



National Pg 2

Cultural festivals to promote tourism



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Stakeholders commend investment blueprint



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Biteko decries use of mercury in mining



Al-Shabaab attacks US airbase, EU advisers in separate raids

MOGADISHU

The Al-Shabaab militant group struck a United States airbase in Somalia and a convoy of European Union military advisers in separate attacks yesterday, security sources and witnesses told reporters.

"Two heavy explosions occurred, the first one bigger than the other. There was also a heavy exchange of gunfire after the blasts but we don't know the details," Mohamed Adan, a Somali elder close to the scene of the attack on the US base at Baledogle, told AFP by phone.

Omar Abikar, a Somali security officer, confirmed the second, separate attack in the capital Mogadishu on Monday morning against a convoy carrying EU advisers, adding "there are casualties."

The attacked military base is where US soldiers train commandos in Somalia.



The attacked military base is where US soldiers train commandos in Somalia

Local residents reported heavy blasts and gunfire at Baledogle airport in the southern Lower Shabelle region.

The al-Shabaab militant group said it had carried out the attack, using a car bomb to blast through the gates before sending its fighters inside.

Military officials say the jihadists have been pushed back.

Al-Shabaab said in a statement that it had launched the raid.

"After breaching the perimeters of the heavily fortified base, the mujahideen stormed the military complex, engaging the crusaders in an intense firefight."

The base, about 100km (60 miles) west of the capital Mogadishu, is said to house US Special Forces, Somali Special Forces and Ugandan peacekeepers.

Separately, an Italian military convoy was hit by an explosion in Mogadishu itself, Italy's defence ministry said. No casualties have as yet been reported in this attack.

The US has sharply increased its air strikes against al-Shabaab, which is linked to al-Qaeda, since President Donald Trump took office.

Officials in Somalia say the group has increased its attacks in Mogadishu as

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Sabotage remandees make total 108bn/- bargains, set to be freed



President John Magufuli receives a report from Director of Public Prosecutions Biswalo Mganga (R) on the advice the Head of State gave recently that accused persons in remand prison in connection with economic sabotage charges but ready to own up and refund to the government the money in question be considered for release. This was at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

He also called on the Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB), the Prisons Service and the police force to continue to liaise with DPP in the implementation of the exercise

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 467 remandees facing economic sabotage cases across the country have written to the Director of Criminal Investigations (DPP) expressing readiness to pay the state a total of some 107.8 billion/- in plea bargains.

A statement released at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday by the Directorate of Presidential Communications said applications have been filed within seven days following the advice President John Magufuli gave last week, in a move aimed at decongesting remand prisons.

The president Magufuli received a briefing on the implementation of his September 22 advice which promised remandees in question opportunity of release if they confessed to the charges they faced, asked for forgiveness and repaid the money.

Giving the briefing at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday, DPP Biswalo Mganga said during the seven-day period given, 467 accused persons now in remand prisons across the country wrote letters seeking to repay a total of 107.8bn/-.

He explained that the figure includes the amount in respect of those ready to pay 13.6bn/- immediately and those surrendering to the government a total of 35 kg of gold, tanzanite and other minerals, and also others ready to pay 94.2bn/- by instalment.

He added that two remandees had responded



He requested President Magufuli to offer more time for the accused persons to submit their letters seeking clemency and pay back the money and goods as many of them failed to do so within the seven-day given due to various reasons

to the government offer by admitting their crimes in court, with one having already paid 1.37bn/- and surrendered 2,123.64 grammes of gemstones valued at 36.5m/-.

The DPP meanwhile requested President Magufuli to consider offering more time for the accused persons to submit their letters for clemency and paying back the money and returning goods concerned, saying many had failed to do so within the seven-day given owing to various reasons.

The president commended the DPP and his team, saying they had lived up to expectations in the implementation of his advice and had generally properly represented the government properly in various court cases.

He similarly expressed satisfaction with the response from accused persons who had sought clemency and readiness to pay the money they were accused of obtaining corruptly, and directed that all those who have done so be released from prison.

The president further agreed to extend the time for applying for clemency by seven days to enable

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Abandonment, disease 'major' challenges facing older people

By Henry Mwangonde

AS the world marks the International Day of Older People today, the government has outlined major challenges facing senior citizens and efforts being made to address them.

Top of the list of burdens older people carry is opportunistic diseases, abandonment by family members as well as lack of income which together push many older people to seek shelter and other subsistence support from private as well as state-run care centres.

Speaking to The Guardian in an interview yesterday, the Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Faustine Ndungulile said that the



This year's International Day of Older Persons goes with the theme 'the Journey to Age Equality'

government has put in place various strategies to protect senior citizens, and the number of elders has risen to around 1.8 million, those above 65 years of age. "This is a sign of some success in the health sector," he declared.

"Elders in the country face various challenges including harmful beliefs and traditions that lead to persecution, including killings on allegations of witchcraft, and as government we are working on the matter including having special health IDs for them and special desks in our health centres," he elaborated.

The Permanent Secretary at the responsible for Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr John Jingu, who attended

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Oil and gas congress to deliberate on Lindi LNG project, gas pricing

By Henry Mwangonde

THE stalled construction of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in Lindi Region and the pricing as well as mode of importation of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) are among pertinent issues to be deliberated upon during the Third Tanzania Oil and Gas Congress which kicks off in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

It is also expected that during the summit the government will outline strategies put in place to boost its industrialization agenda powered



by oil and gas as well as highlight investment opportunities and pushing existing projects.

Abdulsamad Abdulrahim (pictured), Chief Executive Officer for Ocean Business Partners, said the conference will explore the strategic importance of Tanzania as an energy hub in East Africa and the potential for major developments in the energy sector.

Briefing journalists on the congress, he said the conference will be informed on strategies to achieve industrialization goals, and how to

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Abandonment, disease 'major' challenges facing older people

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a marching exercise with elders in Mtwara yesterday, said the government has established 17 care centres for elders which house more than 500 elders countrywide.

"The centres are fully government-sponsored and we also deliver essential drugs to health centres to ensure they access them," he said.

In a statement yesterday, HelpAge International and its network organizations in Tanzania urged action against ageism as the world.

Described as prejudice or discrimination on the basis of one's age, ageism manifests stereotypes and biases against older people and often leads to negative self-perception of individual older people. This leads to reduced self-efficacy, with direct effects like depression and their repercussions on physical health.

Smart Daniel, the country director for HelpAge International said this year's commemoration comes at a time when the government has posted milestones on issues of older people.

"Early this year we witnessed the launching of the National Strategy to Eradicate Elderly Killings. Recently, Zanzibar President Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein agreed to increase the amount of social pension which currently stands at 20,000/-," he said.

Smart Daniel noted that over 9,000 older people's structures have been formed throughout the country, thanks to efforts by a department in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments).

He also commended the Health ministry and their Isles counterparts for their efforts to provide improved age-friendly health and care services to older people.

Smart also commended the government of Zanzibar through the Ministry of Labor, Empowerment, Social Welfare, Youth, Women, Elders and Children in initiating the process leading to formulating the Older People Affairs and Social Pension Act.

While commending the government for its relentless efforts in improving the lives of the older people in the country, HelpAge International and its networks however note with concern that older people still face a number of challenges that range from income poverty, lack of

basic necessities, age unfriendly health services, neglect, violence and abuse, along with age-based discrimination.

"Every older person is likely to be subjected to ageism all over the world. Ageism is deep rooted among members of our society. We get to be called names and being neglected. In some cases, older people are denied employment or when employed some companies would pay them very low wages. They are also denied bank loans.

"The society thinks that when one turns 60, their rights are lessened. For example, complains of illness by an older person is very likely to be justified because of age. This has resulted in older people late diagnosis and contributes to disability and deaths," said Dr Edwin Mung'ongo, former public servant who now works for HelpAge as health and care programme manager.

This year's International Day of Older Persons goes with the theme 'the Journey to Age Equality.'

In marking the day, Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar will hold national events in Mtwara and Unguja respectively. Zanzibar President Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein will be the chief guest in Zanzibar and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in Mtwara.

A series of events from village older people structures to districts have been held and continue in different parts of the country. Higher learning institutions have taken the lead to hold symposiums to discuss agenda about ageing.

This year's International Day of Older People also marks 50 years since psychiatrist Robert Butler coined the term 'ageism' in 1969.

Older people in Tanzania account for 5.6 per cent of the entire population according to the 2012 national census.



The centres are fully government-sponsored and we also deliver essential drugs to health centres to ensure they access them



Zanzibar Information, Tourism and Heritage minister Mahmoud Thabit Kombo (2nd-L) toasts with NIC Bank employees when he toured their pavilion at the tourism exhibition held in Zanzibar last week. Left is assistant marketing manager Natasha Cathles. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Sabotage remandees make total 108bn/- bargains, set to be freed

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the DPP to deal with other accused persons who may also be ready to seek clemency. However, he cautioned that there would be no further extension after that.

