the Niger-Mali border strip and in some areas of the Dogon Plateau in Central Mali. The livestock of well-known figures including local, religious or traditional authorities is reportedly specifically targeted. Cattle are also carried away as a result of attacks on villages or hamlets. The stolen cattle are taken



to both nearby and more distant markets or sold to butchers. In some of the areas where they have settled, extremist groups have instituted the levy of 'zakat', in the form of a livestock tax that farmers must pay them in exchange for protection. This practice is particularly widespread in the border strip between Niger and Mali. Its existence has been widely reported in the regions of Ayorou and Banibangou in northern Tillabéry in Niger, an area where the Islamic State of the Greater Sahara operates.

Artisanal gold mining also plays a significant role in financing extremist groups. Groups that have settled in the gold zones in Eastern Burkina and in the Niger department of Torodi, at the border between the two countries, have taken control of exploitation sites and opened new ones. They are also involved in the trading of the illegally extracted gold.

The financial resources generated through these different activities enable the groups to acquire operational capabilities, notably weapons, motorcycles and fuel. The existing arms

Illicit activities provide violent extremist groups with financial, operational and human resources.
File photo

trafficking in the Sahel provides the groups with the means to continue their insurgency. They maintain supplier-client relationships with the traffickers behind this illicit arms market.

These groups eventually end up fuelling arms trafficking by themselves becoming arms providers. However this role is limited to the 'jihadist' movement that skims the border areas of Liptako-Gourma. It is in this context that arms transfers have occurred at the border between Mali and Burkina between 'jihadists' operating on both sides of the border, in Central Mali and in the Burkina regions of the Sahel and North.

Motorcycles are a convenient means of transport for terror groups operating in the border and rural areas of Liptako-Gourma. They are low in fuel consumption, easy to maintain and affordable. Motorcycles are also useful for moving across areas where there are no roads or where roads are in poor condition. They are acquired through accomplices who buy them from merchants and send them to extremist groups.

The same dynamics apply to fuel contraband, which comes from Nigeria and

supplies the northern region of Tillabéry in Niger, as well as northern Mali (the Ménaka and Gao regions) and Burkina (Sahel region). This fuel also finds its way towards eastern Burkina and probably beyond.

Terror groups also use illegal activities to gain support, active or passive, from communities in the areas where they operate and where they seek to establish and recruit. This was particularly observed in eastern Burkina in relation to hunting and artisanal gold mining activities.

By allowing communities to hunt and mine, even though access and exploitation of some forests and protected areas are restricted or prohibited, and a ban on artisanal gold mining has been ordered, terror groups have managed to gain the support of locals. This has resulted in some community members joining or forming associations with extremist groups.

William Assanvo, Senior Researcher, Regional office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin



People walk by a police station near the front gate of the Artux City Vocational Skills Education Training Service Center in Artux in western China's Xinjiang region.

Scholar releases Xinjiang report, identifying three major fallacies in Western media

A CHINESE scholar with renowned expertise on Xinjiang studies recently released a report analyzing the so-called leaked files on Xinjiang. The report pointed out three big mistakes made by Western media outlets when they hyped the files.

Zhang Yonghe, professor and executive dean of the Human Rights Institution of Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing, released the 9,000-word report on Friday, which introduced the counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts in Northwest China's Uyghur Autonomous Region in three parts: Reality Basis, Legal Basis and Main Ways.

Zhang's report is a direct response to the "leaked files" that have been hyped by some Western media.

On November 16, The New York Times published a report claiming it obtained 403 pages of "internal documents," which "provided an unprecedented inside view of the continuing clampdown in Xinjiang."

On November 28, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) released the so-called "China Cables" which it claimed included "classified" official documents in Xinjiang.

Zhang told the Global Times that he and his team quickly drafted the report shortly after the Western media began to hype the so-called leaked documents. Focusing on Xinjiang research for nearly a decade and having accumulated substantial materials, they managed to complete a substantive report in a timely manner.

"We chose to elaborate from a macro point of view because the so-called authenticity that the West pays attention to is actually a trap. Even if we clarify the rumors, they can always make up a new 'internal document,'" Zhang said.

Zhang's report showed clearly how the "leaked files" smear China's counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts in Xinjiang and it's a deeply constructed farce by Western media.

Based on the analysis of Western media's reports on the "leaked files," Zhang found three major fallacies. First, these Western media outlets deliberately ignored the international consensus on the dangers of terrorism. Second, they seriously distorted Chinese government's stance on counter-terrorism. Third, Western media used arbitrary imagination to depict counter-terrorism and de-radicalization work in Xinjiang.

These literary-style media reports showed how sloppy their evidence is, read Zhang's report. For instance, the so-called leaked internal documents said some students learned that their family members are receiving education programs to help them get rid of extremism in vocational education and training centers when the students returned to their hometowns

on vacation.

Western media reasoned this was because the trainees at the centers are "illegally detained."

As some "leaked files" mentioned the prevention of escape, these Western media claimed that Xinjiang is undergoing "mandatory persecution" based on it.

"The Western media's indulgence in such 'imagination' shows its ignorance of Xinjiang's counter-terrorism and de-radicalization work," Zhang said.

Therefore, in his report's Reality Basis part, it elaborates the grim situation of spreading terrorism in Xinjiang in the past from the perspective of history, geography and the humanities.

"When I went to Xinjiang for research in the early years, we were surprised by the erosion of extremism among some local people. From treating people to everyday life, extremism thoughts have penetrated into every aspect of some people's lives.

For example, even feminine hygiene products are needed to be distinguished as 'halal' or not. It's ridiculous," Zhang said.

He noted that at that time many people in Xinjiang did not speak the national common language and village regulations prevailed above the law. They did not have the professional skills required for employment.

To improve this situation, Xinjiang regional government has taken a series of counter-terrorism and de-radicalization measures in recent years.

Among them, setting up vocational education and training centers is mostly attacked in the West. Zhang's report showed the legal basis for the centers. The Xinjiang regional government had stipulated regional regulations on counter-terrorism and de-radicalization in accordance with the Constitution and national laws.

The vocational education and training centers are not designed to deprive or restrict personal freedom but is an implementation of the counter-terrorism law.

It is implemented based on principles, including counter-terrorism in accordance with law, combination of punishment and prevention, combination of leniency and strictness, addressing both symptoms and root causes, and the prohibition of discrimination.

A series of decisive measures taken by Xinjiang have stepped out of the traditional "passive counter-terrorism" mode, but managed to avoid following the "preemptive strike" and "war-like" mode adopted by some Western countries, read the report.

Under the protection of complete national counter-terrorism strategy and a de-radicalization legal system, Xinjiang has carried out the fight against terrorism and extremism in accordance with the law, which effectively curbed the frequent occurrence of terrorist activities.

Global Times

Fostering sustainable urbanisation and rural-urban linkages

ROME and ACCRA

AS urbanisation continues apace, coupled with rapid population growth and rural to urban migration, the challenges for inclusive rural transformation continue, and the importance of fostering improved rural-urban linkages for better food systems becomes increasingly important. According to the UN, by 2050 some 66% of the world's population of 9 billion is expected to live in urban areas. Such rapid urbanization is increasingly shaping the rural space and rural livelihoods (through markets, demand for agricultural goods and labour, migration, and through the provision of services to rural areas). It is therefore critical for the increasing emphasis on urban development to take into account the importance of rural development.

Given the major transitions this rapid urbanization entails, the roles that rural economies and societies will play in creating sustainable and inclusive food systems require more attention in the years ahead. Rural-based populations are increasingly connected to urban areas and markets, but many are primarily engaged in informal sector economic activities -- mostly agriculture, mainly smallholder farming -- with lack of access to basic service impacting productivity levels. The incentives for people in rural areas and for those engaged in agriculture to migrate to towns, cities and abroad in search of better jobs and income earning opportunities are very powerful, particularly for young people.

We were delighted to speak at the first International Forum on Rural Urban Linkages, held in Lishui City, Zhejiang Province, China from November 11 to 13th, 2019. Our contributions drew on work we have led in IFAD and GFRAS on sustainable urbanization, rural-urban transformations and food systems [see, the IFAD Research Paper on 'Rural-urban linkages and food systems in sub-Saharan Africa'].

The theme of the forum was "Rural Revitalization through Innovations and Valorisation".

The forum probed topics of rural architecture, innovations in tourism, agriculture culture and heritage, rural economic development, among others,

focusing on systems thinking and innovative practices of rural revitalization in the context of ecological conservation.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda highlight the need to "leave no one and no place behind". This includes promoting the inclusive transformation of rural areas, allowing rural and urban areas alike to simultaneously share the fruits of development.

In the session on 'Innovation in Agriculture; Culture and Heritage', Karim Hussein discussed the importance of agricultural innovation and fostering mutually beneficial rural-urban linkages to contribute to a more sustainable urbanization process, strengthened food systems and ultimately the achievement of the 2030 Development Agenda.

The role of agriculture and agricultural innovation is even more important in the context of global population growth. To feed the expected population of 9 billion people in 2050, agricultural production and productivity will have to increase dramatically. Innovation in agriculture is the only way to meet this challenge. Innovation -- in science, technology, institutions, farming practices and policies -- is essential to address the challenges faced in food systems at the global, regional and national/local levels, particularly in low and middle income countries, thus particularly for sub-Saharan Africa whose economies remain highly dependent on agriculture. Experience has demonstrated that effective dissemination and sharing of agricultural innovations requires the engagement of and partnerships between research, advisory services, public and private sector players (e.g. GFRAS).

The pace of innovation needs to increase to overcome the challenges faced by agriculture in the 21st century. The negative effects of climate change on agriculture, food and productivity have become increasingly visible and demand to be addressed as a priority, particularly in the regions that will be affected the most -- arid and semi-arid countries, such as those in Africa.

Innovation is fundamental to revitalising rural areas, creating attractive job opportunities and bringing prosperity to communities. Innovation is central to lifting smallholder and family farmers out of poverty, tackling unemployment



for youth and rural women, and helping the world to achieve food security and the Sustainable Development Goals. Key innovations since the 1960s that have contributed to the transformation of food, agriculture and rural development issues have been summarised elsewhere (e.g. see Hussein 2019, 'Key changes in international agriculture and rural development issues: priorities for tropical agriculture professionals' in Ag4Dev 37 (Summer)).

The potential of digital approaches to agricultural and rural development and ICTs, and the increased productivity, incomes and sustainability possible through their application have raised much interest. This is a frontier area through which urban and rural areas and people are increasingly connected. Digital approaches that enable automation, e-agriculture and 'smart farming', are increasingly using for example robotics, drones, self-driving machinery, sensors, digital imagery of fields and better weather and soil analysis to undertake precision farming must now be integrated into work on tropical agriculture at all levels from research through to extension and advisory services. Nonetheless, there are opportunities, challenges and risks that digital transformations bring to agriculture and rural areas that need to be constantly examined, particularly

whether poor smallholders will be able to access such innovations and equally benefit from their application.

Strengthening demand driven approaches and empowering producer organisations have proven vital in all efforts to foster effective innovation development, dissemination and sharing, and uptake of innovations by producers -- particularly smallholders and family farmers that constitute the vast majority of rural producers. The roles of social entrepreneurs, social and institutional innovation and public-private-producer partnerships to foster innovation are also key.

In the side event on "Innovation in the Rural Economy", David Suttie highlighted IFAD's work with rural youth to help them promote innovation and dynamism in rural economies. IFAD's Youth Action Plan, commits to ensuring that 50% of future projects demonstrate benefits for young people, particularly developing youth capacities through vocational and technical training and business development services. For example: the Songhai Centre in Porto Novo, Benin, in partnership with IFAD carries out training, production and research by combining traditional and modern learning methods.

IPS

Despite increase in birth registration, quarter of world's children still invisible

By Guardian Reporter

THE number of children whose births are officially registered has increased worldwide, yet 166 million children under-five, or 1 in 4, remain unregistered.

A new report released recently by Unicef that analyses data from 174 countries - shows that the proportion of children under-five registered globally is up around 20 percent from 10 years ago, increasing from 63 percent to 75 percent.

Unicef Executive Director Henrietta Fore said: "We have come a long way but too many children are still slipping through the cracks, uncounted and unaccounted for. A child not registered at birth is invisible, nonexistent in the eyes of the government or the law".

Fore added: "Without proof of identity, children are often excluded from education, health care and other vital services, and are more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse."

Fore said that every child has a right to a name, a nationality and a legal identity.

"We have just marked the 30th anniversary of these rights - as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child - we must not stop until every child is counted", said Unicef Executive Director.

According to the report, in India, the proportion of registered children rose from 41 per cent in 2005-2006 to 80 percent in 2015-2016.

In recent years, Unicef has worked with the government of India to prioritise birth registration across states by increasing and improving access to registration centers, training officials and community workers and rolling out public awareness programmes, particularly amongst the most vulnerable communities.

By contrast, majority of countries in sub-Saharan Africa lag behind the rest of the world, with Ethiopia (3 percent), Zambia (11 percent) and Chad (12 percent) recording the lowest levels of registered births globally.

The report notes that nearly 1 in 3 countries, accounting for around a third of the global population of children under the age of five will need to urgently speed up progress in order to meet the target of providing legal identity for all, including birth registration, as set out in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Barriers to registration globally include lack of knowledge on how to register a child's birth, unaffordable fees for registering a birth or obtaining a birth certificate, fees for late registration and long distances to the nearest registration facility. Traditional customs and practices in some communities - such as new mothers staying indoors - may also deter or prevent formal birth registration in the permitted timeframe.

Even when children are registered, possession of a birth certificate is less common, with 237 million children under-five globally - or slightly more than 1 in 3 - lacking this official proof of registration.

Unicef under its target to register every child by 2030 calls for five actions to protect all children including providing every child with a certificate upon birth, empower all parents, regardless of gender, to register their children at birth, link birth registration to other systems to facilitate every child's right to services including health, social protection and education and to invest in safe and innovative technological solutions to facilitate birth registration.

It also works to engage communities to demand birth registration for every child.



Masasi district commissioner Selemani Mzee pictured yesterday addressing members of the militia who had just completed basic fitness training. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

Grassroots innovators want specific budget to improve their work

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE government has assured grassroots innovators of full support provided their innovations provide solutions to the problems facing the community and contributes to the socio-economic development of the country.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Prof James Mdoe told a group of 60 grassroots innovators during the closing meeting of four day training recently that aimed at fine-tuning their innovative idea and networking with potential stakeholders and investors.

The four-day training was organised by the government through the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Costech) and facilitated by different stakeholders such as government institutions and organisations in Dar es Salaam.

Prof Mdoe said the government is committed and determined to support them to realise their dreams and be able to contribute effectively to the country's development agenda. However, he made clear that the plan of the government is not to dish out money but to facilitate them, to build capacity and equip them with new knowledge, skills that sharpen their innovative ideas and products.

"Our strategy as government is not to give you fish that will feed you for a day, but it is to teach you how to fish so that you can feed yourself for a lifetime. This innovation is yours, our work is to facilitate conducive environment so that you can move from where you are now, to the higher levels of science, technology and innovations," he said.

He challenged the grassroots innovators to work hard and develop creative and competitive products so that

they can be able to compete and win the local and international market.

"Our aim of bringing you here is to capacitate and ensure you access opportunities. We expect you to develop higher quality products and goods that can actually address problems in our communities.

He urged the young innovators to be ambassadors to other youth who could not get an opportunity to get through to the finals.

Costech's Director General Dr Amos Nungu said that the 60 innovators was the first bunch of participants of competitions held this year that attracted 337 entries across the country. He said that there are different levels and categories of innovators such as those whose innovation answers challenges that affects them especially in the informal sector, there are those whose innovation shows that science works and those whose innovations provides alternative ways of doing things.

"I can assure you that we have systems in place, those who are responsible are present and that's why for the past four days you have been here for the training, we invited responsible people and relevant institutions and potential investors to come and share with you available opportunities," he said. He named some responsible organisations and institutions as the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), among many others.

"We are not wasting resources here, we want to see the value for money. There are many innovators who are out there who also need these facilities, you will be placed in different institutions. I urge you to use them very carefully so that your colleagues can also access and benefit," he said.

