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AMENDMENT OF FISHERIES ACT

National Pg 4



INVESTMENT IN ANIMAL FEEDS

National Pg 5



PROCESSING AND PACKAGING TECHNOLOGIES



Ministry sets out long internships for all university, college graduates

By Henry Mwangonde

ALL graduates in the country will now undergo six to 12 months of internship in government offices to equip them with practical work experience before being employed or pursuing self-employment.

The minister responsible for Labour, Jenista Mhagama, yesterday that the time allocated for internship is six months to one year, to enable the youth link their college training with needs of employers.

The stint is meant to enable the youth to learn values, positive attitudes to work and workplace behavior traditions while they obtain experience needed for them to be fit to be employed.

The programme will be inaugurated by Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan and will be operated and paid for by the government in association with employers, she said.

The SADC ministers met last year in Windhoek, Namibia where they agreed to enact a regional job creation policy

The Minister told reporters in Dar es Salaam that the decision has been informed by the fact that 79.9 per cent of new employees in the country currently lack experience.

"This is way above the internationally recommended 54 per cent," she said.

Thw VP will unveil the national internship programme during the Southern African Development Community (SADC) ministerial meeting for labour and employment starting today in Dar es Salaam.

The SADC ministers met last year in the Namibian capital of Windhoek where they agreed to enact a regional job creation policy, as a guide for member states to address unemployment at a national and regional level.

It is expected that today meeting will, among other things, discuss progress made towards the implementation of employment and social protection. of will also discuss ways

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PMO probe: Katani Ltd staff bought TSA assets



By Guardian Reporter

A PROBE report unveiled yesterday shows that former employees of the then Tanzania Sisal Authority (TSA) sold the entity to themselves, ending up with its properties including houses and farms at throw-away prices.

Presenting the findings to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in Tanga yesterday, the chairman of the team, Gerald Kusaya said former employees of TSA negotiated terms of privatisation of TSA assets to themselves while still in office, which amounts to conflict of interest.

Premier Majaliwa used the occasion to call upon investors leased farms of 2,000 acres and above develop their tracts of land or risk repossession by the government

"Investigations have shown that shareholders of Katani Ltd negotiated the privatisation

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa greets Tanga Region leaders by gesturing shortly after landing at Tanga airport yesterday for an official tour of the region. His move followed Saturday's appeal by Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Ummu Mwalimu (R, partly hidden) that people desist from shaking hands, kissing or hugging as a precaution in the wake of coronavirus outbreaks. Others are Tanga regional CCM chairman Henry Shekifu (L) and Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella (2nd-L). Photo: PMO

Innovators handed 750m/- to develop industrial projects

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has availed 750m/- in grants to 60 pacesetters who took part in the national science, technology and innovation competition last year.

Speaking here during a workshop for journalists ahead of this year's competition later this month, the director



of science, technology and innovation in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Prof Maullio Kipanyula (pictured) said among the beneficiaries is Adam Kinyekile from Tunduma town in Songwe Region, who has made headlines by making a helicopter.

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COVID-19: UK cases now reach 35

LONDON

TWELVE more people have tested positive for coronavirus, bringing the total number of cases in the UK to 35.

Chief medical officer Prof Chris Whitty said three of the new patients were close contacts of a known case transmitted in the UK - believed to be a Surrey resident.

Another, who is from Essex, had not travelled out of the country. Investigations are ongoing as to whether they

contracted it from a person who had recently returned from abroad.

Six of the newly-diagnosed patients had recently travelled back to the UK from Italy - the worst-hit European country. Two had returned from Iran, the country in the Middle East with the highest number of confirmed cases.

Those eight patients are from across London, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Hertfordshire and Gloucestershire, Professor

Whitty noted.

He said in a statement on Sunday that "as of 9am this morning 12 further patients in England have tested positive for Covid-19."

"Three patients were close contacts of a known case, transmitted in the UK, identified as part of contact tracing.

"One patient, resident in Essex, had no relevant travel and it is not yet clear whether they contracted it

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Innovators are handed 750m/- for developing their projects

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"He has been granted 99m/- to improve his workshop so that he can make more innovations in a friendly environment," he said.

In the inaugural competition there were 415 applicants who wanted to participate but only 60 were selected to take part, out of whom 18 emerged winners.

Initially, it was planned that only the winners would be assisted financially and technically to realize their innovation dreams but the ministry later decided that all the 60 participants be helped in one way or another, the director noted.

"Adam has already been linked with the Tanzania Automotive Technology Centre of Nyumbu in Kibaha, Coast Region and other winners have also been introduced to relevant institutions," he said.

The annual competition is an initiative aimed at complementing the government's industrialisation drive by identifying talent and nurturing it by extending support for incubation of technology, etc.

As for this year's event, Prof Kipanyula said the ministry has already received 583 individual applications and from 61 institutions.

During last year's competition in Dodoma, ten national innovators from the categories of secondary schools, informal

sector, vocational colleges, technical (tertiary) colleges, universities and research and development institutions were selected to showcase their innovations for three days.

The innovators were evaluated based on criteria like originality, level of innovation, its impact on community development, the science behind it, usability and cost of production, among other things.



Adam has already been linked with the Tanzania Automotive Technology Centre of Nyumbu in Kibaha, Coast Region and other winners have also been introduced to relevant institutions," he said.

The innovation exhibition and competition ran for two days and on the third day, minister Prof. Joyce Ndalichako awarded three winners in each category.

The guest of honour also handed over the cheque worth of 1.9bn/- to innovators who won in project write ups for 32 innovation projects and 15 projects aiming at establishing innovation centres.



Home Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni (L) addresses Burundi refugees living at Nduta camp in Kibondo District during a routine tour in Kigoma Region yesterday. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

PMO probe: Katani Ltd staff bought TSA assets

FROM PAGE 1

of the Tanzania Sisal Authority while still in office - which turned out to be a raw deal for the government. We have prepared procedures for the prosecution of all those who were involved," he said.

The report recommended repossession by the government of 11 houses, including one located in Bombo area in Tanga which is occupied by former Katani Lim-

ited managing director Salum Shamte who was in October last year charged with economic sabotage and remains in custody.

Ten other houses lined up for repossession are located in Tanga city's posh Raskazone neighbourhood, Bombo, Nguvumali and Market Street which the team said were bought by the said individuals irregularly and at throw-away prices.

The 13-man team with representatives from various govern-

ment departments conducted the probe from 29th October last year to establish the state of TSA assets, joint venture between Katani Limited and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), along with the performance of Katani Limited and the Tanzania Sisal Board. Its terms of reference also included setting out challenges facing the sisal crop in the country and what can be done to restore its lost glory of the 1960s.

"We recommend that a fresh

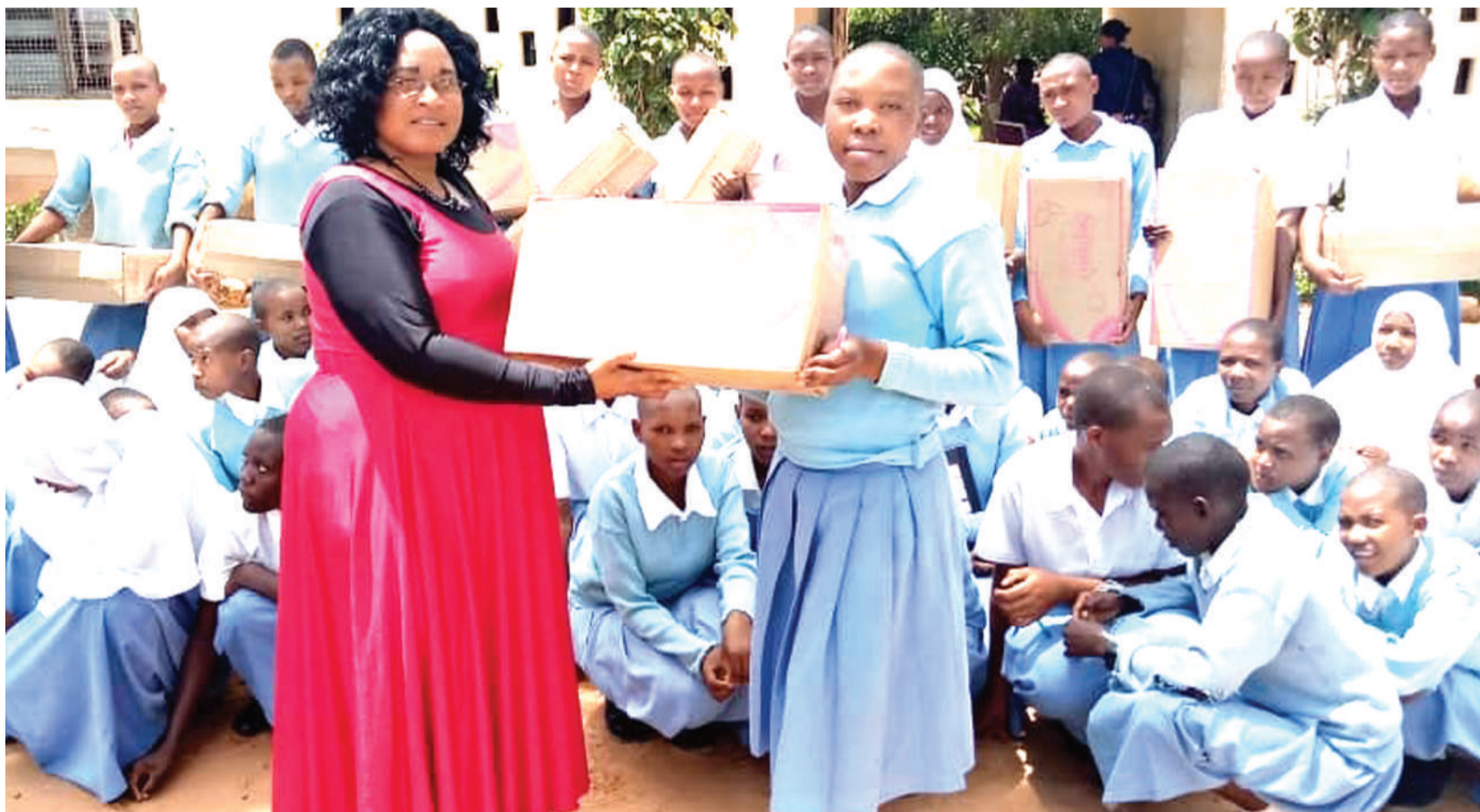
survey be conducted on five farms located at Mwelya, Ngombezi, Hale, Magunga and Magoma so that residents who currently lease them can be provided with leasehold titles," Kusaya said.

Premier Majaliwa used the occasion to call upon investors leased farms of 2,000 acres and above develop their tracts of land or risk repossession by the government.

Sisal production in Tanzania began in the late 19th century by the

German East Africa Co., later succeeded by British planters, such that at the time of independence in 1961, Tanzania was the largest exporter of sisal in the world. The industry employed over one million farmers and factory workers.

Sisal production began to decline after a drop in world prices as synthetic nylon substitutes became more popular. But its fortunes have changed for the better as the worldwide ban on plastics started to unfold.



Prisca Masenga (L), education officer for Ikungi District in Singida Region, presents sanitary pads to students at the district's Munghaa Secondary School yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ministry plans internships for university, college graduates

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implementing employment creation strategies and fostering social dialogue at the regional level.

The internship programme will help graduates combine experience obtained from colleges and from workplaces to suit the needs of employers, she emphasized.

An Integrated Labour Force Survey of 2014 showed that there were 15 million youth in the country's total labour force.

International Labour Organization (ILO) 2011 statistics show that employment levels and labour productivity in the SADC region are generally low.

The trend is directly

linked to social and human development challenges like gender inequality, HIV and AIDS, lack of social protection and vulnerable employment which all affect employment and labour progress, the ILO noted.

Tanzania's youth unemployment rate remains a big challenge to economic growth and the government was working

to address it, the survey noted.

Among ways recommended include connecting youths to the banking sector so as to access credit and engage in agricultural production.

The situation is characterized by features like imbalances between supply and demand in the labour market and increasing urban

unemployment pressures due to outflow of rural surplus labour to non-agricultural sectors.

Most youth have no employable skills as the sort of skills needed in the labour market are not compatible with the skills supply, raising a problem of unemployment due to the mismatch of skills, it added.

COVID-19: UK cases reach 35 admissions

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directly or indirectly from an individual who had recently returned from abroad; investigations are ongoing.

"Of the remaining eight cases, six had recently travelled to Italy and two were from Iran.

"The patients who have recently travelled are from London, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Hertfordshire and Gloucestershire. All are being investigated and contact tracing has begun."

"The total number of confirmed cases in England is now 33. Following previously reported confirmed cases in Northern Ireland and Wales, the total number of UK cases is 35," the statement indicated.

One of the confirmed cases is in Bury, the town's council said, elaborating that the patient had been taken to a specialist NHS infection centre.

Dr Will Welfare, interim deputy director of health protection for Public Health in Northwest England said that public health authorities were contacting people who had close contact with one of the latest confirmed cases of Covid-19.

"The case is a resident of Bury and became infected whilst in Italy. They are receiving care at an NHS specialist centre."

Two of the other cases were in Hertfordshire, the county council's director of public health, Jim McManus said in a statement Sunday afternoon. "These new cases of coronavirus are nothing unexpected," he stated.

"We fully anticipate an increase in numbers which is why our services have planned for, and are ready for, this situation."

One was confirmed as a staff member at an infant school in Berkshire, while the other worked at St Mary's School Tetbury in the Cotswolds.

In a letter to parents, St Mary's headteacher Jo Woolley said that while it was not necessary to close the school from a health perspective, it will close until at least Wednesday due to "operational difficulties" with staff members.

"Whilst I fully understand this will cause anxiety amongst the school community, I can assure you all necessary steps are being taken to minimise risk to others.

"All people who have had contact with the person have already been identified, contacted and know if they need to exclude themselves from school."

Two of the patients had recently travelled back from Italy while the other had returned from Asia.

A day earlier, a man living in Surrey was confirmed as the first to catch the illness within the UK.

As of 9am on Sunday, more than 11,000 people have been tested for coronavirus in the UK, including the 35 confirmed cases.

It comes after Health Secretary Matt Hancock conceded it was "inevitable" that the deadly virus would continue to spread across the UK.

Hancock told the BBC's Andrew Marr that the government had not "ruled out" bringing in more stringent measures to deal with the spread of the virus, should matters deteriorate. He confirmed that "population distancing measures" - such as banning public gatherings, cancelling football matches and encouraging people to avoid public transport - could be among the moves considered.

However, emergency powers designed to restrict Covid-19 if it becomes endemic - due to be announced this week - would only be "temporary".

The NHS was ready to deal with further cases of coronavirus, with more than 5,000 emergency critical care beds available.

On Sunday, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that every department will have a ministerial lead on the virus, and a cross-Whitehall "war room" is being set up to roll out an enhanced public information campaign.

The number of emergency meetings convened by the government is said to have increased, amid criticism of Prime Minister Boris Johnson for failing to lead a Cobra contingencies committee on the outbreak until Monday.



Drivers and turnboys deployed on trucks transporting potatoes from Kikondo village in Mbeya Region clear mud at Igoma village along Mbeya-Makete road yesterday to enable their vehicles to move on after being stuck for a whole week. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Amendment of Fisheries Act is in advanced stage, says Ulega

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

DEPUTY Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega has expressed that the Fisheries Act, No. 22 of 2003 (and the 2009 Regulations thereof) is at advanced stage for major amendments to enable it go with time for the protection of the country's fish resources for their development and exploitation.

Ulega was speaking at an investors' forum that brought together government officials, business people and investors from Mwanza Region led by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angela Kairuki and also attended by various government officials including ministers, experts from various sectors and the Regional Commissioner John Mongella.

He said among the strategies in place is to see fishermen earn income whilst Lake Victoria fish exploitation continues to become sustainable, adding that in last year's exercise to gather views, fishermen were well mobilized to give their contributions to the revamping of the Fisheries Act.

"We have reached a very good stage and that is why I have offered my hopes to our stakeholders," he said.

Explaining about fishermen's claims over easing the conditions for establishing and registering fishing cooperatives including the 5m/- fee, Ulega said the cooperatives exist in accordance with the laws as the issue of registration is under the Ministry of Agriculture, but since it is the same govern-

ment, they have been discussing the issue to come up with basic amendments in regard to the issue.

"We want to enable the Act to offer relief to people who have resolved to form cooperatives as we believe in the process they will be able to have one voice in fighting for their needs and we, in the government have decided to work on the issue," he said.

On his part, the secretary for livestock keepers in Mwanza Region (UWAU) Suleman Mathias said fish farming in the Region is faced with many challenges including inadequate of fish foods including areas for fish farms.

The representative from the association of dairy cows in Mwanza Region (UWAWAMWA) Rehema Mwalugala appealed to the ministry to give them an area for their livestock, training from dairy experts and quality milk cows.

The spokesman for Tanzania Fishing Union (TAFU) Sijaona James said the ministry should also make amendments on the use of fishing gear as well as the technology and expertise in the production of fingerlings as of now they have to import them.



We have reached a very good stage and that is why I have offered my hopes to our stakeholders

Dar es Salaam-Morogoro section of SGR 75 pc complete, says government

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

CONSTRUCTION of the Dar es Salaam - Morogoro section of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) has reached 75 per cent, the government said yesterday.

Government spokesperson, Dr Hassan Abbasi told journalists in Dodoma that Tanzanians are likely to start enjoying the best, fast train services later this year.

Dr Abbasi, who is the Permanent Secretary in the

Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, said the government is implementing a number of flagship projects including construction of SGR. He said implementation of the Morogoro - Makutupora - Singida section of the railway has reached 28 per cent.

"The government has so far spent 2.957trn/- out of 7trn/- allocated for the project. The job is progressing well despite ongoing rains

at most parts of the country. We are hopeful that Tanzanians will soon enjoy the best train services from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro", Dr Abbasi asserted.

According to him, all monies that have been so far spent on the project was from the state coffers, insisting the government has yet borrow funds from the recently signed loan agreement. He said the funds will be used to implement the remaining section of

SGR.

On the Mwanza - Isaka section, he said President John Magufuli had recently directed construction of the railway section to ease transportation of cargo from Dar es Salaam port to neighbouring countries—Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and others. He said the tender for the job will be announced in the coming few days.

"Permanent Secretaries

from all the ministries will from today engage in a two days tour of the SGR project. On the first day, the officials will visit the project as they travel from Dodoma to Morogoro, and complete the tour on Tuesday by visiting the Morogoro - Dar es Salaam section", he noted

Commenting on the Julius Nyerere hydropower project in Rufiji, Coast region, Dr Abbasi said the contractor has so far completed 100 per cent excavation of tunnels while reinforcement and concrete lining of tunnel had reached 10 per cent.

The hydro power project had by

January 2020 spent 1.275trn/- out of the allocated 6trn/-, he explained.

Last month, the government signed a 3.3trn/- loan with Standard Chartered bank for implementation of the remainder of SGR railway.

The amount is a concessional loan from 17 development financial institutions (DFIs) and bankers most of them based in Sweden and Denmark.

Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango said the amount will facilitate completion of the remaining 70 per cent of the second phase of the project.


Dr Mpango noted that Chartered

Tanzania acted as global coordinator, bookrunner and mandated lead arranger on the facility agreement that is the largest foreign currency financing raised by the Treasury to date. The biggest component of financing is treated as a covered facility of export credit agencies of Denmark and Sweden.

Masanja Kadogosa, the Director General of the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC), said the Morogoro to Makutupora portion had been completed by 30 per cent and that the loan will facilitate speeding up construction work.

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'Train services to start in March along Tanga - Arusha railway'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MINISTER for Works, Transport and Communication Eng Isack Kamwelwe has directed the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) in collaboration with Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) within a week to form a special team to inspect the work on the revival of Arusha-Tanga line.

He said LATRA and TRC are required to form the team that will inspect the railway line after which the government will decide whether passenger and freight services can begin along the line, and added that the anticipation is for the trains to start services by March 30, this year.

However, the minister used the occasion to congratulate workers who rehabilitated the railway line and added that the government is preparing a procedure for them to be employed in the government.

The railway line works engineer

Shedrack Massawe said he has supervised construction work from Tanga to Arusha and added that the work is in the final stages.

He said the line's distance from Moshi to Arusha is 86 kms and have already reconstructed the ridge for the rails, laying the tracks that had been uprooted and building seven big bridges and 30 smaller ones.

He said the work now is to construct the bridges whose 45 pound rails will be replaced with 60 pound ones and this is 38 percent complete.

TRC managing director Masanja Kadogosa hailed the minister's visit to inspect the railway line, saying history shows the last time a passenger train reached Arusha region was 1986.

"Arusha residents are very much overjoyed after seeing the railway line has been revived hence we shall start with goods trains to test the rails' ability after which passenger services will follow," he said.



NMB Bank Plc acting chief finance officer Benedicto Baragomwa (2nd-R) hands over to chief guest Selemani Jafo (R), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), a copy of the speech he made at a Mama Lishe festival at Kisarawe in Coast Region at the weekend. The bank was the event's main sponsor. At third right is Kisarawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government urged to review coffee marketing system to curb smuggling

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

THE government has been urged to review the current coffee marketing system to address smuggling of coffee, which is costing the country billions of shillings.

Executive director of the Agriculture Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF), Audax Rukonge made the call when presenting the findings of the study entitled: "Investigative Research on Market Inefficiencies - Case of Coffee" in Dodoma recently.

He presented the findings at the 6th Annual Agriculture Poli-

cy Conference (AAPC) involved Academicians Public and Private Sector Investment for Agricultural Transformation in Tanzania: Tackling Agribusiness Drivers and enablers in crops, Livestock, Fisheries and Agro-Processing.

HE encouraged more private sector participation in the coffee business: action, processing and coffee export hence improve market competition.

Citing variations between farm gate price offered by cooperatives and informal buyers, he said farm gate price offered by informal coffee traders is low compared to the price farmers get through coop-

eratives.

He said in order to get rid out of the problem, the government must also ensure that farmers are getting better prices; proper timing and timely payment to farmers so that the auction coincides with high coffee trading season at global market.

It is estimated that Tanzania loses 53bn/- annually due to smuggling of coffee from Kagera Region to a neighbouring countries.

According to Rukonge, smuggling of the cash crop to Uganda is caused by persistency market inefficiency in Tanzania. Studies

had shown that there were some of constraints limiting coffee production in the country that need to be checked to eliminate smuggling of coffee to the neighbouring countries.

Some of these constraints were farm gate price offered to farmers by Cooperative Unions for the season, inadequate extension services: state of extension workers per district, lack of capital for investment in coffee production and extension services not equipped with needed resources.

He detailed that coffee was one of main exports crops, representing 5 percent of the total exports,

24 percent of the traditional cash crops, and generating exports earnings averaging 100 million over the last 30 years.

Rukonge said despite the above fact, studies had shown that the annual coffee production in Tanzania has remained stagnant at 50,000 metric tonnes for over 30 years, according to study conducted by Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) 2019.

"Geographical factors and proximity of Kagera to Uganda, price differences between the two countries, Low capacity and lack of knowledge on cooperative system and Weak organization

and ineffective functioning of the cooperative system contributed to the coffee smuggling," he said.

He added that others are deductions and charges associated with overheads costs, taxes, and lack of access to market information and delayed payments and early closure of the coffee marketing season.

In view about the fact, coffee smuggling has negative implications on the national economy: loss of foreign currency, reduced revenues reduced employment opportunities and decimates local private sector.

He noted that the estimated

quantities and monetary value of coffee sold to informal traders in 2018/2019 shows that Misenyi district was leading by smuggling 30.3bn/- followed by Kyerwa DC with 21.9bn/- and Karagwe with 1.4bn/-

"Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB), the lead - ministries should establish and strengthen their market intelligence units to ensure that information on the coffee prices prevailing in the global market and at the auction is timely captured and disseminated to all coffee actors particularly farmers," he recommended.



An assortment of used footwear displayed for sale at an open-air makeshift market at Haydom in Mbulu District, Manyara Region, as found at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Bishop requests parties not to boycott elections

By Guardian Correspondent, Chato

THE Anglican Church Bishop in the Biharamulo Diocese, Vithalis Yusuph, has appealed to political parties not to boycott this year's general elections slated for October and instead they should mobilize their followers to show up in big numbers.

"Since Tanzania is a multiparty state and is democratic we must see the elections to be free and fair so that the wananchi are able to choose leaders of their choice... it will not be good to see the country go into chaos as it happened during civic elections last year," he said.

Bishop Yusuph was speaking during the launch of a development centre for children sponsored by the Anglican Church, Chato parish and from funding

from Compassion International, Tanzania branch.

At the launching event, the Chato District Commissioner Charles was irked to see the increase of children and elderly abandoned.

The coordinator of the Centre Neema Kaloli said a total of 200 children living in hardships have been registered since 2018.

"Our aim is to enable the children to realize their dreams when they reach 22 years of age whereas as of now we help their aged parents to issue health and services, reading materials, food and clothing," he said.