"I know there are some accused persons who are being misled by solicitors saying if they (the accused) confess to their offences it will mean that they are guilty and will therefore continue to remain in prison," he said.

"No, if they are forgiven, they are forgiven, and it's not necessary that

they seek clemency. If they don't like to do so, they will continue to remain in jail; it's all up to them," he added.

President Magufuli also called on the Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB), the Prisons Service and the Police to continue liaising with the DPP in the implementation of the ongoing move.

He explained that the money to be collected from the accused would benefit the country because it would be used for the country's development, including the construction of hospitals

and roads, while it was also expected that the accused persons to be set free would participate in building the nation through lawful activities.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam at the swearing-in of senior public officials recently appointed to various positions including ambassadors and regional administrative secretaries, President Magufuli directed judicial authorities to hold talks with suspects of economic sabotage on the possibility of having the latter confess and repay the money issue and being subsequently released.

"Now that the DPP and the Solicitor General are here, let me request you and others who are working on criminal justice that there are people who are in remand for economic sabotage for years. They are suffering - I keep watching them on television as they are taken to court. If they are ready to confess and commit themselves to return the money, let them be released and the negotiation process should start tomorrow to next Saturday," the president advised at the September 22 event.



Ocean Business Partners CEO Abdulsamad Abdulrahman (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the two-day Tanzania Oil and Gas Congress organised by his firm and scheduled to be held in the city tomorrow. He is with CWC Group vice president Tiago Marques. Photo: John Badi

Oil and gas congress to deliberate on Lindi LNG project, gas pricing

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strike successful partnerships with international companies in the oil and gas sector.

"The congress will also showcase opportunities for investment and focus on the creation of partnerships between local and international companies by bringing together the

major stakeholders," he stated.

Other key issues to be discussed during the summit include the latest industry updates, best practices in the oil and gas sector as well as short term supply and demand in the local market, he elaborated.

Tanzania's natural gas reserves currently stand at about 57.25 trillion

cubic feet following new deep sea discoveries off the country's southern coast. Tanzania is also finalising plans to set up a liquefied natural gas processing plant in Lindi.

The congress which is held annually is taken as the official platform for promoting collaboration between government and industry.

In September last year the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) appealed to the government to make a final decision on indicative prices for natural gas saying delays in doing so are derailing efforts to use gas as a domestic source of energy despite its plentiful availability, hence becoming a setback to the industrialisation drive.

Al-Shaabab attacks US airbase, EU advisers in separate raids

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retaliation for the air strikes.

The US State Department says al-Shabaab retains control over large

parts of the country and has the ability to carry out high-profile attacks using suicide bombers, explosive devices, mortars and small arms.

Regional, local cultural festivals set to promote tourist destinations

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA'S participation in regional and local cultural festivals will be embedded with promotion of the country's tourism destinations based on experience from the just ended East Africa Arts cultural festival (Jamafest), it was said yesterday.

The fourth edition of the East African Community's Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki Utamaduni Festival (JamaFest) ended in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.

To begin with, for the whole of this month various similar festivals namely urithi festival, wine testing day in Dodoma and Mikindani festival in Mtwara have been organized locally in various regions aiming at promoting tourism.

The Deputy minister for Natural Resources Constantine Kanyasu told journalists at a press conference yesterday that the festivals had a big impact in marketing the country's tourists destinations.

"We want to see more people participate and already a team has been formed to coordinate the events because we have seen that such festivals play an important role, Jamafest was the best," he said.

JamaFest was first held in 2013, in Rwanda and it was attended by 17,500

people, biennial event was the in 2013, held in Kenya, and attended by 21,000 people.

The festival was in 2017 held in Uganda with 46,500 people attending, and Tanzania was the host this year.

The festival made Dar es Salaam streets filled with live music, drums, cheers and dances as six East African Community (EAC) nations graced the streets with rich traditional extravaganza.

Jamafest seeks to promote regional socio-cultural integration through arts and culture. It was started after the EAC council of ministers in September 2011 directed the EAC Secretariat to organize regular festivals.

Rwanda was selected to host the first edition of the festival in 2013. It is a bi-annual festival and in 2015 Kenya played host then Uganda in 2017.



We want to see more people participate and already a team has been formed to coordinate the events because we have seen that such festivals play an important role, Jamafest was the best



Dr Kishan Mistry, an eye specialist with Dar es Salaam's Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital, attends to a patient at a hospital in the city's Mbagala Rangi Tatu suburb yesterday. It was at a free camp for eye diseases, diabetes and cancer for children the hospital organised in collaboration with Lions Club of Uhuru. Left is Lions Club Uhuru chairperson Zainab Parpia. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Special Correspondent, Lusaka

AFRICAN higher education financing bodies have been tasked to reflect on existing financing mechanisms whether they are sustainable and on right track to take the continent to the desired future, Africa Agenda 2063 - a blue print that seeks eradicate poverty and enhance socio-economic development.

Speaking yesterday in Lusaka, Zambia's Minister of Higher Education Dr Brian Mushimba said while the continent has recorded commendable milestones, sustainable financing and production of appropriate skills remained a challenge.

The Minister was speaking at the official opening of the second annual conference of the 13-year old Association of Higher Education Financing Agencies (AAHEFA) which attracted over 140 participants from 11-member countries namely from Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana, Uganda, Botswana and Lesotho. Others Namibia, Malawi, South Africa and the host, Zambia. The five-day meeting is held under the theme: 'Re-inventing higher education financing for in-demand skills'.

According to Dr Mushimba, sustainable financing is the biggest single challenge for most, if not all, African countries and that AAHEFA had a crucial role to advise African

Reflect on skills and sustainability, education financing bodies tasked

governments on effective sustainable mechanisms.

"The question that we must reflect and deliberate on in the meeting is: How can we collectively enhance and sustain financing to higher education to meet ever increasing demand? He urged the participants who included chief executive officers from the agencies, their board members, politicians and diplomats.

The Minister added that in a world where statistics shows that 85 per cent of the jobs are classified as skilled, African education financing agencies should ensure that the continent is not left behind in forging appropriate skills for its young people - about 65 per cent aged below 30 years.

"We must remember that by 2045, the population of Africa is forecasted to double and Africa will have the largest workforce in the world, surpassing both China and India. This calls for important reflection to ensure we produce appropriate skills to participate in the development processes", said Dr Mushimba.

In his welcoming remarks, the AAHEFA President who is also the Chief Executive Officer of Kenya's Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) Charles

Ringera said during the conference over 10 papers will be presented, discussed and deliberated upon by speakers from across Africa and beyond.

"All the papers and reports from member countries are geared towards finding African solutions for African problems through lessons learnt and best practice", he said

Speaking after the opening ceremony, Executive Director of the Tanzania's Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) Abdul-Razaq Badru said Tanzania was committed to tap key lessons from the meeting for purposes of enhancing efficiency in loans issuance and collection.

"During these five days, each country, including us, will present report highlighting achievements and lessons which will be discussed with a view of sharing best practices to enhance efficiency", said Badru.

According to Badru, Tanzania's higher education sector has recorded remarkable achievements in the past four years under President John Magufuli including increase in collection of due loans from 21.1bn/- in 2014/2015 financial year to 183.2bn/- in 2018/2019 while the target is to collect about 220bn/- in 2019/2020.

By Guardian Reporter

THE Kisumu Resident Magistrate Court in Dar es Salaam has postponed the economic sabotage case facing the former Director General of the National Identification Authority (NIDA) Dickson Maimu and others after the state said that investigations were not complete.

Maimu and fellow accused face a total of 100 counts of economic sabotage including occasioning loss of 1.6b/- to the government. The case came up for mention yesterday before Senior Resident Magistrate Salum Ally.

Prosecutor from the Prevention, Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Leonard Swai claimed the investigations

Criminal case against NIDA officials adjourned

were not completed hence he requested another mention date.

The defence, on its part requested permission from the court for one of the accused, Sabina Raymond to travel to Morogoro to attend family problems.

Magistrate Ally said the case will come up for mention on October 15 and agreed to the request by Sabina Raymond to travel to Morogoro. The accused first appeared in court on August 18, 2017.

Other accused persons in the case include NIDS commercial manager Avelin Momburi, and Director of ICT Joseph Makani, Ag. financial manager

Benjamin Mwakatumbula, director of Aste Insurance Brokers, Astery Ndege, NIDA transport manager George Ntalima, director of legal affairs Sabina Raymond and Xavery Kayombo.