He said the process of getting 60 young innovators was very transpar-



Prof James Mdoe, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, speaks at a meeting for grassroots innovators held in Dar es Salaam the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

ent. Initially a total of 337 entered the competitions where after evaluation, 60 innovators qualified. They were called in Dodoma and after further evaluation three emerged winners but later on, the government decided to train them all. "We decided to take all 60 innovators on board for further training because they are all ours," he said.

Reading their message, a representative of the innovators Halima Mpita from Songwe region called on the government to review the innovation and technology policy to enhance support for the innovators so that they could contribute positively to the industrial drive.

"We request the government to give priority the local innovators through state-owned media. At least there should be special programmes that aims at promoting local innova-

tion. The local innovators should be given enough airtime to participate and showcase their innovations. Not only that but also the local innovators should be given room to participate in the local and international competitions," she stressed.

Mpita who produces alternative energy using coal charcoal said that the government should put in place plans and strategies that will enable the innovators participate in the international exchange programme so that they can get an opportunity to learn from others and gain new experience.

"We are asking the government to ensure it directs the district councils across the country that 10 percent that supports the youth, women and the people with disability should also support grassroots innovators. Currently, the 10 percent is meant to support the youth (4 percent), the women

(4 percent) and People with Disability (2 percent). We want to see specific budget focusing on local and grassroots innovators to support them so that they can effectively and efficiently contribute to the industrial economy," she said.

"We understand that sometimes the 10 per cent is being used politically, we are asking deliberate efforts and interventions to set aside reasonable budget that focuses only to promote grassroots innovators," she stressed.

Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology is a parastatal organisation with the responsibility of co-ordinating and promoting research and technology development activities in the country. It is the chief advisor to the government on all matters pertaining to science and technology and their application to the socio-economic development of the country

University don underlines why varsity training should produce graduates much better equipped

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

VICE Chancellor of Ruaha Catholic University (RUCU), Prof Fulgens Mbunda has called on higher learning institutions in the country to review their curriculum to suit the country's market demand and priority.

Speaking in Iringa during the 12th RUCU graduation ceremonies, the VC said, reviewing universities curriculum will significantly assist the government in addressing a number of challenges they are facing including unemployment and poverty.

Prof Mbunda reminded the higher learning institutions that they have a great responsibility to help the government in bringing positive changes in the society by producing competent graduates every year.

"University graduates are expected to make positive changes in the society; therefore it is the responsibility of universities to make sure they bring out skillful people," the VC challenged.

Iringa Bishop, Tarcisius Ngalekumwa, who was the guest of honor, urged graduates to be patriotic to their country and use the skills and knowledge acquired to bring about solution of various social problems within the community.

He asked the higher learning institution to make sure they are producing graduates who are able to use the good knowledge they have in any situation regardless the surrounded challenges.

The bishop urged graduates that the knowledge and skills they have acquired was not for their personal benefits, but rather for national benefit.

He said if they will effectively use the knowledge they have acquired, they are likely to bring solutions to a number of challenges that communities face such as poverty, ignorance and diseases.

Experts meet to validate AfCFTA business index

By Guardian Reporter

THE Pan-African Trade experts are meeting at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa to validate the methodology to produce the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Country Business Index.

Views will be collected through a survey administered through regional and local chambers of commerce and in-

dustry. The aim of the index is to provide an assessment of the extent to which businesses across Africa find trading across borders in Africa challenging, and to identify the main barriers to trade they experience.

The index will allow for a ranking of this data across countries and provide an evaluation of the developmental impact of the AfCFTA.

Adeyinka Adeyemi, Senior Advi-

sor at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said: "The index is an instrument that provides business perceptions of the country-specific challenges in their own country, and how these country challenges impact on firms' ability to trade across borders in Africa" The AfCFTA entered into force on 30 May 2019 having been ratified by the required 22 countries.

Currently, 54 countries have signed, and 29 countries have rati-

fied the AfCFTA.

The AfCFTA provides the opportunity for Africa to create the world's largest free trade area, with the potential to unite more than 1.2 billion people, in a \$2.5 trillion economic bloc and usher in a new era of development.

The AfCFTA has the potential to generate a range of benefits through supporting trade creation, structural transformation, productive employment and poverty reduction.

The AfCFTA Country Business Index is part of a comprehensive project aimed at deepening Africa's trade integration through effective implementation of the AfCFTA.

Financially supported by the European Union, ECA has been working with its partners including the African Union Commission (AUC), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(UNCTAD) and a selection of independent trade experts to ensure effective AfCFTA implementation strategies.

AfCFTA is a free trade area, outlined in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement among 54 of the 55 African Union nations. 28 countries have both signed and ratified the AfCFTA Agreement.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa estimates that the agreement will boost intra-African trade by 52 per cent by

2022. Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade engineer Stella Manyanya was recently quoted saying there is still need to exhaustively go through the AfCFTA before ratifying it.

Eng Manyanya said: "The AfCFTA pact is considered to be an important one by the government as it aims at connecting a market of 1.3 billion people and trade worth 3 trillion dollars, but it was cautious on best modality before taking a ratification step."

Inclusion politics a placebo for Kenya's democracy

BY ROBA D SHARAMO, DUNCAN E OMONDI GUMBA AND MOHAMED DAGHAR

Will Kenya change for the better if citizens adopt proposed solutions to the country's political governance problems in attempts to steer it clear of ethnic strife and destruction? These proposals are contained in a report crafted to peacefully introduce reforms for the first time in Kenya, less than a decade after the promulgation of a constitution hailed as the most progressive in the region.

The Building Bridge Initiative (BBI) report is one of many attempts by Kenyans to change the structure of government with hopes that this will extricate the country from negative ethnicity. The trouble with Kenya is the dominant political culture that has tended to reduce each reform attempt to the banal exercise of dividing the national cake, further complicating political, social and economic dynamics.

In the past, similar initiatives have come with feverish political agitation and bloodshed. They have also been hijacked by politicians who use ethnicity to divide Kenyans while looking after their own interests, at the expense of wider societal interest.

Launched on 26 November by President Uhuru Kenyatta and Raila Odinga, his main presidential challenger, the report is packaged as a quest to make Kenya more inclusive. The two unexpectedly shook hands in March 2018 to end post-election unrest following disputed presidential elections in 2017. The handshake epitomised both political wisdom and personal ambition at great and complex political risk: Kenyatta stepped out of his presidential comfort zone while Odinga stepped down from his elusive search of an allegedly stolen presidential victory.

It took most Kenyans by surprise. From a historical perspective, it symbolised the regrouping of political dynasties to serve mutual political interests. From a strategic perspective, political survival necessitated the handshake: Kenyatta needed peace to rule and deliver his

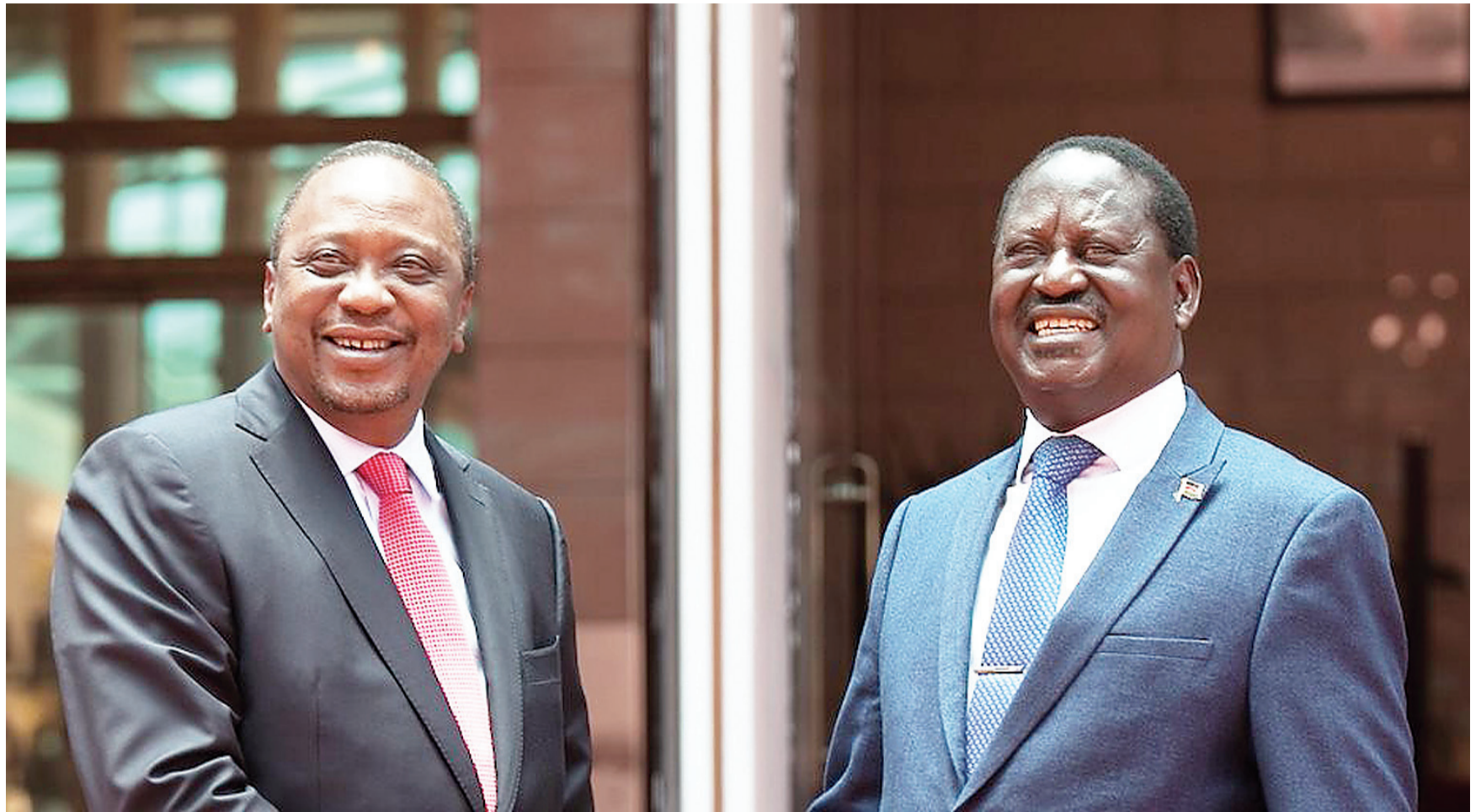
legacy while Odinga needed to save face following a sterile self-declaration as people's president.

Nonetheless it ended months of political protests, averting further violence and death, a common feature of Kenya's elections. But it didn't solve the deep-rooted problems that always send Kenyans back to the drawing board of political reforms. Time and again over the past three decades, every election ushers in a cycle of economic paralysis as politicians compete to outdo each other in brinkmanship, fanning fears of electoral crisis and driving the country to the edge of the political abyss.

Due to polarising politics, every five years the country's economic situation worsens as the business climate deteriorates, foreign investment declines and tourism earnings dip. With donor funding decreasing following the attainment of middle-income-country status, the government relies on expensive foreign loans to fund infrastructure projects. The debt burden now threatens to choke the economy and soaring inflation is making life for ordinary Kenyans difficult.

The launch of the BBI report comes after two major reform processes. The first, spanning two decades, culminated in a new constitution promulgated in 2010. It was characterised by violent protests and fatalities as Kenyans agitated for change. Its main highlights were an imperial presidential system, devolved county governments and two-tier representation that came with a heavy national wage burden.

The second reform process was triggered by mediation of the 2007-8 post-election violence that identified specific areas to target for reform in order to avert further election-related violence. Against popular expectations, vested political interests have put on hold the discussion and possible implementation of recommendations from a Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, just as many others before it. This has dashed hopes of such reports providing the antidote for Kenya's deadly election cycles and enduring problems of trapping ethnicity.



Politics of compromise have always served politicians and never resolved Kenya's real governance issues. File photo

The BBI report has rallied unity in the country and gained politicians' endorsement, instantly becoming the blue-eyed baby of all political camps. However while any constructive debate it triggers may be welcome and timely to politicians, Kenya doesn't need another report to save it.

What Kenya needs to clear its murky political landscape characterised by tribal, political, religious and economic animosity is honesty and courage by the political leadership. This leadership must govern the country according to constitutional principles and free the nation from the shackles of blinding ethnicity, poverty, corruption and mismanagement from national to county level.

The measures the BBI report proposes would merely treat the symptoms rather than what really troubles an otherwise promising nation. Streamlining legislative representation and granting county governments more powers and funds, curbing neg-

ative ethnicity, fighting corruption, fostering patriotism and empowering the youth and women can be dealt with without amending the constitution.

A hybrid presidential and parliamentary system, a president and a prime minister who share power, an official opposition leader in parliament and politicians in the cabinet will only gratify the elite, and won't address fundamental issues in a far-reaching way.

Debate on the BBI report has immediately shifted to the next steps rather than the issues it raises. The spotlight of the debate is on political bigwigs and tribal chiefs whose views remain dominant. This points to a bumpy road ahead for the proposed reforms even before the ink dries on the report. The debate gravitates around Kenyatta, Odinga and Deputy President William Ruto. The president's interest is the legacy he'll leave while the other two are keen to maintain their head start ahead of the 2022 presi-

dential election.

Past constitutional amendments have solved little. Debate around the distribution of resources and ending election violence are more important. Political parties and not individual candidates ought to contest legislative positions and then appoint legislators to strengthen democracy and minimise the need for poll rigging and fraud.

Whatever the outcome of the debate, inclusivity, unity and an end to corruption and ethnic antagonism remain at the centre of Kenyans' concerns. If resources and power aren't distributed equally and horizontally in future, peace and tranquillity are unlikely to be guaranteed in Kenya. No matter how well-meaning, inclusion politics without genuine national interests at heart will only have a placebo effect on Kenya's terminal illness.

Dr Roba Sharamo, Regional Director and Representative to the AU, Horn and East Africa, Duncan E Omondi Gumba, Regional Coordinator for East and Horn of Africa and Mohamed Daghfar, Researcher, Regional Organised Crime Observatory for East and Horn of Africa, ENACT project, **ISS**

China, Africa join for broader agricultural cooperation

SANYA

CHINA has shown great commitment in joining hands with African countries to achieve food security and agricultural modernization, participants of an international forum in the city of Sanya, south China's Hainan Province have said.

Amid robust growth in agricultural trade, the participants on Tuesday hailed the broad prospects for China-Africa agricultural cooperation in the new era at the 1st Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Agriculture, which concluded Tuesday in the city of Sanya, south China's Hainan Province.

The two-day event brought together 500 representatives from institutions of higher education and research, enterprises from home and abroad, as well as international organizations.

The relationship between Africa and China in agriculture is a partnership of cooperation, rather than that between a donor and its beneficiaries, said Angela Thokozile Didiza, minister of agriculture, land reform and rural development of South Africa.

Registering an average annual growth of 14 percent, the trade volume of agricultural products between China and Africa increased from 650 million U.S. dollars in 2000 to 6.92 billion dollars in 2018, said China's agricultural minister

Han Changfu.

There is exciting growth potential, he said, expressing hope that the figure will reach 10 billion dollars within the next decade.

But the relationship is not just about trade. According to Han, nearly 10,000 agricultural officials, technicians, farmers and students from African countries receive training in China each year.

Thomas Gbokie Jr. was one of them. He stepped down as Liberia's deputy minister of agriculture to enter a Ph.D. program at China's Nanjing Agricultural University.

Impressed by China's advanced coffee planting and processing technologies during a one-month training program in 2015, he is now researching coffee disease resistance at the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS).

"I plan to go farming after graduation," Gbokie said, believing that his studies and research in China can help increase the output of coffee beans, an important cash crop in his home country.

China has pledged to support Africa in achieving general food security by 2030. To this end, both sides have deepened cooperation in a more comprehensive way.

"Agricultural modernization in Africa is mul-



African learners visit a cassava germplasm resource base at the Danzhou branch of the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) in Danzhou City, south China's Hainan Province, Sept. 11, 2018. (Xinhua)

ti-faceted, like making a prescription that includes several medicines for better effectiveness," said Henri Djombo, minister of agriculture, livestock and fisheries of the Republic of Congo.

Djombo said his country is currently promoting agricultural cooperation with China on irrigation, organic fertilizer and mechanization.

"There are many areas of agriculture where China can cooperate with Congo, such as promoting the use of machines on harvesting and processing agricultural products," Djombo said.