Compassion International Tanzania manager for Lake Zone Emmanuel Pando said the institution is sponsoring the project through over 500 churches in the country, while Geita region had 12 churches of which four are in Chato district.

Invest in animal feeds, cooking oil industries, Mwanza investors urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MINISTER of State in Prime Minister's Office tasked for Investments portfolio Angellah Kairuki has called on investors and businessmen in Mwanza region to invest into animal feeds and cooking oil processing industries so as to capture the growing market in the lake zone.

"There is a growing shortage of animal feeds and cooking oil here and in neighbouring regions. I call upon you investors and business people to fully

exploit the opportunities available by putting up industries," minister Kairuki made the call while winding up the Mwanza regional consultative meeting between government, investors and business community over the weekend.

Kairuki said that a lot of money was used to import the products instead of producing them locally hence the need for local business community to grab the opportunities and invest dearly into industries.

"It is undisputable fact that

the lake zone was leading for having a big number of animals and that establishing industries of animal feeds will help to address the shortages," he said, noting that the government would continue improving the business environment to attract more investments flow into different sectors of economy.

Kairuki said her ministry through Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC)

has been well prepared to unleash and promote all existing investment opportunities in

Mwanza to attract as many prospective investors as possible.

"Let's join hands and support the country's industrialisation drive pioneered by President John Magufuli of transforming Tanzania into a medium and industrialized economy by 2025," she explained.

Minister Kairuki said the government would continue to protect local industries and guarantee the market so as to stimulate the growth and development of industrial sector to boost the economy.

"Our plan is to do away with importing goods that can be locally manufactured. And this will encourage and attract more investors to direct their capital into industries," he said, stressing that there was no need of exporting raw materials.

She said Mwanza was among the strategic regions in which her ministry attaches the required importance so as to woo as many investments inflow as possible and the consultative meeting was focusing to address the bottlenecks that impede in-

vestments growth in the region.

"The government has removed a number of nuances taxes and other charges with a view to stimulating businesses and investments growth in country as we are heading toward building medium size and industrial base economy by 2025," the minister said.

Speaking at the same meeting, the chairman of Tanzania Chamber of

Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) Mwanza Chapter, Leopard Lema commended

the meeting, it was a fruitful avenue as many challenges were discussed and reached consensus.

"The meeting was a testimony that the fifth phase government was committed to address challenges facing the private sector in its resolve to building medium size and industrialized economy," he said.

Minister Kairuki who was accompanied by seven deputy minister led consultative meetings Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanya and Mwanza regions in the lake



CRDB Bank Plc microfinance senior PR officer Seuri Meijo (L) briefs Kisarawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (2nd-R) at a Mama Lishe workshop held in the district at the weekend. Right is artiste Zuwena Yusuph Mohammed alias Shilole. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Invest in agro-processing, BoT governor tells farmers

By Beatrice Philemon

FARMERS should invest in processing and packaging technologies to add value their products and thus win local and international markets, governor of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Prof Florens Luoga has called upon farmers in the country.

Prof Luoga made the call over the weekend when addressing journalists on various strides taken by the bank to improve the financial sector.

According to him, the move will also improve the farmers' income as well strengthen food security in the country.

"We should stop complaining about food shortage or high prices charged on food staffs, let us then invest in modern farming, process them and put them in quality packaging materials...this will enable the produce to last long without losing their freshness and value," he said.

According to him, as rainfall patterns have become erratic and affecting majority of farmers in the country, farmers and traders have to 'think out of box' by embarking on new ways of improving the farm produce which include value addition through processing.

He added: "Right now

it is very impressive to see insurance companies have begun to support farmers by protecting them with agricultural insurance that can cover challenges associated with drought, flood, climate change, weather, epidemic diseases, pests and other natural disaster causes."

The central bank governor further urged farmers to also invest in irrigation technology for more harvests.

"I will be happy to see the responsible ministry for land providing conditions to those people who obtains large plots of land to ensure that they construct quality irrigation infrastructures in the farms something which will help Tanzania increase crop production," he said.

He said through this strategy it will further help Tanzania to become industrialized economy.

On export for businessmen and farmers keen to export what they produce, Prof Luoga maintained that good packaging will help them to do business smoothly, attract more customers and earn extra income. "Packaging plays an important role in marketing, this is a very secret power in business, through this, you will see your business expanding and thus earning more," he noted.

Comply with the law to avoid confrontation with govt, minister Zungu advises investors

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

MINISTER of State Office in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) Mussa Zungu has called on investors comply with environmental conservation laws to avoid getting into trouble with authorities.

Zungu made the statement yesterday during an official visit to Jin Yuan Investment, CMG Pyramid, the non-woven alternative bags manufacturing factory and Malaika Hotel located at Ilmela district in Mwanza.

When inspecting the production of the bags and observed the conservation activities, he said that the government's intention is to cement friendship with investors in the industrial sector.

The minister explained that due to the fact that the

government is there to put in place good conditions so that they can continue to invest and thus make development possible.

"Industries contribute a lot to employment and domestic income by paying taxes but they have to comply with the require-

ments of the laws and we emphasize quality alternative carrier bags that are environmentally friendly and also increase the country's income as they pay taxes.

"I commend the factory for producing these alternative bags but we will take samples test them if they meet standards set," he noted.

In another development the minister,

who was also accompanied by experts from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) in lake region urged the Malaika Hotel investor to solve the challenges facing the firm.

He instructed NEMC to give the investor time to adjust the sewage system for good environment for guests arriving at the hotel and the nation as

a whole.

"It is a mistake to build within 60 meters from the water source and he (investor) has built it without obtaining a certificate of environmental impact and the result is that now the new regulations will come out pending what to do but for now, give him time to amend," emphasized minister Zungu.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES AND FILING OF TAX RETURN

Catholic Relief Services Tanzania (CRS) is a subsidiary of an International Development Organization, with registration status as non-government and non-profit organization in The United Republic of Tanzania.

CRS is responsible for compliance oversight, budget monitoring and financial reporting. Therefore, as part of ensuring adequate compliance with Tanzania Government and other underlying requirements.

CRS Tanzania Program would like to engage a reputable audit firm to provide statutory audit of CRS and filing tax return for financial year ends September 2019. Competent and reputable Audit firms are hereby invited to submit their bid proposal.

Scope of work

- The audit will be in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Standards and International (GAAP), Standards of Auditing ("ISA"). The findings and recommendations shall include an action plan for CRS and accounting improvements depending on findings and its implications and shall accommodate management comments.
- The external auditor will file tax returns for audited financial year that ended September 2019. Auditor will be required to respond to all queries raised by Tanzania Revenue Authority regarding this task on behalf of CRS.

Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible Audit firm should meet the following criteria:
- Audit firm registered in Tanzania and regulated by National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA).
- Provide Audit Methodology, Proposed Work-plan, Curriculum Vitae for the partner, manager and key staff proposed for the audit team. Audit firm and staff must be independent of CRS, and affirm their independence in the engagement letter. The firm must have relevant experience in carrying out Audits particularly of Financial Audits of Non Profit Organizations, for donor funded Programs. Any actual or potential conflict of interest in taking up this role should be highlighted.

Deliverable

The audit report and accompanying statements of financial condition shall, at a minimum, be presented in English. The key deliverables are:-

- Audited Financial Statement and Reports for the audited period.
- Management letter explaining adequately findings noted on internal control structure, policies, procedures and any instances of non-compliance with donor requirements and relevant laws and regulations.
- Tax Clearance Certificate from Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) after filing Tax Returns.

Terms of Reference

The detailed invitation Terms of Reference (TOR) is available from March 2 to 6, 2020, during office hours. Interested bidders are invited to pick-up a hard copy of the terms of reference (TOR) at the CRS office or can request a soft copy.

Requests for TOR should be submitted via e-mail to Elizabeth Sendama at elizabeth.sendama@crs.org with "Request for TOR Document: "2020 ANNUAL AUDIT SERVICES AND FILING OF TAX RETURN" in the subject line.

Each company should submit the request once only and CRS will send the terms of reference within 24 hours.

The Request for tender document will not be accepted after March 6, 2020.

The deadline for submission of the completed proposal is 15hrs local time on March 17, 2020.

Medium firms are encouraged to apply



Invitation for Tender (IFT)

- Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST) is a registered Non-Governmental Organization providing Integrated Reproductive and HIV health services country wide. Established in 1989 under Marie Stopes International, MST operates 11 health facilities and 59 outreach teams.
- MST under projects fund invite sealed tenders from eligible bidders to provide the below mentioned tender. MST is encouraging all interested bidders to participate.
-

Tender No	Tender Description
IFT/MST/05/2020	Consultancy Service for the Provision of Architectural, Engineering and Quantity Surveying Services For the Renovation of MST Makambako Clinic.

- Interested and eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including respective e-mail address to tenders@mst.or.tz Attn: Procurement Lead. Bidders will be responsible for following up to ensure that MST has received the notification.
- Within 48 hours of receiving the bidder's confirmation of receipt of IFT and intention to bid, bid documents in English language will be sent to interested bidders by e-mail. Interested bidders will be responsible for confirming receipt of bid documents within 24 hours after receipt of bid document(s). MST will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing, preparation or submission of the bid documents.
- Bidders must submit bid in a sealed envelope by hand, post or email by 20th March 2020; Time 1200 HRS to: The Country Director, Marie Stopes Tanzania, Plot no. 421/422 Mwenge, Kijitonyama Area, P.O. Box 7072, Dar es Salaam, marked "Tender number IFT/MST/05/2020 Consultancy Service for the Provision of Architectural, Engineering and Quantity Surveying Services for the renovation of MST Makambako Clinic." **Email submission should be two hours before deadline.** Late submission of the bid will not be considered during evaluation.

Country Director
Marie Stopes Tanzania
P.O. Box 7072
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 2774991-4
Fax: +255 22 2774990
E-mail: tenders@mst.or.tz

NOTE: MST takes any unethical action very serious, therefore; any form of fraud and/ or corruption is not tolerated in MST. If any of our staff ask for kickback and/ or commission, Please report the incident to the Country Director, Phone No. +255 757 170 042

For any enquires relating to this tender or document please contact Procurement & Logistics Lead. Phone No. +255743495035



Presumed would-be passengers await departure by a Toyota-Noah commuter vehicle still taking its time at Haydom bus stand in Mbulu District, Manyara Region, on Saturday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

BRELA to train trade officers, TCCIA officials countrywide

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

IN a bid to stimulate the pace of improving business environment in the country, Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) will conduct special training for trade officers and TCCIA officials countrywide to enable them support formalization of businesses.

BRELA Registrar of Companies and Chief Executive Officer Godfrey Nyasia said here over the weekend that training of trade officers and officials from chambers of commerce would fast-track registering of as many businesses as possible. "We have prepared to empower them with necessary skills so that they can stand a better chance to ensure that all businesses are formalized," Nyasia said when clarifying some issues raised during Mwanza regional consultative meeting between government, investors and businessmen, adding that the training is set for the next financial year. He said the issue of formalizing or registering the business ventures was important for an entrepreneur apart from being legally recognized it also adds value of the business.

"BRELA has been conducting now and then seminars for small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) on the importance of formalizing their business ventures to get legal status and qualify for loans offered by financial insti-

tutions," Nyasia explained.

He said his institution works very closely with other government agencies with a view to facilitating the fifth phase government under the stewardship of President John Magufuli of Transforming Tanzania's economy into mid-sized and industrial base by 2025.

Nyasia said he was proud that BRELA was now registering business and company names on line and instead of persons or people travelling all the way to Dar es Salaam to register businesses it used to be in the past.

He also called upon BRELA customers to make sure that they get all their services from the agency offices or get services online and avoid using middlemen who pretend to work on behalf of the agency because it has no agents. "Despite number of achievements have been recorded so far, BRELA continues to provide internal training to its staff in an effort to boost day-to-day operations," Nyasia said, calling for public support.

According to Nyasia, the agency will install a special communication tower to assist or enable the customers when facing challenges when accessing the BRELA's services wherever they are. "We have managed to bring our services to all the regions and still continue open new zonal offices so that Tanzanians can enjoy our services. Our services reach many Tanzanians," the CEO stressed.

Singida RC and DPP launch forum for criminal justice

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA Regional commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi yesterday launched regional forum for criminal justice with Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Biswalo Mganga directing that the launch, held at national level in Singida region should also be held in other regions to help in the fight against crime in the regions to reduce congestion in remand prisons.

Dr Nchimbi said the launching

of the forum will be a main pillar for fighting crime in Singida region and called on members to use it to research on how best to control crime instead of waiting until they happen.

Dr Nchimbi said even the scriptures state that crime does not pay and directed every government office in Singida Region to have a system of criminal justice forum that will help to rein in crime before it happens.

She said in order to attain achievement in eradicating

crime in the region she called upon the forums for criminal justice in each district to immediately start functioning and send their proposals to the regional forum.

Speaking before the launch of the forum, the DPP said according to the Prosecution Act (No 27 of 2008) Section 59(B) (II) and the country's Constitution, the DPP has powers in coordinating investigations of all criminal cases in the country even though he can also delegate such power

to other state organs.

He said his office is determined to eradicate crime through the establishing of the forums for criminal justice in each region in the country to act as solution to the problem.

He said recognizing the enormity of the problem the Fifth Phase government of President John Magufuli made great changes by creating the National Prosecution Office published in Government Gazette 49 on February 13, 2018 which he

said was different with the past when the office of the DPP was under the office of the Attorney General (AG).

He called on all members in the forum to work together and diligently to ensure the issue of criminal justice is well dealt with and should send proposals to the regional commissioner or what should be done in making follow ups on criminal activities.

He called on the Singida Region forum for criminal justice

to start working immediately so as to solve various challenges involving rampant crimes in the region and it should at least sit twice every year before October.

Chairperson for Singida region forum for criminal justice Rose Chilongozi who is the region's chief prosecutor thanked the regional commissioner for launching the forum and assured her and members to work in close cooperation in order to fight crime in the region.

Closing the meeting on the launch of Singida region forum for criminal justice, the Regional Administrative secretary (RAS) Dr Angelina Lutambi said every mwananchi is responsible in crime prevention in the region.

The DPP continues with his official visit in Singida region and so far he has visited the Manyoni District Prison and ordered the release of 85 remand prisoners after dropping charges against them.

Five villages set to benefit from safe water services

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

MORE than 50,000 villagers from five villages in Arusha Council (DC) in Arumeru District are set to benefit from steady water services following completion of a mega safe and clean water project to serve the population.

Implemented by the government with support from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the 8.4bn project will benefit villages of Olkokola, Lengjave, Ngaramtoni, Seuri and Ekenywa hamlets in the council.

The council's Information Officer Elipina Lupembe told reporters during the weekend that the acute water shortages which were facing the residents for years will now become a history.

"The project which has been completed by 95 percent now has been designed with a modern technology to filter water to take out all dirtiness and reduce fluoride minerals in the liquid leaving it clean, safe and fresh," she said.

According to her, majority of residents in the areas have been affected due maximum use of water with fluoride.

Lupembe said that the completion of the projects sounds a huge relief to the residents especially women who had to walk miles away to search for the precious liquid.

"The project uses pre-paid technology where villagers will have to pay first before accessing the service. The charges are however reasonable for every civilian to afford," she added.

The officer further added that the payment technology has been developed by Water Company and expected to last for more than 20 years to come.

Reports shows that, only 57 percent of Tanzania's population has access to an improved source of safe water, and only 34 percent of Tanzania's population has access to improved sanitation. Under these circumstances, the poor, particularly women and girls spend a significant amount of time travelling some distance to collect water.



Implementation of the long-stalled final phase of the construction of Siwa Street in Dar es Salaam's Mikocheni Light Industrial Area is well in progress, as witnessed yesterday. Factors behind the drawn-out delay were not immediately established. Photo: Guardian Photographer

TTCL unveils communication tower at Irikiushiobor village in Kiteto District

By Guardian Correspondent, Kiteto

MINISTER for Transport and Communications Eng Atashasita Nditie over the weekend unveiled a communication tower owned by Tanzania Telecommunication Company Limited (TTCL) at Irikiushiobor village in Kiteto district that aims to open up economic opportunities for the weananchi.

Nditie appealed to the wananchi

to protect the communication infrastructure and added that the tower has cost 320m/- provided by the government.

He said "If you communicate with each other over the sale of your livestock you stand to increase your incomes as you will be able to so even being very far away from customers."

He directed TTC to ensure they

install an electric generator to enable continual communication accessibility among the communities, and should not entirely depend on solar power.

Representative of TTCL who is also its regional manager for Arusha and Manyara regions Brown Japhet, said as of now TTCL has covered the whole country.

"This tower will open up eco-

nomic opportunities especially for the business people as these days no one needs to travel with cash as you can transmit money on line.

Irikiushiobor Village executive officer Yakobo Issaya said the village has 5,672 residents and 57 percent of them own mobile phones.

Special Seats Member of Parliament Ester Mahawe said today communication is among the hu-

man basic needs, and added that reliable communication help in reducing cases of those who fall ill.

A resident of Irikiushiobor village, Paul Lekibonde speaking to this paper before the construction of the tower said they had difficulties in communicating with other people and they had to walk more than eight kilometers to take pregnant women to healthy centres.



The project which has been completed by 95 percent now has been designed with a modern technology to filter water to take out all dirtiness and reduce fluoride minerals in the liquid leaving it clean, safe and fresh

Adesina wins 2019 African of the year award

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) President Dr Akinwumi Adesina has won 2019 African of the Year Award by African Leadership Magazine in South Africa.

The publisher of the magazine, Ken Giami, on Sunday described Adesina (pictured) as Africa's developer-in-chief.

The African Leadership Persons of the Year Investiture Ceremonies and Awards Gala night took place at Johannesburg, South Africa on Saturday.

Giami explained that the winner of the award emerged through vigorous and transparent processes across the continent.

He said this year's edition, which was the 8th in the series, attracted over 300,000 votes and a remarkable 2.2million engagements across various social media platforms continent wide, roughly a 35 per cent increase from the 2018 edition.

"We are very happy with the growing involvement of Africans from all shades of thought in the selection process, and we trust that it will continue to grow.

"We also want to very specially celebrate the winner of our 2019 African of the Year Award, Adesina, President



of AfDB whose image as Africa's developer-in-chief, Africa's investment mobiliser-in-chief, and Africa's optimist in-Chief is both legendary and game-changing for the continent.

"They have secured for themselves, a place in the Africa's best 11 team. We are very proud of the work they do, and are happy to be identified with them" the publisher said.

"Humbled to be nominated by what I gather to be the 60 per cent of the votes cast by some one million people. Humbled to be at the helm of an organisa-

tion that is making a tremendous difference across Africa.

"Humbled to be an African, and to be recognised by one's own. Honoured to be on this platform on account of the voices of the people" he said.

He however dedicated the award to his wife, to all his staff and colleagues in the bank.

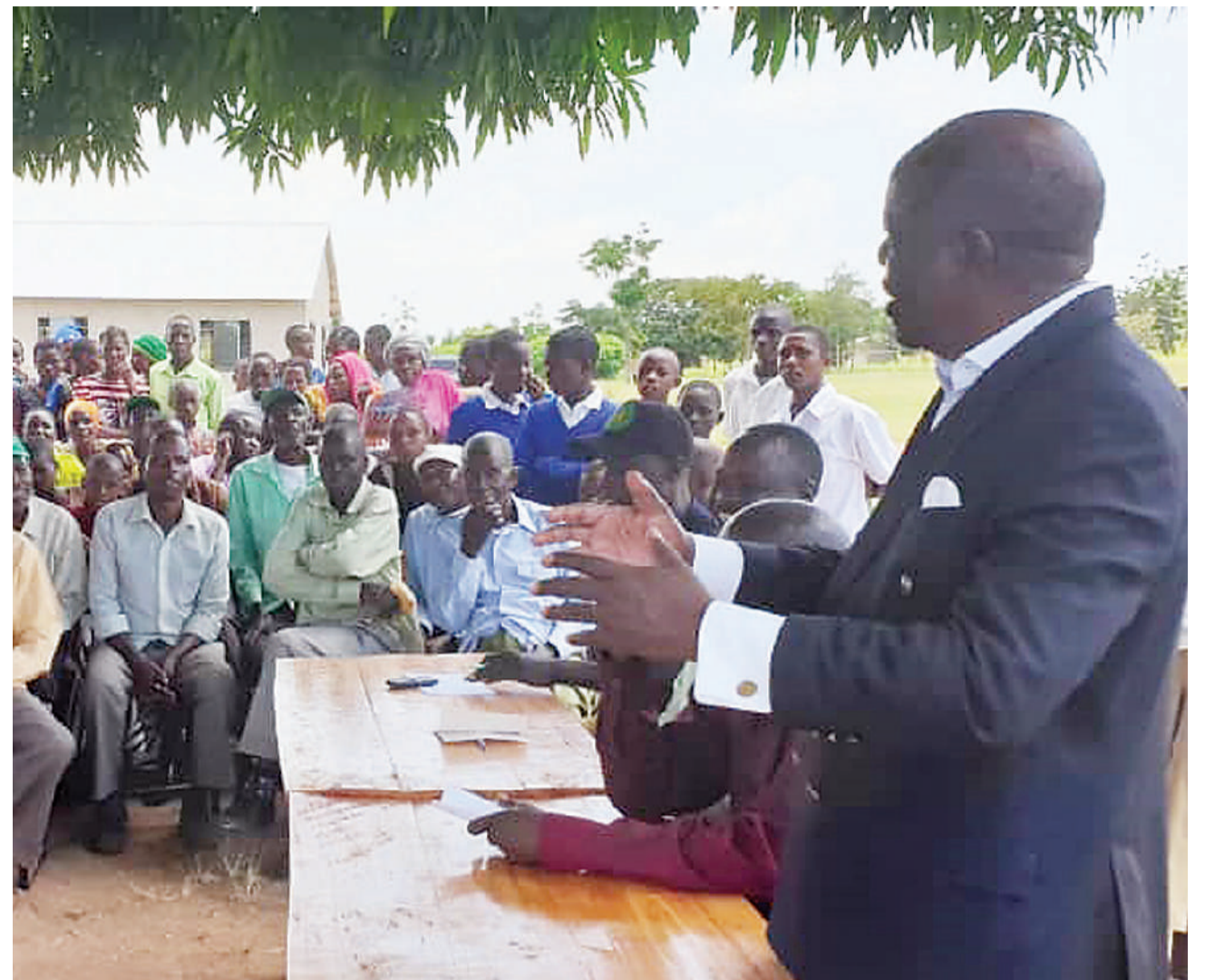
"I also dedicate this award to all those I have worked with my entire life, to Nigeria which always gave me air in my lungs, to all African countries, and to all Heads of State and governments across Africa, for their unrelenting support.

"I dedicate this award to the young mothers, struggling to bring up a child, to the farmer in search of a better tomorrow, to the youth of Africa longing for a better future, and to Africa's journalists who risk their lives in helping to tell Africa's true story.

"And I dedicate this award to you all, who voted for me, because you believed in me and wanted to encourage me. Your votes got me here today"

In his remarks, Adesina commended the management of the magazine for the recognition and honour done him.

"To say that I feel humbled is an understatement. Humbled to be recognised for my very modest achievements and contributions to Africa.



Musoma Rural legislator Prof Sospeter Muhongo (R) addresses residents of the constituency's Busambara ward at the weekend moments after laying the foundation stone of a secondary school in the area. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Monoculture crops undermining quest for nutrition security

By Judith Akolo

THE African Union Commission's department for Rural Economy and Agriculture is calling for a paradigm shift in farming systems on the continent.

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Adviser on Food and Nutrition Security Dr Laila Lokosang said a shift from indigenous crops to monoculture crops is undermining the quest to attain nutrition security in Africa.

Speaking at a media training

from agriculture journalists held in Johannesburg, Dr Lokosang said the introduction of monoculture crops like the hybrid maize that displaced millet and sorghum is detrimental to measures aimed at ensuring sustainable agriculture and nutrition security.

While noting that for any African family, food security was a mark of honour, Dr Lokosang called on policymakers to put in place policies that ensure sustainable food systems.

"The show of honour among

African families was the ability to have sufficient nutritious food," he said and added, "this is no longer the case as families can hardly feed themselves."

He noted that indigenous crops are the only option for Africa in the face of climate change.

"We do not have to import wheat when we can make cakes and bread from cassava flour," he said and added, "Sorghum and millet are wonder crops, these are foods that contain enormous amounts of zinc, iron, have digestible gluten unlike the imported wheat,

we ought to rethink our diets and what we take today as food."

Dr Lokosang said that the challenge of climate change is a reality noting that this can be addressed by growing indigenous crops which he noted are better suited for the African environment and can survive the weather patterns than the monoculture crops.