In the case the accused are jointly charged with conspiracy, tendering false documents, misleading their employer and occasioning loss of 1.6b/- to the government. It was alleged in the first count that Maimu and Mwakatumbula on various dates between January 15 and 19 2010 at NIDA headquarters Kinondoni District Dar es Salaam region, being public officials by virtue of their position

misused their responsibilities.

It was claimed in court that they authorized a payment of USD 270,000 to Gotham International Limited (GIL) without using the official Bank of Tanzania (BoT) rates of exchange for foreign currency contravening Section 19.3 transactions in the agreement between NIDA and GIL, hence making a profit of 3.9m/- for GIL.

Maimu and Mwakatumbula in another count allegedly between June 3 and 5 2013 at NIDA headquarters misused their official positions by authorizing payment of USD 1.8m without adhering to official

rates of exchange thereby causing loss of 106.3m/-

The two accused are claimed on June 20 2014 at NIDA head offices authorized payment of USD 675,000 to GIL without adhering to official rates of exchange for foreign currency thereby causing GIL to make a profit of 42.4m/-.

Maimu and Mwakatumbula are further charged that between January 15 and May 16 2015 at the NIDA head offices authorized payment to GIL in US dollars without adhering to official rates of exchange issued by BoT thereby occasioning loss of 167.5m to NIDA.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP



MARYAM SAEED SAEED AL-AMUUDI whose photograph provided above, is applying to the Minister of Home Affairs for Tanzania Citizenship. Her Nationality at present is YEMEN. Country of origin YEMEN. She has been living in Tanzania for 16 years. Any one, who knows any reason why Citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Commissioner of Immigration, P.O. BOX 512, Dar es Salaam.

FOR:
COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION.



Embassy of the United States of America

U.S. MISSION DAR ES SALAAM VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Mission in Dar es Salaam is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position below.

Position Title: Administrative Assistant

Vacancy Number: DaresSalaam-2019-039

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

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

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants MUST follow instructions in the notice on the website: Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application. Previous applicants do not need to reapply.

Only Shortlisted candidates will be contacted only via email.

CLOSING DATE: October 8, 2019



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Expression of Interest: Grain Silo Storage and Handling Services.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people and it is present in 81 countries. WFP's region of East and Central Africa (RBN) covers Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea and Tanzania. WFP procures food items including cereals (maize, sorghum, rice) and pulses (Beans) to support the agency's global fight against hunger.

For the past 3 years, WFP purchased approximately 1,000,000 MT of food locally and regionally. Average annual volumes purchased to date are about 250 – 300,000 MT, of which about 70% is maize, 15% sorghum and 15% pulses.

WFP RBN is exploring working with reputable companies that have Grain silos which are operational and in good condition. WFP RBN invites such companies to respond to this expressing their interest in the provision of Grain Silo Storage and Handling Services. Our target countries included Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Burundi.

Prospective responders must be registered with the relevant authorities in their domicile countries and have a legal authorization to provide these services.

WFP hereby invites qualified responders to express their interest by emailing wfp.rbnprocurement@wfp.org and tanzania.procurement@wfp.org. Subject: Expression of Interest – Grain Storage and Handling Project until 25th October 2019, 17:00 hours (Nairobi time). The interested responders will receive a questionnaire and form for preliminary vendor registration to be submitted until 30th October 2019, 17:00 Hours (Nairobi time). The Expression of Interest will be followed by the inspection of your facilities and other amenities by WFP.

All requests for clarifications and questions strictly relating to this invitation only should be sent via e-mail to: wfp.rbnprocurement@wfp.org

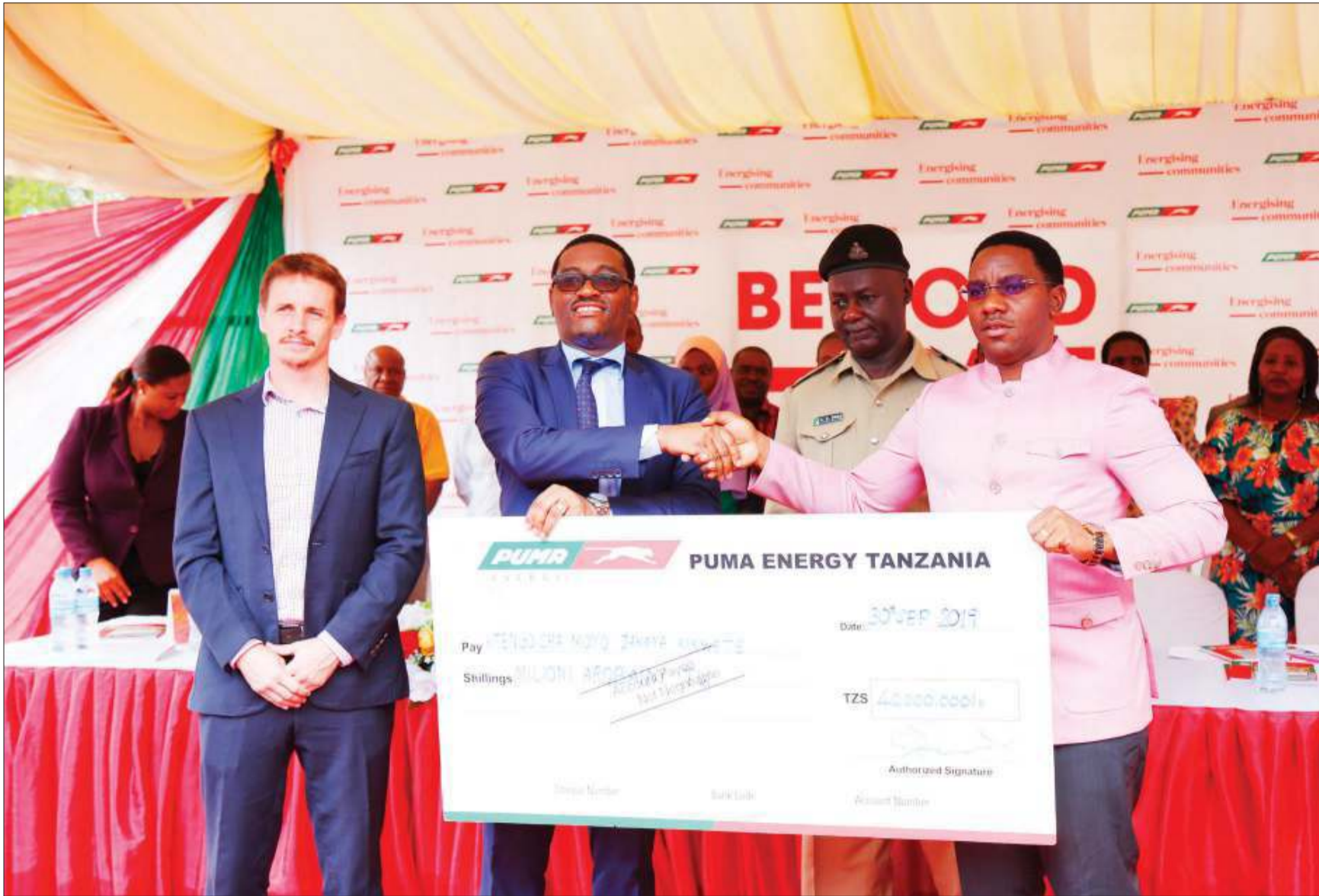
Please note that this is not an Invitation To Tender. Rates/prices are not required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies expressing their interest.

WFP DOES NOT CHARGE ANY FEES FOR REGISTRATION FORMS

Nairobi, 20/09/2019

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Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Paul Makonda (R) receives a dummy cheque for 40m/- from Puma Energy Tanzania managing director Dominic Dhanah at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday to award the winners of the Puma Energy's 2019 Road Safety Programme and Drawing competition. The money is in support of children admitted to the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute in the city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PUMA Energy donates 40million/- to support surgery for 20 children

By Guardian Reporter

PUMA Energy Tanzania Limited has donated 40m/- to support cardiac surgery for 20 children admitted at Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

Puma Energy Tanzania Managing Director Dominic Dhanah presented a cheque to Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Paul Makonda yesterday during a function to award Puma Energy's 2019 Road Safety Programme and Drawing competition held at Uhuru Mchanganyiko primary school.

There are almost 500 children with cardiac complications currently in need of financial assistance to be able to undergo surgeries.

"We have donated the funds in support to Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner's efforts to save the lives of children with cardiac complications", said Dhanah noting the oil company is committed to support government endeavours towards in various social sectors.

The Managing Director highlighted that the firm's major priorities include corporate social responsibilities, and that it has been touched to support the children.

Earlier, RC Makonda said he will form a special committee that will be tasked to look for funds required to conduct cardiac surgeries to all the 500 children.

"We have so far supported a number of children, but we still need another 1bn/- for the remained children. My wish is to save the lives of all the children's in need by December this year", said the RC.