At present, scientific and technological progress contributes 58.3 percent of China's gross agricultural output value, and the mechanization rate of crop cultivation and harvesting has exceeded 80 percent, accord-

ing to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Han said China will speed up exchanges and cooperation with Africa on the selection and breeding of superior strains, livestock improvement as well as prevention and control of diseases and pests.

The country has launched cooperation programs with agricultural research institutes in 12 African nations and built agricultural technology demonstration centers in 19 countries.

One such example is Hainan-based CATAS, China's only state-level research institute for tropical agriculture. The CATAS said its new technologies helped raise the yield of cassava, a staple crop in the Republic of Congo, from about 9 tonnes to 51 tonnes per hectare. With a similar climate and agricultural

resources to much of Africa, the southern island province of Hainan has been at the forefront of China's agricultural cooperation with Africa.

Governor Shen Xiaoming said Hainan will continue to encourage local agricultural companies to invest in and inject technologies and skilled personnel into Africa.

With advantages in tax rates and customs clearance in its pilot free trade zone, Hainan is also seeking to build an international trade center for tropical agricultural products, Shen said.

African countries are welcome to bring their specialty agricultural products and help Hainan build a passageway for African agricultural products as they enter China and world markets."

Xinhua

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

WORD FIT

3 Letter word: BAY, FEN, ORE, EAR,
 4 Letter word: SAGA, TRAP, SOAP, CARE, NATO, AFRO,
 5 Letter word: CHILD, AGLOW, ERNES, LOOSE, AROMA, STARE, EKKAS, RAGES, TEASE,
 7 Letter word: CHADEMA, ISLANDS, DAWASCO, STRANGE,
 9 Letter word: AWARENESS
 11 Letter word: STOREKEEPER

CROSSWORD

1. Farming (11)
 2. Largest country in Africa (7)
 3. Bump to slow down motorists (4,4)
 4. Small songbird (3)
 5. Fish eggs (3)
 6. Freshwater birds (5)
 7. Damaging organism (4)
 8. Horse (6)
 9. Solely (4)
 10. New stock with rising price (3,5)
 11. Medical exemption (8)
 12. Flat face on gemstones (6)
 13. Tanzania National Parks (6)
 14. Restore (12)
 15. Woman domestic worker (4)
 16. Large container for liquid (3)
 17. With low rainfall (4)
 18. Guarantee (6)
 19. Small keyboard instrument (6)
 20. Flat face on gemstones (6)
 21. At any time (4)
 22. Mass of gas in space (4)
 23. Give money for something (3)

Clues: Across
 1. Farming (11)
 2. Largest country in Africa (7)
 3. Bump to slow down motorists (4,4)
 4. Small songbird (3)
 5. Fish eggs (3)
 6. Freshwater birds (5)
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 19. Small keyboard instrument (6)
 20. Flat face on gemstones (6)
 21. At any time (4)
 22. Mass of gas in space (4)
 23. Give money for something (3)

Down:
 1. Farming (11)
 2. Largest country in Africa (7)
 3. Bump to slow down motorists (4,4)
 4. Small songbird (3)
 5. Fish eggs (3)
 6. Freshwater birds (5)
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 19. Small keyboard instrument (6)
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 21. At any time (4)
 22. Mass of gas in space (4)
 23. Give money for something (3)

NIT IN AMBITIOUS MOVE TO BE TRAINING HUB FOR TRANSPORT EXPERTS IN SSA

By Property Watch Reporter

AN ambitious plan to turn National Institute of Transport into a training hub for Sub Sahara Africa is currently underway thanks to the government and development partners' backing.

NIT's rector, professor Zacharia Mganilwa said in Dar es Salaam this week during the 6th convocation ceremony that they are already implementing new projects targeting to serve transport expert needs of the SSA.

"We are already implementing a number of projects which focus on the needs of transport experts in Sub Sahara Africa," said prof Mganilwa in a speech read on his behalf by NIT's deputy rector, Dr Prosper Mgaya.

He named some of the on-going projects as establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Aviation and Transport Operations; establishment of Regional Centre of Excellence in Road Safety; expansion of Lindi Campus for Maritime Studies and Petroleum Technology; KIA Campus for Aviation Training.

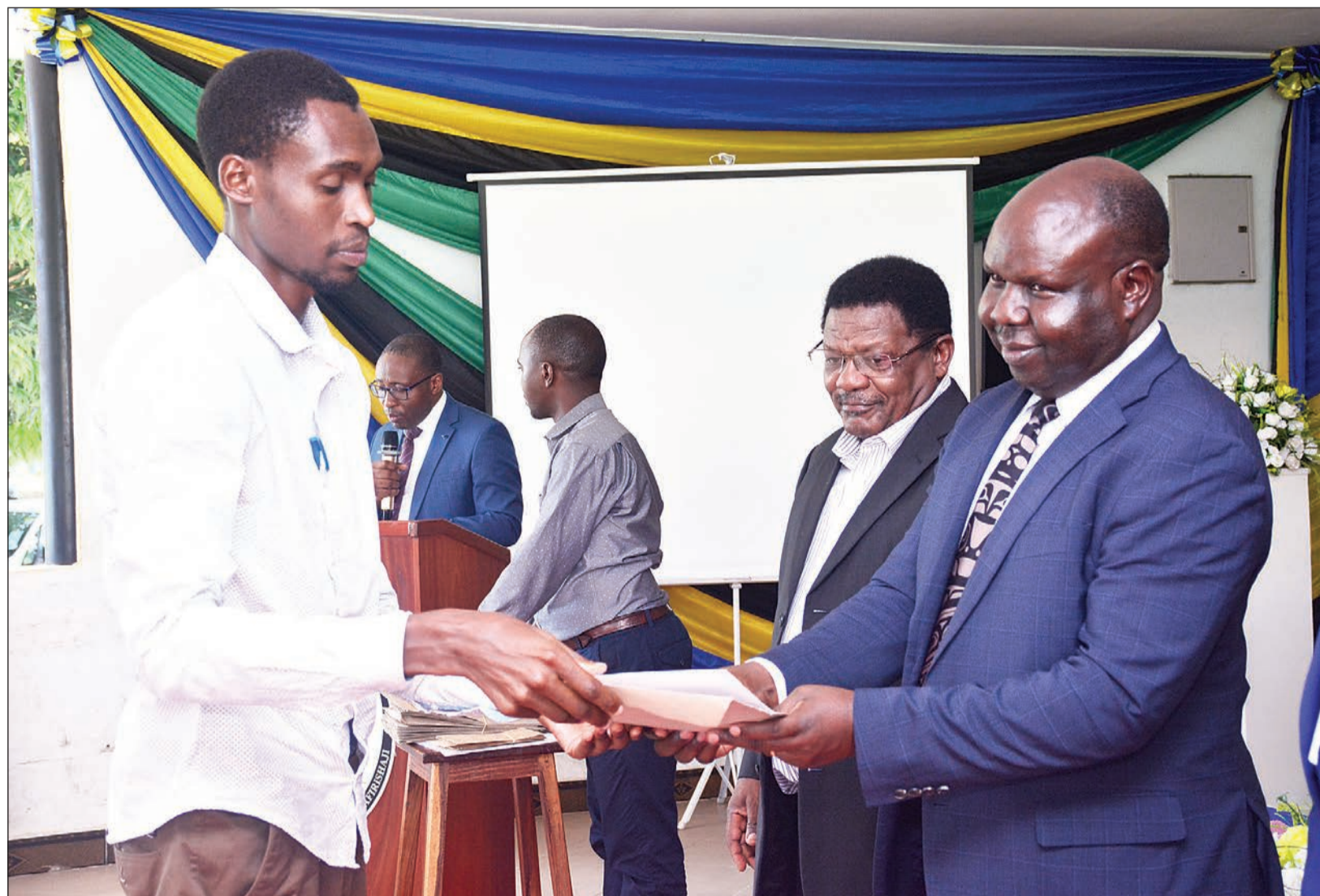
"But we are also in the final stages to acquire 800 acres of land in Dodoma City for an NIT campus," he added as the institute introduces new degree and diploma courses aimed at serving the current and future innovation in all form transport which include air, water and surface.

NIT rector further noted that their aim is to produce graduates who are not only ready for modern transport needs but also those who will acquire skills and become entrepreneurs to employ themselves and others.

"We hope that during your time here you have learnt the valuable lesson of rethinking education - in all of its facets," he told the graduates noting that they are now part of an elite group of transport experts who with credentials from the NIT.

"We have prepared you to fulfil the realization of an ambitious thinking of the new NIT to train experts who are innovative, offer solutions to the market and expert advice," he added.

On his part, NIT's chairperson of the Governing Council, prof Blasius Nyichomba said the institute has over the years been living the vision to create thought leaders and change



National Council for Technical Education's acting executive secretary, Dr Adolf Rutayuga (R), hands over an award of overall best student among first degree transport and logistics graduates, Benson Kileo during a convocation ceremony held earlier this week in Dar es Salaam. Photo courtesy of NIT

makers. "Since 1975 NIT has been imparting knowledge and skills to students and it has evolved into a prestigious transport institution which has given the industry successful and competent transport professionals," prof Nyichomba said.

He added that NIT's focus has always been to deliver quality transport experts who adopt a culture of continuous learning hence has been consistently named among the best higher learning institutions in the country.

The NIT chairman further noted that through the support of its illustrious alumni base, the institute has been gauging various needs of the industry hence has positioned itself as a competitive and reputable institution of higher learning.

"The Institute has now earned an outstanding reputation for itself and created an indelible mark at the national and international levels in the fields of logistics and transport management," he noted while stressing that forces of technology and dynamics of globalization require that the institute be very adaptive and responsive to changes in the market.

Industry minister advises contractors to utilise CRDB's credit facilities

By Property Watch Reporter

CONTRACTORS and suppliers undertaking government infrastructure projects have no reason to delay completion timely because CRDB Bank Plc has various credit facilities to allow such projects undertaken smoothly.

Trade and Industry minister, Innocent Bashungwa told construction industry stakeholders from Geita, Kigoma and Tabora regions during a CRDB organised meeting held in Shinyanga this week that days of machining excuses of financing to delay implementation of projects are over.

"Now forget about waiting for advance payments from the govern-

ment to implement projects because banks such CRDB are now offering such financing at no interest rate," Bashungwa said while noting that contractors and their partners should simply not abuse such credit facilities which include performance bonds, letters of credit, among others.

He commended CRDB's management for coming up with such credit facilities which will help to speed up implementation of government's infrastructure projects stressing that the construction industry is an important part of the national economy.

"We have had many projects delaying cases in the past because of delayed down payments but now contractors and suppliers should

improve their performance because banks have solved the problem," the youthful minister added.

"CRDB has solved the puzzle by bringing you this opportunity at your door steps. Make use of these facilities to also grow your companies which will contribute to the country's economic growth," he stressed pointing out that after the stakeholders meeting he hopes to see real change on the ground.

CRDB has already offered credit facilities to gigantic government infrastructure projects worth billions of shillings including Standard Gauge Railway, Rufiji (Nyerere) Hydro Power Project and Rural Energy Agency's electrification projects.

Tabora regional commissioner, Aggrey Mwanri who is also chairperson for Lake Zone RCs, urged the contractors and suppliers to seize the opportunity and finish major infrastructure projects being funded by the state on time.

"By using CRDB's various credit facilities, we will speed up development of this country because projects will be finish timely," Manri noted while stressing that the government is investing heavily in infrastructure to ease communication but also provision of social services.

Earlier, CRDB's chief commercial officer, Dr Joseph Witts said the meeting was organised to sensitise construction industry stakeholders

of the availability of credit facilities to back projects currently underway on the ground.

"We have various products to suit needs of everyone in the industry," said Dr Witts who named some of the products as advance payment guarantee, purchase order financing, contract financing and invoice discounting.

In a vote of thanks on behalf of the contractors, Junior Construction Limited's managing director who is also Kishapu lawmaker, Suleiman Nchambi paid tribute to CRDB's management for coming up with tailor made products targeting the industry which has been facing financing challenges for many years.



Construction of Standard Gauge Railway currently going has benefitted from CRDB financing.

"We say thank you very much CRDB because this will completely change the face of the construction industry in the country," Nchambi said while stressing that timely completion of projects will now be a reality.

Mining overhaul fails to dent Tanzania's investment appeal

By Jason Mitchell, fDi Magazine

TANZANIA continues to offer foreign mining companies significant opportunities, despite the government completely changing the legal framework around the industry in both 2017 and 2018.

In July 2017, the country made a series of changes to the 2010 Mining Act, which law firm Herbert Smith describes as 'drastic'. It also enacted two laws asserting the state's 'permanent sovereignty' over its natural resources.

The government now has the power to re-negotiate terms in mining contracts that it considers 'unconscionable', including those relating to international dispute resolution mechanisms. It immediately banned the exportation of unprocessed minerals. It gave the state 16% of the equity (non-dilutable free-carried interest shares) of all existing and future mining projects and suggested this could rise to 50% in the future.

Tanzania also hiked royalties on gold, copper, silver and platinum exports from 4% to 6%. It increased the royalty on uranium exports from 5% to 6%. The new regulations allow

the government to reject a company's own valuations if it believes the prices are too low. It also said it planned to impose a 1% clearing fee on the value of exported minerals. The corporate income tax rate is now set at 30%.

Furthermore, in January 2018, the government issued regulations that mean an 'indigenous Tanzanian company' must have 5% ownership of any project before a new mining licence is granted. Also, foreign miners must only conduct their business through Tanzanian banks.

Unforeseen consequences

Acacia Mining - Tanzania's largest gold miner, majority owned by Canadian company Barrick Gold - is locked in a long-running dispute with the government over accusations of tax evasion. The firm denies any wrongdoing.

"The country's entire mining and oil and gas industries face new rules stemming from the dispute between the government and Acacia," says David Mestres Ridge, chief executive officer of Swala Oil & Gas, a Tanzanian oil and gas exploration company. "Acacia had in place 'transfer pricing', which could have looked provocative to a developing world country."

Tanzania's president, John Magufuli, who represents the centre-left Chama Cha Mapinduzi party and took office for a five-year term in November 2015, has refused to hold any negotiations with Acacia, which has three mines in north-west Tanzania. He has accused the company of owing the country of tens of billions of dollars by understating by more than 10 times the gold and copper concentrate levels in its mineral exports.

"The legislative changes were pretty restrictive but the country still offers foreign miners big investment opportunities," says Patricia Rodrigues, east Africa analyst at consultancy Control Risks. "Many foreign players continue to have a healthy and productive relationship with the government."

Mineral wealth

Tanzania has a population of 54 million and is endowed with vast natural resources. Key minerals include gold, iron ore, nickel, copper, cobalt, silver, diamond, ruby, garnet, limestone, soda ash, gypsum, salt, phosphate, coal, uranium and graphite. Tanzanite is a mineral exclusive to the country.

The country's gold reserves are estimated at about 45 million ounces and it is the fourth biggest gold producer in Africa after South Africa, Ghana and Mali.

Diamonds are also found in abundance. Since it started operations in 1940, the Williamson diamond mine in the country's north-east has produced more than 19 million carats (3800 kilograms) of diamonds. Coal reserves in Tanzania are estimated at 1.9 billion tonnes, 25% of which are proven.

The country has huge deposits of uranium in Bahi, Galapo, Minjingu, Mbulu, Simanjoro, Lake Natron and Manyoni. One of the biggest uranium development projects is at Mkuju River in the country's south, where geological surveys indicate 36,000 tonnes exist.

"The national resources legislation now provides clarity," says Andrew Moorfield, co-head of investment banking and head of natural resources at Exotix, a London-based investment adviser.

"A 16% free-carry rate is not unreasonable and the corporate tax rate is not punitive. The reforms help to ensure that the projects have government participation and

support. Firms get a 10-year mining licence, extendable up to a further 10 years. There is always a concern when a state impose major changes but this is a risk everywhere."

Leaning towards local

It is becoming more common for African countries to require mandatory local ownership. In Mauritania, for example, the state requires 10% free-carried interest in mining projects and in 2018 the Democratic Republic of Congo increased the state's free-carry from 5% to 10%.

However, Tanzania's reforms have undermined its international competitiveness. The country is now ranked 144 among 190 economies in the World Bank's 2019 Doing Business ratings. In the 2018 ranking it was at 137th and in 2017 132nd.