The Advisor on Nutrition Security said agriculture-led development that eliminates hunger and reduces poverty and food insecurity is sustainable. This he said can be done through the use of fertiliz-

er of one kilogram per hectare of arable land, increase the size land under irrigation, ensure access to agriculture advisory services from agricultural extension officers as well access to improved seed in order to increase yields.

The CAADP Co-ordinator at the African Union Commission (AUC) Komla Bissi, appealed to African Union member states to recommit to the implementation of the Maputo Declaration of July 2003.

He said if governments allocate the 10% of the gross domestic product (GDP) to agriculture as

agreed in Maputo, this will ensure sustained annual growth in the sector of 6%. Komla said that the second commitment in the Biennial Review of enhancing investment finance in agriculture, "is one that countries ought to recommit to, so as to grow the sector." He noted that the Biennial Review Report and the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard shows that if member states stay the course, and provided funding to the sector, "Agriculture is capable of ensuring sustained economic growth

of member states, the success of programs aimed at poverty alleviation as well as save the continent from the vagaries of hunger and ensure food nutrition security."

Komla noted that with adequate budgetary allocation to the agriculture sector, will see investment in agricultural research as well as a technological innovation which will attract more youth to the sector, "hence deal with the onerous task of providing much-needed employment opportunities."

Youth urged to take a driving seat in the fight against NTDs

By Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya

YOUNG people have been urged to take a driving seat in the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), which in most cases affect the poor and marginalized people.

The call was made by Mariateresa Kadushi, founder of a Dar es Salaam based-Mobile Afya Info Firm-Mobile Afya, when responding to a question on why young people should care about NTDs.

The question was a result of presentation and discussions following a launch of two global campaigns End the Neglect and Youth Combating NTDs in Dar es Salaam last week.

Mariateresa said that young people are the most affected by NTDs, and constitute a large number of the population, "so if they do not engage in the fight to end NTDs now, which trap communities in endless cycle of poverty and cost developing countries billions of dollar every year, come 2030, the effect of the NTDs will be mostly felt by them (young people)."

"Because we are the mainly affected group by NTDs, in Tanzania young people under 15 years old are 44% of the population and youth of 15 - 35 years old are 35% of the total population, if the effects of these diseases are not reduced and eliminated they will affect a huge number of young people who live in poverty and have little or no access to healthcare," Mariateresa said.

She added: "As youth we can no longer stand and watch diseases that have affected our parents and grandparent continue to affect our generation as well, these diseases are preventable and treatable, so we want to take charge and drive the fight to create an NTDs free generation."

According to Mariateresa, youth commitment is in the belief that, they are the generation to end NTDs using their innovative approaches, collective voices, cross-sector partnerships, creativity and unmatched drive.



Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (Brela) CEO Godfrey Nyasia fields questions at a consultative meeting held in Mwanza at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Consultative meetings play crucial roles for businesses'

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

STAKEHOLDERS of consultative meetings between the government, traders and investors have been used to educate participants on how to access quality mark of standards for free of charge and ways to overcome challenges.

The said consultative meeting for Lake Zone regions involves Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanga and Mwanza started on February 24, ended last week. More than eight ministers and deputy ministers have attended the meeting which aimed at getting solutions for challenges facing investors.

Speaking in a meeting held in Mwanza region, the Director General of Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Dr Yusuf Ngenya informed the stakeholders on opportunities they get particularly those whose products meet required standards conditions.

He asked entrepreneurs to certify their goods for free of charge and solve for challenges facing them.

Dr Ngenya mentioned opportunities provided by the organization to SMEs including free certification of their goods for three years, so as to enable them expand market and remove trading obstacles.

He said the government established such programme in order to help entrepreneurs produce high quality products so as increase market

He urged entrepreneurs and citizens to use the opportunity especially during this time when the government is insisting on industrialization drive.

"TBS as facilitating institution provide certification services to SMEs for free aimed at developing local factories, it could be much better to do so in order to avoid problem in local and foreign markets," Dr Ngenya said.

He said once they certify their products, it would help them to produce sustainable products in regional markets

He elaborated that the objective of TBS is to assist traders do their activities without interfering with rules and laws of the country. He said due to its importance, the organization has participated in the consultative meetings in order to find solutions for challenges facing stakeholders, educating on roles, and improvement of the standards and removal of some fees to easier trade.

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INVITATION FOR THE APPLICATIONS TO INVEST IN LUHILA TOURIST HUNTING BLOCK, MBARANG'ANDU WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA FOR THE HUNTING SEASON STARTING JULY 2020

Made under section 31 (7) of the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 and regulation 55(2) of the WMA Regulations 2018 together with regulation 5(a) of WMA Regulations (Amendment) 2019 of GN. 27

Mbarang'andu Authorized Association of Ruvuma Region is inviting applications from interested outfitter companies to conduct hunting business in **Luhila tourist hunting block** for the hunting period starting July 2020.

WMA Name: Mbarang'andu; **Block Name:** Luhila; **Size:** 1150; **Category:** II; **Ecosystem:** Selous-Mikumi; **Application fee:** USD 2,000

Application forms are available at CWMAC office located at Mikoroshini Street, Msasani Area, Dar es Salaam and CWMAC Website (www.twma.co.tz)

Applications (filled application forms, bank pay slip and all other supporting documents) should be sent to Mbarang'andu AA P.O. BOX 15 Namtumbo or at CWMAC office Dar es Salaam not later than **17th March 2020**.

ADDRESS	ACCOUNT NUMBER
Jumuiya ya Maliasili Mbarang'andu S.L.P.15 NAMTUMBO	A/C NO. 023201096198 NBC TAWI LA SONGEA MJINI

Terms and conditions articulated in the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009, Tourist Hunting Regulations and WMA Regulations (2018) with its amendments published in GN.27 of 17/01/2020 shall apply. For more information, please call +255 682 003 337

George J. Wambura
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Rikolto International announces the start of our new 'Building Inclusive and Competitive Horticulture Businesses in Tanzania's Southern Highlands' project. More details can be found below.

Title	Building Inclusive and Competitive Horticulture Businesses in Tanzania's Southern Highlands
Period	2020-2024 (48 months)
Summary	This European Union funded project led by Rikolto International intends to improve the performance of Tanzania's horticulture sector, the inclusion of smallholder farmers in it, and its contribution to job creation and to food and nutrition security in Tanzania's Southern Highlands.
Total budget	€5,939,918
Main donor	European Union
Partners	Agrónomos sin Fronteras (ASF) Foundation, MICCO CONSORTIUM, INADES Formation Tanzania, Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture(TCCIA)
Intervention area	Tanzania: Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Songwe, and Katavi
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30,000 small holder farmers: Iringa (10,000), Njombe (5,000), Mbeya / Songwe (10,000), and Katavi (5,000) 500 off-takers 5 exporters of horticulture produce
Programme goals / results	<p>General objective: To improve the performance of Tanzania's horticulture sector, the inclusion of smallholder farmers in it, and its contribution to job creation and to food and nutrition security</p> <p>The specific objective: (1) To increase the profitability of the horticultural sector for smallholders and traders in Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Songwe and Katavi Regions. (2) To increase the competitiveness of the horticulture sector in Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Songwe and Katavi Regions.</p> <p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased access to sustainable Business Development Services(BDS) for farmers engaged In horticulture production Increased profit margins for members of the farmers organisations and other value chain actors through improved trading relationships and efficiency within the horticulture value chain Improved sector governance and coordination mechanisms through strengthened horticulture platforms and member-based organisations Increased consumption of high nutritious diets through women and youth participation in sustainable nutritional sensitive horticulture value chain in the targeted regions
Human Resources	Rikolto will hire two Agribusiness Advisors and a Finance Manager to implement this project. Full job descriptions can be found on eastafrika.rikolto.org/news . Application deadline: 6 th March 2020 to eastafrika@rikolto.org .

The Guardian

www.ipppmedia.com

MONDAY 2 MARCH 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Onlybest techniques practices will see our aquaculture thrive

RAINFED agriculture which is a type of farming relies on rainfall for water. It provides much of the food consumed by poor communities in developing countries and Tanzania is no exception. For example, rainfed agriculture accounts for more than 95 per cent of farmed land in sub-Saharan Africa.

Truly, there is a correlation between poverty, hunger, and water stress. The UN millennium development project has identified the 'hot spot' countries in the world suffering from the largest prevalence of malnutrition. Of the 850 million undernourished people in the world, essentially all live in poor, developing countries, which predominantly are located in tropical regions.

Levels of productivity, particularly in parts of sub-Saharan Africa including Tanzania are low due to degraded soils, high levels of evaporation, droughts, floods and a general lack of effective water management. A major study into water use by agriculture, known as the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, coordinated by the International Water Management Institute, noted a close correlation between hunger, poverty, and water. However, it concluded that there was much opportunity to raise productivity from rainfed farming. Managing rainwater and soil moisture more effectively and using supplemental and small-scale irrigation is believed to hold the key to helping the greatest number of poor people. It called for a new era of water investments and policies for upgrading rainfed agriculture that would go beyond controlling field-level soil and water to bring new freshwater sources through better local management of rainfall and runoff.

Dependence on rain-fed crops has made southern Africa vulnerable to

drought and other unfavourable climatic conditions. Namibian Minister for Agriculture, Alpheus Naruseb said this when he last year addressed a meeting of SADC ministers responsible for agriculture and food security in Windhoek.

About 70 per cent of the region depends on agriculture for livelihood, which in turn directly depends on adequate, timely and well-distributed rainfall.

We are of the opinion that such a situation requires policies and strategies that have mitigation measures in place for droughts and floods, which will make the agriculture and fisheries sector more resilient to these adverse climatic conditions.

Decisions taken at the ministers' gathering are practically implementable. It is imperative that SADC states should devise and implement strategies that will enhance preparedness to respond timeously and effectively to the increasingly volatile climatic conditions.

The ministers' deliberations and policies should focus on rural investment, infrastructure development and appropriate technologies to reduce the long-term effect of climate variability on food production.

Incentives that motivate farmers to adopt better agricultural techniques and practices, will also help to develop aquaculture. The implementation of decisions and policies is only possible if all SADC member states commit to honouring obligations in implementing regional programmes.

Also the timely implementation will enable the region to feed its estimated 30 million people who are currently food insecure. Available data on the regional food security was not encouraging as 23.3 million people from six of the 11 member states are food insecure.

It's World Wildlife Day: We must implore urgent action to end poaching

WILDLIFE traditionally refers to undomesticated animal species, but has come to include all organisms that grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans. Wildlife can be found in all ecosystems. Deserts, forests, rainforests, plains, grasslands, and other areas, including the most developed urban areas, all have distinct forms of wildlife. While the term in popular culture usually refers to animals that are untouched by human factors, most scientists agree that much wildlife is affected by human activities.

Humans have historically tended to separate civilization from wildlife in a number of ways, including the legal, social, and moral senses. Some animals, however, have adapted to suburban environments.

This includes such animals as domesticated cats, dogs, mice, and gerbils. Some religions declare certain animals to be sacred, and in modern times, concern for the natural environment has provoked activists to protest against the exploitation of wildlife for human benefit or entertainment.

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) announced the theme of United Nations World Wildlife Day 2020: "Sustaining all life on Earth".

The year 2020, known as a "biodiversity super year", will host several major global events that place biodiversity at the forefront of the global sustainable development agenda. It provides a unique opportunity to deliver transformative progress for the conservation and sustainable use of the species

of wild animals and plants in response to global sustainable development challenges that can best be addressed with nature-based solutions.

The theme of World Wildlife Day 2020, "Sustaining all life on earth", encompasses all wild animal and plant species as a component of biodiversity as well as the livelihoods of people, especially those who live closest to the nature. It also underlines the importance of sustainable use of natural resources in support of the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero said: "Wildlife, namely the species of both wild animals and plants for the purpose of World Wildlife Day, is an integral part of the world's biological diversity which has the greatest resonance with the general public. It is also a good opportunity to call on governments around the world, civil society, private sector and individuals to add their voices and take actions to help conserve wildlife and ensure sustainable use before it's too late".

The global wildlife population decreased by 52 pc between 1970 and 2014, according to a World Wildlife Fund report.

Stone Age people and hunter-gatherers relied on wildlife, both plants and animals, for their food. In fact, some species may have been hunted to extinction by early human hunters.

Today, hunting, fishing, and gathering wildlife is still a significant food source in some parts of the world. In other areas, hunting and non-commercial fishing are mainly seen as a sport or recreation. Meat sourced from wildlife that is not traditionally regarded as game is known as bush meat.

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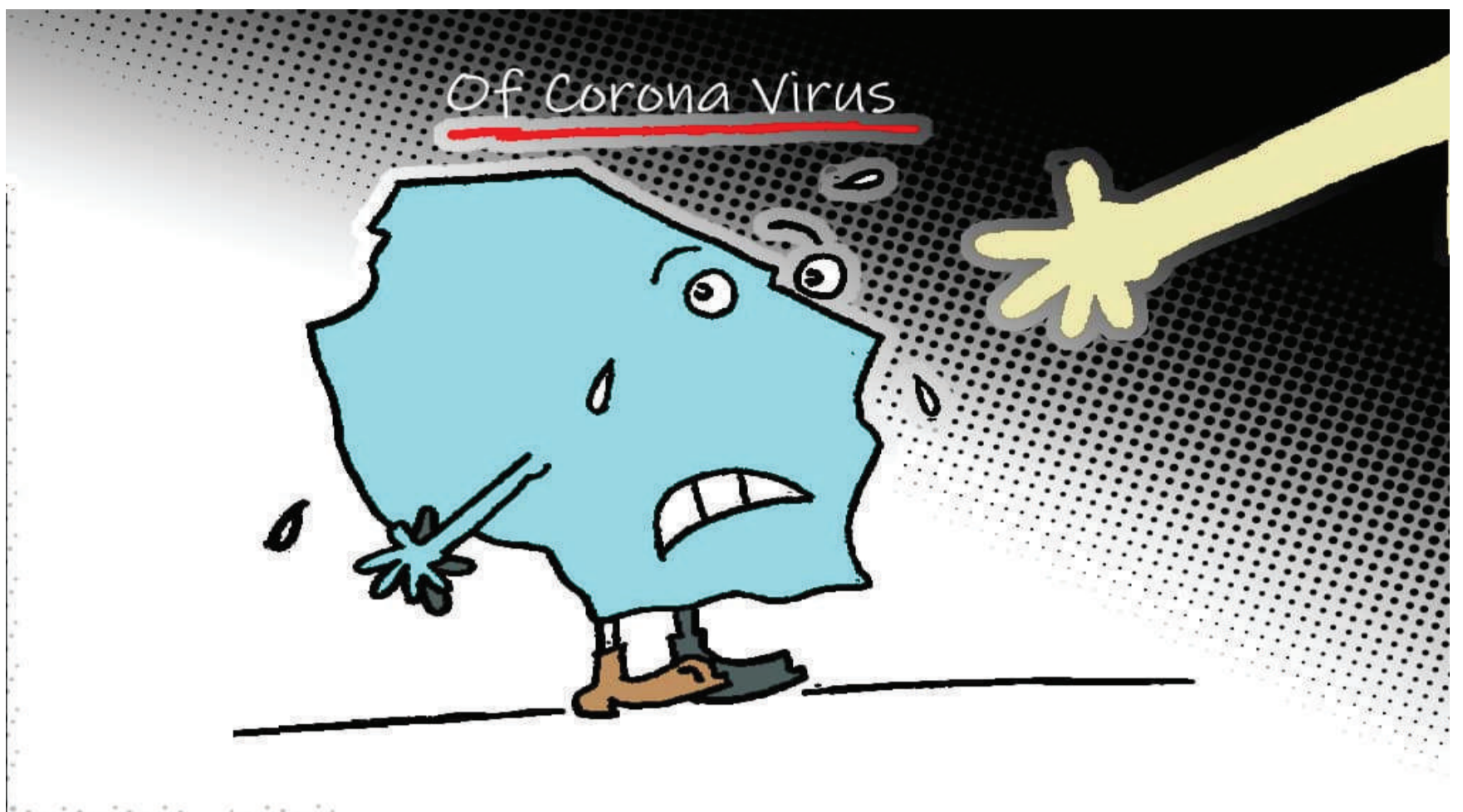
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IMF Article IV Visitation team and the economy

By Obadiah Mailafia and Emmanuel Okogba

LAST week the boys from Washington were in Nigeria under the framework of the IMF Article IV Visitation exercise. Under the statutes of the Fund, the Article IV team is authorised to carry out economic and surveillance activities in member countries. They normally meet with key government functionaries and with functionaries of key agencies such as the Central Bank, Ministry of Finance, FIRS and with bankers and other captains of industry for the purpose of undertaking a fair and objective assessment of the health of the economy.

In their summary report for this year, the IMF team noted that macroeconomic growth in Nigeria remains precarious, while inflation is rising and external vulnerabilities are worsening. While welcoming the recent fiscal consolidation and the tightening of monetary policy they pointed out that major policy adjustments are still very much needed. Led by Amine Mati, Senior Resident Representative and Mission Chief for Nigeria, the Fund's team noted that "the pace of economic recovery remains slow, as declining real incomes and weak investment continue to weigh on economic activity. Inflation - driven by higher food prices - has risen, marking the end of the disinflationary trend seen in 2019. External vulnerabilities are increasing, reflecting a higher current account deficit and declining reserves that remain highly vulnerable to capital flow reversals".

The IMF visiting team, however, lauded the fact that the exchange rate has remained relatively stable. But they expressed concern about the high fiscal deficits in the context of weakening non-oil revenue, which have encouraged CBN interventions and fiscal overdrafts. As a result of these developments, the Fund has announced that they are cutting back on their growth forecast for 2020; revising it downwards to 2.0 percent from an earlier figure of 2.5 percent. They predict that inflation is likely to increase while terms of trade and capital outflows will make our external position more vulnerable. They are, therefore, recommending measures to boost revenue through implementation of the Finance Bill and the Deep Offshore Basin Act, while taking bold steps to en-



hance budget execution and implementing structural reforms, particularly in the areas of Doing Business, power sector reforms, governance and public sector management.

The mission looked askance at the motley of CBN intervention funds as being inimical to prudent public financial management. They advocate, instead, securitisation of longer-term government instruments to mop up excess liquidity, while implementing a more flexible exchange rate regime. They demanded removal of the restrictions on access to foreign exchange for the 42 categories of imported goods. They equally raised issues with banking system vulnerabilities. While welcoming some of the measures taken to reduce legacy non-performing loans; they called for introduction of risk-based minimum capital requirements so as to boost bank resilience. The IMF team also took strong exceptions to the continuing border closure which they believe is harming the economies of our neighbours. They urge all parties involved to work out a solution that is fair and equitable.

I am not altogether surprised that inflation is reported to have risen to 12.13 per cent in January 2020, up from 11.98 per cent recorded in December 2019. The IMF Article 4 team are not entirely wrong in blaming the current development on food shortages on the border closure. But these things need to be placed in proper perspective. The border closure was bound to trigger certain temporary price shocks. But these are inevitable, until when local producers respond to new opportunities. Such events

naturally have time-lags. This explains partly the rise in prices.

Ordinarily, January is still within the harvest season, so we should not be expecting food shortages. But the factor of rural banditry must be taken into account. Farmers in the rural communities have come under heavy assaults by herdsmen militias and other rural bandits. Fear and uncertainty have been dampeners on agrarian production, hence the phenomenon of shortages and scarcity that translates into higher inflation pressures. Another factor that perhaps the Fund team did not mention is, of course, the 50 per cent hike in the VAT tax.

This issue needs to be scrutinised against the backdrop of the much-talked-about progress in local food production in the country. The talk of increases of food production is more hype than reality.

There is no doubt that some of the so-called intervention funds by CBN have had some positive impacts on the rice sector. Local production has risen significantly. But we are not yet anywhere near self-sufficiency in local rice production as is being claimed. The reality is also the fact that nobody has actually done a cost-benefit analysis of the CBN intervention funds. There is anecdotal evidence that the costs far outweigh the benefits and impacts.

Whatever improvements that have been registered have been undermined by the herdsmen militias and rural bandits that are succeeding in destroying the agrarian bread basket of the country, which is the Middle Belt.

On the border issue, I am of the view that the Fund has no

business interfering in matters of national security. The border closure decision has more to do with national security than international economics. So far, the border closure has significantly reduced the mindless killings going on across our country.

We are aware that the decision to close our borders has angered several European powers who have been using our neighbours to dump all their goods on our shores.

I strongly urge that we do not back down. We should continue on this path until we have cast-iron guarantees that our neighbours will not be used to engage in trade dumping or smuggling of weapons that are injurious to our country.

On the restriction placed on the 42 items, I think the Fund is wrong. Why should we continue to import things that we can easily produce locally? We must say no to such nonsense. Remember also that the CBN never "banned" these items as such.

The new guidelines merely specify that anybody that wants to import such items cannot come to the official forex window for them.

On the excess use of CBN overdrafts and intervention funds, I am inclined to agree with the IMF. The rule in terms of global best practices is that such overdraft facilities must be kept to a minimum. Across the world, central banks do from time to time provide overdraft facilities to government. What is essential is that they are kept to a minimum and that they are operated with a high level of transparency.

My main concern is that the way we are going about things these days leaves a lot of unanswered questions. Where are all the trillions of so-called "intervention funds" coming from? Who is evaluating their impact?

How are we sure that we are not just printing money for dubious pork-barrel expenditure? I would, therefore, urge that we keep such overdrafts within the bounds of reason and we must be transparent about them. We must also carefully weigh the implications for inflation and long-term exchange rate stability.

Going forward, I believe what we need in Nigeria is, first and foremost, to secure the peace of the commonwealth. It would bolster business confidence while reversing capital flight and financial hemorrhaging.

It would also bolster the real sector. The CBN should also be moderate in its use of intervention funds. I am also disappointed that we do not really have mechanisms to stabilize prices of agricultural products through the use of agricultural silos. The idea is to store farm produce during the peak harvest seasons and to gradually release them into the market during times of scarcity.

We also badly need to reform the public sector while building an eco-system that allows innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship to flourish.

Reducing bribery for public services delivered to citizens

By Richard Rose

THE literature on corruption tends to focus on grand corruption for contracts and licenses worth large sums of money. However, 1.6 billion people annually have to pay a petty bribe to get public services. In developing countries, such bribes reduce the effectiveness of donor aid intended to reduce poverty. Actions like replacing corrupt officials with computers, promoting more open government, and offering citizens a choice between institutions delivering a service can help reduce bribery in service delivery.

Citizens are most often in contact with government when they seek public services such as health, education, and police. In countries with corrupt public employees, people may need to pay petty bribes to get these services. Survey data indicates that 1.6 billion people annually have to pay a bribe to get public services. In developing countries, petty bribes can reduce the effectiveness of donor aid for programmes intended to reduce poverty. There are reforms that can help reduce bribery in specific services.

Why service delivery is important Public services such as education and health care give people skills to be productive and enable them to work effectively. The protection of individuals and their property requires effective and honest courts and police. Laws authorizing these services establish the conditions determining individual entitlements and obligations to comply with regulations. Having to pay bribes for these services violates the rule of law. Although the sums involved may be petty, they stimulate public distrust in government and reduce the quality of governance.

Many public services are personal services

Nurses, teachers or local government employees deliver services such as medical care and primary education. They live in the same community as the people who use the



services. These public employees are very different from high-ranking officials who decide about multi-million contracts in return for grand bribes. Public employees are not automations impersonally applying laws, instead they enjoy discretion in varying amounts. This is most evident for police who decide whether to arrest a person for driving recklessly, but it also applies to doctors who treat patients and teachers who deal with pupils.

Because contact with public services is a pre-condition of a person paying a bribe, the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) survey of Transparency International asks people whether they or anyone in their household has used a variety of public services in the past year. Contact varies greatly between services. Whereas more than three-fifths make use of health services, less than one-sixth contact legal services (Figure 1).

The payment of bribes varies

Although the opportunity for public employees to demand bribes comes from their discretion and from contact with users, the extraction of bribes varies according to sector, country and specific local conditions.

Differences between services

According to the Global Corruption Barometer, twenty-four percent of global respondents who contacted

a service say they have paid a bribe.[i] Few respondents answer evasively or lack education and health care, thus two thirds of respondents must have dealt with public employees who do their job without demanding a bribe.

The service most subject to bribery is health care: one-tenth of all GCB respondents say that they have paid a bribe in the past year to a doctor, a nurse, a pharmacist or an official who controls hospital admission (Figure 2). This reflects the fact that people use health services more than any other programme. After controlling for level of contact, the police appear most corrupt. More than one-third of people who deal with the police report having paid a bribe. Among the minority dealing with the courts or getting a permit, between one-fifth and one-quarter report paying a bribe. By contrast, among people in contact with health and education, five-sixths report that they did not have to pay a bribe.

Differences between countries

Differences in the experience of bribery are greater within continents than between them. The Global Corruption Barometer

average of 24 percent of respondents paying bribes reflects a global range between 77% in Liberia and 1% in Japan.[ii] Surveys that cover dozens of countries within a single continent find big differences in bribery within each continent.