Meanwhile, Makonda urged owners of motor vehicles to ensure regular inspections and maintenance to avoid road crashes.

He noted that regular inspections and maintenance of the vehicles helps them identify possible mechanical irregularities that could be fixed and avoid accidents.

"It pains me when I hear about road

crashes that claim people's lives. Users and owners of motor vehicles play an important role in avoiding accidents by ensuring regular inspection and maintenance. They should also adhere to traffic rules and regulations", he said.

He commended efforts by Puma Energy Tanzania Limited to educate children on road safety thus reducing the number of accidents. He urged the company to continue providing similar education to more school children to ensure their safety to and from school.

Winner of this year's competition has been awarded 500000/- and the school getting 4m/- for purchase of laboratory equipments.

It should be noted that 1.35 million people die on the world's roads each year. Road traffic injuries are the leading killer of children and young adults aged 5-29 years.

This is the reason Puma Energy Tanzania has taken up this cause to demonstrate its commitment to saving people's lives especially the lives of primary school children who are mostly exposed to road risks when going and coming back from schools.

The programme, conducted by Puma through its road safety partner AMEND has reached 106,500 students in 6 regions and over 80 schools in mainland Tanzania and five schools in Zanzibar.

In Tanzania mainland, the program has covered Dar es Salaam, Geita, Kilimanjaro, Ruvuma, Arusha and Dodoma regions.



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DC calls for establishment of environmental clubs in schools

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

KONGWA District Commissioner Deogratius Ndenjemi has called on both primary and secondary schools in Dodoma region to establish environment clubs in efforts to help increase awareness on climate change among students.

He noted that young people, especially those in schools should be in the forefront in learning and educating the community on how to deal with climate change.

Ndenjemi was speaking on the behalf of the Dodoma Regional

Commissioner (RC), Binilith Mahenge at the climax of "Linda Uhai" campaign aimed at encouraging young people to tackle challenges of climate change.

"It is very important to let young people in schools understand climate change and its effects since they have a big role to play in collaboration with other stakeholders to tackle the problem" he said.

He added that climate change is a global threat hence having such clubs in schools would enable students help in curbing the current state of environmental degradation in the country which among others include

cutting of trees.

According to the DC, such clubs once initiated in schools should work well, more so on the campaign against climate change, adding that by so doing there will be students who are great champions on climate change.

Earlier while reading while reading out students statement, Batlet William from K. Ndege secondary school in the city said effects of climate change are evident in the country in different sectors like agriculture, water, health, energy, forest, tourism, settlement and infrastructure.

He added that statistics show that

temperature has increased to one centigrade since 1960, being an average of 0.23 centigrade per decade.

"The level of rainfall has been reducing at an average of 3.3 percent per decade and when it rains it does with a lot of catastrophes" said William, adding that temperature at the Indian Ocean has reduced by one centigrade since 1950.

Climate change impacts in Tanzania include higher temperatures, more flooding and droughts, and a rise in sea level and threaten agricultural production and livelihoods for millions of Tanzanians.

TMDA and NIMR start online medical research monitoring

By Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) and Medical Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) have formulated an electronic system for monitoring of trial researches for drugs in order to simplify and assist the control within the institutions that oversee ethics and professionalism in medical research aimed at ensuring the safety of drugs.

This was revealed at the 2nd annual meeting on the project aimed at following up and ensuring the safety of drugs that took place at TMDA offices in Dar es Salaam at the weekend and attended by experts from various universities and colleges, hospitals and other research institutions in the country.

Ag TMDA director general Akida Khea said the launching of the electronic follow up system is part of streamlining health research ethics and medicines regulation in Tanzania (SMERT) success story because researches done concerns drugs hence any harmful effects from drugs must be published.

He said: "Initially reports were conveyed in print but now through this new system research findings will be conveyed through online application whereas a researcher fills in his report about the research he plans to do on drugs." Khea said adding that the system is an aid to any person in the world when registering his

trials to be seen by all.

Mbeya NIMR director and project's main researcher (Tanzania-UK) Dr Nyanda Elias said: "Before the start of the new electronic system there was a big challenge of waiting very long time before researches are permitted. This affected research implementation that took very long periods to complete."

NIMR director for coordination and research development Dr Paulo Kazoyba explained that research on health must undergo ethical examination whether it is trial for new drugs or looking for information from the people.

The representative from St Andrews University in UK Dr Wilber Sabiiti said: "Tanzania is serious in conducting research hence it found the opportunity in its professional research capacity and drugs control and decided to apply for sponsorship from us. We supported their endeavours and gave them financial support, and have been successful."

Sabiiti who is expert in inventions of new drugs said when a new disease is discovered trial drugs must be examined for safety of the user.

He said as of now the world is like a village, people's health needs national and global experts in health, hence those doing research are required to ensure nobody within and outside the country is allowed to conduct research that will endanger people's health.



Selemani Jafu (L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), exchanges greetings with Mwalimu Commercial Bank executive Leticia Ndongole shortly before opening the first annual meeting of the Association of Primary School Head Teachers in Dodoma yesterday. Delegates were expected to be taken through the principles of financial management and the importance of banking part of their monthly income. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE blueprint on the improvement of business policies and laws in the country has received accolades from members and stakeholders of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) saying it would attract investors.

The blueprint which was engineered by TPSF and submitted to the government since 2010 is now at a good stage as the government has adopted the document for enactment of a law which is expected to be a catalyst on thorny issues facing the sector.

TPSF, stakeholders commend investment blueprint

The Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office tasked for Investment, Angellah Kairuki said the government has already taken some measures in implementing the plan which includes construction of infrastructures, port expansion and construction of airports.

"The fifth phase government has started by putting in place friendly environment through construction of infrastructures that will easy movement of goods and services to

local and international markets," she said.

Kairuki noted that on the same vein the government has removed over 54 charges and fees as well as merging regulatory authorities such as TFDA and TBS.

"The government will continue to review policies and laws that hinder the growth of the private sector with the aim of speeding up development and achieve the 2025 industrial and

middle income goals," she said.

For his part, the TPSF Chairman, Salum Shamte commended measures being taken by the government in support of the growth of the private sector.

"The blueprint was engineered by private sector with the major aim of finding solutions to challenges we are facing, now that the government has adopted it we should commend their efforts," he said.

Shamte further said that if the government continues to take such measures and amend policies and regulations the private sector would flourish as many more investors would be attracted to come an invest in the country.

"We have had several talks with the government on challenges facing the private sector, we ask the government to continue with the support given to us, we have a good intention of

improving investment environment in Tanzania," he said.

The TPSF Executive Director, Godfrey Simbeye hailed the government on the move which is due to be tabled in the Parliament come next session which is a crucial stage for it to become a law.

"The blueprint is good and we have had several discussions with the government as part of involvement in the whole process. We believe that having in place an Investment and Business Law in place will increase efficiency in the private sector," he said.



Concrete structures chiefly meant to prevent motorbike riders from disrupting flow of traffic along the Kisutu stretch of Dar es Salaam's busy Morogoro Road stand damaged and abandoned, reportedly for weeks now, as captured yesterday afternoon. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Dar community initiative helps schools to form weather groups

By Getrude Mbugo

THE Dar es Salaam-based Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) has formed environmental and weather clubs in eight primary schools in the city so as to furnish the pupils with prerequisite information and make them good ambassadors of climate and weather issues.

The move is part of the implementation of the three-year project dubbed Developing Risk Awareness through Joint Action (DARAJA) which is aimed to measurably improve co-creation and use of extreme weather information focusing informal settlements.

Stella Stephen, the project coordinator said that weather experts and stakeholders from CCI and the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) have been visiting the schools training them on weather issues.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the weekend when weather and climate stakeholders visited the clubs at Gilman Ruthihinda and Mkombozi Primary schools in Kigogo ward, Kinondoni district, Stephen underscored the need for the government and other stakeholders to see how they can scale up the project to other schools across the country for sustainable results.

According to her, since they established the clubs two months ago, the children have responded well as most of them are now good ambassadors to their parents and the communities they live disseminating information during critical weather alerts for the society to take precaution measures.

Stephen noted that children are good ambassadors and extremely important persons in supporting the flow of

seasonal and severe forecast products to communities.

Stephen said that the clubs has targets schools in most flood prone areas such as those along Msimbazi valley.

She named the schools as Ruthihinda and Mkombozi Primary schools in Kigogo ward, Kinondoni district; Keko Mwanga, Bokorani and Mtoni Sabasaba primary schools of Temeke district as well as Kombo, Vingunguti and Majani ya Chai primary schools in Ilala district.

Stephen also underscored the need for the government to incorporate weather and forecasts issues in school curriculum.

She noted that children are also good influencers; they have power to persuade someone on the thing which they think it is important, if they are trained about something, it is easier to go and share it to their parents.