"We are competing for FDI but the question is how aggressive we are to win it," says Shabbir Zavery, second vice-chairman of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries. "We need to bolster confidence [in] foreign investors that Tanzania continues to have stable policies and a conducive business environment."

On the up

The IMF expects Tanzania's economy to surpass \$60bn in 2019. GDP is thought to have grown by 5.8% in 2018 and is forecast to grow an additional 6.6% in 2019. During 2017, the country attracted \$1.18bn in FDI, a decline of 13% on the previous year and of 24% on 2015, according to Unctad.

The country has witnessed strong economic growth rates - averaging 6% to 7% annually - for the past decade and has seen the slow emergence of a middle class. In central Dar es Salaam - the country's main city with 4.36 million inhabitants, located on the Indian Ocean - a large number of new residential and commercial skyscrapers have sprung up. The country's pension funds have largely provided the finance behind the construction boom, with TSh13000bn (\$5.6bn) under their collective management.

Tanzania also has a fast-growing tourism sector. It is home to Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa, and Zanzibar, the Indian Ocean island that is a semi-autonomous region of the country and attracts 500,000 tourists a year.

TABORA RC DRUMS UP SUPPORT FOR JTI LEAF'S TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN

By Property Watch Reporter

A CAMPAIGN by JTI Leaf to plant more than five million trees in Tabora and Shinyanga regions within the next 12 months will not only save the environment but also make the two tobacco growing regions' scenery beautiful.

Tabora Regional Commissioner, Aggrey Mwanri said earlier this week during the launch of the campaign in his region that the move is commendable and needs to be sustained by both public and private companies in collaboration with other stakeholders.

"Am told that this is a sustainable project that will be held every year on the stipulated dates," Mwanri said as JTI Leaf officials said the exercise will start on December 16 and 17 in the two regions this year.

He said the tobacco company's move will also help in sensitizing the public on the importance of sustained tree planting bearing in mind that deforestation has depleted the two regions of their forest cover.

Mwanri called on members of the public especially tobacco farmers through their primary cooperative societies to embrace the project and ensure that they plant trees and remember to take care of them until they grow big.

"In the past we used to plant trees and leave them to grow on their own which saw some end up dying but the new JTI Leaf initiative is emphasizing on its taking care of them after planting," the Tabora RC added.

Briefing the RC, JTI Leaf's agro-forestry manager, Alfhadhil Makengo and the company's communications and corporate affairs, Manager Kiwira said they are implementing the project in collaboration with 43 primary societies in Tabora and Shinyanga region where JTI Leaf operates.



Tabora regional commissioner Aggrey Mwanri (2nd L) listens to a briefing by JTI Leaf agro-forestry manager Alfhadhil Makengo (R) during the launch of a tree planting campaign for primary societies and farmers supported by the company at a ceremony held in Kaliua District earlier this week. Others (L-R): Kaliua DC Abel Busalama and district executive director, Dr John Pima. Photo courtesy of JTI.

Makengo said all the relevant parties are informed of the campaign because the process already began last month. "December 16 and 17 will be the climax and that this will be

marked every year and that the initiative started in 2017/2018 season when and so far over seven million trees have been planted," he said adding that the project will take place in

all of Tabora region's districts and Ushetu district in Shinyanga region during the two days of December. Speaking at the same event, Kaliua district commissioner, Abel Busalama

said his office will ensure the exercise is well executed and lauded JTI Leaf for complementing government's effort in tree planting as an environmental conservation measure.

Kilombero factory debuts 5kg pack of sugar in market

By Property Watch Reporter

RESPONDING to needs of small food vendors in the market, Kilombero Sugar Company has introduced 5-kg sugar packets earlier this week.

The Morogoro region based company said the new product has come up as a result of market research conducted by its agents earlier this year which indicated that food vendors and small restaurant owners prefer the pack.

"Prior to introducing this new 5kg Bwana Sukari pack, we conducted some market research and we established that customers with slightly higher demand of sugar on a regular basis prefer to purchase sugar in bulks, ranging from 5kg to 10kg," said the company's commercial director, Fimbo Butallah.

Butallah said in Dar es Salaam that the new pack is also appealing to consumers because gives them the option of getting a hygienically pre-packed sugar straight from the factory other than from retail shops which is normally loose.

He said in their efforts to cater for the needs of various consumers in the market, the KSC management complement existing packages in the market which include the 10kg, 25 and 50kg all of which are doing well.

"With this launch, we have now made Bwana Sukari available in six different volumes of packaging which means that Tanzanians from all walks of life can have access to our product which is made locally using cane from our very own Tanzanian farmers," Butallah added noting that the other existing packs are 1kg, 340gram



Kilombero Sugar Company commercial director Fimbo Butallah (C) displays a new 5kg Bwana Sukari pack to journalists at its launch in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Looking on are customer service manager, Matoha Dumea (R) and sales representative, Lulu Ngimbwa. Photo courtesy of KSC.

(booster) and 160gram (robo plus).

He warned consumers against the dangers of buying loose or that packed in unbranded plastic bags at retail shops as fac-

ing risks of poor hygiene and taking expired sugar which is dangerous to human health.

"We therefore do not expect to see retailers continuing to pack and sell sugar in the

unbranded 5kg bags, because it is not only against the law, but not hygiene too," added the KSC's commercial director.

Lagos warns against illegal sand mining

LAGOS

AS Lagos State joins the rest of the world on Thursday in observing the World Soil day, the State Government has warned those involved in illegal sand mining to desist from the act and to protect the soil as a vital resource.

In a press parley as part of activities marking the day, the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tunji Bello also advised residents to desist from indiscriminate tree cutting which also damages the soil.

Bello stated that the state is committed to preventing further soil erosion in the State through identification and recovering of all erosion prone areas and conserving them for better productive use. He added that the theme for the 2019 World Soil Day is to raise awareness on the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by encouraging all sectors around the world to engage proactively in improving soil health.

The theme "Stop Soil Erosion Save Our Future" according to the Commissioner is apt, as efforts must be made towards raising the profile of healthy soil and curb erosion to encourage agricultural development. He said that with continuous erosion, the fertility of soil will continue to be adversely affected at an alarming rate, threatening global food supplies and safety.

He said: "As Government we are committed to preserve the soil, its biodiversity, conservation and management through efficient ecosystem functions for an improved crop production and land activities.

"We must continue to communicate information and undertake activities that may reduce soil erosion as soil represents one of the most important reservoirs of biodiversity and it reflects ecosystem metabolism."

How eco-friendly project is empowering youth

KIGALI

OVER 500 youths in Ngororero District, Ndaro Sector have been employed thanks to River Nyabarongo Ecosystem Rehabilitation Project.

The project is part of the Youth Ecobrigade Programme, which is increasingly creating decent employment for the youth while conserving the environment. Under the project, efforts to conserve the environment are under various programmes including, radical terraces, progressive terraces, buffer zone protection and tree planting activities. In addi-

tion to this, the youth are trained in financial literacy among other skills.

Ecobrigade was initiated by the Ministry of Youth and Culture in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Local Government through Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA), the Ministry of Defence through the Reserve Force and UNDP among others.

Implemented in 10 sectors in the districts of Muhanga, Karongi and Ngororero districts, the Rwf2 billion project has created job opportunities for over 1,600 youth



Officials and youth join residents of Ndaro sector during the launch of Youth Ecobrigade Programme.

in the three districts. Delphine Dushimimana, 20, lives in Ndaro sectors. She told The New Times that: "The money I got here, for the one month I've so far worked

for, helped me to pay back some of the debts I had and also cater for personal needs."

Vianney Maniraguha, 24, is also employed to dig terraces. He

noted that the project was timely. "Before getting employment here, most of us were jobless. But now we have a source of money, which help us to save some and improve our standards of living," he said. Having started in October this year, the project is expected to last between two to three years.

While touring the project on 10 December 2019, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth and Culture, Edouard Bamporiki, urged youths to dream big and avoid misconducts. "When you get an employment opportunity like this and never have a dream of what you want to achieve in the

next 5 to 10 years; you will simply waste the money you earn," he said.

He added: "I urge you to dream big and work as hard as possible to achieve your dreams. This will prevent you from engaging in immoral behaviours like drug abuse." Bamporiki also advised young people to develop a savings culture. "If you prepare nice projects of what to do at the end of this project, the government will add on what you saved so as to implement your project."

Disaster management
 Godefroid Ndayambaje, Mayor of Ngororero District, said that

this project will reduce climate induced disasters in the district. "Our district is often affected by disasters due to Nyabarongo River, which at times become dense in rainy seasons and cause landslides. This project will reduce these effects," he said.

Given its impact, the mayor also requested that the project be expanded to other sectors of the district. According to statistics from the Ministry of Emergency Management, from January to December 6, this year, disasters have killed nine people, injured 14, and destroyed 269 houses and 294 ha of crops in Ngororero District.

TECHNOLOGY

EU APPROVES €3.2BILLION FOR LITHIUM-ION BATTERY PRODUCTION ACROSS MEMBER STATES



Tesla's electric car battery's Gigafactory

BRUSSELS

THE European Union's plan to kick-start battery production and compete with Asian suppliers got a boost from the approval of €3.2 billion in state aid for a landmark project that spans across seven nations.

The funds will unlock private investment of around €5bn in the initiative by 17 companies, taking its total value to about \$9bn.

It will include industrial and automotive giants such as BASF, BMW and Fortum, in order to support the development of innovative and sustainable technologies in lithium-ion batteries from mining and processing the raw materials to production and recycling.

"This is a very important step, even a breakthrough, in what I believe should be the new EU industrial policy," European Commission vice president Maros Sefcovic said on Monday in Brussels. "We should really focus on the area that is very important for this technological competition, which is becoming more and more severe."

The move by Brussels underscores growing European awareness that key industries risk falling behind if they don't fill manufacturing gaps in energy storage technology. Lithium-ion batteries are poised to power the next generation of plug-in cars. They also promise to help balance electric grids transmitting renewable energy like wind and solar.

Under the battery project, which aims to be completed by 2031, member states were cleared to grant the following amounts of state aid: Germany up to around €1.25bn; France up to €960 million; Italy up to €570m; Poland up to €240m; Belgium up to €80m; Sweden up to €50m; Finland up to €30m. Clean mobility is set to play an important role in the EU plan to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is set to

present a detailed roadmap on Wednesday of her Green Deal to zero-out emissions.

Another EU battery project, coordinated by Germany, is under way and is likely to seek EU approval for state aid later this month, Sefcovic said. It will probably involve 12-13 member states and around 50 companies.

"The window of opportunity for the European battery industry is open until 2021-2022," he said. "By then we have to be clearly able to demonstrate that we can manufacture the best batteries in the world on a massive scale, because this is when we expect the ramping up of the production of electric cars and demand in Europe."

Batteries and electric transmission account for about 40 per cent of passenger cars' costs and the gap in nascent European production is largely being filled by Japanese and South Korean battery makers such as Panasonic, LG and Samsung. In the US, Tesla has built its own battery Gigafactory to satisfy demand for the cars it produces.



ENBD Reit to delist from Nasdaq Dubai

DUBAI

ENBD Reit, the real estate investment trust run by Emirates NBD Asset Management, has revealed plans to restructure its fund and to delist from the Nasdaq Dubai, where its shares trade.

The fund became only the second listed real estate investment trust in the UAE when it listed on the exchange in 2017, but the tough real estate market in Dubai, where its entire portfolio of assets is based, and a lack of liquidity in its stock has meant its share price has regularly traded below the value of its net assets.

"With the share price representing a significant discount to [net asset value] and current market conditions expected to prevail, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of strategic alternatives to maximise long-term value for shareholders," Anthony Taylor, head of real estate for ENBD Reit, said in a statement. "This process has led to the decision to proceed with a formal restructuring of the REIT, transitioning to a privately held investment vehicle, subject to shareholders' approval."

ENBD Reit's portfolio contains 11 main assets, which are a mix of commercial and residential units. These include The Edge office building in Dubai Media City, the Souq Extra community retail mall and Bingshatti Terraces apartment complex at Dubai Silicon Oasis, the Uninvest

student property building at Dubai Academic City and South View School in Dubailand.

Last month, the company said that its net asset value stood at \$254m as of September 30, with the total value of its portfolio at \$435m, which was only marginally lower than the \$437m it was valued at in June.

Yet despite measures taken to improve liquidity, including a cancellation of \$84.5 million worth of shares last year to create a "distributable reserve" that was used to embark on a seven-month-long buyback programme, its share price continued to trade at a hefty discount to the fund's value. The company said on November 27 that its NAV per share at the end of September was \$1.02, but its share price closed last Thursday at \$0.50, a discount of more than 50 per cent.

"We believe that the decision [to delist] is in the best interest of shareholders who stand to realise greater value from holding equity in the REIT - valued according to NAV - on a fixed-term basis. To date, the portfolio has shown considerable resilience to market conditions, so we think that as we come out of the current cycle there will be value to be realised from our real estate holdings," Mr Taylor said. The company will put forward its proposals to restructure and delist the Reit to shareholders ahead of a forthcoming extraordinary general meeting.

World's first Warner Bros hotel to open in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI

A PARTNERSHIP between Abu Dhabi's Miral and Warner Bros, the \$112 million (Dh411m) WB Abu Dhabi is already 40 per cent complete and will be located adjacent to the existing Warner Bros World Abu Dhabi theme park on Yas Island.

The hotel will offer more than 250 rooms, set over eight storeys, with an interior design that celebrates Warner Bros' extensive film and television library. There will be signature WB restaurants, a spa, fitness facilities, a large ballroom and meeting rooms, a child-friendly pool and Kids Club, and a shaded rooftop pool.

"Following the successful debut of Warner Bros World Abu Dhabi, we are thrilled to expand our pres-

ence in the region with the studio's first-ever branded hotel," says Pam Lifford, president of Warner Bros Global Brands and Experiences. "This new venture will pay tribute to Warner Bros' legacy of rich entertainment, offering fans a unique way to experience their favourite brands and characters." "We are excited to announce the development of the world's first Warner Bros themed hotel, here on Yas Island," said Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, chairman of Miral. "This is yet another step in our journey to position Yas Island as one of the top global destinations for entertainment, leisure and business. Our partnership with Warner Bros is a unique collaboration that adds another dimension to the outstanding immersive experiences available on Yas Island."

Saudi construction sector continues strong growth in third quarter

RIYADH

The revival in Saudi Arabia's construction sector continued in the third quarter of 2019, with the level of contract awards in the third quarter of 2019 increasing by 164 per cent year-on-year, according to a new report.

The value of contracts awarded in the three months to September 30 in the kingdom rose to 47.8 billion Saudi riyals bringing the total awards for the first nine months to 87.2 billion riyals, up 117 per cent year-on-year, the report from the US-Saudi Arabian Business Council shows.

"The 47.8bn riyals in awarded contracts during the third quarter continued the trend seen thus far in 2019 as the oil & gas sector led ... followed by the real estate sector. This quarter witnessed the industrial sector amass the third-highest value of awarded contracts after a relatively slow pace during the two previous quarters. These three sectors accounted for 80 per cent of all contract awards during the quarter," the report said.

This is the second strong quarter of contract award data following a difficult period after the 2014 oil price collapse which led to the government halting payments to contractors, and the

pausing or cancelling of scores of major projects as spending priorities were reassessed before the kingdom created its Vision 2030 plan. Contract awards hit a record 290 billion riyals in 2013 - the year in which more than 86bn riyals worth of contracts related to the Riyadh Metro were awarded - but slumped 108m riyals in 2016, bottoming out at 100.9m riyals last year.

"One of the key regulatory changes that affected projects in the kingdom was the creation of the Bureau of Capital and Operational Spending Rationalisation. The Bureau halted, suspended, and cancelled numerous infrastructure projects that were deemed not to be in line with its economic objectives," the report's author, economist Albara'a Alwazir, told The National.

"Fast forward to 2019, we are witnessing a return to heavy spending on mega-projects in Saudi Arabia as Vision 2030 developments like Vision Realisation Plans (VRPs) begin to take shape." He added that the kingdom has also upped spending on infrastructure-related projects as part of its overall spending plans.

"Capex as a percentage of the total budget has risen from 19.9 per cent in 2018 to 22.2 per cent



The Riyadh Metro.

in 2019. Furthermore the (kingdom's fiscal balance programme) plans for capex to climb to 23.7 per cent by 2021," Mr Alwazir said.