Within the European Union, the Communist legacy has left a few countries such as Lithuania with a high level of bribery, 29%. However, the average among EU member states is 4%; it is just as low in the Anglo-American world.

Statistical analysis finds that differences in bribery between countries are due to contrasting historical experiences and institutional choices. The 19th century introduction of bureaucracy in Europe results in less bribery today, whereas in many developing countries traditions of favouritism and clientelism weaken bureaucratic administration. The choices that governments make today also influence the extent of bribery. These include giving freedom to the press to expose corruption, eliminating regulations that create opportunities for extracting corrupt rents, and funding social services adequately or tolerating the scarcity that encourages bribery.

Differences within a coun-

try

Theories of political culture predict that in societies described as corrupt by Western standards most people would accept bribery as the normal way of getting things done. However, surveys consistently find that a substantial majority think it is wrong to pay a bribe, while the minority that considers bribery acceptable does not account for the existing levels of corruption. When there is a conflict between an ethical refusal to engage in corruption and the need to look after the health of family members or provide for a child's education, people are prepared to pay a bribe as a lesser evil.

People pay bribes when public officials demand them as a condition for receiving a service or avoiding unwelcome sanctions. Among those who contact more than one public service, even when they have paid a bribe for one service, they are unlikely to have done so for every service they receive.

Governments cannot alter history nor one leader's speech change the hearts and minds of citizens. However, there are measures that can help reduce public employees' opportunities to extract bribes from users.

Actions government can take to reduce bribery

Creating an anti-corruption agency in the national capital may have symbolic value, but it is a long way from affecting how low-level public employees deal with ordinary citizens. However, governments can change the laws and institutions that determine how public services are delivered. Foreign donors can support the adoption of these changes by specifying conditions for the delivery of services that they fund.

Given the variety of opportunities that different services offer public employees to collect bribes, the best alternative is to

have a tool kit including multiple types of actions. Some measures, such as repealing regulations, can reduce the demands that governments make on their citizens. Computerization can improve the efficiency and integrity of issuing permits and licenses. Actions focussed on reducing the payment of petty bribes for a single service cannot achieve the transformation promised but often not delivered by across-the-board proposals for reform. Yet a substantial reduction in bribery for a service used by hundreds of millions of people each year can save tens or hundreds of millions from being forced to pay a bribe. Actions include:

- Repeal laws that restrict the freedom of the press to cover corruption in public service delivery. Public disclosure of misdeeds should make officials less inclined to engage in corrupt practices.

- Donors can help open up government by making the publication of full details of each step in the process of awarding contracts for supported projects a condition for receiving funding. They can also promote the training of journalists and civil society activists in methods for identifying malpractice, such as monitoring public expenditure on a particular service across localities and regions.

- Review and clean up out-of-date regulations. Some outdated regulations serve little purpose except to allow officials to extract bribes. Officials have nothing to offer in exchange for a bribe if a document is not required. Fewer public officials can resort to bribery if fewer signatures are required. Reducing regulations encourages efficiency: people do not need to spend hours queuing in a government office to get a document and businesses can invest and innovate more readily.

China can offer the world vital lessons on fighting the coronavirus epidemic

THE fight against the novel coronavirus pneumonia (NCP) has entered a critical phase. What lessons can China offer the world in dealing with COVID-19? In what aspects can China make further progress? How has China interacted with the international community? Following the release on February 15, of a report: "China's Fight Against COVID-19 Epidemic: A Decisive Campaign," by the Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS), Global Times (GT) talked to authors of the report over these issues.

GT: Your report calls the current fight against the novel coronavirus pneumonia a "decisive campaign." Where do we now stand in this campaign?

Chen Dongxiao (president of the SIIS): Our position depends on the situation in two battlefields: One is Central China's Hubei Province centered on Wuhan, and the other is the rest of the country. The two battlefields are of a different nature and involve differing tasks.

As the epicenter of the outbreak, Wuhan is the priority among priorities. Our current tasks there should be to figure out the total number of infected cases and allow all of the patients to be treated. Meanwhile, we should focus on reducing the infection and fatality rates. With the country's previous efforts, the situation in Wuhan and some other parts of Hubei Province is getting better, but still sticky.

The rest of the country should be consolidating their achievements while continuing to support the epicenter. The vast majority of provinces excluding Hubei have witnessed a decline in newly confirmed cases for more than 10 consecutive days. As long as the trend is not reversed in the next one to two weeks, the inflection point of the epidemic will gradually appear in various regions.

Other regions should provide support and confidence for the Wuhan battlefield to win the ultimate victory.

GT: The report believes that the inflection point for the novel coronavirus pneumonia to some extent depends on the "collective efforts of the Chinese government and people." At the current stage, how do you evaluate the Chinese government's measures and people's behavior in the face of the epidemic? As major Chinese cities witness a travel rush after the Spring Festival holidays, can these collective efforts withstand the pressure?

Lu Chuanying (secretary general, Research Center for International Cyberspace Governance, SIIS): The number of infection cases in China, except for the epicenter of Central China's Hubei Province, declined for the 11th consecutive day on Friday. On February 3, 890 new cases were confirmed, but the number was 221 on Friday. It is highly likely this trend will continue next week.

Some provinces have even seen zero newly confirmed cases for several consecutive days. And in multiple regions for days more patients were cured than confirmed. All these outcomes suggest the collective efforts of the Chinese government and people are effective. The positive side of the epidemic has surfaced.

On the other hand, major cities in China are facing pressure from post-holiday travel rush. The government and enterprises are now very concerned about this. Measures have been taken including checking travelers, asking them to quarantine themselves at home for two weeks and dissuading people from NCP-stricken areas from returning to the cities in which they work. These measures are playing a great role in controlling the epidemic.

The epidemic in cities including North China's Beijing, East China's Shanghai and South China's Guangzhou and Shenzhen have all stood the test posed by the population in the first week of the travel rush.

However, as the incubation period has not yet passed, these cities can by no means take the situation lightly. It is believed that as long as governments and enterprises shoulder their



A recovered patient (R) waves to medical staff of the temporary hospital, which applies traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) treatment to patients, in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, February 26, 2020. /Xinhua

responsibilities and ordinary people adopt necessary self-protection measures, the virus can ultimately be defeated.

GT: You said in your report that China can offer some lessons in tackling the "unique challenges" for epidemic prevention and control in cities. What experience can the world learn from China in this regard? And how should these cities balance epidemic control and economic development?

Liu Kan (associate professor, Institute of Global Governance, SIIS): In recent years, infectious diseases such as SARS, H1N1, MERS and the Ebola virus have caused serious public health crises in the international community.

Several lessons can be learnt from China's dealing with the novel coronavirus.

First, the government must establish a grid-based and refined management mechanism to respond to public health crises, in cities and villages, and should give full play to the role of community organizations.

Second, the country should enhance the government's ability to respond rapidly to crisis. Especially in the face of novel

infectious diseases, medical research institutions, governments at all levels and ordinary people all need a gradual process to become aware. The key is that governments should be able to grasp the tendency of public health crises in a timely manner and make quick adjustments in accordance with the developing situation.

Third, a country should make full use of modern technology and develop applied technologies in response to public health crises.

In addition, as soon as the virus begins to spread, the entire country should be mobilized and efficient governmental intervention is necessary. The central government needs to rapidly mobilize nationwide medical staff and resources to support the epicenter and meanwhile should classify patients in different conditions so as to cut off the source of infection and more reasonably allocate medical resources.

Major cities are the engines of the Chinese economy. Resuming economic activities as soon as possible in these cities - except for Wuhan - is important. The Chinese government has already taken effective steps, including

encouraging telecommuting, distance education and telemedicine, which have ensured certain industries' operations. Authorities have also provided support for key industries to resume work through financial and labor policies, and have helped smaller enterprises tide over difficulties.

Except in key areas such as Wuhan, we should combine efforts to not only control the epidemic, but also push for development, reform and stability.

GT: In what ways should China improve its prevention and control of epidemics as well as public health emergency management?

Zhou Yiqi (associate fellow, Institute of comparative politics and public policy studies, SIIS): Above all, transparency of information should be increased and the public supervision needs to be enhanced. Important information of public interest should be released in a timely and accurate manner.

Second, public health institutions should be given more independence and entitled to issue public health information and warnings based on scientific evidence.

Third, grass-roots health agencies should further strengthen their abilities to cope with a public health crisis including personnel training, material reserves and building hardware.

Fourth, the country should encourage and support non-governmental organizations at the grass-roots level to engage more in the public health crisis response, especially in areas that involve donations and distribution.

Fifth, the media's supervisory role should be brought into play. Media outlets need to bear the responsibility of supervising public opinion in the early stages of public health crises, publish accurate, objective reports and warn the government and soci-

ety.

GT: Your report concludes that "international cooperation proves increasingly important in the war against the COVID-19 epidemic." How do you evaluate the international community's role as well as the interactions between China and the world in response to the outbreak?

Lu Chuanying: The international community has played a significant role in China's fight against the epidemic.

First, their efforts are a manifestation of international solidarity. China is on the frontline of the fight against the virus. It has been under the most serious pressure and has made the greatest sacrifice. The international community's support and encouragement is essential, and can boost our confidence through international cooperation.

Second, the international community has provided assistance in medical resources and professional treatment. You can read in our report that as of February 7, more than 30 countries donated medical supplies to China. The WHO expert group also arrived in China to provide professional advice at the invitation of the Chinese government.

Third, it can efficiently strike back against false information so as to remove distractions in the global fight against the epidemic.

Certain Western media outlets and politicians were spreading false information and staining China's huge efforts to curb the epidemic. Many countries, in particular developing countries, and international organizations, including the WHO, have clarified and refuted those rumors in a timely manner. This is very important for international cooperation to combat the epidemic.

Biodiversity and agriculture: Nature's matrix and the future of conservation

By Angus Wright, Ivette Perfecto and John Vandermeer

WHEN we were children, a long auto trip would require a stop every hour or so to clean the windshield of the insects that had been intercepted.

Today's windshields are spared this indignity—a convenience for motorists but a terrifying signpost of danger for the well being of the planet and humanity.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the current peril we face as we push forward into what is now understood as the beginning of a new mass extinction. Yet efforts to curb this potential catastrophe are hindered by limited understanding of the relevant sciences, both natural and social.

And a keystone issue is agriculture, both as partial cause of the crisis, and potential contributor to its solution. This is understood technically, but restricted limits of debate continue to force a restricted set of proposed solutions.

To take an extreme example, E. O. Wilson, one of the world's best-known biologists, recently proposed that half of the Earth's surface should be put into protected status for the sole purpose of preserving biodiversity.

While his proposal is unusually bold, the general idea of a vast expansion of protected areas is common among some conservationists in the United States and elsewhere. At present, something less than fifteen percent of planetary surface is in some kind of protected status, with various international agencies committed to expanding protected areas to seven-tenths percent.



Implementation of what Wilson calls a "Half-Earth" strategy would require that more than three times as much land than at present be designated as "protected" areas for the primary purpose of biodiversity protection.

Wilson acknowledges that a Half-Earth approach would require an extreme intensification of agricultural production on land outside protected areas in order to provide enough food for human needs. He does little to contemplate what kind of intensification would be required.

Neither does he acknowledge the impact conventional intensification would have on biodiversity. Since he relies on previous production gains under industrial agriculture as evidence of the possibility of greater gains using similar techniques, he apparently does not see any serious drawbacks to such techniques.

Some conservationists who favor

strategies similar to Wilson's, speak of agricultural land as "sacrifice zones," in which intensification, making liberal use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers and other industrial style techniques, would necessarily reduce non-food organisms to a bare minimum, a "sacrifice" necessary for the pesky species *Homo sapiens*.

Ironically, these conservationists' support for land-sparing converges with agribusiness' interests to increase industrial agricultural intensification.

In the growing scientific literature, this perspective has come to be called "land-sparing," with the idea that agricultural intensification must be used to spare as much land as possible from human activity in order to leave the rest for the flourishing of non-human species.

In contrast to the land-sparing

approach, others who are equally as interested in biodiversity conservation have proposed a "land sharing" approach, in which it is argued that high food production and biodiversity conservation may be achieved most efficiently if pursued simultaneously in a planned fashion.

This point of view is suspicious of what they call the "fortress" protection ideology, in which areas are designated to be free of any human activity, assuming that in such areas all species initially there will survive in perpetuity.

The land-sharing point of view is frequently characterized, perhaps incorrectly, as one in which the agricultural activity itself needs to be sufficiently benign for all the biodiversity in the area, such that purely protected areas are unnecessary.

Either-or Versus Both-and

The land-sparers emphasize increasing agricultural production to minimize land-use devoted to agriculture. The land-sharers emphasize the need to have an agriculture that is favorable for the survival of species.

The first sees the protected area as the only place where biodiversity is conserved; the second sees a benign form of agriculture that itself contains the whole of the biodiversity. In the second edition of our book, *Nature's Matrix*, we argue that both sides of this debate are wrong.

Most of Earth's terrestrial surface contains patches of natural, unmanaged, vegetation. The "landscape" is, by definition, those patches plus the "matrix" in which they are located.

A simplified summary suggests that for one side, the only thing that matters are the patches of natural vegetation (and thus they need to be protected), while for the other side the only thing that matters is a matrix that is conducive to the survival of species. Both sides are wrong.

Very basic ecology acknowledges that local extinctions of species occur regularly, even in the most protected of areas. Local extinctions are, in fact, a normal part of nature. What determines ultimate survival is whether the matrix of the landscape allows for migration and/or reproduction.

Protected areas are very seldom large enough to provide conditions for the survival of most species. If species do not move freely through that matrix, then local extinctions can balloon into regional, and even global, extinctions. Thus, the ability for organisms to migrate and reproduce in agricultural areas is critical. The survival of a species in even the most protected areas will be otherwise

undermined by surrounding industrial agricultural "sacrifice zones."

What we propose in our second edition of *Nature's Matrix* is not a strictly "land sharing" approach, since we recognize the need for maintaining protected areas.

However, we also recognize that the goal of producing enough food to satisfy human nutritional demand does not require the conversion of those protected areas to agriculture, no matter how biodiversity friendly.

We agree with Kremen's recent analysis of the debate, noting that instead of an either-or approach, we need a "both-and" approach that "favors both large, protected regions and favorable surrounding matrices."² We further argue that a matrix favorable to biodiversity can only be achieved by an alliance of diverse social movements and organizations.

Promoting the *Nature's Matrix* Approach

In the United States and other industrialized nations, there are a variety of organizations that implicitly or explicitly favor this "nature's matrix" perspective, including most environmental organizations.

Among the most important are land trust organizations that sign contracts with land owners to create or maintain agriculture that is supportive of relatively high species diversity. Organizations bringing together practitioners and researchers of low input or organic agriculture, agroecology, rotational grazing, and production of perennial crops all usually favor species friendly production techniques.

In Europe, and to a lesser degree in the United States, governments offer cash payments or other reimbursements to

We should take off our Western-tinted glasses and look to African villages for a way forward

By Gavin Hartford

IT feels oddly surreal, bordering on the insane, to be in the Côte d'Ivoire city of Abidjan, four months into our African overland journey, and to read the stories of the antics and emptiness of a State of the Nation speech back home. It's weird. Other worldly. A sort-of tragedy and a farce all in one act.

South Africans are locked into a social and economic death spiral. A death spiral occasioned not just from a history of lacklustre leadership, or outright pillaging and state capture, or racial profiling on a landscape of inequality and unemployment. Or any of the countless other phrases that we use to describe our illness. It's way worse than that.

South Africans have not yet come to terms with the deeper illness that binds them and blinds them. They have not yet understood what it means to be an African, or more specifically to be a newly born African nation that is the bastard child of the continent.

South Africans suffer from the toxic combination of an inflated ego that hides a deep identity crisis within. We look to the northern hemisphere to answer our problems in the African deep south. We distrust the continental experience beyond seeing it as a potential market to exploit and accumulate from. We have no idea of what it means to build a nation beyond our own winning a beauty contest, or a rugby World Cup. We truly are the lost and arrogant children of Africa. Worse still is that we don't even know this about ourselves. We are egotistical and violent people. To others and to our own.

I can hear the pushback coming. The talk of being the friendly ones. The caring ones. The proud ones. The ones who overcome all obstacles. The negotiation capital of the world. The rainbow nation. The peace-loving ones. I can hear all that. Yet, yet it's thin. And hollow. It borders on a lie. Its measure of success is ourselves, our own rhetoric, our own image in the mirror. And only that. It's a kind of self-congratulatory praise-singing. And it's nowhere near the truth. At least not when viewed from the sobering distance of being immersed for months in the countless African



villages and towns, and cities of West Africa.

It seems to me that our truth is what we watch, hear and read about from the commentariat. It's the tiny truth of the insiders' club. That's our small world focus. It's the obsessive and yet deeply boring, and predictable singular focus on big labour and big capital and big ANC in government. Of European lookalike social compacts for the rich in the name of the poor. Of progress and development measured solely through the tinted glasses of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and rating agencies. Of a western democracy with a colourful Constitution, and national flag to match, which is yet to be embedded in the ethos of the masses of ordinary outsider South Africans. Of our slavish love for mining, financial services, automotive and textile manufacturing that need tax breaks, and protection and countless Industrial Policy Action Plans (IPAP), for everything else. Of apartheid special city planning to protect the values of the properties of the rich and to keep us looking "modern", and "western"

with that sexy, clean, European-like look and feel. All for the insiders.

For those few extremely wealthy souls that support the bulk of the tax base and who eat, and party under candles, even when we are not going through load shedding.

It's a hoax and it's paper-thin. And it's not sustainable. It's the age-old trickle-down economics from deals between the big three social interests. It's a trickle that will not reach the restless mass of outsiders.

Not in my lifetime. It's not even remotely viable. It's just a matter of time. It will implode. Bit by bit. It has already started with the implosion of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and the downsizing of businesses.

Every macroeconomic indicator is heading south. Debt rising beyond revenue collection. Jobless rising. Currency weakening more and more. The capital markets flatline at best. Construction and freight industries de-

cline. Properties lose value and will be worth virtually nothing. We are only at the beginning of the death spiral. There is a long road down. A long, long road.

As we go down, we should take off our Western-tinted glasses. We should look at the bare face of our neighbours and beyond them across the African continent. Look deep at them. See the African villages, the towns and the cities.

And in each, you will see a rickety stall, or collection of stalls, or a sprawling market. On every street and in every country. See the way the road itself has become a market, even before it is built into an asphalt road. Already the market is there. There in the dust.

And in every market, there are sellers of onions, tomatoes, avos and pineapples. Countless sellers of all that grows. And they are there every day. Because they have customers to service. Alongside them are the yam and peanut sellers, bread makers,

and chicken grillers. And the textile weavers. And the tailors. And the motorcycle mechanics and bicycle repair shops.

Look deeper. This is the guts of the home market. It's the African home market. It's alive, it's vibrant, it's busy, disorderly and dirty. It's an African home market. There are customers and sellers. Everywhere. No one has a license to be here.

The license they have is what everyone has. It's not given by a government official. It's ordained at birth. It's the license embedded in the DNA of every person. The license to educate, create, grow, sell and make. Everyone honours it. Everyone does it.

Look deeper. Behind the goods and the seller. There is an African. Thousands and millions of Africans. Educated people. Proud people. People who know that their future and the future of their children depend on them. Not on government. Or even big business. Or big labour.

But on them making, creating, trading and surviving. They are the rock of the home market of Africa. Don't laugh. Don't smirk. Learn from them. They are the bearers of all the lessons for our future in the south too.

Look into the village. Look deep into the village. See households and homes. The ownership of the land and the village. The patterns from dawn to dusk. The simplicity of everyday life. The low carbon footprint. The children dressed for school and studying hard.

The bells and the call to prayer. The sweeping mother. The pounding sister. The men and women who till their small pieces of land. The water and wood carried in to wash, and cook. Just enough. No more than the day's needs. Tomorrow is another day.

The land is owned or leased by the people. There is low unemployment and everyone has some land, or home assets from which they can produce for themselves, or their home market. On this foundation, the village is an economic unit with buyers and sellers. It is the expression of the collective economic enterprise and will of the people.

Every day, it rises to the same tasks to be performed. The same rituals to be fulfilled. And behind it all, stands an unwritten commitment, a covenant even, to educate and work, and to work to educate for each other. Over and over. It's embedded in the value system of the Africans themselves.

Makes even the poorest of the poor stand proud. Hold their heads up. It's the glue that cements the nation together. The street trader survives on street trading.

The welder on welding. The tailor on sewing. The cook on cooking. And so it goes on. Each for the other. All for one. One for all. No getting ahead of the other. No falling behind the other. All rising. Slowly and painfully. But rising nonetheless. Against all odds.

Kibondo school builds new skills laboratory to help enhance clinical practices

By Felister Peter, Kibondo

STUDENTS at Kibondo school of nursing and midwifery have a reason to smile following the construction of new skills laboratory at the college in new drive to enhance clinical practices.

The skills laboratory at the state-owned college has been constructed with the support from Global Affairs Canada, Jhiego, Amref Health Africa in collaboration with the Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) and Tanzania Midwives Association (TAMA).

The Canadian government through the More and Better Midwives for Rural Tanzania (MBM) project disbursed 300m/- for construction of the skills laboratory.

The MBM project is being implemented for five years from 2016 to March 2021 in Lake Zone and Western regions of Mwanza, Kagera, Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Kigoma, Tabora, and Geita.

In her speech at the skills lab launch event in Kigoma recently which was read by Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Retired Brigadier General, Emmanuel Maganga on behalf of the Minis-

ter for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Umyi Mwalimu said completion of the lab supplements government efforts towards reducing maternal and newborn deaths as well as enable the college to produce better midwives.

"With a good number of better midwives, we're likely to increase access to skilled midwifery care in rural Tanzania. We all know the importance of midwives in improving maternal and newborn care. We are committed to ensure that no mother or child die over lack of professional midwifery services at our health facilities", asserted Mwalimu.

The minister noted that available statistics indicates that Lake Zone and western regions lead in maternal and neonatal deaths mainly contributed with shortage of qualified nurse-midwives at most of the health facilities and challenges of improved learning environment and equipment at the state-owned colleges.

According to her, poor learning environment has resulted into colleges producing graduates who are not competent enough.



Kigoma regional commissioner Brig Gen (rtd) Emmanuel Maganga graces the inauguration of the newly built skills laboratory complex at the Kibondo School of Nursing and Midwifery last week. Implementation was chiefly thanks to support by the More and Better Midwives for Rural Tanzania project. Looking on (R) is the head of the school, Alfreda Ndunguru. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

"We are collaborating with stakeholders such as the Canadian government to improve learning environment at our colleges, the initiatives includes renovation of buildings, good policies and capacity building to instructors", said the Minister insisting the government is working to resolve the challenge of health practitioners shortage at public health facilities.

Mwalimu said through the MBM project, three buildings at nursing and midwifery colleges have been constructed and renovated. She said two among them are in Lake Regions (Mwanza and Geita) and one in Kibondo district, Kigoma.

"I am told that MBM project has helped to rehabilitate 19 in-service training clinical practice sites

to a tune of 436,256,157/- We value your important contribution to the health sector especially in nursing and midwifery area to ensure colleges produce competent and qualified graduates", she said calling upon pregnant women to attend to antenatal care and make sure they deliver at hospitals and health centers.

Rosa Manebwa, first year student at the college said: "We are grateful for the skills laboratory which has all the required equipment for our clinical practice. We were previously doing practice at dilapidated building locate some 2 kilometers from the college".

A second year student, Michael Bariki said the new skills lab with modern equipment will en-

hance their learning thus making them better nurse-midwives.

The head of the school, Alfreda Ndunguru said the college started to offer nurse-midwifery course in March 2010 producing a total of 435 graduates. Of the number, 270 were boys and 165 girls. Currently, the college has a total of 134 students (50 girls and 84 boys).

She said the college faces a shortage of teachers whereby out of the available 15 government employed servants, only five are teachers. She said construction of the skills laboratory started in 2010.

Representing Kigoma Regional Medical Officer, Ambakisiye Mhiche said: "Nurse-midwives are highly needed in the region as it has a total of 1,200,000 people in need of their service. There are more than 177,000 women likely to get pregnant. Children also require midwifery services; we have 117,000 children under one year and more than 487 under the age of five. There are only 892 midwives regionally while the demand is 1,500".

He said the government has been taking measures to increase the number of health practitioners in Kigoma whereby in two years, it has employed 460 who have been posted at various health centers across the region. The region has a total of 2056 health practitioners.

Mhiche said the region has a total of 283 health facilities of which 6 are hospitals, 36 health centers and 241 dispensaries. He said 251 health cent-

ers provide basic delivery services.

MBM Project Director, Dr Julius Msanikaisaid the project is implemented in 20 nursing schools in 8 regions. He said five colleges are in Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora) and 15 in Lake Zone-Mwanza, Geita, Mara, Kagera, Simiyu and Shinyanga.