Stephen said that the project aims to address vulnerability to extreme weather and climate impacts in rapidly-growing informal urban settlements.

For his part, head teacher at Gilman Ruthihinda primary school Andrea Shagama commended CCI for introducing the project at the school saying that it has helped teachers and pupils have deep understanding on the issues of weather and climate change.

Jeremia Shao, a chairperson of a pupil's weather club at Mapinduzi primary school said "My parents now are so happy as they are all sure to receive up-to-date weather information from me; usually our teachers announce the information in parade but also we exchange information in our clubs as well."

According to him, this has helped us a lot as our parents can now plan their daily and seasonal things as per weather forecasts.

Majaliwa set to begin four-day tour of Singida Region

By Guardian Correspondent

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa is set to begin a four-day official tour in Singida region to visit and inspect various regional and national development projects.

Briefing journalists yesterday in her office, Singida Regional Commissioner Rehema Nchimbi said that the Premier will start his tour on Friday this week by visiting Manyoni, Itigi, Ikungi districts and Singida municipal before going to Mkalama and Iramba districts.

"In his tour, the PM will visit and inspect regional and national projects including the construction of a 400kV transmission line from Singida to Isinya in Kenya through Babati, Arusha and Namanga which upon completion will enable the country to sell power to the neighboring country of Kenya," she noted.

The Prime Minister will also inspect the just completed Sibiti bridge that connects Singida and Simiyu regions.

Nchimbi further said that the Premier will also visit BioSustain cotton processing factory in Singida

municipality which has been also producing cotton seeds and supplying to farmers across the country.

According to her, the Prime Minister will finalise his tour by officiating this year's Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) national exhibitions on October 7.

Speaking on the forthcoming exhibition, SIDO director general Prof Sylvester Mpanduji, said the showcase event will be more attractive and unique due to the presence of countries like China, India and South Africa, which have made great

strides, in terms of manufacturing technology.

He said the exhibition intends to encourage and facilitate the growth of manufacturing products in the small and medium-sized industry, using the best technology, and ultimately to grow and increase productivity by increasing employment and income, as well as to contribute to poverty eradication in the country.

He also said that neighboring countries like Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda have been invited to participate during the exhibition.

By Guardian Reporter

THE use of mercury in mining has been termed as one of the dangerous practices affecting both the miners and environment.

Delivering remarks during the end of the three days commemoration of 50 years of geological profession in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, the Minister of Minerals, Doto Biteko said the government has signed a world treaty banning use of mercury.

He pointed out that the government signed the treaty given the fact that the chemical in question is dangerous to users and their surroundings.

Biteko decries use of mercury in mining

He noted that geology is one of the cross cutting professionals, calling on geologists to support the government in making sure that alternative to mercury is adopted to save environment from degradation and people's health from diseases.

"We hope that your union will help the government especially in protecting our resources. You should also support the government in ensuring that our minerals are legally mined. NEMC will give a grace period on the use of mercury

in mining," he said.

Biteko pointed out that geology as a profession is very crucial in mining, the sector which is also crucial for country's economic development, adding that geologists have a role to play in achieving the 2025 middle income and industrial country goals.

"I would like you to focus in changing this country and make it a better place rather than focusing on changing your own lives. You should also be reliable and credible in the way you do your works," he said.

For his part, National Environment Management Council (NEMC) director general, Dr Samuel Gwamaka reiterated the danger in the use of mercury, emphasizing that the government cannot allow people to risk their lives and threaten environment in search of wealth.

He said the government has good intention of helping small scale minors grow, adding that there are many ways of mining and some are still being researched with the

intention of improving small scale minors working environment.

"We will find alternative methods to help small scale minors shun use of mercury to protect their health and environment as well and make sure they lead a better life to be able to enjoy what they earn," he said.

Dr Gwamaka noted that there have been

several challenges amongst small scale minors, adding that most of those are due to lack of appropriate technical support from geologists and environmentalists.

"There is a need to adequately educate small scale minors on geological matters. We will otherwise continue to have accidents in the mining sites until we find ways of helping our people," he said.

Dr Gwamaka who is a geologist pointed out that there is a huge relation between small scale miner's activities and environment.



Irish potatoes displayed for sale yesterday at Ntokela village in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region, along the main road linking Tanzania with Malawi. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa



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Good news for Tanzania for sisal production to bounce back again

SISAL is an endemic tropical crop whose leaves provide the world's most important hard natural fibre used in the production of twines, ropes, sacks and carpets.

Sisal production in Tanzania began in the late 19th century by the German East Africa Company. Sisal was continually produced during the German administration and the British administration and was the colony's largest export highly prized for use in cordage and carpets worldwide. At the time of independence in 1961, Tanzania was the largest exporter of sisal in the world and the industry employed over 1 million farmers and factory workers.

Sisal production began to decline after independence due to the drop in world prices as synthetic nylon substitutes became more popular. The nationalisation of the estates during Ujamaa and the mismanagement of the estates further dropped the production in the country. However, in recent years the government has injected funds to help revive the industry's glory.

Sisal is the oldest commercial cash crop still in survival in Tanzania. In 1893 visionary German agronomist Dr. Richard Hindorf introduced the crop into the colony. The plant *Agave sisalana* was smuggled into Tanganyika from Yucatán, Mexico in the belly of a stuffed crocodile. Only 66 plants had survived the journey but it was commercially viable to start the industry.

The country's warm and semi arid climate was perfect for the plant and production in the colony grew exponentially. The plants fibers were mainly used for the production of ropes for the German naval fleet and sacks to export other agriculture products from the colony. This success story began to grab the attention of the other European powers expanding their navies and the industry expanded to the neighbouring colonies of modern-day Kenya, Mozambique and Angola.

At independence in 1961, Tanganyika

was the world leader in sisal production and over 200,000 tonnes of sisal was produced annually employing over 1 million workers in the industry. The crop was the country's highest foreign exchange earner and was referred to as Tanzania's 'green gold'.

Sisal production in the country peaked in 1964 with around 250,000 tonnes in production from regions from all over the country such as Tanga, Morogoro, Arusha, Mwanza and Shinyanga. In 1967 following the Arusha Declaration most of the sisal estates were nationalized by the government.

This began the downfall of the sisal industry as bureaucracy, over-centralization and lack of experience caused the production to fall rapidly. Furthermore, with the increasing popularity of Synthetic Nylon fibers, drove the world price for sisal down resulting in the foreclosure of many sisal factories.

With the changing economic landscape in Tanzania, the government of Tanzania passed the Sisal Industry Act, 1997; which allowed privatization of the government owned factories and established the Tanzania Sisal Board. Tanzania currently sits as the second largest producer of sisal in the world after Brazil and the government had revived the industry to help facilitate the nations former glory.

The Sisal plant is used to produce a sisal line fiber. Historically this fiber has been used to produce threads and ropes for ships. Domestically the fibers are used to make various handicraft products such as carpets, bags, sacks and low density cords.

In Tanzania, the Katani Limited constructed the country's first sisal waste bio gas power plant at Hale. Tanzania's large scale sisal farming by Noble Azania Investments is one of the successful commercial farming projects in Africa expected to feature the 6th Commercial Farm Africa meeting to be held in Kenya's capital, Nairobi next month.

Communities have obligation to value the contribution of their senior citizens

THE International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 each year. On December 14, 1990 the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons. The holiday was observed for the first time on October 1, 1991.

This year's theme is: "The Journey to Age Equality". The holiday is celebrated by raising awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.

This holiday is similar to National Grandparents Day in the United States and Canada as well as Double Ninth Festival in China and Respect for the Aged Day in Japan. The observance is a focus of ageing organizations and the United Nations Programme on Ageing.

Old age refers to ages nearing or surpassing the life expectancy of human beings, and is thus the end of the human life cycle. Terms and euphemisms include old people, the elderly (worldwide usage), seniors (American usage), senior citizens (British and American usages), older adults (in the social sciences), and the elders (in many cultures—including the cultures of aboriginal people).

Old people often have limited regenerative abilities and are more susceptible to disease, syndromes, injuries and sickness than younger adults. The organic process of ageing is called senescence, the medical study of the aging process is called gerontology, and the study of diseases that afflict the elderly is called geriatrics. The elderly also face other social issues around retirement, loneliness, and ageism.

Old people will also have a lot of symptoms. For example, healthy bones are critical to senior health. As the body ages, it begins to absorb old bone

tissue faster than new bone tissue can be created, thus bones tend to become thinner and weaker.

In 2011, the United Nations proposed a human rights convention that would specifically protect older persons.

Old age comprises the later part of life; the period of life after youth and middle age . . . , usually with reference to deterioration". At what age old age begins cannot be universally defined because it differs according to the context. The United Nations has agreed that 65+ years may be usually denoted as old age and this is the first attempt at an international definition of old age. However, for its study of old age in Africa, the World Health Organization (WHO) set 55 as the beginning of old age. At the same time, the WHO recognized that the developing world often defines old age, not by years, but by new roles, loss of previous roles, or inability to make active contributions to society.