Contract awards are likely to top the 200 billion riyal mark this year for the first time in four years. He argued the outlook for the sector in 2020 looks healthy as a

result of the continued increase in capex planned, as well as the fact that the amount dedicated to megaprojects such as Neom and the Red Sea tourism development is set to double under proposals set out in the kingdom's preliminary budget.

"This positive announcement

places the construction sector at the top of the list of being a leader in driving non-oil growth over the medium-term," Mr Alwazir said. The biggest contracts awarded during the quarter include the award of a 6.2 billion riyal contract by Shomoul Holding to Nesma & Partners for a new

mall to be built as part of The Avenues Riyadh development, a 5.6bn award by Saudi Aramco for package nine of a new gas plant at Tanajib to Tecnicas Reunidas, and a 4.8bn deal to Samsung Engineering to build a new tyre plant in Jubail from the kingdom's National Tire Corporation. The

increase in construction activity in the kingdom is also driving up sales volumes and pricing of cement. Cement sales in the kingdom rose in October for the fifth consecutive month and were up 17.5 per cent year-on-year. Jadwa Investment said in a note published last week.

WORLD

UK votes to decide the fate of Brexit, again

LONDON

VOTERS went to the polls yesterday in an election that will pave the way for Brexit under Prime Minister Boris Johnson or propel Britain towards another referendum that could ultimately reverse the decision to leave the European Union.

After failing to deliver Brexit by an Oct 31 deadline, Johnson called the election to break what he cast as political paralysis that had thwarted Britain's departure and sapped confidence in the economy.

The face of the "Leave" campaign in the 2016 referendum, 55-year-old Johnson fought the election under the slogan of "Get Brexit Done", promising to end the deadlock and spend more on health, education and the police.

His main opponent, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, 70, promised higher public spending, nationalization of key services, taxes on the wealthy and another referendum on Brexit.

All major opinion polls suggest Johnson will win, though pollsters got the 2016 referendum wrong and their models predict outcomes ranging from a hung parliament to the biggest Conservative landslide since the era of Margaret Thatcher.

Seven eve-of-election opinion polls published on Wednesday showed the Conservatives ahead of Labour by an average of nearly 10 points although Labour narrowed the gap in four of them.

"We could have a Conservative majority government which will get Brexit done and unleash Britain's potential," Johnson told campaigners. "This election is our chance to end the gridlock but the result is on a knife-edge."

Corbyn said the Conservatives were the party of "billionaires" while Labour represented the many.

"You can vote for despair and vote for the dishonesty of this government, or you can vote Labour and get a government that can bring hope to the future," he said.

Polls opened at 0700 GMT and will close at 2200 GMT when an exit poll will give the first indications of the result.

Official results from the bulk of the United Kingdom's 650 constituencies begin to come in from 2300 GMT to 0500 GMT.

While Brexit framed the United Kingdom's first December election since 1923, the tortuous exit from the EU has variously fatigued, enthused and enraged voters while eroding loyalties to



Britain's Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Boris Johnson waves as he holds his dog Dilyn as he leaves after voting in the general election at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London, yesterday. (AP)

the two major parties.

BREXIT AND BORIS

A majority would allow Johnson to lead the country out of the club it joined in 1973, but Brexit would be far from over.

He must negotiate a trade agreement with the EU in a self-imposed deadline of 11 months.

After Jan 31, Britain would enter a transition period during which it would negotiate a new relationship with the 27 EU members. He has pledged to do that by the end of 2020.

Sterling markets are pricing in a Johnson win and the pound was up against the dollar and the euro in early trading on Thursday.

But two historic referendums - on Scottish independence in 2014 and Brexit in 2016 - and two national elections in 2015 and 2017 have delivered often unexpected results that ushered in political crises.

The election pitches two of the most unconventional British politicians of recent years against each other. Both have been repeatedly written off by opponents and both offer starkly different visions for the world's fifth-largest economy.

Johnson's pitch is Brexit but he shrank from anything more radical in a heavily choreographed campaign. Corbyn pitched what he calls a radical transformation for a country long wedded to free-market liberalism.

Johnson, the New York-born former mayor of London, won the top job in July. His predecessor, Theresa May, resigned after failing to get parliamentary backing for her Brexit deal with the EU and then losing her party's majority in a snap election.

Johnson defied critics by striking a new deal with the EU but was unable to navigate the maze of a divided British parliament and was defeated by opponents whom he portrayed as subverting the will of the people.

The United Kingdom voted 52%-48% in 2016 to quit the EU. But parliament has been deadlocked since May's failed bet on a 2017 snap election over how, when and even whether to leave.

Corbyn, once an opponent of the EU, says he would remain neutral if he was a prime minister overseeing another referendum. He pledged to overthrow a "rigged system" he said was run by billionaires and tax dodgers.

Russia, Syria condemn US military presence in Syria

NUR-SULTAN

RUSSIAN and Syrian representatives condemned here on Wednesday US military presence and oil plunder in Syria.

"The US military presence in Syria is absolutely unacceptable," Alexander Lavrentyev, Russia's special envoy for Syria, said at a press conference following the 14th round of Astana talks held here on Dec 10-11.

"US military forces and other small forces of the international coalition should leave the Syrian territory. This is the only way to resolve the remaining differences

between Kurds and the central government," Lavrentyev (pictured) said.

Bashar Jaafari, Syria's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN), accused the US troops of looting Syrian oil facilities and deposits.

The US military occupied oil and gas wells in northeastern Syria and sold Syrian natural resources to Turkey, plundering Syria's revenues, Jaafari said.

He added that the Syrian government, together with its allies, has the right to fight against terrorists in the northern Syrian province of Idlib.



"When Americans killed al-Baghdadi, they showed it in a Hollywood style, making themselves heroes. But when the Syrian government fights against terrorists,

everyone tries to hold it accountable. This is international hypocrisy. There is no solution to the Idlib issue without the elimination of terrorists," he said.

US President Donald Trump, after declaring the intention to withdraw all US forces from eastern Syria, said in October at a cabinet meeting that some troops would stay to "secure the oil."

Following Trump's remarks, the Pentagon sought to bring clarity on Nov 13 by insisting that the "mission remains unchanged," and that the US troops were in Syria solely to fight against the Islamic State. However, Trump on

the same day insisted that the US troops remained in Syria "only for the oil."

The 14th round of Astana talks was attended by Iran, Turkey and Russia, as well as representatives of the Syrian government and the opposition, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and the UN also joined as observers.

The process toward a peaceful settlement in Syria, also known as the Astana process, was launched in January 2017 by Russia, Iran and Turkey in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, which has been renamed Nur-Sultan.

Xinhua

US House panel resumes debate on impeachment articles against Trump

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. House of Representatives moved closer yesterday to the impeachment of Republican President Donald Trump, as a committee resumed debate on formal charges that are likely to get a final House vote next week.

The House Judiciary Committee was expected to approve two articles of impeachment later yesterday, which will allow a vote by the Democratic-controlled House next week that is expected to make Trump the third president in U.S. history to be impeached.

If the House impeaches Trump, who is charged with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, the matter would go to the Senate for a trial. The Republican-led chamber is unlikely to vote to remove Trump from office.

Democrats accuse Trump of abusing his power by trying to force Ukraine to

investigate political rival Joe Biden and of obstructing Congress when lawmakers tried to look into the matter. Biden is a leading contender for the Democratic nomination to run against Trump next year.

Trump has denied wrongdoing and condemned the impeachment inquiry as a hoax.

"No crime!" Trump said on Twitter early yesterday.

On Tuesday evening, Republicans on the Judiciary Committee accused Democrats of overplaying their hand by accusing Trump of the crimes of bribery and extortion in the media and then pulling back.

"Whatever happened to quid pro quo, extortion and bribery?" said Representative John Ratcliffe. "The Democrats have been telling us it was clear, the facts were undisputed, the evidence was overwhelming. Except it wasn't any of those



things and now it's all gone."

Democrats spent much of the evening chiding Republicans for their loyalty to Trump.

"Wake up! Stop thinking about running for re-election," said Representative David Cicilline.

"Stop worrying about being primaried. Stop deflecting and distracting and treating those you represent as if they don't see what's going on, like they're not smart enough to realize that you are willfully ignoring the facts to protect a corrupt and

dangerous president."

SIMPLIFYING THE CASE

A Senate trial is expected next month on the charges. Senior Republicans in the chamber appeared to be moving toward a consensus that a streamlined proceeding with no witnesses would allow Trump and the Senate to end the matter and quickly move on.

Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, said on Wednesday, no decision had yet been made over how to conduct the trial.

Democrats sought to simplify the public case against Trump by not including other contentious aspects of Trump's tenure, such as

his efforts to impede former Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe. Democratic lawmakers from more conservative districts had argued the focus should stay on Ukraine.

Still, while the Judiciary Committee is likely to approve the articles, several Democrats in swing districts remain unsure how they will vote on impeachment, although with a 36-seat Democratic lead over Republicans in the House, passage is expected.

Trump and Republicans have tried to use the issue as way to attack Democratic presidential candidates and those vulnerable House members.

Agencies

As another election looms, Israel's president asks public not to despair

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S president yesterday urged Israelis not to lose faith in their democratic system after persistent political deadlock threw the country into a third election in less than a year.

The March 2 ballot, agreed by parliament when it voted overnight to dissolve, will be held in the shadow of a corruption indictment handed down last month against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has denied any wrongdoing.

Neither the right-wing Likud party leader nor his main political rival, former armed forces chief Benny Gantz of the centrist Blue and White party, won enough support in elections in April and September for a ruling majority in the legislature.

Negotiations between the two parties on a "national unity" coalition deteriorated into a blame game as to who would bear responsibility for a third election that both Netanyahu and Gantz insisted that neither they nor the country wanted.

President Reuven Rivlin (pictured), whose proposal of a "rotating" premiership between the two men faltered over who would serve first and for how long, issued a statement appealing to Israelis not to "sink into despair" in the face of the political logjam.

"We must not lose faith in the democratic system or in its ability to create the reality we live in with our own hands," said Rivlin, a former Likud legislator whose current post is largely ceremonial.

The disarray carries a heavy economic price: it will be well into 2020 before a new budget is passed.

"The new elections will paralyze the government for another six months in which it will have to operate under an interim budget and hinder economic growth," said Modi Shafir, chief strategist in Mizrahi Tefahot Bank's finance division.

Diana Perkins, a Tel Aviv florist, voiced frustration at another do-over ballot, with recent opinion polls predicting no significant change in voting results from three months ago.

"I don't know who has the answer," she said. "I wish I had a magic ball to say, like, 'This going to solve all the issues.'"

As prime minister, Netanyahu, 70, is under no legal obligation to resign as a result of the indictment and he can seek parliamentary immunity from proceedings he has condemned as a "coup" attempt by government lawyers.

For some commentators the bottom line is that Netanyahu, in office for the past decade, has managed to cling to power as Israel's longest-serving leader despite setbacks at the polls and that he will get another chance at survival at the ballot box.

Xinhua

Algeria holds presidential vote boycotted by demonstrators

ALGIERS

ALGERIA'S government held a long-delayed presidential election yesterday, despite months of street demonstrations by protesters who view the vote as a charade intended to keep the ruling elite in power.

The army, the strongest political player, sees the election as the only way to restore order by naming a successor to Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was toppled by a popular uprising earlier this year after two decades in office.

The huge protests that brought down Bouteflika have continued for 10 months, and the demonstrators have sworn to boycott the election. All five candidates that won approval to stand are former senior officials, including two former prime ministers, and protesters say none is likely to challenge the army's dominance.

In central Algiers, where thousands of people had taken to the streets on Wednesday to protest against the election, some people were voting on Thursday as police patrolled the streets on foot and in vehicles. A helicopter circled overhead. "The country has entered a critical phase," said Aziz Djibali, 56, who went to vote at a polling station near the prime minister's office. "It's time for Algerians to voice their opinions peacefully."

But Salim Bairi, a schoolteacher sitting at a central cafe, was boycotting. "What is the benefit of voting?"

Elections under Bouteflika were largely uncompetitive. Kamel Moumni, 36, waiting for a taxi driver to take him to a dentist, said he hadn't voted for years. "I will not change my mind today," he said. Outside the capital, polling stations in some areas were still closed hours after the official 0700 GMT start of voting, witnesses said. Polls close at 1800 GMT and no official results are expected until at least today.

At Haizer, in the Kabylie region which was the main theater of a 1990s civil war between the state and Islamist insurgents, groups of young people chanting "No vote" in the local Amazigh language marched through the streets.

Agencies

China supports solving African problems in African way, says Chinese envoy

ASWAN, Egypt

CHINA rejects external intervention in the internal affairs of African countries and advocates solving African problems in African way, Xu Jinghu, special representative of the Chinese government on African Affairs, told Xinhua in an interview on Wednesday.

At the same time, China has always supported and will continue to support peace and development, the major pillars for building nations, in Africa, Xu said.

"Without peace, there is no development," she told Xinhua on the sidelines of the forum for Sustainable Peace, Security and Development in Africa that kicked off in the upper

Egyptian city of Aswan on Wednesday. The two-day forum focused on post-conflict reconstruction, education, climate change and sustainable development in Africa.

The Chinese envoy said the topics of the forum received positive responses from the leaders and dignitaries of many African countries and international organizations.

"During the panels, African leaders spoke freely and had profound insights, which fully explains the importance and urgency of peace, security and development for African countries," Xu (pictured) said.

"The challenges facing African countries have gradually shifted from traditional to non-traditional secu-

rity issues such as terrorism, weapons smuggling, human trafficking, refugee migration, and displacement," she said.

Xu underlined "the need for multilateral cooperation" to address the challenges in African countries such as violence and terrorism.

The participants highlighted the importance of tackling security and terrorism issues that drain the resources of the continent, either via regional or international players.

"For supporting African countries to achieve peace and stability, China has always been a sincere and active contributor," Xu said.

She cited that nearly 2,000 Chinese peacekeepers are deployed in African



areas now, adding that the Chinese navy has also escorted commercial

ships in the Gulf of Aden and Somalia for more than a decade.

On the relationships between Africa and the international community, Xu said "African countries strongly call for the promotion of democratization and improvement of the international governance system."

She described the ongoing Libyan crisis as an example of typical result of poor international governance, a main issue that was touched upon during the forum sessions.

"The international community should listen more to the voices from Africa," she said, adding that China encourages peace, promotes talks and supports the principle of solving the African problems in an African way.

"African countries live and understand their problems and have the right to solve it from their perspective," Xu said, while highlighting the importance of the non-intervention principle.

China supports the African Union and the African sub-regional organizations "to play a leading role in resolving regional conflicts without external forces' interference."

At the Beijing Summit of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2018, China proposed to cooperate closely with African countries to implement a plan covering the fields including industrial promotion, trade facilitation, green development and health.

Xinhua



US Uyghur bill grossly violates international law

THE US House of Representatives just passed the "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019." This bill ignores the stable and harmonious development in Xinjiang, slanders China's efforts in deradicalization and counter-terrorism, viciously attacks the Chinese government's Xinjiang policy, and deliberately smears the human rights condition in Xinjiang.

It grossly interferes in China's internal affairs and seriously violates international law and basic norms governing international relations, revealing the US' double standards and hypocritical hegemonic logic. The act is essentially an abuse of long-arm jurisdiction and a practice of hegemony in the name of justice.

The Facts and China's Position on China-US Trade Friction, a white paper issued by The State Council Information Office of China states that "long-arm jurisdiction" refers to the practice of extending one's tentacles beyond one's borders and exercising jurisdiction over foreign entities based on one's domestic laws.

In recent years, the US has been extending its "long-arm jurisdiction" to wider areas including financial investment, anti-monopoly, export control and cybersecurity.

In international affairs, the US has frequently requested entities or individuals of other countries to obey US domestic laws; otherwise they may face US civil, criminal or trade sanctions at any time.

"Long-arm jurisdiction" has become a hegemonic tool for the US to suppress foreign entities, interfere in other countries' internal affairs and even subvert other countries' governments.

Such power politics, under the guise of domestic "legal compliance" and "rules to follow," provides a legal basis for the US to meddle in other countries and compels US domestic law enforcement.

Since the US Department of Commerce sanctioned 28 Chinese entities by putting them on the "entities list" and the US House of Representatives passed the "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019," Washington has repeatedly engaged in long-arm hegemony, fully exposing its malicious intention to contain and split China under the pretext of the so-called "Xinjiang issue."