The project is also implemented at 19 in-service health facilities to facilitate practical learning and ensure colleges provide quality nursing-midwifery graduates.

Dr Msanika informed that within four years of implementation, the project has recorded a number of successes including provision of staff orientation to 850 employed nurses and midwives as per Health Ministry's guidelines.

The project, he said has been taking efforts to sensitize secondary school students to go for science subjects whereas 46,438 students have been reached and sensitized to enroll with nursing and midwifery courses.

He explained that 9,956 students were reached in the second year of the project, 8,144 in the third year and 28,338 in the fourth year.

A total of 2,017 graduates completed the nurse-midwifery course within four years of the project, stated Dr Msanika. "Supported colleges are now producing competent graduates compared to other schools. Professional nurse-midwifery services at our project hospitals have resulted into increased customer satisfaction", he noted.

Visiting Dubai has numerous benefits

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, recently in Dubai

DUBAI is one of the beautiful places and key hubs that connect almost the entire world with a number of tourists from across the globe.

With an estimated population of around 3.3 million, it is among the cities within United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the Middle East.

Lying directly within the Arabian Desert, Dubai is well known for having very low crime rate. It is endowed with a number of tourist attractions.

The city is part of seven states which forms UAE-Dubai, Abudhabi, Shalja, Agman, UmAlqudium, Fujjarah and Ras Al Khaima. Residents in all these cities speak Arabic.

The capital city is Abudhabi which is said to have enough oil reserve than other UAE states.

First time visitors will be surprised with the size of the airport that can accommodate a good number of flights and passengers. Apart from hosting flights from different companies, such as Fly-Dubai and others, the airport is dominated by Emirates which is estimated to have more than 275 flights including 165 being Boeing and 110 Airbus.

The city is decorated with good infrastructures, especially roads. It has a number of interchange-structures and wider roads which allow many cars to move from different directions at high speed.

Another interesting thing is that

there are no security officers along the streets of Dubai, being a traffic or police officer.

A tour guide from Arabian Adventures, Mohamed told me that there are plenty of CCTV cameras installed almost everywhere, the thing enhanced security within the city.

He said following installation of the CCTV cameras, road users including drivers respect traffic regulations.

"Our police are on alert all the time, since we have a low crime rate police take a short time to responds to crime scenes", said Mohamed.

He however added that their leader Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashid allows his citizens and foreigners to visit his residence famously known as 'Zabir Palace'. Visitors are also allowed to take photos without restrictions, the thing that is not common in many countries.

Mohamed, who have served the industry for more than 20 years, said some of the reasons contributed into Sheikh Mohamed allowing people to visit his residence include the number of requests from different people who wanted to see him because of the economic revolution he has made to his country.

"He is a man of the people, he is doing wonders but yet he is down to earth. Whenever people request to visit his palace, he allows them", he said.

The tour guide narrated that citizens are not interested with elections, they are only happy with the existing system. He said people



Burj Al Arab is one of the thrilling tourist destinations in Dubai

don't need to be engaged in politics, they are concentrating in economic activities.

"Each state in UAE has a leader, but the current leader of UAE is Sheikh Khalifa. If it happens that he is not in power for any reason, leaders from the seven states elect a leader of their choice", he informed.

Another thing that makes Dubai an amazing tourists place is the fact that there are no old vehicles on the roads. This is because the government reduced import tax to facilitate importation of new cars.

"People opt to buy new cars as the prices are affordable. You cannot find old vehicles across streets in Dubai", he narrated adding the state have also simplified vehicle

importation procedures.

Creation of artificial sea-Marine Park has also made Dubai beautiful. The artificial sea constructed four kilometers from city center is connected to sea water. It is one of the best places that tourists prefer visiting.

A tourist from Serbia, Abela Sakitana said the Marine Parks has been constructed in a way that one cannot believe it is the artificial sea.

"It takes time to believe that it is a manmade sea. The environment here is beautiful with variety recreation places", said Sakitana noting Dubai has a number of tourist attractions that attracts thousands tourists across the world.

According to him, the beautiful

beaches, miracle garden and many high-rising buildings make people continue staying in the city. He said Dubai must have professional engineers and designers to be able to make several creativity jobs including construction of the artificial sea.

A tourist from Lithuania, Jane Brendes said he has been to various gardens, but the ones in Dubai are amazing.

"Dubai is a wonderful place, am so happy to be here. I love the creativity where different flowers of different colours have been combined to make an amazing garden", he said.

Other amazing spots in Dubai include the Dubai Sunset Desert Safari where people visit to see

live animals and La Perle, an underground place with capacity to accommodate 1,300 people. The place is decorated with different materials that attract many people every year.

The list includes, Dubai Parks and Resorts, Inside Dream works and the Global Village which is renowned for shopping as almost all the products across the word are found there.

Tourists visiting Dubai cannot afford to miss touring Burji Khalifa-the tallest building worldwide with 160 floors.

The three-floor Dubai shopping mall has 1,250 shops. The place is all-time busy as many tourists prefer shopping at the area.

Malawi legalises cannabis amid hopes of fresh economic growth

LILONGWE

MALAWI has passed a bill decriminalising cannabis for medicinal and industrial purposes, almost five years after a motion to legalise industrial hemp was adopted.

The country follows in the footsteps of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Lesotho, neighbouring south-east African states that have legalised medicinal cannabis, as well as South Africa, where medicinal and recreational use was decriminalised in 2018.

"Today is a very glorious day for me personally and, I think,

for the entire nation," said Boniface Kadzamira, the former MP who tabled the topic in 2015, following the successful passage of the bill on Thursday.

The economic potential of the fast-growing global medicinal and industrial cannabis industry has been the main driver of the law change in Malawi. In 2019, the World Bank said Malawi "remains one of the poorest countries in the world despite making significant economic and structural reforms to sustain economic growth". The national poverty rate was more than 50% in 2016.

While Malawi is famous in-

ternationally for its recreational cannabis strain "Malawi Gold", the bill to legalise medicinal and industrial production faced huge opposition from social and religious conservatives in the country.

"It is my strong view that cannabis will in the long run replace tobacco to become our major cash crop - that will contribute hugely to the GDP," said Kadzamira, who explained that the industry will create employment opportunities in the farming and industrial sectors.

Agriculture offers employment to nearly 80% of Malawi's population. Tobacco is the

country's major export, and the global decline in its use has impacted the economy. Malawi's tobacco industry is also marred by exploitation, as international companies such as British American Tobacco have sought cheap labour - including child labour - and low tariffs on raw tobacco for export.

"We don't want to replicate what has happened in the tobacco industry. Malawians should participate, not as tenants, but as equal partners in this new sector," added Kadzamira, who wants cannabis products to be processed in-country.

Cannabis, which can thrive in dry conditions, is a good fit for Malawi's climate, which has been impacted by the southern African drought.

Invegrow became the first company in Malawi to get government authorisation to conduct research trials on low-THC industrial hemp in 2015. Run by Tanya Clarke, a British entrepreneur, Invegrow completed trials in 2018 and was one of the groups that advised on the draft bill.

Invegrow has processed hemp products such as paper, bricks and cosmetics in Malawi, Clarke said. The next step for

the company will involve working with the government to investigate local varieties, as imported seeds were used in the trials.

"There will be lots of people interested and looking at Malawi at the moment, but the next step is to make its investment climate favourable and positive," said Clarke.

She added that she hopes the medicinal cannabis industry, which is less accessible to local entrepreneurs, will "bring foreign currency and exchange to the country, and that [it] should be done responsibly".

Clarke said government consultations during the drafting

of the bill were inclusive, paving the way for the industry to "open a lot of doors for lots of different kinds of people here", and stressed the importance of traditional farmers and growers being involved.

Malawi's Rastafarian community has been among those advocating decriminalisation and contributing to discussions on the draft bill. Though Rastafarians in the country face stigma, attitudes are changing; last month, the country's high court ruled that dreadlocks must be allowed in school lest Rastafarian children be excluded.

Africa could be the winner as the US attempts to stifle Huawei

By Cobus Van Staden

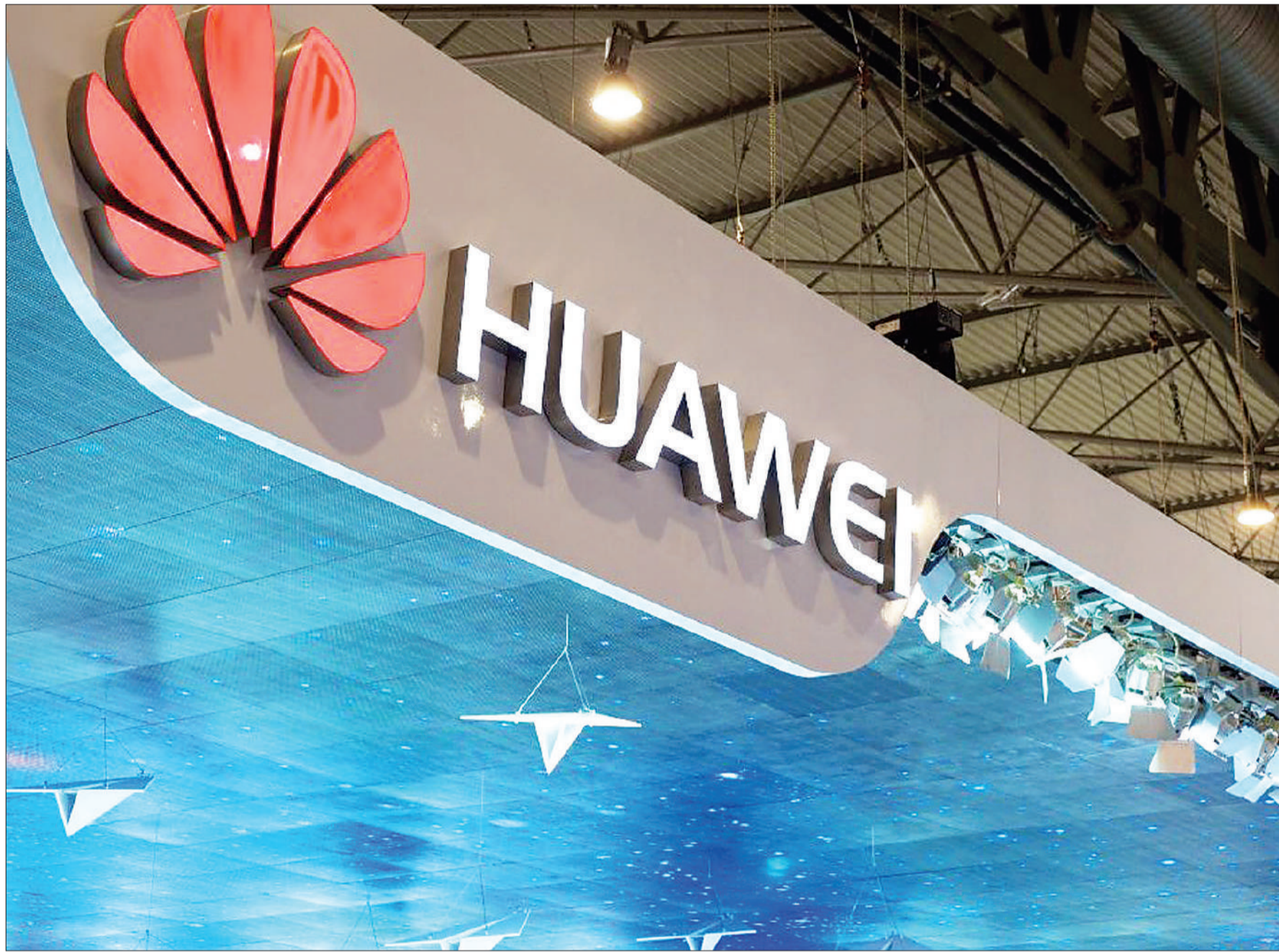
THE adoption of 5G technology, powered by Chinese tech giant Huawei, has become a game of international geopolitical football with Donald Trump as the self-appointed referee. Africa is set to become an early adopter - but there are political, economic and security risks attached.

This much is clear: 5G is coming. About 100 times faster than current mobile speeds, it will deliver faster internet to more people. One square kilometre of 4G can support about 4,000 devices. With 5G that jumps to about one million devices. But this doesn't only mean more video on more phones. The jump from 4G to 5G is an exponential one, unlocking whole new generations of technology. It could bring a promised future of the internet of things, driverless cars, and smart cities. It also has the potential to open a Pandora's box of military applications.

So, 5G is coming, but the question of how and where raises many political problems, ones that touch directly on Africa's future. The problem is, of course, China, more specifically the Chinese tech company Huawei.

Since it started in 1987 as a sales agent in Shenzhen for Hong Kong-based switch and cable businesses, Huawei has become the world's foremost provider of data network equipment. Its rise was certainly helped by support from Beijing. But the specific nature of that support remains controversial. It is now one of the most important companies in China, central to the Chinese government's ambitions of escaping the middle-income trap by becoming a global tech leader. It currently works with most of the world's largest mobile data providers. By most counts it is years ahead of its competitors in rolling out 5G, and is therefore central to many providers' dreams of launching 5G in markets around the world.

Huawei is a private company (unlike its state-owned Chinese counterpart ZTE, another major player in the 5G revolution.) But it is close to the Chinese government. This closeness makes Washington nervous. At issue are US allegations that Huawei is (or could be) harvesting data from its networks and transferring it to China. The Trump administration has raised the possibility of Huawei networks being used to pilfer government and business secrets. It is putting pressure on coun-



tries around the world to stop working with Huawei. The company has repeatedly denied these charges and says it is independent of the Chinese government.

The result is a classic between-a-rock-and-a-hard-place dilemma, which reveals much about the shifting blocs of political and economic power in the 21st century.

Take the UK. The Boris Johnson government recently announced it will allow limited cooperation between its telecom companies and Huawei. Huawei will only be allowed to provide "non-core" equipment, and its proportion of the total equipment making up a mobile network will be capped at

35%. This compromise managed to upset almost everybody.

The big four British telecom operators complained about the cost of replacing large amounts of Huawei equipment, and how the change will set back their position in the race to bring 5G to consumers. Meanwhile, the decision has also upset the US government, which has been lobbying very hard for a complete ban on Huawei in the UK. This displeasure reportedly resulted in an "apoplectic" phone call from Trump.

China hawks in the US have already intimated that the decision could jeopardise intelligence

sharing between the US and the UK. The UK is a member of the Five Eyes group, which shares intelligence with the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. While Australia and New Zealand have joined the US in refusing to cooperate with Huawei, the UK and Canada are more equivocal. The UK is under additional pressure because its post-Brexit future relies on negotiating favourable trade deals with the US, and Huawei will definitely be on the table.

But Europe doesn't only face pressure from the US. When the Huawei issue came up in Germany, China quickly made clear that

it is willing to hit where it hurts to protect its tech sector. This meant Germany's lucrative car sector, for which China is a crucial market. This pressure immediately pitted core German constituencies against each other: Germany's car sector on the one side, and its intelligence community on the other.

The EU has advocated a similar non-core compromise as decided by the UK, and this week conservatives in Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union also opted to limit cooperation with Huawei to certain non-core sectors, but stopped short of an outright ban. This is unlikely to satisfy Wash-

ington, as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made very clear late last year. For Germany, the question is further complicated by the fact that its car companies already collaborate with Huawei frequently, and most high-end German cars already contain Huawei equipment. BMW, VW, Daimler and the like also probably haven't forgotten Trump's joking threat to impose 25% tariffs on German cars.

While Washington has framed the Huawei fight completely in terms of cybersecurity, it actually extends much wider. At issue is who will set the specifications underlying the technology that will control the 21st century. The Trump administration is putting pressure on US tech companies to set engineering standards for 5G and even suggested obtaining controlling stakes in Nokia and Ericsson, the only non-Chinese companies that could potentially provide 5G.

The problem is that Huawei is so far ahead, that getting other countries on board essentially means forcibly holding up the global roll-out of 5G to allow other companies to catch up - not an attractive option for global consumers. In the process, many of the US's traditional partners in the developed world could be forced into wishy-washy non-core deals like the one chosen by the UK.

The result could be that Africa becomes an early adopter of 5G. African governments have so far refused to comply with US pressure to kick out Huawei, not least because the company has built the vast majority of data networks on the continent, supported by Chinese government funding. While the Huawei controversy stalls progress in rich markets, closed tests have already taken place in several African countries. The South African company Rain already launched 5G data services in 2019, and Vodacom will launch 5G calling this year. Both use Huawei equipment.

Africa's choice constitutes a calculated gamble: that the developmental gains of 5G outweigh the potential security risks of working with Huawei. How the gamble will affect the continent's relationship with the Trump administration remains to be seen.

Why hurry in freeing Boko Haram suspects?

By Fredrick Nwabufor

MY theory. Boko Haram is an enterprise. The wheel of the war must be kept spinning for the profiteers and racketeers of blood. The insurgency has raged on for more than a decade. And when it appears the vestiges of the insurgents are finally being erased, they rise again like the phoenix from the ashes - to become stronger, more coordinated and more ubiquitous. It is grand delusion to assume that the machinations of these deviants do not have insider abutment.

About 1,400 Boko Haram suspects have been released since the launch of Operation Safe Corridor in 2016. This is a programme for "the deradicalisation and rehabilitation" of ex-Boko Haram fighters.

Onyema Nwachukwu, spokesman of the defence headquarters, confirmed the release of the suspects, adding: "About 800 ex-Boko Haram fighters

who would have unleashed unimaginable terror on citizens have been admitted and out of which 287 of them have been successfully rehabilitated and reintegrated into society, with many still undergoing the DRR programme."

But this does not add up. The insurgency is still at an eruptive and volcanic stage. Why release adversarial actors in the heat of a war? From my knowledge of rules of war, enemy combatants are often released at the end of hostilities or for the purpose of negotiation.

Even soldiers have expressed mortification over the release of their deadly adversaries and alleged complicity by higher authorities. A soldier, agonising over this sour development, said: "You wonder why Boko Haram members are on the increase? When we arrest them and bring them here, some top people would come and start negotiating their release. But, I will tell you some of these so-called suspects are returning to the bush and they were



never repentant." How do you release the suspects and ensure they do not go back to their pastime of bloodletting? How do you really know they have been deradicalised? How do you measure the PH level of deradicalisation?

Shuaibu Moni, a Boko Haram commander, was released - though by a prisoner-swap deal - in 2017. He rejoined his brothers-at-carnage, bragging he would wreak more devastation on the peaceful population. And true to the pledge, his group went on a bolstered rampage afterwards.

Again, how do you deradicalise indoctrinated terrorists within months?

In an interview with Daily Trust published on February 9, Tukur Buratai, chief of army staff, said 10 years was not even enough to deradicalise an indoctrinated person, so why the hurry to release Boko Haram suspects? Hear him: "It is an indoctrination that has taken roots between 10 and 40 years back. And for you to de-radicalise an individual to bring him back

to sanity, you think it would just take you three years, four or 10 years?"

"These are people that were brain-washed to believe that when they die they would go straight to heaven. And you think they would believe in you to bring them back to mix with people they refer to as unbelievers? You have to look at this context."

I believe, the vilest iniquity this administration has executed on those killed by the unclean hands of Boko Haram is "rehabilitating and re-integrating" their killers into society. How would the orphans, widows, widowers, the maimed and the deranged effectuated by the crusade of Boko Haram feel? How would soldiers risking their lives to confront this enemy feel? Why would they have the motivation to fight on when they know that their adversaries will be "rehabilitated" and released back into society?

Again, how do you ascertain whether these "repentant" Boko Haram fighters do not go

back to their orgy of killing, maiming, raping and pillaging people and communities? I am strongly of the opinion that this is where the fatal failure of the Buhari administration in the war against insurgency lies.

Boko Haram is an enterprise. If it is not, how do you explain these absurdities? Capture the terrorists, "rehabilitate" them, and then, release them back into the wild to continue from where they left off. Repeat the cycle, and the war goes on and on. This is while Boko Haram captures soldiers and makes a spectacle of their killing.

How do you release "repentant" terrorists in the heat of a bloody war? It is shocking! No thinking government will pander to terrorists. We are on the security watch-list of the US as the immigrant visa ban on Nigeria obviously portends because we are a terrorism-enabling country.

Already, the chief of army staff has said Boko Haram cannot be wiped out, so the war enterprise must keep wheeling.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =061=

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

W A S

3 Letter word: ENE, SEE, ORE, EGG, GAS, GEE, LEA, WAS
 4 Letter word: ALSO, LOIN, OKAY, NOEL, SALE, EYES
 5 Letter word: IDEAS, INANE, OGRES, ASEAN, DAMNA
 6 Letter word: ONRUSH
 7 Letter word: ZOOLOGY, ROOKERY, DESTINY
 8 Letter word: ZANZIBAR, YEOMANRY, GREENERY
 9 Letter word: OFF SEASON, NEFARIOUS, HONEYMOON, YESTERDAY

CROSSWORD

Clues: Across
 1. Chief city of Romania (9)
 7. Large natural flow of water travelling along a channel to the sea (5)
 8. "The giant of Africa" (7)
 10. a narrow keelless boat with pointed ends, propelled with a paddle (5)
 11. Person taking an examination (9)
 14. this present day (5)
 15. Second highest mountain in Tanzania (4)
 18. Largest Continent (4)
 19. Botany and Zoology consisting of two series (8)
 23. ornament by embedding pieces of a different material in a surface (5)
 24. Printed article about music (6,4)
 27. Plural form of ass (5)
 28. Not bitter (5)
 29. Not covered (4)

Down:
 1. Instruments for viewing distant objects (10)
 2. Convincing argument (6)
 3. Fearful (6)
 4. Find by investigation (5)
 5. Inflict harm in return for an injury (6)
 6. Not or no longer confined (4)
 9. to or at a distance (4)
 12. Give money for a good cause (6)
 13. handcuffs (7)
 16. Person who reacts to a drug (7)
 17. decomposed vegetable matter forming a deposit on acidic (5)
 20. Public houses (4)
 21. Blackthorn (4)
 22. wheat-like cereal plant which tolerates poor soil (3)
 24. less than average height (3)
 26. Value added tax (3)

EMPOWERMENT

Women food vendors challenged to exploit opportunities on offer at Fanikiwa Account

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN food vendors have been challenged to make use of Fanikiwa Account's myriad of opportunities to grow and graduate their businesses.

Speaking during a 'Kisarawe Mama Lishe festival 2020' NMB Bank Plc's Chief Financial Officer, Benedicto Baragomwa said the account which is tailor made for women petty traders is aimed at encouraging the group to save and invest in growing their businesses.

"This account can be opened anywhere with minimum running costs but which allows bearers access to credit and financial basics training," said Baragomwa. He added that Fanikiwa Account also allows petty traders

get loans at affordable rates because the bank has special relations with such businesses which it protects and nurtures to grow.

He said through Fanikiwa Account, NMB has already given over 5.3bn/- to over 1,963 business owners countrywide mainly women. In all, the account has so far registered over 80,000 individuals countrywide.

"But we also a Pamoja Account which special for formal groups and is geared towards helping members collect savings and supervise running costs," he added while unveiling that NMB dedicates much of its resources to small and medium size enterprises which until recently got over 640bn/- in credit and other related services.

The Dar es Salaam based lender has

also given 600bn/- to agriculture mainly as credit to big investors and over 2.2trn/- to individual borrowers.

Kisarawe District Commissioner, Jokate Mwegelo who convened the gathering with the aim of mobilising women food vendors savings so that they access credit, praised NMB's management for the support saying her district badly needs banking services improved.