The definitions of old age continue to change especially as life expectancy in developed countries has risen to beyond 80 years old.

Gerontologists have recognized the very different conditions that people experience as they grow older within the years defined as old age. In developed countries, most people in their 60s and early 70s are still fit, active, and able to care for themselves. However, after 75, they will become increasingly frail, a condition marked by serious mental and physical debilitation.

Two British scholars, Paul Higgs and Chris Gilleard, have added a "fourth age" sub-group. In British English, the "third age" is "the period in life of active retirement, following middle age". Higgs and Gilleard describe the fourth age as "an arena of inactive, unhealthy, unproductive, and ultimately unsuccessful ageing".

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Scapegoating illegal African immigrants as criminals adds fuel to the xenophobia fire

By Ryan Solomon

THE crucial fuel to anti-African immigrant sentiment, and hence of xenophobia, is the language of illegality which serves to scapegoat African migrants. They are here illegally, the logic goes, therefore they must be criminals.

I have been researching the response of civil society to xenophobic violence in South Africa since 2013. I was motivated to begin this research project because I was impressed with the broad public response to the 2008 violence, which seemed to invoke the best of South Africa's anti-apartheid values.

While conducting my research, I have been fortunate to work with many remarkable activists, particularly migrant activists, and I have encountered powerful condemnations of the xenophobic violence from across South Africa's social spectrum. But I have also become aware of the contradictions that underlie that condemnation, particularly in the way calls for protection of the rights of migrants are matched by anxiety about the threat of African migration, anxiety fuelled by stereotypes and misinformation about African migrants. It is unsurprising to me, therefore, that xenophobic violence has persisted despite expressions of pan-African solidarity. The crucial fuel to anti-African immigrant sentiment is the language of illegality, which serves to scapegoat African migrants. In my discussions with South Africans of all walks of life, I have encountered two repeated tropes:

- South Africa's borders are porous and the government isn't doing enough to control migration (even as deportation and policing of migrants continues to escalate); and

- Corrupt, criminal migrants are taking advantage of bad systems, including a broken asylum system, and unfairly claiming opportunities that belong to locals (that is, migrants themselves, rather than inconsistent and contradictory immigration policies, are the source of the problems with our immigration system).

An important feature of the language of immigrant illegality is that it imputes bad character to migrants. Because they deliberately choose to break the law by entering the country without permission, they have shown themselves to be both immoral and untrustworthy and as a result, they deserve to be punished. Failure to punish these treacherous migrants, in turn, would be condoning criminal behaviour, thus undermining the rule of law. Johannesburg Mayor Herman Mashaba has been a key proponent of



Johannesburg Mayor Herman Mashaba looks on as he meets with local councilors and law enforcement commanders in Johannesburg on August 2, 2019 following a day of unrest that saw police forces forced to retreat after allegedly being attacked by informal street traders

these arguments, even as he is simply voicing a widespread commonsense. The irony is, it is exactly this reasoning that is driving the vigilante violence in the first place. By taking the law into their own hands, vigilantes are simply appropriating the state's legitimate monopoly on the abuse and victimisation of migrants. I think it is important to be critical of the language of illegality, which ascribes a problematic agency to undocumented migrants, thereby masking the structural factor that both creates the condition of illegality and forces certain migrants to move.

It is a fallacy that most African migrants can easily be documented in South Africa. All the African migrants I have worked with are desperate to be documented because being undocumented increases their vulnerability and makes it harder for them to access needed services. But they can't.

South Africa, both during and after apartheid, has consistently limited the ability of African migrants to legally migrate. A profound legacy of apartheid is broad scepticism about the value of African migration. As a result, about the only way for most African migrants to legally enter the country is through claiming asylum, which has only served to magnify the contradictions of our refugee system, which features a nearly 90% rejection rate.

Unfortunately, rather than interrogate those contradictions, we

continue to scapegoat African migrants. The problem is those "illegals" rather than the system of legal violence that defines our immigration controls. The result is the continued justification of the heavy-handed policing of migrants, despite calls for the protection of those same migrants.

Even worse, vulnerable migrants end up being conflated with their attackers, implying that they should be treated similarly. Police operations like Operation Fiela, which featured disproportionate arrests of undocumented migrants, exemplify this dynamic. The outcome is a vicious cycle of xenophobia that we are struggling to escape, in part because immigration controls necessitate the very condition we seek to punish. This vicious cycle builds on and reinforces colonial legacies.

I will offer a few brief observations about how we might disrupt this cycle.

To start, I think it is necessary to change the way we think about xenophobia. Xenophobia is not an outlier, it is not simply a matter of individual attitudes, and it is not only expressed through overt hostility. Rather, it is a manifestation of a broad anti-African immigrant culture, which takes shape through a range of forms – from statements by political leaders to township gossip to uncritical media reports – and is finally reified through legal and political institutions of immigration control.

In other words, xenophobia has its roots not in the unjustified hostility of

vigilantes, but in the commonsense of border controls. A more complex understanding of xenophobia requires grappling with the dangerous logic of the Mashabas of the world, who, in many ways, reflect the status quo of the international border hegemony and its requisite rhetoric of illegality. South Africa's xenophobic violence is hardly an exception.

Actually, the vigilante violence in South Africa is dwarfed by the legal border violence that has taken the lives of thousands of migrants while crossing the US southern border and the Mediterranean. All of this violence is performed in the name of citizenship and its attendant rights.

The irony is that South Africa is under pressure to increase its controls exactly because the US and Europe are deliberately pushing the "risk" of migration back to countries such as South Africa, Turkey, Jordan, Libya, Mexico, Honduras and so on. In effect, I am asking South Africans to be more critical of the status quo of international immigration controls, which serve to limit the movement of Africans in particular.

As the Department of Home Affairs' contradictory 2017 white paper on immigration recognises, the colonial legacy of border controls works to reinforce historical inequalities, which means we need a policy that fundamentally challenges that border logic. In other words, it is time for us to move from saying "no" to xenophobia to saying "yes" to African migration.

News matters to you and me – and it’s for a reason

DAY by day, our fast-changing world grows more complex, confusing and challenging. The United States is at odds with China. The planet is getting warmer faster. Technology is disrupting just about every industry, from banks and money changers, to airlines, travel agents and the media.

Little wonder then that we all need some help keeping up to speed with these changes, making sense of them all, and trying to figure out where things are heading.

Pressed for time in dealing with information overload, people are also finding it harder to sift out what is real from fake, with more and more dubious content swirling around, spread rapidly over the new communications technologies.

So, ironically, while the world is more connected today and more people have much more information readily available at their fingertips, societies are not necessarily better informed or equipped to make the tough choices needed if we are to address the many challenges we face.

Instead, the credibility of – and trust in – major institutions seem to be insidiously chipped away amid the welter of information and disinformation, facts and alternative facts, thereby undermining our ability to have sensible democratic discussions on the way forward.

This is where journalists and professional newrooms come in. Our job is to seek out information, cross-check and verify it, understand the history, background and context, strive to be balanced and objective, analyse and interpret developments, and seek to put out as fair and unvarnished an account of events as we can, to help our audiences make up their minds on what it all means for them.

This matters – because, in the absence of credible and reliable information, we cannot have rational and reasonable debates. Instead, discussions turn into shouting matches which



tend to be dominated, and won, by those with the loudest, most nasty or persistent, or often, the best financed voices.

Every one of us ends up the loser – it is your views, your society, your future that is degraded in the process.

Real news matters. So, yes, it matters. Which is why the theme for this year’s World News Day (September 28) was simply: ‘Real News Matters’.

Promoting real news matters. Facts matter. Accuracy matters. Objectivity matters. Balance matters. Accountability matters. Equality matters. History matters. News matters.

It is commonplace today to say, rather convincingly, that news is available for free, everyone is a journalist, and there is no future for journalism.

That, to me, is an example of fake news. News you receive is never free. Content costs money to produce, es-

pecially quality, credible, in-depth, reliable content. If you are getting it for free, it usually that means someone is paying for it – and getting it to you for a reason.

Perhaps it is to sell you some marketing message or propaganda. It could be to influence your views or spending preferences. It could be to sway your vote, or shape your society. In other words, you and the data about you are the product being traded and sold.

So, indeed, it does matter. This is why we mark WND. Some 38 newsrooms from around the world came together this Saturday (September 28) to celebrate the work of professional journalists and the difference it can make.

On the www.worldnewsday.org website there is a host of compelling stories of how journalists and newsrooms have worked to help improve public policy, expose corruption, fight sexual

abuse, harassment and discrimination, address major issues of the day, and also inspire and uplift communities.