Under the pretext of "America First," the US grants extraterritorial effect to domestic laws without any multilateral authorization.

This has become a common tactic of the US to manipulate international politics and desecrate sovereign states by means of "long-arm jurisdiction," which completely deviates from justice and international morality.

Since the principle of state sovereignty is at the core of all principles of international law, in a sense, a legal system based on equality, mutual benefit and mutual cooperation among sov-

eigns in the international community.

However, power politics pursued by the US has completely neglected the sovereignty of other countries. The US is not so much a participant as a spoiler.

The fact that the US House of Representatives passed the Xinjiang-related bill and insisted on "long-arm jurisdiction," regardless of China's complete sovereignty over Xinjiang, has severely violated the principles and rules in international law.

For instance, according to Article 2 in the Charter of the United Nations, "The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members."

"Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state."

In the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, "No State or group of States has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other State."

International law and basic norms governing international relations require all countries, including economically and militarily powerful ones, to fulfill their international obligations in accordance with the law, conduct international cooperation with integrity and equality to safeguard the common and fundamental interests of all mankind.

Therefore, the development of egoism and hegemonism will inevitably stifle the vitality of international law and be universally rejected by the international community.

Sino-US relations are facing some difficulties and challenges. Some politicians and forces in the US adhere to the Cold War mentality, believe in zero-sum game and are full of ideological prejudice.

They attempt to sow discord among various ethnic groups in Xinjiang and send wrong signals to the violent and terrorist forces to undermine prosperity and stability in Xinjiang and contain China's peaceful growth.

The Xinjiang-related bill passed by the US Congress has no basis in fact, and even less in morality, for Xinjiang has long been an inseparable part of Chinese territory, concerning China's core interests. Only by eliminating violence and terrorism can Xinjiang develop and human rights be guaranteed.

Xinjiang-related issues are by no means about human rights, ethnicity or religion, but about the fight against separatism and terrorism. The fight against terrorism and extremism sticks to the principles of rule of law and conforms to the purposes and principles of the United Nations in combating terrorism and safeguarding basic human rights.

Global Times

Two German diplomats given seven days to leave Russia, says Russian Foreign Ministry

MOSCOW

TWO employees of the German Embassy in Moscow must leave Russia within the next seven days and a note to this effect has been handed to German Ambassador Geza Andreas von Geyr, the Russian Foreign Ministry reported yesterday.

"A strong protest has been lodged with the head of the German diplomatic mission over the German government's ungrounded decision of December 4, 2019, to declare two staff members of the Russian Em-

bassy in Berlin personae non gratae," the ministry said.

"In view of that, guided by the reciprocity principle and Article 9 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, Russia decided to declare two staff members of the German Embassy in Russia personae non gratae as a countermeasure.

They must leave the country within the next seven days. A corresponding note has been handed to the German ambassador," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

On December 4, the German For-

eign Ministry declared two Russian Embassy employees personae non gratae in the wake of a Georgian citizen's murder in Berlin on August 23.

A Russian national is allegedly a suspect in the case. Berlin says the decision was due to Russia's insufficient cooperation with the investigation.

According to German prosecutors, there are reasons to believe that Russia's state agencies or the authorities of Chechnya, which is part of Russia, were involved in the murder.

Agencies

UN tribunal blasts S. Africa's inaction over Rwandan genocide fugitive

UNITED NATIONS

BOTH the president and the prosecutor of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals blasted South Africa on Wednesday for its failure to arrest a fugitive wanted by the mechanism, which deals with cases left over by the UN tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda.

Judge Carmel Agius, president of the mechanism, and Prosecutor Serge Brammertz expressed their frustration over South Africa's protracted inaction over the arrest and surrender of the fugitive wanted for crimes in Rwanda.

"The mechanism strongly regrets the current lack of progress, particularly since, as we all heard in this very chamber in July of this year, South Africa believes that states have an international obligation to cooperate with the mechanism and the prosecutor," Judge Agius told the Security Council in a briefing.

The mechanism trusts that South Africa, being one of the current members of the Security Council, will decide to honor its obligations under Chapter VII of the UN Charter by securing the arrest of the fugitive that was located on its territory in 2018, said Judge Agius.

In the same briefing, Prosecutor Brammertz detailed South Africa's repeated failures.

"I deeply regret South Africa's longstanding failure to execute a mechanism arrest warrant. Since my office was officially notified in August 2018 that one of the fugitives had been located in South Africa, I have endeavored to work with South African authorities to secure the fugitive's arrest. At all times we have sought to handle this matter with discretion and respect for South Africa's sovereignty."

During discussions over the last year, South Africa provided changing rea-



Judge Carmel Agius

sons why it could not act. For each and every challenge that was posed, his office sought to work with South Africa and find solutions to overcome them, said the prosecutor.

The prosecutor had to raise the issue twice at the Security Council as the situation remained the same.

"After assurances in July that cooperation would be forthcoming, I was cautiously optimistic that the arrest would take place expeditiously.

My office was greatly surprised, then, to receive in September a formal response from South Africa, informing us, for the first time after more than a year of discussions, that it could not cooperate because it lacked the necessary domestic legislation. We quickly responded by reaffirming South Africa's obligation to cooperate under Chapter VII and reiterating our request for the fugitive's prompt arrest."

After the prosecutor's office filed a critical written report to the Security Council, South Africa last week informed the office that it had finally

submitted the arrest warrant to the competent judicial authorities for execution.

"While we welcome this procedural step after nearly one and a half years of inaction, the fact is that while we are speaking today, the fugitive remains at large," said Prosecutor Brammertz.

"At this late stage, neither the victims nor this council can be satisfied with anything less than the fugitive's immediate arrest," he said.

Seven other fugitives indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda also remain at large.

"The Security Council has repeatedly urged (UN) member states to provide all necessary cooperation in the search for the fugitives. This message, sadly, is not being heard by some states. And when a member of the council fails for 16 months to arrest a fugitive wanted for genocide, it sends the wrong signal," said Prosecutor Brammertz.

In response, a South African envoy promised his country's cooperation with the mechanism, but did not say when the arrest will be made.

"South Africa takes its international obligations seriously and wishes to assure the mechanism and the Security Council that it is firmly committed to combatting impunity and implementing the request for assistance.

We will continue to cooperate with the prosecutor's office in order to ensure that the fugitive is brought to justice," Xolisa Mabhongo, South Africa's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, told the Security Council.

South Africa fully respects its obligation to provide assistance to the mechanism, and the delay in positively responding to the prosecutor should in no way be regarded as a refutation of such obligation, he said. Xinhua

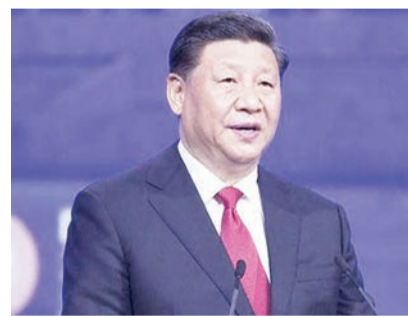
President Xi's vision seen in openness of foreign policies

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping's vision for building a community with a shared future for mankind is reflected in the transparency and predictability of the nation's foreign policies, a senior expert of international studies said on Wednesday.

By championing such a vision, the country tells the world what kind of relationship it wants to have with the rest of the world when it becomes stronger, Ruan Zongze, executive vice-president of the China Institute of International Studies, said at a news briefing organized by the State Council Information Office in Beijing.

Ruan said China is pursuing a path of peaceful development, and has been active in making greater contributions to the peaceful development



of humankind as a whole while developing itself.

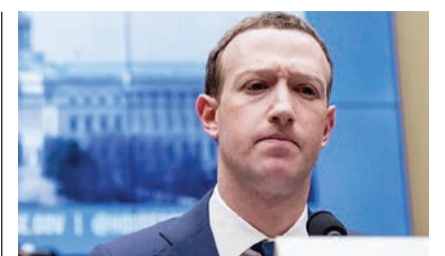
That's why it advocates the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, with efforts focused on constructing an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity, he added.

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China Central Committee, a tone-setting Party

meeting held at the end of October, reiterated China's commitment in a milestone document that said China will hold high the banner of peace, development and win-win cooperation, unwaveringly safeguard the country's sovereignty, security and development interests, resolutely uphold world peace and promote common development.

It remains committed to advancing the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, upholding the perspective of global governance that features extensive consultations and joint contribution with the benefits shared by all, advocating for multilateralism and democratization of international relations and pushing for reforms of global economic governance mechanisms.

Ruan said that China's vision comes



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg

Australia tells Facebook, Google to commit to competition rules

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA said yesterday technology giants such as Facebook Inc (FB.O) and Google (GOOGL.O) will have to agree to new rules to ensure they do not abuse their market power and damage competition, or the government will impose new controls on them.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) will create a code of conduct to address complaints that the technology companies have a stronghold on advertising, the main income generator of local media operators.

The guidelines will ensure substantial market power is not used to lessen competition in media and advertising services markets.

"I want us to be the model jurisdiction in the world for how we are dealing with digital platforms, social media platforms," Morrison told reporters in Melbourne.

The move tightens the regulatory screws on the online platforms, which have governments from the United States to Europe scrambling to address concerns ranging from anti-trust issues to the spread of "fake news" and hate speech.

Australia's government said technology companies would need to agree to the new rules by November 2020 or it will impose them.

"The companies are on notice. The government is not messing around. We will not hesitate to act," Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg told reporters.

Google and Facebook both said they support greater competition and will work closely with the ACCC.

"We support a sustainable news ecosystem which is why we work with publishers to help them reach new audiences," Mia Garlick, director of policy, Australia and New Zealand at Facebook, said in an emailed statement.

Google and Facebook have opposed tighter regulation, while traditional media owners, including Rupert Murdoch's News Corp (NWSA.O), have backed reform.

'One country, two systems' brings tangible benefits to Macao's development

THE special administrative region (SAR) of Macao has experienced huge changes since its return to China 20 years ago. "The benefits brought by the 'one country, two systems' policy is one of the fundamental reasons for these changes," said Lok Wai Kin, professor of the University of Macao (UM) during a recent interview.

Macao's development was once hindered by its small size. To cope with this issue, the Hengqin New Area in Zhuhai, south China's Guangdong Province was established in 2009, and the UM Hengqin campus was the first project under the Hengqin-Macao cooperation.

Located under the Hengqin Hilland facing Taipa Island, the UM's new campus followed the law of the Chinese mainland during the construction period and was later

transferred to Macao for jurisdiction upon completion.

Over the past 10 years, Hengqin New Area has witnessed constant improvement in its infrastructure with each passing day. With over 1,500 Macao-funded enterprises having registered in the area, Hengqin New Area has offset the narrowness of Macao, enriching the connotation of the "one country, two systems" principle in an innovative manner.

When Macao was stuck by typhoon Hato, the strongest typhoon of the year in Aug. 2017, the SAR suffered heavy rainfall and seawater intrusion. At the request of the Macao SAR government, nearly a thousand officers and soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) were sent to the region for rescue and disaster relief.

To thank the hard work of the PLA soldiers, Macao citizens voluntarily offered food and water. "This made us truly understand the meaning of motherland," said a primary school student in Macao.

Before Macao's return to China, the region's governors were appointed and empowered by the President of Portugal. There was no Chinese holding a departmental position in the Macao government under the administration of Portugal until 1997.

After Macao returned to China, the Chinese central government and Macao SAR have promoted the development of democratic political system in the region step by step in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao SAR and relevant provisions of the National People's Congress (NPC). So far, four chief

executives and five terms of members of the Legislative Assembly of the region have been elected.

In Macao's sixth Legislative Assembly election held in 2017, a total of 186 people took part in direct election, being the largest number in history. Registered voters in the election amounted to 307,020, up 11.23 percent from the previous year. "The successful practice of the 'one country, two systems' principle in Macao uplifted Macao citizens' enthusiasm for political participation, and the idea of the people of Macao governing Macao has become the most powerful stimulus for Macao residents' engagement in political affairs," said a scholar from Macao.

Today's Macao enjoys great prosperity as Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro, one of the busiest avenues in the region is seeing vigorous com-

mercial development, and the famous Senado Square is welcoming crowds of tourists.

After its return to China, Macao has grown into one of the fastest-growing regions in the world. It opened its gaming industry to the world, and embraced rapid development of its tourism sector and related industries such as catering, hotel, and conference and exhibition. From 1999 to 2018, Macao's GDP grew from 47.3 billion patacas (about \$5.87 billion) to 440.3 billion patacas, and its per capita GDP from \$15,000 to \$83,000.

"After years of unremitting endeavors, Macao has seen preliminary results of its appropriate level of diversified economic development," said Leong Vai Tac, 4th Secretary for Economy and Finance of Macao SAR government,

ata meeting of the Legislative Assembly at the end of 2018.

In 2017, the total added value of Macao's conference and exhibition industry, financial industry, traditional Chinese medicine industry, and cultural and creative industry hit 32.08 billion patacas, rising by 23.61 percent from that in 2015.

The conference and exhibition industry developed particularly fast among emerging industries in Macao, whose growth rate of the total added value was up nearly 147 percent from 2015 to 2017.

The past twenty years of Macao's leapfrog development was also the period when Macao SAR made great efforts to integrate itself into the overall development of China.

With the issuance and introduction of major official documents and measures such as the

Closer Economic Partnership Arrangements (CEPAs) with the Mainland, the deepening regional cooperation in the pan-Pearl River Delta, and the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Macao is embracing a huge number of opportunities.

Besides, the completion of major cross-region infrastructure projects including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge have effectively boosted the connectivity among Macao and its neighboring regions and further enhanced its attraction.

As it gets stronger day by day, Macao is making great efforts to improve people's livelihood. Since 2007, the region has implemented 15-year compulsory education for students from kindergarten to high school.

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



WADA Director, Intelligence and Investigations, Gunter Younger, WADA President-Elect, Witold Banka, WADA President, Sir Craig Reedie, WADA Director General, Olivier Niggli and Chair of the CRC, Jonathan Taylor QC attend a news conference after World Anti-Doping Agency's extraordinary Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting that has banned Russian athletes from all major sporting events in the next four years, in Lausanne, Switzerland, December 9, 2019. (Agencies)

No Flag, No Match: Russian boxers refuse to go to Olympics under neutral status

MOSCOW

THE World Anti-Doping Agency's Executive Committee on 9 December endorsed a recommendation by its Compliance Review Committee to ban Russia from hosting and competing in major international sporting events for four years with its athletes allowed to participate only after proving they are not involved in World Anti-Doping Code violations.

Boxers of the Russian national team refuse to go to the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo without their national flag, R-Sport reports.

The Secretary General of the Boxing Federation of Russia Umar Kremlev said:

"The athletes are requesting that we use the courts to reverse the decision and be granted the right to fly the flag. We need to wait for the next steps of the Russian Olympic Committee (IOC) and Russian Anti-doping Agency (RUSADA), but we ourselves will also analyse the possibility of challenging this decision... For us, the most important thing is that our boxers appear under the flag of Russia and to the sound of our anthem. Without this, there is no sense in participating," said Kremlev. He went on to add that in his view Russia's disqualification is not a problem of just this country, but one plaguing all world sport, and it is necessary to blame "someone specifically or a specific federation."

He also made reference to the application filed by the Russian Federation to host the European Boxing Championship in 2021 in Chelyabinsk and the World Cup in 2020.

According to Kremlev, this would require finding an agreement with WADA.

"I have said many times that Russia is a great sports authority, all tournaments in our country are held according to the highest standards," added the Secretary General of the Russian Boxing Federation.

WADA ban

Earlier on 9 December the WADA Executive Committee unanimously approved a recommendation by its Compliance Review Committee to ban Russia from hosting and competing in major international sporting events for a period of four years after it

Dwight Howard thriving in his smallest role yet

ORLANDO, Fla.

THERE were still a few boos when Dwight Howard checked into the game in Orlando for the first time, a few reminders of how every Magic fan still hasn't forgotten or forgiven him for the way his stint with his first team ended.

He doesn't mind anymore.

There was a time when these things would have bothered him. No more. He just turned 34. He's in his 16th season. And by all accounts, Howard – in his second stint with the Los Angeles Lakers, his sixth different franchise – has finally seen the light.