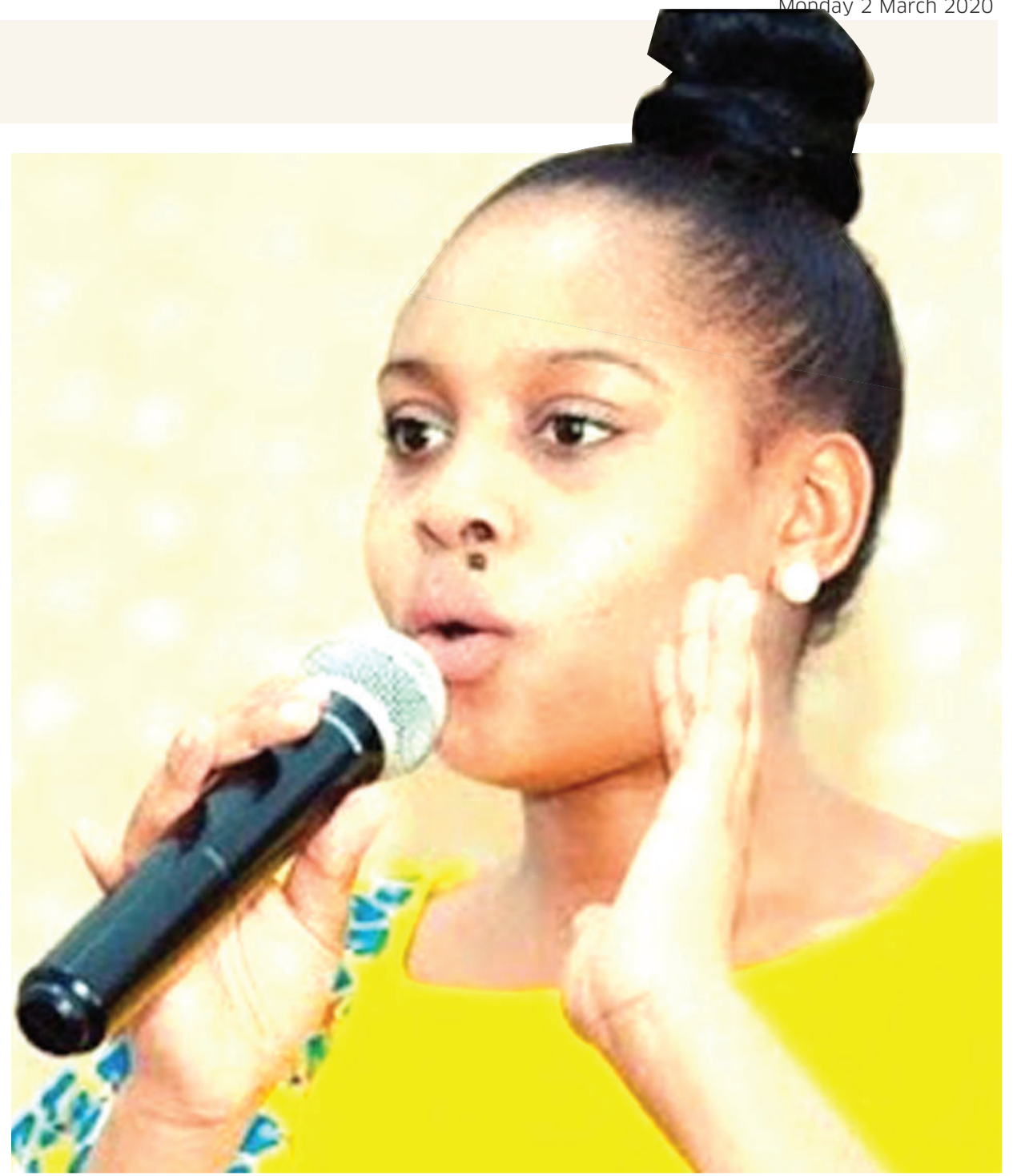
Chief guest at the event, Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Regional Administration and Local Governments' Selemani Jafo called on Kisarawe petty traders including the women food vendors to make use of NMB's products and services.

Jafo who is also the legislator for Kisarawe paid tribute to NMB and DC Mwegelo for the good work being done with vendors saying the youthful DC's creativity has come up with a wonderful gathering of women.

"This festival supports President John Magufuli's policy of improving individuals' income as well as growth of the national economy. This festival is a vision that must be nurtured and replicated in other parts of the country," Jafo noted.

He also commended Mwegelo for her outstanding financial discipline which has seen the government's requirement of providing loans to women and youth groups fulfilled in Kisarawe where 90bn/- allocated for the district has been well utilised this fiscal year.

In a vote of thanks, Mwegelo said her district's development needs unity and discipline from all residents regardless of their political party affiliations. "I thank NMB for supporting us but also the women food vendors for attending in such huge numbers," said the former beauty queen turned entrepreneur and now politician.



Kisarawe DC Jokate Mwegelo



Chief Sheikh, Abubakar Zuberi bin Ally (2nd-R) addresses journalists soon after opening a Perfect Kanzu Limited's shop for robes in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian photographer.

UNIQUE

Dubai-based company opens special 'kanzu' shop in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

A special shop dedicated to selling Moslem 'robes' popularly known as 'kanzu' has been opened in Dar es Salaam by Dubai based, Perfect Kanzu Limited over the weekend.

The shop was opened by Chief Sheikh, Mufti Abubakary Zuberi Bin Ally who urged the public to visit the place and see quality

things in stock going at affordable prices. "It's a good thing because it's an investment that creates jobs but also pays taxes to the government," Mufti Zuberi said.

He commended the Dubai based investor for bringing to Tanzania the world class shop saying it will allow local consumers have access to a variety of robes made locally by promi-

nent Arab tailors from Dubai and Oman saying such a move helps the country reduce its import bill.

Briefing the Chief Sheikh on the new shop, Perfect Kanzu CEO, Ameera Malizia said despite the superior quality, the robes are being sold at affordable prices to enable all sections of consumers access the clothes.

"We have everything for every-

one in local prices because our idea is to serve the public well," Malizia said noting that through their slogan, 'Made to measure' they are bringing Moslems the products at this point heading towards the Holy month of Ramadhan.

"This shop is located at Msasani in Dar es Salaam with all types of robes which can also be worn

Moslems," he added stressing that all robes are locally made by skilled tailors imported from Oman and Dubai.

He said the shop will also have other accessories such as skull caps, wedding gear, sandals, head-scurfs, perfumes and many more. "We offer apparel and accessories fit for people of all faith so everyone is welcome," the Perfect Kanzu CEO stressed.

AI INVESTMENT

Firms in Middle East, Africa to spend US\$30bn on digital transformation this across 2020

DUBAI

Organisations in the Middle East and Africa are expected to spend \$30 billion on digital transformation this year, driven largely by industries such as banking and energy.

"Total IT [information technology] spend in the MEA will be \$90bn in 2020 and one-third of this will directly go towards digital transformation initiatives," Jyoti Lalchandani, group vice-president and managing director for MEA and Turkey at International Data Corporation.

The Massachusetts-based research company is expecting significant growth in technology investment in the coming years and projected that digital transformation spending will grow at a compound annual rate of 18 per cent in the region over the next three years.

With more number of industries, such as banking and energy, leveraging new technologies to transform their operations, "there would be a significant rise in digital transformation spending" said Mr Lalchandani.

The banking and finance industry will spend \$13.23bn on technology this year but IDC forecasts this figure will reach \$15.24bn by 2023, growing at a compound rate of 4.7 per cent. Resource industries - including oil and gas mining - will spend \$5.33bn on technology this year. This is predicted to grow to \$5.79bn over the next three years.

Dubai Internet City, one of the investment zones in the emirates, foresees lack of good talent as a hindrance in the ongoing digital transformation drive. "Our government is pushing digital transformation in a big way and positive results are before eve-

ryone... Dubai Internet City is also playing a crucial role in attracting new talent and technologies," said Ammar Al Malik, managing director of DIC.

"But we still need to do more and the industry is facing a talent shortage," said Mr Malik. Currently, more than 25,000 people are working at DIC and the authorities expect this number to reach 40,000 in the next six to seven years.

Korn Ferry, a Los Angeles-based management consulting firm, predicted that there will be a global tech talent shortage of more than 85 million people, which is roughly equivalent to the population of Germany, over the next ten years. This could result in \$8.5tn in unrealised revenues, it added.

A talent shortage will impact the region in two ways, said Mr Lalchandani. "It will slow down the investment and force the companies to automate more. I won't say that with automation there will be job cuts... rather, it will lead to job rationalisation as new kinds of jobs will be created and companies will be required to upskill their current staff," he said.

Technology firms agree there is a skills gap in the region that is pushing back the speed of digitisation. "Our regional customers face a lot of skill shortage... especially in the fields of performance-oriented jobs that involve quick trouble-shooting, analysing huge data and predicting future trends," Charbel Khneisser, Middle East and North Africa regional director at Riverbed Technology, said. "This is slowing the pace of digital transformation efforts," he added.

CONFRONTATION

Egypt sends warning to Ethiopia over refusal to sign Nile dam agreement

CAIRO

Egypt said on Saturday it would use "all means available" to protect the interests of its people, a thinly veiled warning to Ethiopia after the Horn of Africa nation refused to

sign an agreement drafted by the US government to regulate the operation of a giant hydroelectric dam it is building on the Nile and the filling of a reservoir behind it.

Egypt, the most popu-

lous Arab nation with 100 million people, depends on the Nile for more than 90 per cent of its water needs. It has maintained throughout years of negotiations that while it appreciated the dam's

importance to Ethiopia's development, it was seeking an agreement that reduced to manageable levels the impact of a reduced share of the river's water on its economy and food security.

To Addis Ababa, the \$4 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam has become a symbol of national pride and a centrepiece in its development and ambition to become Africa's largest power exporter, a

feat that would match its growing political and diplomatic leverage in the region.

Egypt initialled the agreement in the latest round of negotiations held in Washington on Thurs-

day and Friday. Ethiopia stayed away from the negotiations after it asked for a delay to allow for more internal consultations on the issue, according to a statement released late on Friday by US Treasury Sec-

retary Steven Mnuchin. The US government, together with the World Bank, has for months been mediating in the Egyptian-Ethiopian dispute, with several rounds of talks held in Washington.

APPRECIATION

Local mining investor commends govt for overhauling legislations

By Correspondent Miraji Msala

MAJOR mining industry regulatory changes brought about by the government are not only benefitting the national economy but also individual miners.

A mining sector investor, Consolate Rwegasira said in Dar es Salaam last week during the climax of a mining sector week which also involved exhibitions that President John Magufuli's sweeping mining regulatory changes have done the country a lot of good.

"The overhauling of the mining sector is benefitting everyone in this country because our minerals are no longer being smuggled at will

while tin has received a big boost with its certification," said Rwegasira.

He said the tin certification will boost mining of the mineral in Kyerwa district of Kagera region hence contribute to both individual investors' success but also increase revenue paid to Treasury in various forms such as taxes and royalty.

"This is bug victory for us because it finally brings an end to years of smuggling to neighbouring countries which exported the same as their own," he noted while showering praises on President Magufuli for listening to their grievances and taken action.

"His personal intervention has created a

win win situation both for the private and public sectors," he hinted while stressing that the government through



"The overhauling of the mining sector is benefitting everyone in this country because our minerals are no longer being smuggled at will while tin has received a big boost with its certification," said Rwegasira.

Minerals Minister, Dotto Biteko has shown that it is serious to empower lo-

cal business people play a key role in the mining industry.

He mentioned the bold decision taken by the head of state in rectifying shortcomings relating to Barrick Gold Corporation's mining contract which has set a precedent for many African countries to follow and benefit from their minerals.

In July 2017, parliament passed a number of sweeping changes to the Mining Act of 2010, the legal and regulatory framework that regulates the country's natural resources with supporting regulations also enacted in 2018 and later amended in 2019.



Minerals minister Dotto Biteko.



Absa Bank Tanzania managing director, Abdi Mohamed (L) receives an Absa-branded ATM card from the bank's Premier Centre manager, Sophia Mang'anya in completing a rebranding operation in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of Absa Tanzania.

SENSITIZATION

Beer brewer takes road safety awareness campaign to Singida

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to contain traffic accidents caused by drunk driving, Serengeti Breweries Limited has taken its 'Don't drink and drive' campaign to motorists and the general public in Singida region.

The campaign which aims to sensitize all the road users, especially the drivers on responsible alcohol consumption, is an important step being taken by SBL to reduce rampaging traffic accidents blamed on irresponsible binge.

Speaking after distributing reflective jackets to the 'bodadoda' taxi operators at the main bus station in Singida over the weekend, Singida Regional Traffic Police Officer (RTO),

Edson Mwakihaba paid tribute to SBL for organizing the campaign, saying that by involving the police force, the brewer had set the ball rolling in supporting government efforts to curb road carnage.

RTO Mwakihaba noted that a cross-section of the population, especially drivers, consume alcohol excessively without considering the repercussions brought about by such actions hence causing fatal accidents.

"We all know that alcoholism is directly linked to reckless driving which in some cases leads to serious road accidents which have serious impacts in the society," the RTO said adding, "The impacts not only affect the consumers but also endanger the lives of others."

He further observed that besides causing unnecessary injuries, deaths and loss of property, traffic accidents caused by irresponsible alcohol consumption, also negatively impact on the health sector which is overburden by an increase of culprits.

"These accidents also overburden our law enforcement officers because they have to handle scores of traffic cases daily which can otherwise be avoided because more often, it is caused by drunk driving," he added.

Seconding, the Singida RTO's observations, SBL's Government Relations Manager, Neema Temba said the responsible drinking campaign is aimed at building awareness among road users that alcohol abuse is a serious

problem facing road safety currently.

"SBL is committed to joining hands with the government and other like-minded individuals, organizations and stakeholders in ensuring that the community, especially the drivers who are mostly prone to drink-induced accidents are sensitized on the dangers of irresponsible drinking," Temba said.

Incorporated in 1988 as Associated Breweries, SBL is the second largest beer company in Tanzania, with its beer brands accounting for over 20 percent of the market share by volume. SBL has three operating plants in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Moshi.

SBL which is part of EABL/Diageo, has popular brands in the market and

INVESTMENT

Khalifa Fund signs a \$100m pact to support SMEs across Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

The Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development (KFED), a government agency formed to help small and medium-sized enterprises, signed a \$100 million (Dh368m) agreement with the Ethiopian Ministry of Finance to support businesses in the African nation.

This pact followed a memorandum of understanding signed between the two parties in July, last year. The fund's loan is expected to finance about 37,000 projects over the next four years, creating over 200,000 job opportunities in Ethiopia.

"This agreement implements a stringent financial and technical framework that creates new employment opportunities [in Ethiopia]... alongside empowering women to grow their role in the Ethiopian economic agenda," said Hussain Jasim Al Nowais, chairman of the KFED.

Established in June 2007, KFED was started with a total capital of Dh300m that was gradually increased to Dh2bn, according to its website. It provides comprehensive support to SMEs in

projects, said KFED.

This agreement is signed under the directive of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, to strengthen cooperation and build strategic partnerships with different countries across the world.

Besides boosting the SME industry, the contract also aims to develop Ethiopia's entrepreneurial sector. "It seeks to create greater job opportunities for Ethiopians and build local entrepreneurial capability, using specified targeting mechanisms to provide funding to those who need it the most," said Mr Nowais.

The fund has also expanded its model of entrepreneurial development to over 22 countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe by providing bespoke financing programmes. "This agreement not only helps to strengthen Ethiopia's national economic development, but will also benefit Ethiopian citizens ... providing more jobs, more skills, and more specialties, helping those in poverty in Ethiopia," said Ahmed Shide, the Ethiopian minister of finance.



Jasim Al Nowais (L), chairman of the KFED, and Ahmed Shide, Ethiopian Minister of Finance, after signing the \$100m agreement in Addis Ababa.

WINDFALL

MTN delivers double-digit growth in Ghana

ACCRA

MTN Ghana delivered strong double-digit growth in nearly all business indicators for the year ended 31 December 2019. This buoyant growth largely came from voice revenue (up 19.4%), data (up 32.5%) and Mobile Money (MoMo) (up 28%).

MTN Ghana's success during the year is further illustrated by

subscriber growth, which increased by 12.3% to 22.6 million, and the company also raised its total dividend to six pesewas per share.

"Double-digit growth in voice revenue was driven by an increase in the number of active subscribers (+11.2%), the benefits of various customer value

management initiatives and pro-consumer activity, as well as continued improvements to our network," MTN says in a SENS note to shareholders.

"As new lines of revenue continued to grow much faster than the traditional business, voice revenue's contribution to service revenue decreased from 46.3% to

45%. "Solid data revenue growth was attributable to growth in the active data users' number (+26.6%), growth in the number of smartphones (+18.5%) on the network and an increase in data usage (up 85.9% to 256 301 Terabyte). Data revenue's contribution to service revenue expanded from 26.3% to 28.4%."

MTN says MoMo revenue continued to grow strongly, in a year in which the operator marked the 10th anniversary of MoMo in Ghana. "MoMo growth was attributable to an increase in the number of active subscribers (+8.9%), commissions on cash-in-cash-out transactions, increased transactional activity of person-

to-person transactions, as well as good growth in more advanced services - such as retail merchant payments. MoMo revenue's contribution to service revenue expanded from 17.9% to 18.6%," says MTN.

It declared an interim dividend of two pesewas per share after reviewing the mid-year perfor-

mance. "After reviewing the full-year performance of the company, the board of MTN Ghana shall be recommending a final dividend of four pesewas per share, bringing the total dividend for the 2019 year to six pesewas per share. This represents 73.1% of profit after tax and a 20% increase in dividend per share."

WORLD

After Biden's South Carolina win, Democrats head to Alabama to commemorate civil rights march

SELMA, Ala.

FIVE Democratic presidential contenders will help mark the anniversary of a landmark civil rights march in Alabama on Sunday, the day after strong African-American support powered Joe Biden to a resounding victory in South Carolina.

The candidates will travel to Selma, Alabama, to commemorate the 55th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," when civil rights marchers were stopped and beaten by state troopers and local police while crossing a bridge in Selma.

Alabama is one of 14 states holding Super Tuesday contests, the biggest day of voting in the Democratic race to pick a challenger to Republican President Donald Trump in the Nov. 3 election.

Biden, Michael Bloomberg, Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren will attend the annual celebration of the march, one of the country's biggest civil rights events, and several will participate later in the day in a can-

didate forum.

Bernie Sanders will campaign in California, the biggest prize of Super Tuesday's 14 state nominating contests.

Biden's dominant South Carolina win resurrected his struggling campaign and put the former vice president in position to claim he is the moderate alternative to Sanders, the front-runner after strong performances in the first three contests.

Biden immediately took aim at Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont and self-described democratic socialist whose surging campaign and calls for a political revolution have rattled a Democratic establishment worried he is too far left to beat Trump in November.

"Democrats want a nominee who is a Democrat," Biden told cheering supporters in Columbia, South Carolina, in a jab at Sanders. "Win big or lose, that's the choice. Most Americans don't want the promise of a revolution. They want more than promises they want results."

With the South Carolina results in-

cluded, Sanders leads in the overall national delegate count with 56 and Biden is second with 51, with another seven South Carolina delegates yet to be allocated. A candidate will need at least 1,991 delegates to win the nomination outright at the party's convention in July.

BIDEN'S BEST FUNDRAISING HOURThe Biden camp said he had his best single hour of fundraising in the entire campaign as the South Carolina results came in, although it did not provide a figure.

But the Sanders campaign quickly tried to get back the momentum, announcing it had raised \$46.5 million from more than 2.2 million donations in the month of February, a huge sum that dwarfed what any other Democratic candidate had raised last year in any three-month period.

The biggest fundraising quarter last year was Sanders' \$34.5 million in the last three months of the year.

The Sanders campaign also announced a new wave of television advertisements in nine states that will hold primary contests on March 10 and March 17, after Super Tuesday.

In the wake of his decisive victory, Biden was endorsed by Terry McAuliffe, a former governor of Virginia and ex-chair of the Democratic National Committee, and U.S. Representative Bobby Scott, an influential African-American lawmaker from Virginia - a possible sign the Democratic es-

tablishment was starting to coalesce around his candidacy.

Biden must hope a flurry of media attention and his name recognition will help him in Super Tuesday states, where Sanders' prolific fundraising has helped him build bigger organizations and broadcast far more advertisements. Sanders leads opinion polls in delegate-rich California, where 3 million early votes have already been cast.

Biden and all of the other Democratic contenders also will face competition for the first time on Super Tuesday from billionaire former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who has blanketed the country with half a billion dollars in advertising. Bloomberg skipped the first four state primaries.

But at least five states - Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Virginia - have big blocs of African-American voters that could help Biden make a comeback.

In South Carolina, Biden beat Sanders among a wide range of demographic and ideological groups, including those who said they were "very liberal," according to Edison Research exit polls. The polls showed Biden, vice president under former President Barack Obama, with 61% of African-American support to Sanders' 17%.

Billionaire activist Tom Steyer, who had spent heavily in South Carolina to court African-American voters, ended his presidential bid as it emerged he was coming in a distant third.



Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden takes photos with supporters at a campaign event at Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Saturday. (AP)

This past week is the worst for oil market since 2008 - Putin

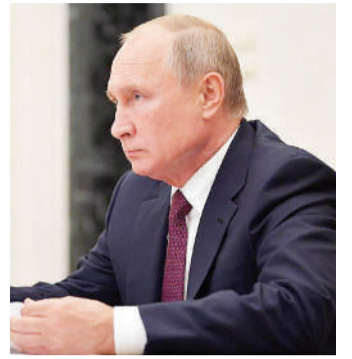
MOSCOW

THIS past week has become the worst for the global oil market since 2008, Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday.

"This past week has become the worst for global markets, since the crisis of 2008," Putin told a meeting at Vnukovo airport's government terminal.

The Russian president noted that China's business activity index published on Friday declined below the minimum level of the 2008 global crisis. "In their turn, global stock indices dropped more than 10%," Putin said.

Against this background, Brent crude oil prices fell to \$50 per barrel by the end of this week, compared with \$70 in the beginning of the year, he noted.



OPEC plus

OPEC plus alliance of oil producers has proved to be an effective mechanism for ensuring stability on energy markets, Russian President Vladimir Putin told a meeting at Vnukovo airport's government terminal on Sunday.

"This mechanism, which we created with other leading oil producing countries, has proved to be an effective tool for ensuring long-term stability on global energy markets," Putin said.

The Russian leader recalled that next week Vienna would host another OPEC plus meeting. He stressed that this mechanism had helped gain extra budget revenues and enable oil producers to safely invest in promising projects.

The OPEC+ alliance is made up of 24 oil exporting countries including Russia that have been concertedly coordinating oil production since 2017.

In July 2019, they extended the agreement to reduce oil production by 1.2 million barrels per day to the level of October 2018 until the end of March.

OPEC countries account for 812,000 barrels per day. In December 2019, the OPEC+ ministers decided to reduce production from 1.2 million barrels per day to 1.7 million barrels per day.

The oil market is now facing immense pressure after the novel coronavirus outbreak hit China. Amid lower business and tourist activity, China's oil demand plummeted by 20%.

On February 27, OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo told Bloomberg that OPEC plus countries had confirmed their plans to achieve a deal at the ministerial meeting in Vienna on March 5-6 in order to stabilize the situation on the oil markets that has deteriorated amid the coronavirus spread.

On December 31, 2019, the Chinese authorities reported to the World Health Organization about an outbreak of pneumonia of unknown etiology in Wuhan, an economic and industrial megalopolis with a population of 12 million. As of today, more than 50 countries and territories, including Russia, have reported confirmed coronavirus cases.

The WHO declared the new coronavirus outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, characterizing it as an epidemic with multiple locations.

According to the latest reports, over 86,000 cases of patients infected with the novel coronavirus have been confirmed in China and other countries. The death toll from the virus is nearing 3,000, yet over 42,000 patients have recovered to date.

Agencies

AU welcomes progress by Somali gov't in implementation of legislative agenda

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has welcomed the efforts and significant progress made by the government of Somalia (FGS) in the implementation of the legislative agenda, amid deep concern over the continuous and indiscriminate attacks by al-Shabab.

In its latest meeting, the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) has dwelt upon the upcoming elections in Somalia and the future of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), according to an AU statement on Saturday.

The Council has reiterated that the efforts are being deployed by FGS towards promoting inclusive political participation and dialogue with its Federal Member States (FMS), as evidenced by the consultation process that took place between the FGS and FMS.

The December 2019 consultation between the FGS and FMS has initiated positive developments which allowed for state parliamentary elections to take place, leading to the election of a new Speaker and the election of Ahmed Abdi Kariye Qoor-Qoor, on 2 February 2020, as the new Galmudug President.

While welcoming such efforts, the Council has expressed deep concern over the continuous and indiscriminate attacks by al-Shabab against civilian population and facilities, as well as targeted assassinations of government personnel and prominent politicians.