This global collaboration is led by the World Editors Forum and WAN-IFRA, the World Association of News Publishers.

We are building on the efforts of the Canadian Journalism Foundation, which launched a WND project in Canada last year. We hope to keep growing this effort to make WND an annual celebration around the world, to showcase how journalists and newsrooms contribute to the societies they are meant to serve.

–Warren Fernandez is Editor-in-Chief of The Straits Times and President of the World Editors Forum. He penned this piece specifically to mark this year’s edition of World News Day celebrations.



Although little is known about the initiative, it has significant potential for individual states and the region. File photo

Can the Accra initiative prevent terrorism in West African coastal states?

BY SAMPSON KWARKYE, ELLA JEANNINE ABATAN AND MICHAËL MATONGBADA

THE Accra Initiative was launched in September 2017 by Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Togo in response to growing insecurity linked to violent extremism in the region. It aims to prevent a spillover of terrorism from the Sahel and to address transnational organised crime in border areas. This year Mali and Niger were admitted as observers given their proximity to coastal states and their experience in countering violent extremism.

International interest in preventing regional instability is growing, but two years after the Accra Initiative was launched, little is known about it and its prospects for success.

The launch predates Burkina Faso’s Operation Otapuanu in March, after which Burkinabe officials told their southern counterparts of extremists’ attempts to penetrate their territories. Burkina Faso was considered a buffer against the spread of violent extremism to coastal states. But since a series of attacks in its eastern region, some close to the borders with its southern neighbours, it no longer is.

The 1 May kidnapping of two French tourists in Pendjari National Park straddling the Benin-Burkina Faso border and the murder of their Beninese guide also occurred after the initiative was launched. This incident confirms terror groups’ attempts to gain a foothold in the northern borders of coastal states.

The Accra Initiative is a cooperative and collaborative security mechanism. It is anchored on three pillars: information and intelligence sharing; training of security and intelligence personnel; and conducting joint cross-border military operations to sustain border security. Meetings are held at two levels – heads of security and intelligence services; and government ministers in charge of security. Head meetings are held on a quarterly basis and are followed by ministerial meetings.

In May 2018, Operation Koudalougou I was conducted jointly by Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo in their border areas. This was followed by Operation Koudalougou II, conducted by Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana in November 2018. There are several advantages to the Accra Initiative. First, it doesn’t rely on a heavy administrative structure. Rather, it operates with focal points in each member country and a central coordinator in Ghana’s national security secretariat. This reduces bureaucratic bottlenecks and facilitates communication and collaboration among members. Second, despite resource

constraints, the initiative is funded by member countries, who view ownership of it and non-dependence on external funding as important. This gives it the political commitment needed for its success and provides implementers with the leeway to set the agenda and determine priorities.

Third, according to officials involved in the initiative, periodic meetings of security and intelligence heads have significantly contributed to building trust and confidence among countries, some of which had been suspicious of each other. For example Côte d’Ivoire and Togo have occasionally suspected Ghana of harbouring political dissidents. The initiative has enhanced information and intelligence sharing and fostered cooperation to prevent violent extremism.

Last, while the initiative favours a military-oriented regional response, it is complemented by non-security interventions by members at a national level. Ghana for example has developed a counter-terrorism framework and an action plan, which has dedicated one of its pillars to addressing the root causes of extremism.

Benin’s border management agency is tackling vulnerabilities in border areas by implementing developmental projects in affected localities. In May 2019, Togo established an inter-ministerial committee for preventing and countering violent extremism partly to strengthen community resilience.

National authorities in Côte d’Ivoire, in collaboration with religious leaders, have adopted a teaching kit (Mallette pédagogique) as a tool that helps track radicalisation activities and promotes peaceful religious practices. The country is also developing a national strategy for countering and preventing violent extremism.

Notwithstanding the positives, challenges remain for the Accra Initiative. Military operations, despite leading to arrests, have been ad hoc, limited in duration (four-day deployments) and geographically reach. They only temporarily halt terror groups’ activities and movements, and don’t ensure continuity. This means that situations can relapse between operations.

Countries have limited intelligence capabilities which means they can’t effectively track and control extremist groups’ movement across their borders.

There are also differences in members’ sectors and operational concepts. While Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Togo all have gendarmeries, Ghana doesn’t. Benin has the Republican Police, a merger of their police and gendarmerie.

Sampson Kwarkye, Senior Researcher, Ella Abatan, Researcher and Michaël Matongbada, Junior Researcher, ISS Dakar

Missing but not forgotten: 5 years after Chibok girls’ kidnapping

By Special Correspondent in Abuja

AT the age of 14, Hajja (name changed to protect the identity of the individual) and 275 of her classmates were kidnapped from her all-girls secondary boarding school in Chibok in north-east Nigeria’s Borno State on April 14, 2014.

Eventually she and 163 other girls were released or managed to escape, but the aftermath of the abduction left a trail of uncertainty and despair among the families of the abductees and the entire Chibok community.

Around the world, the tragedy caught the attention of prominent personalities including former UD first lady Michelle Obama who joined the ‘Bring Back Our Girls’ movement advocating the release of all the girls.

Five years later, little is known of the whereabouts or living conditions of the other 111 girls. Despite international efforts, their parents still wonder if their daughters are alive while other families now strive to support their rescued daughters’ return to normalcy.

According to a UNICEF report, more than 3,500 children have been recruited and used by non-state armed groups in north-east Nigeria since 2013, warning that the exact figures are likely to be higher. In addition to these children, last year saw 432 children killed and maimed, 180 abducted and 43 girls sexually abused in the region, the report reads.

The tragedy in Chibok prompted the start of the International Organisation for Migration’s (IOM) mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programme in May 2014.

IOM initially trained Chibok community members to promote and enhance the well-being of the rescued girls. After initial research, local teams held their first workshop on psychosocial support in Bauchi, a more accessible state, alongside IOM psychosocial experts, representatives of the government of nearby Borno State, the donor community and other key actors.

As time passed, it became clear that the release of the remaining abducted girls would take longer than expected, a challenge compounded by the escalation of violence and massive dis-

placement in several north-east Nigerian states that November.

Humanitarian access to and around Chibok is often hampered by obstacles related to security and infrastructure, so IOM created, trained and deployed three local psychosocial mobile teams to provide basic, regular psychosocial support to affected communities in their homes.

From June to September 2014, the MHPSS team and their partners visited the affected families to learn from the community’s understanding of psychosocial support, their existing coping mechanisms including community prayer sessions, the risks they still faced and the services they needed.

Teams then organised workshops for the parents of the abducted girls which provided a space for them to open up about their fears and concerns. Participants learned about stress management, loss and grief in ambiguous and uncertain times.

Following the workshops, parents made commitments to build community support by conducting regular house visits, organising prayers and sharing their skills with each other.

Later on, IOM organised three-day workshops for the rescued girls and their parents. The parents shared their concerns and reflected on their daughters’ reluctance to go back to school owing to fear of being rejected by their classmates and teachers.

The girls were encouraged to reflect on their fears, strengths and skills, and learn coping mechanisms to break the cycle of distress. The workshops also helped the girls strengthen ties with their parents and overcome their fears of returning to school.

“If I had known I would be abducted from secondary school, I would have never gone to primary school,” said Hajja at one of the workshops, adding: “I now feel strong to hold on to my education and have hope for the future.”

As the situation in Chibok remained in the spotlight in Nigeria and beyond, IOM organised training for journalists and reporters in November 2014 in Nigeria’s capital, Abuja.

Twenty media professionals learned about the psychosocial effects of the news coverage of the abductions.



They also learned how to carry out their work without causing harm, protect the confidentiality of the victims and avoid false narratives and stigmatisation.

Despite the volatile situation, IOM is the only agency providing comprehensive psychosocial support activities in the Chibok area.

Five years since the implementation of the first project, IOM now provides MHPSS support to other communities affected by violence in north-east Nigeria, including students, young women, children and other individuals in need of protection.

These interventions ensure that affected populations are first and foremost viewed as active participants in improving individual and collective well-being rather than passive recipients of aid. This translates into mutual support between families and other social groups in ways that encourage recovery and resilience.

Since 2014, more than 100,000 people have accessed life-changing services, thanks to the strong collaboration with key partners at national and state levels.

Today, PSS mobile teams operate resource centres in 12 locations in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. Eighteen teams composed of 114 members – including educators, health care

workers, counsellors and social workers – offer recreational activities for children and youth, which regularly involve artistic workshops, informal education for adults, counselling and support groups.

The organisation co-chairs the MHPSS sub-working group in north-east Nigeria with the Nigerian Health ministry, coordinating the MHPSS response and providing technical support and capacity building to national institutions and relevant actors.