"This is a new day. This is a new moment," Howard said. "I think it's best if we all get out the past and focus on the moments we have in front of us."

There's a maturity to Howard now that frankly hasn't always been there throughout his career. He's on a team expected to compete for an NBA title. He's earned the trust of LeBron James and Anthony Davis, the stars who collaborated in a quest to bring the Lakers back to prominence. He's a role player, averaging career lows in minutes, points and rebounds.

He's handled it perfectly. This isn't his second chance. It's more like a sixth chance.

"He's thriving," James said. "He's thriving. It's going to add more years on his career and it's going to add an ingredient to our team for success because of the role that he's accepting and he's just making the most of it every single night. Defending at a high level, rebounding, blocking shots, catching lobs and with zero ego. Zero ego."

This is Howard's role now. He played in Orlando for the 10th time as an opponent on Wednesday night, he and the Lakers coming in and beating the Magic 96-87. Howard wasn't called upon to do much; the Lakers were up 26-9 when he checked in for the first time, and he finished with two points and six rebounds in 18 minutes.

The other 30 minutes he spent on the bench, cheering and coaching. Past versions of Howard wouldn't have done that.

"I never would have been the person I am today if I would have stayed here," Howard said, sitting at his locker. "So I'm very thankful that everything that has transpired has transpired and it's made me the best version of Dwight Howard."

AP

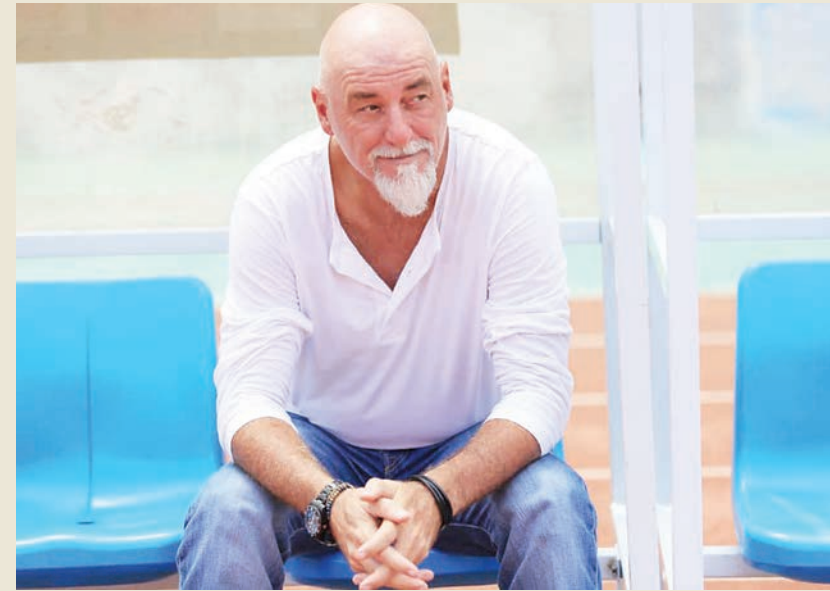
TFF: Are contracts of clubs and players, coaches upright or devious

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

WITH an increasing frequency of either dismissals or removals of top level club coaches – as their tenures and achievements are subjects of great public interest – there is an interesting spate of exchanges that has occupied a portion of airwaves for a while. An especially interesting aspect of the series of discussions was the condition in which a coach for instance breaches his contract, and even more surprising was the condition in which a player is supposed to have breached the contract of engagement or recruitment. They were rather strange notions of contract, in the least.

There was for instance a discussion among pundits that ex-Simba head coach Patrick Aussems had absented himself for three days and visited to South Africa where there was talk of his being assigned to coach Polokwane, a local premier league outfit. Precisely how that comes to breaking a contract was at issue, at any rate it only amounted to some top officials saying they didn't know he was away. The issue was being discussed as if an employee had absented himself from work for three days and was therefore subject to summary dismissal without terminal benefits.

At any rate, this was the more 'serious' reasoning being offered for the sacking or expulsion of Aussems from the club, the preliminary explanation being starkly disturbing and astonishing to say the least. It was being aired that after reaching the group stage of the CAF club



Former Simba's head coach, Patrick Aussems.

championship last year, what the club wanted this year was to proceed to the quarter finals. This sort of wishful thinking was then being taken by some administrators as part of the contract, that is, what club officials were saying to the coach, experts or laymen notwithstanding, is a contract.

This observation if that is what it may also be called indicates something else that is to that extent demonstrated by the way contracts are dissolved, namely that the word of club officials is law, even if it was merely an opinion or expectation as to what the club is capable of doing. The club leaderships begin to resemble a select group of fans, not responsible professionals or club organizers capable of looking at their outfit and its potential in a realistic, professional manner. They are led by whims reflecting the pride and

arrogance of each one of us, making it a contract.

Still there is an Achilles Heel in that mode of riding roughshod, as there is another law above them, which ensures that they don't just act as they wish though it appears that on the basis of contractual premises as they were being discussed, they can indeed get away with plenty. The soft spot of this ride is that all clubs rely on the coaches they have to reach their aims, in which case the club leadership sacked Aussems for not qualifying for the group stage after he had actually enabled the club side to qualify the previous year. The new coach faces the same test.

So that the club side is proved right in their selection of a new coach, he would first have to assure championship at the local level, qualify for the group stage and then the quarter finals. It doesn't appear

that anyone on their sleeves fits that bill, nor does it appear that the conditions of player registration as they stand, limited in number and often not the best technically, permits the realization of that feat. Instead of seeing Aussems as having achieved the impossible, they saw it as ordinary and instructed him to do more the following year, but the side sank to its normal self.

When it comes to players, some strange things were being heard, for instance there being a scaled realization of contractual obligations, for instance in scoring or assists. A miracle figure of 40 per cent realization of contract was repeatedly being hard, and it is hard to contemplate how a player reaches not 40 per cent of his abilities but 40 percent of club expectations of him! So the club hires a player but tasks him with the work of a robot, and if he scales less than 40 per cent he goes, not because of underperforming or they can hire another, but he 'breached the contract.'

Even stranger is a player 'breaching the contract' by continually being sick, that is injured – and this disturbance is taken as a cost the player adds to the club, intimating that he is under instructions not to be hurt. In that case how shall players enter into dangerous tackling if any injury there will be calculated against them? And if clubs have little sympathy with players who get injured, shall not the complementary spirit take its position, of actually harming players of an opposite side since no one shall raise any alarm? Isn't this cultivating chaos in the playing field?

Leonard scores 24 points as Clippers beat Raptors 112-92

TORONTO

KAWHI Leonard got his ring, and the Los Angeles Clippers got another win.

Leonard scored 23 points in his return to Toronto, Lou Williams had 18 and the Clippers won their third straight game Wednesday, beating the slumping Raptors 112-92.

Maurice Harkless scored 14 points and Paul George had 13 as the Clippers evened their road record at 6-6.

Before the game, Leonard received his championship ring from the 2018-19 season, when he helped Toronto beat Golden State in six games for the franchise's first NBA title.

Following a pregame video tribute, Leonard's former teammates, along with coaches and team executives, gathered in a circle at center court. As the standing-room-only crowd roared with approval, Leonard embraced each player in turn before guard Kyle Lowry presented him with his ring. After slipping it on, Leonard raised his arms and waved.

"It was great, it was a great moment," Leonard said. "They did a great job putting it together, having all the players out there that won with me, standing there and presenting the ring."

"It was a special season for us, for me, for the whole city and country," Leonard added. "I'm glad we were able to win. It was a blessing."

Leonard didn't put the ring on all the way before the game, but spent some more time with it afterward.

"I sat in the locker room with it for a little bit," he said, "just admiring it and just remembering all the memories and all the hard work that went into it."

Lowry, who was planning to have dinner with Leonard after the game, said he was happy to hand over the diamond-studded hardware.

"He helped this franchise do amazing things and he got his ring," Lowry said.

Clippers coach Doc Rivers said Leonard was touched by the warm welcome he got from Toronto's fans.

"It meant a lot," Rivers said. "Some players just don't let you in but I can tell you that ovation, to him, was very heartfelt. There's no doubt about that."

Clippers guard Patrick Beverley scored 11 points in 19 minutes before leaving in the third quarter because of a concussion. Beverley collided with Marc Gasol's shoulder as the Raptors center was setting a screen.

Pascal Siakam scored 24 points, Norman Powell had 22 and OG

Anunoby 13 as the Raptors lost for the fourth time in five games and dropped their third straight at home. Toronto set a franchise record with nine straight home victories to begin the season.

The Raptors last lost three straight at home between Nov. 29 and Dec. 5, 2015.

The Raptors shot 8 for 36 from 3-point range, their worst mark of the season. Toronto matched a season low with 31 field goals. They also had 31 in a Nov. 29 win at Orlando.

"We're in a period where we're not playing very well here for about a week," coach Nick Nurse said.

Leonard was held to 12 points, a season low at the time, when the Raptors visited the Clippers on Nov. 11. The three-time All-Star and two-time NBA Finals MVP shot 1 for 11 in that game, but Los Angeles won 98-88.

Leonard shot 8 for 14 Wednesday, going 2 for 4 from 3-point range and 5 for 5 from the free throw line.

"I thought Kawhi was great," Rivers said. "What I loved about him was he was patient. He just waited. He kept accepting the traps, he kept making the right play."

Leonard returned after sitting out Monday's win at Indiana because of a sore left knee. He has missed seven of the Clippers' 26 games this season.

Meanwhile, in Cleveland, James Harden dropped another one of those

demoralizing step-back 3-pointers that have made him famous, causing Cavaliers rookie Kevin Porter Jr. to look at Cleveland's bench for help.

Nothing could be done.

"He made a lot of shots you can't do anything about," Porter said.

A lot of them is right.

Harden scored 55 points – 20 in the fourth quarter – and Russell Westbrook added 23 points as the Houston Rockets withstood an unexpected scare from Cleveland and held on for a 116-110 win Wednesday night over the free-falling Cavs, who have lost eight straight and 14 of 15.

Harden made four 3-pointers and shot 7 of 8 in the fourth while matching Kyrie Irving's arena record for points in a game. His fourth 50-point performance this season bailed out the Rockets, who allowed the Cavs to score 24 straight points in the second half.

"He's incredible," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "If it was the first time he's done this, I'd be like, 'Wow! Look at that,' but he's done it at this level for years."

Harden became the fourth player in NBA history with multiple games of 10 or more 3-pointers, joining Golden State's Stephen Curry (15) and Klay Thompson (5), and former Cavs guard J.R. Smith (3).

Cleveland was still leading 108-107 when Harden, who came in as the league's top scorer at 38 points per

game, dropped a floater in the lane with 1:03 left. After a turnover by Cavs guard Jordan Clarkson, P.J. Tucker hit a 3 from the corner and Clint Capela had a dunk following another Cleveland miscue.

The inexperienced Cavs crumbled in the final minute, committing three turnovers.

But it was their inability to slow down Harden that was their biggest undoing. His 55 points seemed almost effortless, as if he could score whenever he pleased.

Need a bucket? Call on Harden. A 3-pointer? He's the man. Whatever Houston needed, Harden got it for the Rockets.

"We caught a guy who plays at an MVP level," Cleveland forward Kevin Love said. "He couldn't miss."

Harden finished 20 of 34 from the floor, including 10 of 18 on 3s. He made all five free throws, and added eight assists and two steals.

"Good defense turned into James Harden offense," D'Antoni said. "I've got nothing but praise for him on the defensive end, in addition to the offensive end. He realized that for us to win big, he's got to do it (play defense) -- and he is doing it. He's always in the right position."

Harden shrugged off another big personal night, saying the Rockets have learned they're going to get the other team's best shot every game.

AP



Los Angeles Clippers forward Montrezl Harrelle (5) is fouled by Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry (7) as Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, left, looks on during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019, in Toronto. (AP)

Leicester show no sign of giving up title chase

LONDON

WIDESPREAD pre-season predictions of a two-horse Premier League title race look like being proved correct but the fact it is Leicester City, not Manchester City, vying with Liverpool has provided a novel twist to the plot.

Should Leicester beat lowly Norwich City at home on Saturday and stretch their winning league run to nine games they will move nine points clear of Pep Guardiola's faltering champions.

Liverpool are expected to demolish bottom club Watford at Anfield in Saturday's early kickoff and extend their unbeaten league run to 34 but if Leicester respond in kind they will keep the gap to Jurgen Klopp's side at eight points.

City, meanwhile, could end the weekend an unthinkable 17 points adrift of Liverpool if they lost at Arsenal on Sunday.

Fourth-placed Chelsea could draw level on points with City if they beat sliding Bournemouth on Saturday.

Fifth-placed Manchester United will seek to continue their upswing in form on Sunday when they host an Everton side likely again to be under the command of Duncan Ferguson, who has temporarily been given the reins in the wake of Marco Silva's sacking.

West Ham United boss Manuel Pellegrini said last week he was not concerned about relegation but should his side go under at 18th-placed Southampton they could slide into the bottom three.

Leicester have rattled in 25 goals in their eight-match winning streak, conceding only three, and victory over second-from-bottom Norwich would set them up perfectly for a

Christmas double against Manchester City and Liverpool.

Jamie Vardy's goals have fuelled the charge with the veteran striker topping the scoring charts with 16.

He has found the net in each of his last eight league games and needs to score in his next three to equal his own record set four years ago during their title-winning season.

Brendan Rodgers' side are no longer being dismissed out of hand as title contenders and Sky Sports pundit Paul Merson is one of the many converts.

"I think we've all been a little bit disrespectful to Leicester recently," the former Arsenal title-winner said.

"You've got to start paying attention to them. If they go to the Etihad and get a result next week then it's game on because they still have Liverpool to play at home.

"I'm not saying Leicester will win the Premier League because Liverpool look uncatchable, but Leicester will chase them all of the way."

The other factor in Leicester's favour is Liverpool's brutal schedule and the inevitable injuries. Defender Dejan Lovren limped off in the win at Salzburg on Tuesday and with Joel Matip and Fabinho still sidelined, Liverpool's squad is stretched.

They safely negotiated their way into the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday but face a League Cup quarter-final next week before dashing to Doha for FIFA's Club World Cup.

Their next league assignment after Watford is at Leicester.

Manchester City's hopes of a third successive title already look forlorn after last weekend's derby defeat but midfielder Ilkay Gundogan said the champions must regain their focus.

REUTERS

No one wants to face Liverpool in Champions League last 16 - Robertson

LONDON

DEFENDING champions Liverpool will be the team others want to avoid when the draw for the last 16 of the Champions League is held on Monday, left back Andy Robertson has said.

Liverpool reached the knockout stages as group winners with a 2-0 victory at Salzburg on Tuesday, and could be drawn against Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid, Borussia Dortmund, Atalanta or Olympique Lyon.

Juergen Klopp's team have made the final of Europe's elite club competition two years in a row, finishing runners-up to Real in 2017-18 and beating Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 to win their first trophy under the German in Madrid last season.

"We're respected in this tournament. The way we've done things in the last two years, nobody wants to play against us," Robertson said.

"That's the atmosphere we've created, a team which has been to the final twice and has lost one and won one.

"Maybe the first season when we went to the final... we did not get the respect we deserved. Now we know we are respected in Europe. No one will want us."

The draw is set for 1100 GMT in Lyon, Switzerland.

"We'll wait... and see who we get," Robertson added. "We know it'll be tough, regardless, but we look forward to the challenge as we want to go far in this tournament again."

"We know that now we're the champions everyone wants to beat us."

REUTERS

Mourinho wants 'proper' UCL rematch with Bayern

MUNICH

JOSE Mourinho said he would relish Tottenham facing Bayern Munich further down the line in a "proper" Champions League game despite his side losing 3-1 in Bavaria on Wednesday in their final group game.

Bayern outplayed a much-changed Tottenham side to make it six wins out of six in Group B with goals coming from Kingsley Coman, Thomas Muller and Philippe Coutinho.

Last season's beaten finalists Tottenham, who had already qualified for the last 16 as runners-up to a rampant Bayern, left out Harry Kane and Dele Alli, while Son Heung-min came on as a substitute in a largely meaningless fixture.

Ryan Sessegnon, 19, marked his first Champions League start with Tottenham's goal.

Tottenham could have lost by more, but Mourinho still saw some positives and said the prospect of meeting Bayern again in the knockout phase did not concern him.