Xinhua

China, UK to fight epidemic with stronger trust - envoy

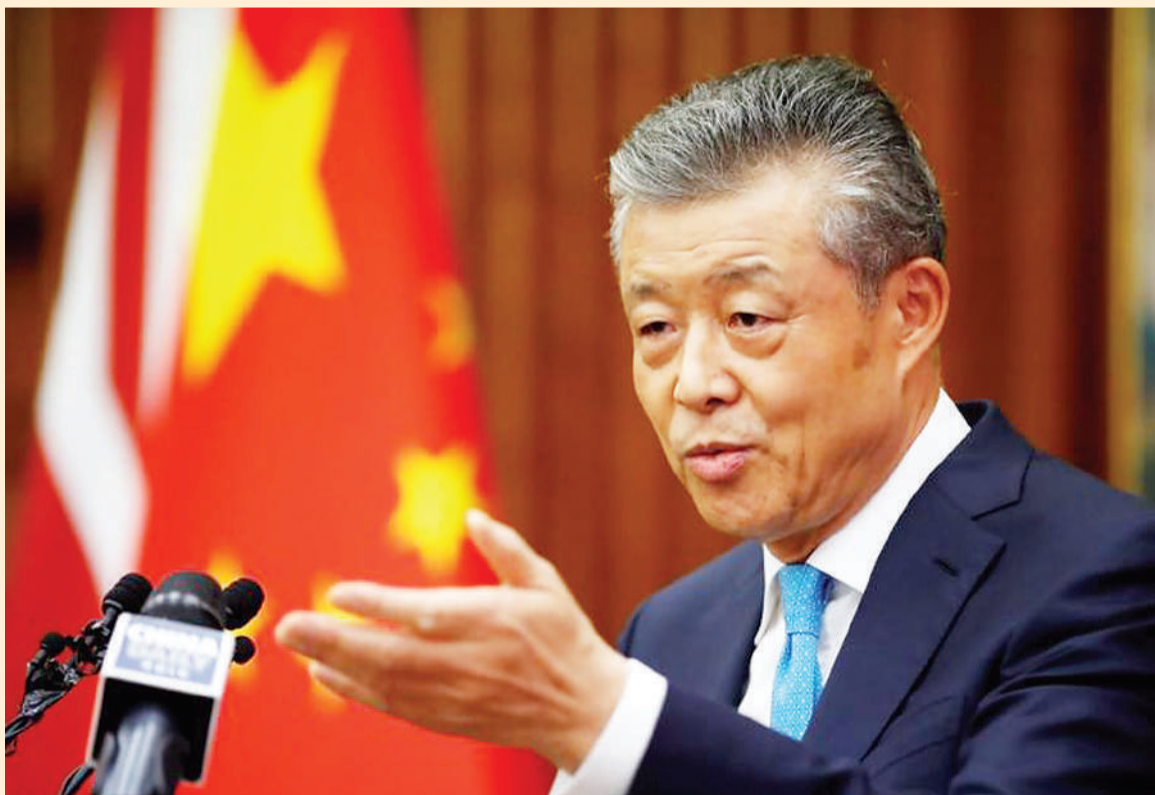
LONDON

CHINA and Britain will emerge from the test of the epidemic of the novel coronavirus with stronger mutual trust, closer cooperation and deeper friendship, and the "Golden Era" of bilateral relations will yield more "golden fruits," Chinese Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming has said.

The leaders of China and Britain have expressed their confidence in victory over the epidemic in a telephone conversation last week and agreed that China and Britain will shoulder the responsibility and work together to ensure this victory, Liu (pictured) recalled while speaking at the "Together We Fight against the Virus" event jointly hosted by the City of London and Chinese and British Business Communities on Friday evening.

"Virus knows no borders. So does love...I think today, with this event, we are demonstrating our determination, our confidence and our perseverance," said the ambassador.

Liu said the outbreak of COVID-19 has been the most severe public health crisis since the founding of New China in terms of the speed of its spread, the scope of its impact and the difficulty of prevention and control.



"Thanks to our persistent efforts, the spread of the disease is basically contained, and our measures have taken initial effect. The numbers of newly-added confirmed and suspected cases are on a descending trajectory and there has been a sharp increase in the number of cured cases. Facts prove that the disease is preventable, control-

lable and curable," he said.

The Chinese diplomat said China has shared information about the epidemic with all the relevant parties in a timely manner, including sharing the genetic sequence of the virus and enhancing cooperation on vaccine development.

"As the Chinese people are fighting hard against the virus, people

all over the world have stood firmly together with us. More than 170 heads of states or governments and more than 40 heads of international organisations have conveyed their sympathy and support," said Liu, adding that the international community has donated fund and supplies in the spirit of mutual assistance.

The ambassador said China are deeply grateful for the support coming from all quarters in Britain when China is fighting against the epidemic. British Queen and Prime Minister Boris Johnson have sent their sympathy and best wishes to China.

The British government has provided urgently needed medical supplies. People from all walks of life here have lent their invaluable support.

"Today's event once again sends a strong message from the Chinese and British business communities that China has your support in fighting the virus and China can count on you for advancing cooperation between our two countries," said Liu.

He said China and Britain should adopt a long-term perspective, keep to the right direction of the China-Britain "Golden Era", and remain committed to win-win cooperation.

"No matter how severe the situation is, no matter how daunting the challenges are, China will stand united with the international community, including Britain, in the spirit of the community with a shared future for mankind. We will pull in the same direction and go all out to win this battle against the virus," said Liu.

Gates Foundation firmly supports China and the world to tackle the coronavirus outbreak

CHINA is taking active steps to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus, and it is actively sharing data with international partners to strengthen the global response and help other countries prepare, said Li Yinuo, director of the China office of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"We pay respect to the efforts made by the frontline responders which have earned valuable time for the world to contain the worldwide spread of the virus," she noted.

In a letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping on Feb. 6, Bill Gates (pictured), co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, expressed support for the

Chinese people for their fight against the novel coronavirus epidemic (COVID-19), and commended those battling on the frontline for their determination and courage.

In his reply letter to the U.S. business leader, Xi thanked Gates for his support for China's fight against the virus, and called for enhanced international coordination and concerted efforts in the international community for the sake of health and well-being of all.

After receiving the letter from Xi, Gates wrote to the Chinese President again to express his appreciation. He said the severity of the health crisis highlights the need for continued in-



vestment in R&D and closer global collaboration on pandemic preparedness.

He believes that China's leadership on the frontlines of this epidemic and its commitment to working with multilateral and international partners will play a key role in helping the world not only tackle the challenge facing us now but also strengthen the foundation for improved global health outcomes in the long run.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is a long-term partner of China in the cooperation on disease control, poverty alleviation and many other fields. It is one of the earliest charity

organizations to join the battle against the COVID-19. The foundation committed \$5 million in emergency funding to support China's fight against COVID-19, and later pledged up to \$100 million, part of which will help China accelerate the development of vaccines, treatments and diagnostics.

The foundation is actively promoting cooperation with relevant Chinese organizations to advance further study on the epidemiology of the novel coronavirus and make emergency response and implementation plans, Li told People's Daily.

Besides, the foundation will also work with its Chinese partners to ac-

celerate the development of instant test tools and vaccine candidates, figure out what is needed to initiate massive production of them and support the clinical research of relevant medicines in China, she added. So far, breakthroughs have been achieved in the research on test reagents funded by the foundation.

Li said the foundation is always committed to enhancing cooperation with China. "We firmly support China and the world to tackle the coronavirus outbreak, and will join hands with the country in wider health and development areas to embrace challenges," she noted.

People's Daily

Muhyiddin Yassin sworn in as Malaysia PM as Mahathir forced out

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA'S Muhyiddin Yassin, a Malay nationalist politician backed by the corruption-tarnished former ruling party, was sworn in as prime minister on Sunday after the king picked him to replace 94-year-old Mahathir Mohamad.

The swearing-in capped a week of turmoil that began with Mahathir's resignation in an apparent bid to consolidate power, but ended with him sidelined and complaining of betrayal after decades dominating Malaysian politics.

Mahathir promised to seek a vote in parliament to challenge Muhyiddin's support, but conceded he might not win.

Muhyiddin, 72, was sworn in at a palace ceremony in front of Malaysia's king, Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, and promised to fulfil his duties as prime minister.

The change in leadership comes less than two years after Mahathir joined old rival Anwar Ibrahim, 72, to defeat the ruling party of six decades, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), on an anti-corruption platform.

"This is a very strange thing," said Mahathir. "This is the losers that will form the government," he added, referring to the outcome of the 2018 election.

He said he had the support of 114 of parliament's 222 members, but it was not guaranteed that they would all support him at a vote in a country of tangled political interests where horse-trading is commonplace.

Mathathir questioned whether a government involving the former ruling party would be as ready to pursue graft cases against its politicians. Those include former prime minister Najib Razak, who is now on trial for corruption.



This handout from Malaysia's Department of Information taken and released yesterday shows Malaysia's incoming Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, center left, receiving documents from King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, center right, before taking the oath as the country's new leader at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur. (AFP)

A week of twists and turns in Malaysian politics began with Mahathir's resignation, breaking his alliance with Anwar as he proposed a national

unity government without party loyalties that would have given him greater authority.

But Anwar then launched his own

bid to become prime minister while Muhyiddin built his alliance.

KING'S CHOICE
It was down to the king to decide who would have the best chance to form a government. Although Mahathir and Anwar said they had reunited on Saturday and now had majority support, the king announced Muhyiddin as the candidate.

About 200 protesters gathered in Kuala Lumpur late on Saturday to protest against the king's decision. Police said they were investigating a Twitter post that encouraged people to join the protest, which they said was illegal.

Muhyiddin is from Mahathir's Bersatu party, but had shown himself ready to work with UMNO - from which he had been sacked in 2016 after questioning former prime minister Najib's handling of the 1MDB corruption scandal.

Agencies

Russian, US top brass discuss situation in Syria in phone call

MOSCOW

CHIEF of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, General Valery Gerasimov, and Mark Milley, United States Army general and Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, discussed the situation in Syria in a phone call on Friday, the Russian Defense Ministry reported.

"The sides exchanged opinions on the situation in Syria and on other issues of mutual interest," the ministry added.

The most recent conversation of the two generals was on December 18, 2019, when they discussed measures to prevent incidents during military activity of the sides. Gerasimov and Milley also exchanged opinions on strategic stability, the situation in Syria and in other regions.

The situation in Idlib deteriorated dramatically once again overnight to Friday. Ankara said that an airstrike by Syrian government forces had killed 33 Turkish soldiers. Shortly after that, the Turkish armed forces carried out strikes against Syrian troops, specifying that more than 200 targets had been hit.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that militants from the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (one of the names of Jabhat al-Nusra, outlawed in Russia) made an attempt on Thursday to launch a large-scale offensive in Syria's Idlib. The Turkish military servicemen who came under fire from Syrian troops were among the advancing militants, it added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held a phone call on Friday to discuss the developments. They emphasized the need to normalize the situation and agreed to look into the possibility of having a summit meeting shortly.

Agencies

Migrants head to Greece as Turkey opens floodgates

KASTANIES/LESBOS

MIGRANTS trickled through permeable borders to Greece from Turkey on Sunday, as thousands more gathered on the Turkish side seeking entry after Ankara relaxed curbs on their movement.

At least 220 people had arrived by sea on the Greek island of Lesbos on Sunday morning, a Greek defense ministry source said.

Further north, groups waded across a river at Kastanies on the shared border.

Turkey said on Thursday it would no longer restrain hundreds of thousands of asylum

seekers in its territory from reaching Europe, after an air strike on Idlib in neighboring Syria killed 33 Turkish soldiers. Its announcement triggered an almost instant rush to the borders it shares with European Union member Greece.

There was tension at Kastanies on Saturday after riot police used teargas to repel hundreds of migrants on the Turkish side demanding access to Greece.

"Yesterday there were 9,600 attempts to violate our borders, and all were dealt with successfully," deputy defense minister Alkiviadis Stefanis told Greece's Skai TV.

The International Organiza-



tion for Migration put the number of people along the Greek-Turkish border at 13,000. By late Saturday, buses in Turkish cities were still being loaded with people bound for the border area, it said.

Greece has said there was an orchestrated attempt on its borders, and has accused Turkey of

actively guiding migrants.

"Not only are they not stopping them, but they are helping them," Stefanis told Skai.

Greece was a gateway for hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers into Europe in 2015 and 2016. There are already more than 40,000 migrants on the Aegean islands, living in severely

overcrowded camps and filthy conditions.

Last week, clashes broke out on Lesbos between riot police and locals to create closed detention centers to move the existing migrant population. Locals say the islands are suffering a disproportionate burden.

The European Union said it was supporting Greece.

Greece has vowed to keep a mass influx out. "We don't want this influx in our country, this country is not a free-for-all," Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi told Greece's Ant1 TV.

Reuters witnesses saw small groups of people making their way across fields outside the

Greek town of Orestiada, close to the frontier. Four young Afghans, looking exhausted, sat around a small campfire.

Further along, Najibe Rezayi, 26, also from Afghanistan, cradled her seven-month daughter in her arms. "We want a place to stay, food, warmth," she said through an interpreter as they walked through mist in frost-covered fields.

Police and the army have been arresting people who attempt to cross into the country.

"They are all Afghans, no Syrians," one army officer said. "Are these the Syrians (Turkish President Tayyip) Erdogan was talking about?"

Agencies

British PM and his girlfriend are expecting first child

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his girlfriend Carrie Symonds announced on Saturday they are expecting their first child together and are engaged to be married.

The couple have been living together in Downing Street since Johnson became prime minister in July, with Symonds the first unmarried partner to live openly with a British leader in recent history.

"The prime minister and Miss Symonds are very pleased to announce their engagement and that they are expecting a baby in the early summer," the couple said in a statement.

The 55-year-old Johnson took office in July and led his Conservative Party to a decisive election victory in December.

The announcement means he will become the first British prime minister to marry in office for 250 years.

The couple's relationship was the subject of scrutiny during his bid to take over from Theresa May as prime minister last summer after police were called to Symonds' home by a neighbor who heard an apparent row between them.

Symonds, 31, said in a message posted on Instagram that she had kept news of her engagement secret until now.



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his partner Carrie Symonds wave from the steps of number 10 Downing Street in London. File photo

"I wouldn't normally post this kind of thing on here but I wanted my friends to find out from me," she said.

"Many of you already know but for my friends that still don't, we got engaged at the end of last year... and we've got a baby hatching early summer," Symonds said, adding: "Feel incredibly blessed".

Johnson was congratulated by members of parliament, includ-

ing his former finance minister, Sajid Javid, who resigned after losing a power struggle over who should control Britain's economy. "Wonderful news!", Javid said on Twitter.

THIRD MARRIAGE

Johnson, known for his ruffled appearance and flamboyant oratory, was previously married to Marina Wheeler, and they had

four children together. They announced in September 2018 that they had separated and would divorce after 25 years of marriage.

The couple reached a financial settlement earlier this month, British media have reported.

Johnson has fathered one other child. He has always refused to say how many children he has. During the election campaign, Johnson said that he would not "put them on the pitch".

Johnson was married to Allegra Mostyn-Owen before Wheeler, so Symonds will be his third wife.

Johnson's most notable action so far in office has been to fulfill an election campaign pledge to "get Brexit done". Britain finally left the European Union at the end of January, more than three years after Britons voted in a referendum to leave the bloc.

Johnson will be the first British leader since Augustus Henry FitzRoy, who was prime minister between 1768 to 1770, to remarry in office.

Recent British prime ministers' wives have had babies while their husbands were in office.

Former Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron's wife Samantha had a baby daughter, Florence, in 2010.

Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair's wife Cherie had a son, Leo, in 2000.

Thousands attend rally in France for exiled Catalan leader

PERPIGNAN

Tens of thousands of Catalan independence supporters gathered in Perpignan, southern France, on Saturday at a rally in support of exiled former Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont, who called on the crowd to prepare for the "definitive struggle" for independence.

At around 30km from the Spanish border, it is the closest Puigdemont (pictured) has been to Spain since he fled the country in October 2017 after calling a referendum on independence.

The referendum, which was declared illegal by Spanish courts, led to a short-lived declaration of independence by leaders in the restive north-eastern region, plunging Spain into its biggest political crisis in decades.

Puigdemont, who is now a member of the European Parliament and lives in exile in Belgium, urged supporters waving Catalan flags not to give up on the fight for an independent Catalonia.

"We know that we won't stop and they won't stop us. We don't have to wait for better times because they are here," he said, to



cheers from the crowd, which numbered around 70,000 according to local police, though organizers put the number closer to 150,000.

"Today we have stepped on Catalan soil as free people," he said.

Perpignan, where Catalan is spoken, is a symbolic location for many Catalans, who call the region Northern Catalonia.

Supporters poured into the city, many crossing the border from Spain.

"Movements like this, with this magnitude, are always a positive thing," said entrepreneur Joan Candoll, 50. "I see

this as an act of unity, not a political campaign".

Puigdemont made no mention of talks on the Catalan political crisis, which began this week between Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Catalan regional President Quim Torra, who was due to attend the Perpignan rally.

Puigdemont has been unable to return to Spain, where he is wanted on charges of sedition and misuse of public funds for his role in the failed independence bid. All extradition attempts by Spain have so far failed, and he cannot be detained in France because of his

Facing Epidemic Situation, Human need cooperation

SINCE February 23, my family and me, as well as 9 million others, can't leave the city of Wuhan, our home for more than 10 years now, anymore. Since then we are stuck at home. Living in a city under quarantine and struck with an infectious disease makes one feel uneasy. Being stuck at home one has to fight boredom as well as fear.

When the German embassy offered my family could be evacuated to Germany, we were thankful and thought about this. But, we decided to stay in Wuhan. Why?

The answer is easy, Wuhan is our home for more than 10 years. Both of our kids were born here, we are not about to leave our home. Many foreigners leaving

Wuhan are tourists, students, businessmen, just wanting to go home; as are the Wuhanese that are now being brought back from abroad, home to Wuhan.

They all just want to go home and we wanted to stay home. Feeling home is not a matter of the passport, but a matter of the heart. We didn't want to leave our family, friends, and colleagues during this time. It is as simple as that.

The quarantine of Wuhan is a strong and decisive measure, as is the following increasing compartmentalization of the city. These measures make living in the city more difficult, but they also make us feel safe at home. This virus spreads from infected

that are unaware of their own infection, needing a strict quarantine system to be set in place. Uncomfortable and annoying? Yes, but necessary!

Being in Wuhan, in the center of a global news event, many questions from outside are being asked.

Mostly, I am under the impression people believe the situation to be like in a disaster movie. This is not the case though. In fact, for us it is rather the opposite. It is mostly just very boring.

We are stuck at home and should not go out. So, we limit going out to necessary shopping of groceries. Not all the small shops around our home are open, but the open ones are well stocked

with fresh vegetables, fruits, and meat. We are not hungry and we have a good stock of masks to protect ourselves when going out.

The management of the crisis works well, down until the smallest units. Problems are handled and for the immobile, the elderly, or the sick, that can't go out, the local communities are organizing food shopping and delivery. I couldn't imagine this level of organization, especially in an otherwise chaotic seeming city.

Another thing I couldn't imagine is the increase of racism from foreign media and politicians in the face of this crisis. Coming from Germany, we

understand where racism can lead and it just saddens me to see such reactions. I call on all of us in China to react with a clear head though. Instead of letting anger overcome, we should open our arms even further. We should further strengthen our outreach and international cooperation activities in science and education. This and future diseases will be eliminated by science, education, and cooperation.

So, we are fighting this disease using the scientific methods. All efforts are based on science and the worldwide agreed on best practices, as also clearly stated by the WHO. While others 'pray for the victims', in China the goal is to help based on science

and the current state of the art in medicine. Science is and has always been based on cooperation not isolation and will grow faster in an environment that is open for the scientific ideas and exchanges.

If we compare the situation of China during SARS 2003 and today, we find that there has huge progress in science in China. China changed from the student that it was in 2003, to the partner and even the teacher in 2020. Many of the leading experts are now in China, which is a result of scientific cooperation, investment into the science and of a society that is open to science and progress.

Now, with China in many

instances being itself rather an expert and teacher, it is also necessary to help and educate others.

Our neighbors along the belt and road also should improve and China should lend a hand. If we take the example of a disease, if such a disease breaks out in one of our neighbor countries, which are not able to handle that, it would also reach China.

So, cooperation benefits everyone. Education benefits all, and this goes beyond science but also just basic education. These are the key elements that are the basis for the past success of China's science and technology and will also be the cornerstones of the future success. *People's Daily*

The
Guardian

SPORT



Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) Managing Director, Mark Ocitti, takes part in Tigo Kili Half Marathon 2020 in Moshi, yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SBL



Tigo Kili Half Marathon 2020 men's category winner, Joseph Panga, finishes the event in Moshi, Kilimanjaro yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA



Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Hamisi Kigwangalla (5th R), takes part in Tigo Kili Half Marathon 2020 which took place in Moshi, Kilimanjaro yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA



The Tigo Kili Half Marathon 2020's women category winner, Magdalena Shauri, crosses the finishing line in the event in Moshi, Kilimanjaro yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA



CRDB bank employees in a group photo after finishing Kili Marathon 2020 held in Moshi, Kilimanjaro yesterday. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Tanzanians shine in Tigo Kili Half Marathon 2020

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENTS,
MOSHI

TANZANIAN Joseph Panga won the home crowd applause, thanks to his win in Tigo Kili Half Marathon 2020 held in Moshi, Kilimanjaro yesterday.

Panga swept out competent Kenyans to win the race's men's category, while in the race's women's discipline, Tanzanian Magdalena Shauri crossed the finishing point at Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) venue in first place.

Thousands of runners from different countries competed in the prestigious event, sanctioned by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

Panga won a heroic welcome

at fully-packed venue, after he clocked 01:03:59 to win the gold medal as few Kenyans followed after him in a top 10 finish.

Josephat Joshua from Tanzania, Vincent Towett and Wilson Kibogo, both from Kenya, finished second, third, and fourth respectively, clocking 01:04:28, 01:04:32, and 01:04:36 respectively.

"I feel proud of my home victory, it was a tough race. The last 100 meters before the finish line were the hardest to me because my opponents were closely running after me, but I pulled up to make sure that I beat them all," Panga, who also recommended the role played by Tigo for sponsoring the event, disclosed.

In the Tigo Kili Half Marathon

women's discipline, Magdalena continued her prowess, winning the race.

Magdalena clocked 01:09:54 to win the first place followed by Kenyan Susy Chebet who clocked 01:16:18.

The Tigo Chief Financial Officer, Innocent Rwetabura, said that, his company will continue sponsoring sports in the country. The firm will put its weight behind sports disciplines that play big part in the empowering such new talents like Alphonse Simbu who represented Tanzania well in the IAAF World Championships.

Rwetabura further added that, Tigo has been main sponsor of the Tigo Kili Half Marathon for the past five years.



The Tigo Kili Half Marathon 2020 men category winner, Joseph Panga, celebrates after crossing the finishing line in Moshi, Kilimanjaro yesterday. PHOTO: TIGO

Infantino says 'wrong' only men deciding laws of soccer

HOLLYWOOD, NORTHERN IRELAND

FIFA President Gianni Infantino acknowledged it was "wrong" that the annual laws of football meeting had only men taking the decisions on Saturday.

FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura could not make the trip to Northern Ireland for the International Football Association Board (IFAB) annual meeting so Infantino headed an all-male delegation from the world governing body.

The board also features the chief executives of the English, Northern Irish, Scottish and Wales FAs who were joined at the gathering by their presidents, who are also all men.

"It's wrong not to have a woman," Infantino said. "We should look into that for the future maybe, ask everyone of us to have in its delegation at least one woman. I will certainly propose that."

The glaring lack of female participation was highlighted in a group photo of wider IFAB meeting participants. There were 28 men and IFAB senior legal counsel Simone Studer was the only woman.

Some delegates were accompanied by partners and a program for the weekend trip to Hollywood on the outskirts of Belfast indicated the assumption that women play a secondary role at IFAB.

The IFAB itinerary listed at 10 a.m. "ladies depart for coffee at the Titanic Hotel, Belfast, followed by a tour of Titanic Belfast" alongside a reference to the post-IFAB news conference. The program said at 1:30 p.m. "ladies return by coach for lunch" at the hotel being used for the IFAB meeting.

IFAB is a 134-year-old board that sets the laws of the game. Its annual meeting locations typically rotate between England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Zurich, which is home to FIFA.

When IFAB met in Aberdeen in March 2019, female partners of delegates were taken to a flower-arranging class. The meeting in March 2016 saw wives and girlfriends taken to a cookery class while men went to Swansea for a soccer match against Norwich.

Infantino, who has four daughters, regularly talks about the importance of his own household.

IFAB does have advisory panels which feature women, including Scotland manager Shelley Kerr and Welsh referee Cheryl Foster.

The news conference after the IFAB meeting was also dominated by male journalists, with only one female reporter attending.

AP

Bayern, Dortmund games halted amid protests

MUNICH

BAYERN Munich's 6-0 win against Hoffenheim finished in extraordinary circumstances as the teams played the final 11 minutes passing the ball among themselves following a brief delay caused by supporter protests against Hoffenheim owner Dietmar Hopp.

Borussia Dortmund's 1-0 win against Freiburg was also briefly stopped for the same reason, as BVB supporters continued their recent crusade against Hopp.

Fans at Hoffenheim vs. Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund vs. Freiburg unfurled banners and chanted insults towards Hopp, causing both referees to halt the games in an attempt to regain control.

Hopp has been a lightning rod, especially in recent weeks, for some German fans who oppose the way he used his wealth to help Hoffenheim climb through the lower leagues to the Bundesliga with consecutive promotions more than a decade ago.

Sources told ESPN prior to Saturday that Hoffenheim were bracing for protests against Hopp, and had informed other Bundesliga clubs.

Referee Christian Dingert stopped play at Hoffenheim in the 79th minute with Bayern leading 6-0.

"Things remain the same. DFB breaks its vow. Hopp remains a son of a b---," a banner displayed in Bayern's end read.

The referee ordered the teams into the tunnel, and some Bayern players as well as the entire club leadership walked to the stands and urged fans to take it down immediately.