"It's not possible until the quarter-finals but my wish is to come back here for a proper match," said Mourinho, who suffered his second defeat in six games since taking over for Mauricio Pochettino.

Mourinho said his rotation of the team had allowed him some more insight into his squad strength, although he was careful not to get carried away by Sessegnon's impact.

"That is the quality we know he has. He arrives in dangerous positions, he is a good finisher but he has a lot to improve," Mourinho said. "He lost too many individual duels and has to learn how to use his body."

"He was playing against experienced players. He has a lot to develop but the potential is there."

Argentine defender Juan Foyth also got his first chance to impress Mourinho, although he had his work cut out. "We played against a very good team and that's the best test when you play against good players," Mourinho said.

"A good match for me but I don't want to speak about conclusions. There was some important information. I give you a positive example: I learn a lot about Foyth, who did not play one minute for me until today - I learned more in this 90 minutes than in two or three weeks of work without playing."

The draw for the last 16 takes place on Monday.

(Agencies)

Atletico, Atalanta reach last 16 as Bayern cruise past Spurs

PARIS

ATLETICO Madrid claimed the final spot in the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday with a 2-0 win over Lokomotiv Moscow, after Atalanta completed an impressive comeback in Group C to qualify.

Bayern Munich sealed consecutive victories over Tottenham with a 3-1 success at the Allianz Arena, while Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus also finished their group campaigns on winning notes.

Diego Simeone's Atletico went into their game knowing defeat, coupled with a Bayer Leverkusen win against Juve, would see them dumped out.

Kieran Trippier had a second-minute penalty brilliantly saved by Lokomotiv goalkeeper Anton Kochenkov at the Wanda Metropolitano, but Joao Felix made no mistake from the spot a quarter of an hour later.

Atletico wasted a string of chances and Alvaro Morata had a goal ruled out by VAR for offside.

But their place in the knockout rounds was secured when centre-back Felipe volleyed home Koke's cross after a short corner routine.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his second Champions League goal of the season as Juve, who were already sure of top spot, saw off Leverkusen 2-0 in Germany in the other Group D game.

Substitute Paulo Dybala was the creator of the 75th-minute opener, crossing low for Ronaldo to tap in a record-extending 128th goal in the competition, before Gonzalo Higuain's injury-time clincher.

"Ronaldo and Higuain led by example, they were always the first to work hard for the team," Juve keeper Gianluigi Buffon told uefa.com.

Champions League debutants Atalanta claimed a famous 3-0 triumph at Shakhtar Donetsk to qualify with Manchester City despite having lost their first three games.

The Italian outfit, who finished third in Serie A last season, conceded 11 goals in their opening three matches, but drew with City at the San Siro before beating Dinamo Zagreb to keep their hopes alive.

Timothy Castagne stabbed in the crucial first goal in the 66th minute, before Mario Pasalic found the net shortly after Shakhtar full-back Dodo was controversially sent off in Kharkiv.

Robin Gosens grabbed an injury-time third as Shakhtar tired, sparking wild Atalanta celebrations in front of the visiting fans.

"It will remain in the history of football and of this



Lokomotiv's goalkeeper Anton Kochenkov fouls Atletico Madrid's Joao Felix during the Champions League Group D soccer match between Atletico Madrid and Lokomotiv Moscow at Wanda Metropolitano stadium in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019. (AP Photo)

club. I think it'll also stay long in the memory of everyone who was in the stadium," captain Alejandro Gomez told Sky Sport Italia.

Atalanta's win ensured that all 16 of the sides in the knockout stage are from Europe's 'big five' leagues of England, Spain, Italy, Germany and France for the first time.

Dinamo needed to beat English champions City to progress, but despite taking an early lead through Dani Olmo, were sent packing by a Gabriel Jesus hat-trick before teenage midfielder Phil Foden wrapped a 4-1 win for Pep Guardiola's side.

- PSG run riot - Jose Mourinho's Tottenham failed to exact revenge on Bayern Munich for their 7-2

humbling in London in the reverse Group B fixture.

Kingsley Coman put Bayern ahead as they looked to bounce back from successive Bundesliga defeats, although Ryan Sessegnon marked his first Spurs start with a goal to equalise.

But Thomas Mueller, on as a substitute for the injured Coman, and Philippe Coutinho ensured the Bavarian giants became the first German side to win all six group games.

Youssef El Arabi's late penalty saw Olympiakos edge past Red Star Belgrade 1-0 and pip their opponents to a place in the Europa League last 32.

Neymar, Kylian Mbappe, Mauro Icardi

and Edinson Cavani all scored as PSG thrashed Galatasaray 5-0 at the Parc des Princes.

Thomas Tuchel's French champions had already wrapped up top spot in Group A ahead of Real Madrid, but ran riot in the capital.

Icardi and Pablo Sarabia put PSG in control at the break, before Neymar and Mbappe teed each other up for second-half strikes and Cavani came off the bench to score a penalty.

Real Madrid also rounded off the group stage in style by beating a spirited Club Brugge 3-1 with goals from Rodrygo, Vinicius Junior and Luka Modric.

AFP

Why Carlo Ancelotti was fired at Napoli, and why it was wrong

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

VENDETTA? Egomania? Masochism?

Napoli owner Aurelio De Laurentiis' decision to fire Carlo Ancelotti less than an hour after his club had qualified for the Champions League knockout round may well be a function of each of the above. Or, as those close to the club suggest, it might simply be an attempt to cut losses and hit the reset button, rather than throw good money after bad. If it's the latter, it's ham-fisted and miscalculated.

Ancelotti leaves Napoli after 16 months in charge. In his first campaign, he finished second and only failed to make the round of 16 in the Champions League because of a tiebreaker (Liverpool and Napoli were level on points and goal difference) and an Allison last-ditch save. This season, he reached the knockout phase (taking four of six points from the European champions and inflicting their only loss in any competition since early May) but in Serie A they sit in seventh place, eight points outside the Champions League places and a whopping 17 off the top.

Was he fired because De Laurentiis placed more emphasis on the league position and had lost faith in Ancelotti's ability to turn it around this season? The short answer: Yes, but there's more to it than that. As well as a parallel (if an imperfect one) with Mauricio Pochettino's departure from Spurs.

Two factors, according to individuals familiar with the situation, were key in Ancelotti's firing. The first was the contractual situation of a number of first-team players. Dries Mertens and Jose Callejon become free agents in June, with Elseid Hysaj, Arkadiusz Milik, Nikola Maksimovic and Piotr Zielinski to follow in 2021. Then there's Kalidou Koulibaly and Allan, who have longer-term contracts but who have been promised a move in the summer.

Napoli have the fifth-highest wage bill in Serie A and if they've been profitable over the past few seasons, a lot of it is down to the club's ability to control costs. Renewing veterans like those cited above was always going to be expensive, but the hope was that a strong domestic campaign and a Champions League windfall next year might have made it possible to keep some of the stars and reload, rather than rebuild.

The other factor was the "player mutiny" after the home game vs. FC Salzburg on Nov. 5. The previous weekend, after a defeat to Roma, De Laurentiis had ordered that the team be sequestered away at the training ground in a sort of boot camp for a week. Ancelotti had said previously he didn't think such measures (known as "ritiro" in Italian) were effective, but he nevertheless ordered them to sleep at the training ground for a week.

After the Salzburg game, the players rebelled, refused to return to camp and went home, leaving Ancelotti and his staff as the only ones to spend the night at the training ground. De Laurentiis was furious not least because his son, who works at the club, had endured a verbal altercation with some players after ordering them back to the



Carlo Ancelotti

training ground. De Laurentiis felt humiliated and disrespected and believed Ancelotti should have been stronger with his players. The fact that he had obeyed club orders wasn't enough; it was felt he should have done more to force the players to comply.

These two factors, one financial and one emotional, weighed very heavily. So, too, did the simple economics of Champions League revenue distribution. It's convoluted and complicated but by simply advancing to the Round of 16 and no further, Napoli will earn anywhere between €50m and €60m depending on the "market pool" that itself depends on the results of other Italian clubs. They could, of course, earn more -- potentially up to €120m -- depending how far they get in the competition.

Napoli recognized that their chances of going further in Europe were higher with Ancelotti because nobody has won more Champions League titles than he has. Equally, though, they feared it would

come at a cost of qualifying for Europe next season.

They lost faith in his ability to bridge the gap and finish in the top four and figured they had a better chance of doing so with another manager (Rino Gattuso, who was appointed Wednesday, as it turned out).

So they turned it into a binary cost-benefit analysis. Qualifying for next season's Champions League (and getting a guaranteed €35m, or thereabouts) versus advancing further as a second seed this season (which could earn them another €60m if they won it and things went their way, or an additional big fat zero if they went out in the Round of 16).

That was the heart of the club's reasoning. De Laurentiis may be a colorful, irascible character, but he knows his numbers. He genuinely tried to strengthen the squad in the summer, with the second highest net spend in Serie A to bring in the likes of Kostas Manolas, Giovanni Di Lorenzo, Alex Meret, Chucky Lozano

and Elif Elmas. He was ambitious, as was Ancelotti who famously (and curiously) said "we're here to win, not to go and braid our dolls' hair. We can win the title." But once he became convinced that a top-four finish (let alone the scudetto) was unlikely with Ancelotti, De Laurentiis cut his losses.

The "mutiny" only accelerated matters, as did the contract negotiations with the want-away players.

Suddenly, the prospect of blowing up the team and rebuilding became more appealing. Koulibaly and Allan are both 28, but should fetch well over €120m next summer. You'll get nothing back for Mertens and Callejon unless you sell them in January (which is a possibility), but you'll get their contracts off the books, freeing up some €30m in salaries, which is nearly a third of Napoli's wage bill.

And in De Laurentiis' mind, you don't need a manager earning €9m (\$10m) a season to do that. Better to pay off Ancelotti -- his contract had a "break clause" in May -- to the tune of \$5m and bring in Gattuso, who costs a quarter of that.

Results were disappointing in Serie A. Performances were mixed, but if you buy into metrics like Expected Goals, they were due a bounce: they ranked fourth in xG difference.

The "boot camp" decision and subsequent mutiny, with De Laurentiis taking legal action against his own players, no doubt didn't help much (they went six games without a win after), nor did the players' uncertainty over their future and their dwindling contracts.

Neither of those were down to Ancelotti and once those issues got resolved, you would have expected the team to kick it up a notch.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**Atletico, Atalanta reach last 16
as Bayern cruise past Spurs**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Aces Club's all-rounder, Salum Jumbe, puts his skills to show when his squad locked horns with Shree Kutchi Leva in this year's DRCC Caravans T20 competition in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

India's Kohli floors West Indies to secure T20 series win

MUMBAI

INDIA captain Virat Kohli led a six-hitting feat against West Indies during a blistering unbeaten knock of 70 off 29 balls, guiding his team to a 67-run series-clinching victory in the third and final Twenty20 international on Wednesday.

Asked to set a target in the decider at Wankhede Stadium, the hosts batted the Caribbean side out of the contest with an imposing total of 240 for three from their 20 overs.

In reply, the twice world champions in the format finished on 173 for eight with captain Kieron Pollard top-scoring with 68 from 39, his innings studded with six sixes and five fours.

Hard-hitting West Indies opener Evin Lewis suffered soft tissue damage to his right knee while fielding and was unable to bat, dealing them a blow before their chase even started.

Once India's seamers reduced the tourists to 17 for three at the start of the fourth over, it was too much to ask even for the Caribbean power-hitters to turn the match around.

Shimron Hetmyer, who made 41 off 24, and Pollard added 74 for the fourth wicket to give West Indies some hope before left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav dismissed the former.

Kuldeep also dismissed the dangerous Jason Holder while Pollard holed out at wide long on off seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar after an entertaining knock at the stadium, which is the home to his Indian Premier League franchise Mumbai Indians.

Earlier, KL Rahul had top-scored with 91 from 56 balls and set the platform for India's massive score with an opening stand of 135 with Rohit Sharma, who made 71 from 34 deliveries.

Kohli smashed seven sixes, two more than his deputy Rohit, while Rahul went over the boundary ropes on four occasions.

The dismissal of Rohit and Rishabh Pant, who fell without scoring, in quick succession brought a temporary lull in India's scoring rate before Rahul and Kohli went on the attack. **REUTERS**



Tanzania's junior chess players (L-R) Panav Bangur, Cleophas Charles and Delbert Iplinga Panya, pictured after the completion of the Light Chess Championship which was held in Mombasa, Kenya recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

Dar junior chess players shine in Kenya tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's junior players have put impressive showing at the just ended Light Chess Championship, which was held in Mombasa, Kenya.

Tanzania was represented by five junior players, Anacleutus Moras, Cleophas Charles both from Don Bosco Youth Club, Upanga, and Delbert Iplinga Panaya from Rising Star Academy.

Aadhi Chauhan from Zanaki Chess Club and Panav Bangur from Dar es Salaam International Academy also made the list.

Kara Louis was the squad's coach.

Speaking in a telephone interview, Louis said he was impressed by his team's performance at the championship which had 150 individual players from four countries.

The countries, hosts Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania, competed for the East Africa title in seven Swiss rounds.

He said Cleophas Charles emerged runner-up in the U-21 category with 4.5 points out of seven competitors, Delbert Iplinga Panya finished third in U-14 category with 5.5/7 points.

Panav Bangur took the runner-up position in U-8 category with 5.7 points.

Louis described the performance of the juniors at the championship as stunning.

He disclosed the squad's results is a sign that chess is growing at a high pace in Tanzania.

He added the country's players are improving their level of play by taking on the best juniors in East Africa.

"The tournament was hard and challenging but am happy that my players did well. Congratulations to the juniors for performing at their best, it's my belief that the country is progressing well in chess" he said.

Aces Club's all-rounder excels in DRCC Caravans T20 tournament

By Guardian Reporter

ACES Club's all-rounder Salum Jumbe has wrapped up a memorable outing for his side in this year's DRCC Caravans T20 Cup, given he was voted as the best player of the competition, which climaxed in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Caravans Cricket Club has hosted the tournament, which is held annually, under the auspices of Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC), targeting to promote the game at the domestic level.

This year's competition's sponsors include Petrofuel, Alliance Insurance, Grand Restaurant, Colourflex, RAS Logistics and SBC through Pepsi brand.

Aces emerged as the competition's champions, notching a one-run victory over Saint Gobain in a thrilling final, which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) oval.

Jumbe showcased impressive showing with bat and ball, with his skills in particular coming in handy when Aces took on Saint Gobain.

The youthful cricketer finished in the 12th spot in the list of the competition's top run getters with a total of 91 runs in six games.

He took to the crease in five innings, he had a strike of 85.85, with his most notable contribution with bat ending with him registering 43 runs.

Riziki Kisetu, who turns out for Aga Khan SC, finished as the competition's top run getter, posting 191 runs in five games.

He surpassed century mark in one match, he had a strike rate of 191.00. In his best batting display, he posted 162 runs.

Aga Khan SC's Harsheed Chouhan, Caravans Club's Mohamed Omary, St.Gobain's Jatin Darji and Caravans Club's Ivan Ismail wrapped up the top five in the list of the top run getters.

Harsheed amassed 185 runs, Omary posted 150 runs, Darji and Ismail notched 137 runs and 124 runs respectively.

Jumbe, a gifted medium pacer, had more success in bowling, given he finished at the top of the tournament's leading wicket takers.

He had a total of 14 wickets in six outings, he bowled a total of 24 overs, leading 113 runs.

Jumbe's teammate, Ali Mpeka, took the second position with 13 wickets in six outings. Mpeka, one of feared pacers in club tournaments at the domestic level, leaked 96 runs in 22.5 overs.

Caravans Club's Gokul Das, and Saint Gobain's duo of Sanjay Bom and Vikram Rathore wrapped the top five in the list.

Gokul had 12 wickets in four outings, Bom and Rathore recorded 11 wickets and eight wickets respectively in six outings.

Aces and Saint Gobain had booked a place in this year's tournament's final impressively, making short work of favourites Caravans and Aga Khan SC in the semi-finals.

Aces took the first spot in Group B of the competition, followed by Saint Gobain, to guarantee their progression to the semi-finals.

EATV
TONIGHT @ 21:00

FRIDAY
10:59 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Radio:PlanetBongo Live
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

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05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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