After a 20-minute interruption both teams came back onto the pitch and ran down the clock without playing competitively, ending the game with an ovation for Hopp and with Bayern CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge by the billionaire's side in a show of solidarity.

"I am deeply ashamed for the behaviour of these people. That is inexcusable. It is the ugly face of football," Rummenigge told reporters.

"I have apologised to Dietmar Hopp. We have filmed everything and these people will be held accountable."

Rummenigge wasn't the only person to call out fans after the games with Hoffenheim executive Peter Gorlich saying German football must show Hopp solidarity.

"A compliment to the refs, the fans and the FC Bayern players. They all realized a line was crossed and solidarity comes first. It's about one person, but in the end it's about a human being. Football Germany must show solidarity," Gorlich said.

However, a German ultra described the situation to ESPN postmatch as "all-out war."

The game in Dortmund, meanwhile, was stopped to follow UEFA's three-step protocol originally designed to help match officials deal with racist incidents in stadiums.

After an announcement over the PA system the stadium reacted furiously with even louder whistles.

Last weekend, the game between Borussia Monchengladbach and Hoffenheim was delayed for a brief spell after protests against Hopp in the second half.

Banners showed Hopp in crosshairs and used strong language to condemn the German FA for banning all Dortmund supporters from travelling to Hoffenheim for two years after they displayed anti-Hopp posters.

The protests happened on the same day that games paid tribute to 11 people killed in a racially-motivated shooting in Hanau, and the German FA announced they had launched an investigation into the incident.

"We come out against racism and discrimination before a game -- and then 50 idiots put up a banner like that. It's madness," Gladbach executive Max Eberl said.

(Agencies)

Serie A call off five games for fear of coronavirus

MILAN

SERIE A have called off five fixtures this weekend, including Juventus vs. Inter Milan, because of fears over coronavirus.

The other games are Udinese vs. Fiorentina, Milan vs. Genoa, Parma vs. SPAL and Sassuolo vs. Brescia.

A number of sporting events in the north of the country have been cancelled over the past two

Originally, the top-of-the-table clash between Juve and Inter was scheduled for Sunday to be played behind closed doors, but it has now been cancelled altogether with the fixture provisionally rearranged for May 13.

Juventus confirmed the news on Twitter, saying the measure had been taken "in compliance with the 'Urgent measures for the containment and management of the epidemiological

emergency of COVID-19."

Serie A said in a statement that the decision was made "considering the succession of numerous urgent regulatory interventions by the Government to respond to this extraordinary emergency to protect public health and safety."

Four matches were cancelled last weekend, including Inter Milan's home game against Sampdoria.

Lazio vs. Bologna went ahead as scheduled on Saturday while Napoli vs. Torino is also due to take place.

Lazio went top of Serie A with a 2-0 win. Luis Alberto fired Lazio in front with a low shot from the edge of the area in the 18th minute and set up the second for Joaquin Correa three minutes later as the hosts extended their unbeaten Serie A run to 21 games.

(Agencies)

Invincible no more: Liverpool loses for 1st time in EPL

BY STEVE DOUGLAS

ARSENAL'S class of 2003-04 can breathe easy: Liverpool will not be joining them as Premier League "Invincibles."

"Phew..." was the immediate reaction from Arsenal's Twitter account after Liverpool collapsed to its first league loss of the season on Saturday, a 3-0 defeat at Watford - a team languishing in the relegation zone.

It marked the end of a 44-match undefeated streak and a record-tying 18-match winning run for Liverpool in the league.

Juergen Klopp's team headed to Vicarage Road as the champions-in-waiting - with its record 22-point lead - and needing to get through 11 more matches to also become only the second side after Arsenal to complete a full season unbeaten since the start of the Premier League in 1992. Preston also went through the 1888-89 season undefeated.

Liverpool was five games short of matching Arsenal's 49-match unbeaten streak in the Premier League from May 2003 to October 2004. That run ended when Arsenal lost 2-0 at Manchester United.

Few could have foreseen the manner of Liverpool's meltdown against Watford, which scored all of its goals in the second half through Ismaila Sarr (two) and Troy Deeney.

Thankfully for Liverpool fans desperate to see their team back on top of English soccer for the first time in 30 years, the loss is far from terminal.

Four wins from their last 10 games will see the Reds become champions for the 19th time.

"There is no reason for panic," Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk said.

"The (unbeaten) record, and the talk of the records, is all media. We just try to win every game ahead of us."

The performance will be a major concern, though, coming soon after a 1-0 loss to Atletico Madrid in their first leg in the Champions League's last 16.

Indeed, Liverpool's players have been far below their usual high standards since returning from the Premier League's first midseason break, having edged past last-place Norwich 1-0 and coming from behind to beat another team fighting relegation, West Ham, 3-2 on Monday. The loss to Atletico was sandwiched between those league matches.

The absence of captain Jordan Hen-



Watford's Ismaila Sarr scores their first goal against Liverpool during their Premier League match at Vicarage Road in Watford, Britain on Saturday. REUTERS

derson, who sustained a hamstring injury against Atletico, has been significant, while the defense looked ragged against Watford with Dejan Lovren filling in at center back for Joe Gomez.

Liverpool's next game is at Chelsea in the FA Cup on Tuesday.

"We want to strike back, we want to show what we've been doing the whole season," Van Dijk said. "That's the only way forward."

ALONSO RESCUES CHELSEA

While Chelsea's forwards continue to struggle to score, at least the team can rely on its left back to find the back of the net.

Marcos Alonso made it three goals in two games since returning to the lineup after a two-month absence when he scored twice - including an 85th-minute equalizer - in a 2-2 draw at Bournemouth.

"Marcos Alonso has had a big week," Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said, "but I don't want my left back top of the scoring charts. I want our attackers scoring goals and they haven't."

Alonso netted what proved to be the winning goal against Tottenham last weekend, only to get sent off in the 3-0 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League's last 16 on Tuesday.

The draw lifted fourth-place Chelsea

four points ahead of fifth-place Manchester United having played a game more.

United visits Everton on Sunday. They are two of the eight teams within nine points of Chelsea.

PALACE LOOKING SAFE

Just when his team looked like being sucked into a relegation battle, former England manager Roy Hodgson has inspired Crystal Palace to back-to-back victories and most probably another season in the Premier League.

The 72-year Hodgson is poised for talks with the Palace board about a contract extension next week, and can go into them feeling fairly content about another solid season's work in the wake of a 1-0 win at Brighton.

"If they go well," Hodgson said about upcoming games against relegation candidates Watford and Bournemouth, "we can kiss relegation goodbye."

The same cannot be said for Brighton after being hit by the sucker-punch of a goal against the run of play by Jordan Ayew.

Brighton is now only one point above the relegation zone.

BOWEN THE CATALYST

Can the signing of a player from the second-tier League Championship be the catalyst for West Ham in its bid to

secure safety in the Premier League?

Jarrod Bowen's lively performance in the 3-1 win over Southampton suggested so.

Handed his first start since joining from Hull in the January transfer window, Bowen opened the scoring with a deft chip over goalkeeper Alex McCarthy and was a constant danger with his movement and pace in behind.

"That's the way it went in my dreams last night," Bowen said.

West Ham manager David Moyes has eased Bowen into the team, despite the player's superb scoring record - he struck 16 goals for Hull this season - and the team's lack of potency of late.

Sebastian Haller and Michail Antonio also scored for West Ham, which moved out of the bottom three and above Bournemouth and Aston Villa in the standings with its first win since Jan. 1.

Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuetl described the goals his team conceded as "an absolute joke."

If only Hasenhuetl had a defense boasting the tenacity of Newcastle and Burnley. Clear-cut chances were at a premium in their match at St. James' Park, which finished 0-0.

AP

We should have seen Liverpool's defeat coming

BY NICK AMES, ESPN.COM WRITER

THIS had been coming.

It's easy to say that now, in the aftermath of this Premier League season's most astonishing result - Watford 3, Liverpool 0 - and with a song nobody could have predicted hearing back in August ("We've got super Nigel Pearson, he knows exactly what we need") reverberating around the Vicarage Road crowd. But Liverpool have not quite been right since the winter break and on Saturday, it finally caught up with them.

They were played off the park by a fast, physical, punchy Watford side, and, while they will still collect their first league title since 1990 within a matter of weeks, this defeat will colour the rest of their campaign.

Of course, this must be accompanied by a hefty dose of perspective. Liverpool went 44 top-flight games unbeaten dating back to Jan. 3, 2019, and notched 18 victories in a row this season. Every week, the numbers have mounted up, causing jaws to drop and leaving little doubt that this is one of the best teams ever to have played in England's top flight.

Liverpool still have a more-than-credible shot at the Premier League points record. But the notion of invincibility, of completing an entire season without defeat, holds a special allure - particularly (and perhaps completely) in the eyes of supporters. In a season that has already given so much, it feels as if they have one less big target left to play for.

Not that Jurgen Klopp had any patience for such an idea after the match.

"I'm not bothered," he said when asked if he regretted seeing a potentially unbeaten campaign slide away. "Now we can play free football again. We don't have to defend, or try to break a record. We must try to win football games again."

There was enough in those words to suggest that, with the title virtually in the bag,

that big "zero" in the losses column had weighed down on his players to some extent. But the real significance of that is intangible. What we do know is that, over the past fortnight, there had been a laboured element to their play, a drop in intensity that came directly after their fortnight off. They've turned a marathon into a sprint this season, but perhaps, both physically and psychologically, those final yards to the finishing line are still the hardest.

In two clear harbingers of what was to come, they were forced to scrape and scrap past two of Watford's relegation rivals, requiring a 78th-minute goal from Sadio Mane to win at Norwich and then relying on a gift from West Ham's Lukasz Fabianski to tip the scales at Anfield on Monday. Eventually, those key moments will not combine in your favour and an off day will be exposed for what it is, which is exactly what happened at Vicarage Road.

Watford, who managed to stretch Liverpool without turning the game into the kind of end-to-end battle that would surely have seen them lose, seized the initiative with their controlled aggression and speed

down the wings. Liverpool are used to seeing matches settled by a lively Senegalese forward and the pattern repeated itself here: This time, though, it was Watford's Ismaila Sarr who twice finished smartly within six minutes early in the second half. Like Mane, the 22-year-old started out at local academy side Generation Foot before moving on to France with Metz; again like Mane, he looks cut out for a stellar career at the top level.

Ben Foster, who had to face few clear chances and was only really needed to deny an Andy Robertson strike after half-time, called Sarr a "crazy-good talent" afterward. Sarr missed crucial games against Aston Villa and Brighton, two more teams threatened by the drop, through injury either side of the winter break and perhaps they would have gained more than a point from those fixtures had he been available. He made the difference here, although a goal and assist for the indefatigable Troy Deeney were invaluable, too, and Watford can now feel confident of seeing Pearson's revolution through to a happy conclusion.

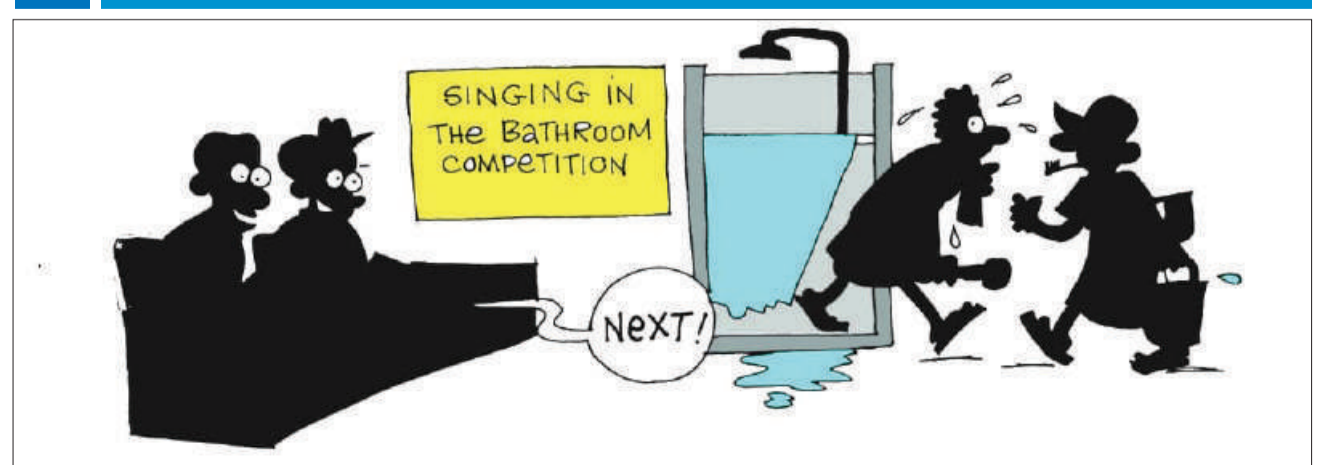
"[Liverpool] are such an outstanding

side," Pearson told broadcasters. "We had to get our performance right, as close to max as possible, and I thought we thoroughly deserved the win."

Watford's season is, in its own context, alive with possibility now, while Liverpool's risks taking on a slightly odd hue. They may still wrap the title up by mid-April, and the celebrations will be extensive and well deserved, but defeat in their Champions League last-16 tie against Atletico Madrid - they are a goal down from the first leg - would mean they essentially go into the campaign's final weeks with nothing to play for: There are worse problems, to put it mildly, but Klopp will be keen to devise ways of ensuring his side regain their spark before the final push.

"We don't think it's the biggest catastrophe in world football," he said. "Congratulations to Watford, well deserved - that should be the headline." It says everything about Liverpool's mind-boggling achievements from the past six months, and the novelty value of the no-show they turned out Saturday night, that the reports will probably read quite differently.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Chelsea see off Spurs as Jesus grabs late Man City winner

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Sciver, spinners secure England's semi-final berth

SYDNEY

ENGLAND took another step towards the title decider by booking their place in the semi-finals with a convincing victory over West Indies in Sydney. Before her side left for the tournament, England's new Australian coach, Lisa Keightley, had stated that she expected her charges to be in the final and, while their wobble against an impressive South Africa in their opening match raised concerns that objective might be under threat, their latest performance confirmed it remains the basis of their expectations.

Natalie Sciver set the tone with another half-century to lead England to a competitive total on a pitch where, earlier in the day, South Africa had managed 136 for 6 in advancing to the knockout stages with victory over Pakistan. Sophie Ecclestone finished the job with an emphatic 3 for 7 off 3.1 overs. The bowlers were underpinned by some sloppy fielding from England, but a spate of troubling injuries for West Indies helped to put the result beyond doubt.

England bowler Kate Cross was taken to hospital after hurting her ankle during the warm-up. While Cross has not played so far in the tournament and was not due to face West Indies, any enforced absence would rob England of an option at the business end of their campaign. But it was a groin injury to West Indies captain Stafanie Taylor, that led to her being stretchered from the field after retiring hurt on 15, that put a serious dent in her side's prospects of taking the fight to England. Taylor played no further part in the game as England moved to the top of Group B with a superior net run rate to South Africa, who also have six points with a game in hand. Their opponents will be decided in the final round of matches, with India already through, and Australia and New Zealand primed for a winner-takes-all clash on Sunday.

Stunning Sciver

Sciver's rich vein of form continued, her third fifty in four innings at this World Cup had match-winning potential all over it. Sciver made 57 off 56 balls on a slow pitch, following innings of 50 in a losing cause against South Africa, an unbeaten 59 against Thailand and 36 against Pakistan. Sciver's command of the innings became ever more important when England's other inform batsman, Heather Knight, was run out through what looked like a lack of urgency on the part of the England captain. She ambled through for a single and was found short of her ground as Shakeria Selman fired the ball in from short midwicket. Like Knight before her, Sciver fell slightly tamely with an over of the innings to come, spooning a catch to Hayley Matthews at midwicket, but her touch is undeniable.

Top-order shuffle

England's top order has been a talking point so far in this tournament, with Tammy Beaumont being pushed down the order

- ostensibly due to her superior skills at the death - in favour of an opening partnership of Danni Wyatt and Amy Jones. The jury remains out after Beaumont was moved back up to the top after Jones had struggled with scores of 23, 0 and 2. Beaumont was out for a second-ball duck, playing round a full Selman delivery which pinned her plumb in front of the stumps.

But if that part of the switch didn't pay off, then Jones' free-flowing cameo at No.6 against West Indies certainly did. She scored 23 off 13 balls, including three fours, to provide England with some vital late momentum as they claimed 36 runs in the final three overs. While Beaumont and Jones have opened together in ODIs in recent times, that effort, along with Wyatt's solid 29 off 27 balls at No.1, looks to have cemented their respective roles for the final matches.

Taylor trouble

When Taylor was stretchered off with an apparent groin injury, the wind seemed to go out of West Indies' sails. Taylor struck a Sciver delivery towards cover and set off but could barely manage to hobble through and collapsed to the ground clutching at her upper thigh in obvious agony. The same motorised stretcher that had driven Cross from the ground before the match was called upon again and Taylor retired hurt.

It was not the only worrying injury for West Indies, with Britney Cooper rolling her ankle as she ran between the wickets and battling with discomfort for the rest of her innings, which by necessity consisted of her taking aim at the boundary rather than seeking singles. She was out attempting a big shot off Ecclestone only to find herself stumped.

Spin twins... triplets?

Ecclestone was in the thick of the action, dismissing Deandra Dottin with just her sixth ball, in the third over of West Indies' chase. Ecclestone tempted Dottin into a pull that wasn't there to be had, and Sciver took a low catch at short midwicket. Ecclestone also took the last wicket, pegging back Anisa Mohammed's off stump to seal the win and claim her 50th wicket in T20s. That a proven performer like Ecclestone was delivering wickets was no surprise, nor was it that Sarah Glenn, a legspinner revelation for England in the past few months, was also instrumental. Glenn finished with 2 for 16 from her four overs, giving her six wickets for the tournament so far at an average of 11.33 and following her 3 for 15 in the previous match against Pakistan.

On a pitch that was conducive to spin, England opted for a third specialist in the area, Mady Villiers. Making her World Cup debut and playing just her fourth T20 international, offspinner Villiers opened with a wicket maiden when she took a sharp return catch with just her fourth ball to dismiss Shemaine Campbell, all the while avoiding a near collision with non-striker Chedean Nation.

AGENCIES

Kilimanjaro Marathon 2020 leaves mark in Moshi as Tanzanians shine



Guardian Reporter

THE Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon 2020 has left a huge mark in Moshi and Tanzania in general as the country's athletes made history in the race, which took place yesterday.

The domestic athletes ensured the country did not end empty handed in the international race, which had over 11000 participants taking part in.

The Tigo Half Marathon has two new record holders in both categories following the record breaking wins by two Tanzanian athletes.

During the 18th edition of the now famous marathon, Joseph Panga set a new record in the men's category of the half marathon after clocking 01:03:59, to replace the former record which was 01:04:56.

In the event which saw seven

Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon 2020 men's category winner, Kenyan Kiplagat Onesmo Kiplimo, celebrates after crossing finishing line at Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) venue yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Tanzanian athletes end in the top 10 list of the winners, domestic athlete Josephat Joshua clocked 01:04:28 to claim the first runner-up position while Kenyan Vincent Towett clocked 01:04:32 to claim the second runner-up spot.

In the women's category, Magdalene Shauri from Tanzania clocked 01:09:54 to set a new record in the category replacing the former record which was 01:13.

Susy Chebet from Kenya came second after clocking 01:16:18, the third place was taken by Valentine Jepkorir from Kenya who clocked 01:16:51.

In the men's category of the main race, the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager's 42km race, Kenyan athlete Kiplagat Onesmo Kiplimo defended his title he

won last year after clocking 02:16:56 to win this year's marathon.

His compatriot Abraham Too clocked 02:17:08 to claim the first runner-up position while another Kenyan Bernard Kipchirchir claimed the second runner-up position by clocking 02:18:02, in a race which saw Kenyan athletes claim eight positions in the top 10 of the men's category.

In the women's category of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km race, Lydia Wafula from Kenya won the race by clocking 02:47:05, followed closely by two other Kenyans Rosina Kiboino and Joan Rotich, who clocked 02:53:15 to claim the second and third positions respectively.

Minister for Natural Resources

and Tourism, Khamis Kigwangalla, handed over prizes to the race's winners.

Kigwangalla, who was flanked by the Minister for Information, Culture, Art and Sports, Harrison Mwakyembe, said the government would continue to support the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon due to the fact that the event has contributed to development of the tourism sector in the country.

"We have taken note of the fact that our narrow roads are limiting the number of participants hence the government will see how it can improve this next year so we can have wider roads hence more participation," he said.

He praised the race's sponsors who include Kilimanjaro

Premium Lager, TIGO, Grand Malt, Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Limited, Simba Cement, Unilever, and Barclays Bank (now Absa Bank Tanzania Limited) and the organizers for a job well done.

He as well hailed the race's official suppliers, Kibo Palace Hotel, Keys Hotel, GardaWorld Security, Precision Air, and CMC Automobiles.

Earlier, the TBL Group Trade Marketing Director, Doreen Tumubeere, said they have been the main sponsors of the event since its inception, noting the backing has increased the number of participants to more than 11,000.

She noted the increase in the number of participants shows that there is a lot of awareness about healthy living and the importance of sports.

"Our number one winner walks away with 4m/- prize money in both men's and women's categories and an additional 1.5m/- to Tanzanian winners in both categories as motivation for local participants to do better", she said.

Tigo's representative Simon Karikari, who was represented by the company's Northern Zone Director, Adrian Komba, said Tigo who are the main sponsors of the half marathon race, would continue to improve the race to make it better every year.

"It is very important to note that this year, we have set aside a total of 11m/- for the top 10 male and female finishers, of which each athlete will be awarded as per his or her position after the race", he said.



Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakyembe (front row, C), participates in the Grand Malt 5km Fun Run in Moshi, Kilimanjaro yesterday. The race was one of this year's Kilimanjaro events. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Raza falls to Mustafizur as Zimbabwe crumble

SYLHET

A second ODI hundred for Liton Das provided the mainstay of the innings as Bangladesh reached a lofty 321 for 6 after opting to bat the first ODI in Sylhet.

Heat and humidity eventually got the better of Das, and he had to retire his innings in the 37th over, but Mohammad Mithun's fifty and rapid cameos from Mahmudullah and Mohammad Saifuddin kept Bangladesh ticking along to a total that will challenge Zimbabwe under lights.

Opening the batting alongside Tamim Iqbal, Das crunched the sixth ball of the innings to the cover-point boundary, and added three more inside the power play to set the pace as Iqbal took his time settling in. A rasping cut raised Bangladesh's 50 in the 11th over, and Iqbal was fortunate to survive a very strong lbw shout soon afterwards when Carl Mumba pinged his front pad from around the stumps.

Zimbabwe declined the review even though replays showed Iqbal would have been out, and there was some iffy judgment with regards to the DRS on both sides as Iqbal then burnt Bangladesh's review when Wesley Madhevere, the 19-year-old debutant, trapped him in front with an offbreak that rushed on with the arm.

But there was no doubt about Das' acumen with the bat in hand, and he progressed steadily on in almost complete control.

A swiveling hook off Donald Tiripano brought Das the first six of the innings, and he raised a 45-ball fifty moments before the first drinks break. Das took advantage of a mixed effort from Zimbabwe in the field and with the ball, repeatedly putting the fielders inside the circle under pressure with a succession of tip-and-run singles and cashing in on loose deliveries whenever they were offered.

At the other end, Najmul Hossain Shanto was similarly sharp in calling for quick singles, and he peppered the boundary with a couple of crisp strokes as the

pair added 80 for the second wicket in quick time. Bangladesh cruised past 100 in the 20th over, but Iqbal's injudicious use of the review earlier came back to haunt Shanto when he was given out lbw to a ball from Tinotenda Mutombodzi that would have missed the off stump, according to ball-tracking.

The dismissal slowed Bangladesh's progress somewhat, and they went seven overs from the 27th to 34th over without reaching the boundary before Das ended the drought with a whip to the midwicket boundary to raise

his hundred. He swiftly shifted through the gears thereafter, swiping Tiripano for three fours in the space of an over and then heaving Madhevere over midwicket for his second six. But, having struggled with cramp for some time in the stifling heat, Das was then forced from the field in some discomfort.

There was little respite for Zimbabwe, however, as Mithun and Mahmudullah stepped on the accelerator, punctuating hard running with some big hits that brought 68 runs in the space of nine overs before Mahmudullah was removed, on review, by a

Chris Mpofu yorker.

Mithun raised a 40-ball fifty with his fifth four before he, likewise, was undone by an indipping yorker from Mpofu, and captain Mashrafe Mortaza entered the field to a rousing reception.

Zimbabwe's late strikes briefly helped to rein Bangladesh in a little, but Saifuddin helped Bangladesh surge once again, clearing the ropes with three massive hits off Mpofu in the final over of the innings to breach 300 and lift the hosts to an imposing total.

AGENCIES

Flexibles by David Chikoko