Five years since the abductions paralyzed Chibok, the project’s approach has proven to empower the community to become drivers for their own care, and it has helped to expand MHPSS interventions to other areas in the north east.

By integrating psychosocial support into livelihood activities, IOM promotes positive coping mechanisms and resilience among the displaced population.

These activities help people manage stress and increase self-esteem, providing beneficiaries with a sense of agency. Ten years into the crisis, these are essential components to build hope for 7.1 million people in need.

• Piece reprinted courtesy of The Storyteller/IOM.

Can South Africa and Nigeria reset their relations?

BY PETER FABRICIUS

THE wheels of South Africa-Nigeria relations seem to keep spinning, with little forward movement. Officials on both sides yearn nostalgically for the golden days when former presidents Thabo Mbeki and Olusegun Obasanjo collaborated closely, leading the transformation of the Organisation of African Unity into the African Union (AU) and launching associated institutions such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Pan-African Parliament.

Since then more visionary officials have been painfully aware that the two giants of Africa - or at least sub-Saharan Africa - really haven't cooperated much at all, either to strengthen bilateral relations, or advance the wider interests of Africa. Every time the two sides try to reset relations, something unscripted intervenes.

In 2016 when then president Jacob Zuma visited Nigeria, the irritant was the huge fine the Nigerian government had imposed on South African cell-phone company MTN. The company had failed to disconnect tens of thousands of unregistered customers.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari was supposed to reciprocate Zuma's state visit in 2017 but Buhari was on sick leave for much of that year. After taking over in early 2018, President Cyril Ramaphosa visited Nigeria. Then the side issue was the accusation by the Nigerian central bank that MTN had repatriated profits to South Africa illegally.

Ramaphosa invited Buhari to visit and that should have happened later in 2018 but scheduling problems prevented it. So now Buhari is expected in South Africa on a state visit next week when he will co-chair with Ramaphosa the Bi-National Commission (BNC).

South African officials explain all this in part to make the point that the timing of Buhari's visit is not related to the latest - major - obstacle in relations. That is, last month's outbreak of



The two African giants want to move on, but must first get past the difficult issue of xenophobia. File photo

xenophobic violence in South Africa, some of it targeting Nigerians, and the retaliatory attacks by Nigerians against South African business interests in Nigeria.

Those are clearly going to be on the agenda, the official conceded, but they just don't want Buhari's visit to be seen as only or even mainly about that. 'This is an opportunity to look at how we can work together to strengthen relations and advance the integration of the continent,' said a South African official who preferred to remain anonymous.

At stake is the success of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement which has been launched but has not come into effect yet. Pretoria signed up quite early but Nigeria only did so much later due to fears of too much competition from elsewhere in Africa. Some observers suspect that it is mainly competition from South Africa that has been worrying Nigeria, although South African officials insist that their country's exports already enter Nigeria largely duty-free so Nigeria has nothing to fear.

The challenge for both sides will be to keep public attention on the big

picture rather than xenophobia. Nigerians were not the only Africans targeted by xenophobic mobs, but their reaction was certainly the strongest. Buhari and his foreign minister publicly condemned the attacks and criticised the South African government for failing to deal adequately with them. Nigeria also evacuated several hundred of its citizens via emergency airlift.

In Nigeria, mobs attacked the premises of several South African companies in the country in reprisal, forcing several to stop operations for several days. Pretoria shut its High Commission in Abuja and Consulate-General in Lagos because demonstrations against them threatened to get violent.

Ramaphosa responded too slowly, later offering profuse apologies. He dispatched a team of special envoys to capitals across the continent to apologise personally to leaders, including Buhari, on his behalf. The head of this mission, Jeff Radebe, revealed after meeting Buhari that

next week Nigeria's delegation would demand compensation and restitution for its nationals for losses suffered in the xenophobic violence.

Nigeria is evidently the only country seeking compensation. Pretoria officials say the demand will be rebuffed as similar requests were after previous eruptions of xenophobic violence in 2008 and 2015. Government's position will be that Nigerians who have suffered losses must claim compensation from their insurance companies, not the South African government. The same applies to South African companies in Nigeria that sustained losses in the reprisal attacks.

Whether this issue will dominate Buhari's visit and distract from the broader agenda is a real risk and both sides have tried to defuse the crisis. Nigerian officials promised not to raise xenophobia at the current United Nations General Assembly session.

'It's generally accepted, we believe, that for the continent to move forward, South Africa and

Nigeria need to work together,' the South African official told ISS Today. 'We don't need to agree on every issue. But we do need to find agreement within broad strategic parameters.'

Nigeria and South Africa, each the dominant military and economic power in its own region, should be to the AU what the France-Germany partnership has been to the European Union, he said, the backbone of the institution.

Economically Nigeria needed to diversify its economy away from its excessive dependence on oil and both countries had agreed that South Africa could help with that. This was through cooperation especially in agribusiness, communications and mining, where South Africa was strong - and Nigeria has vast untapped minerals. Anything the two countries could do to help boost each other's economies would be helpful both to themselves and the continent.

As the International Monetary Fund's latest sub-Saharan Africa

Regional Economic Outlook underscores, Nigeria and South Africa's limping economies are dragging the region's figures down. Regional GDP growth is set to rise from 3% in 2018 to 3.5% in 2019 and to stabilise at slightly below 4% over the medium term - or about 5% excluding the two major economies, Nigeria and South Africa.'

Dianna Games, Executive Director of the South Africa-Nigeria Business Chamber (Johannesburg), says while it's coincidental that Buhari is coming at this time, it does provide an opportunity for the two countries to really tackle xenophobia and other issues once and for all.

She says neither country can afford to allow such issues to distract them from cooperating and advancing together. 'Nigeria and South Africa have gradually lost the mantle of African leadership because of their ongoing distraction with bilateral challenges and their failure to cooperate and engage proactively for the good of each other and the continent.'

The risk of nuclear war is increasing

WASHINGTON DC

OVER the long course of the nuclear age, millions of people around the world, often led by a young generation of clear-eyed activists, have stood up to demand meaningful, immediate international action to halt, reduce, and end the threat posed by nuclear weapons to humankind and the planet.

Today, a new generation is mobilising to demand dramatic action to address another existential threat: the human-induced climate emergency. The scientific consensus is that climate change causes and impacts are increasing, and little more than a decade is left to take the bold steps necessary to cut global carbon emissions in half and reverse the slide toward catastrophe.

The disarmament movement has achieved success in reducing nuclear dangers before, but there is no room for complacency. The nuclear threat has not gone away. Nuclear competition is growing. The risk of nuclear war is increasing.

Just as dramatic action is needed to avoid climate change catastrophe, immediate and decisive action is required to counter the growing threat of nuclear war before it is too late.

A qualitative global nuclear arms race is now underway. The world's nine nuclear-armed actors are collectively squandering hundreds of billions of dollars to maintain and improve their arsenals. Tensions between nuclear-armed states are on the rise. Key treaties are under threat.

With the loss of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in August, the only remaining treaty verifiably limiting the world's two largest arsenals is the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), which is due to expire in less than 17 months.

Washington and Moscow are pursuing the development of destabilising types of weapons, including new lower-yield, "more usable" nuclear weapons. Each side still clings to Cold



War-era nuclear launch-under-attack postures that increase the risk of miscalculation.

The use of nuclear weapons—even on a so-called "limited" scale—creates the potential for global catastrophe. A HYPERLINK "<https://sgs.princeton.edu/the-lab/plan-a>" \t "_blank" new simulation developed by scientists at Princeton University estimates that if, in a U.S.-Russian confrontation in the Baltics, one side resorts to the "tactical" use of nuclear weapons and the other responds, their current war plans could lead to an escalatory exchange involving 1,700 nuclear deto-

A new simulation depicts the consequences of a U.S.-Russian nuclear exchange. File photo

nations against military and civilian targets.

Within five hours, nearly 100 million people would be killed or injured.

Many more people would suffer and die in the weeks and months afterward. A HYPERLINK "<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1029/2019JD030509>" \t "_blank" new study of the longer-term climatic effects of a large-scale U.S.-Russian nuclear exchange estimates that the resulting fallout and fires would

inject 150 million metric tons of soot and smoke into the earth's upper atmosphere within two weeks, resulting in a drop in global temperatures of 9 degrees Celsius and a 30 percent drop in precipitation within 12 months.

The resulting nuclear winter would wreak havoc on food production and lead to global famine.

Effective policies to address the nuclear threat must begin with the understanding that the only way to eliminate the threat of nuclear war is to eliminate nuclear weapons. The 2017 Treaty on the

Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a crucial step in this direction, but it is not an all-in-one solution to reduce today's nuclear dangers.

Leading nuclear and non-nuclear states need to take overdue, common-sense steps necessary to halt and reverse the arms race, reduce the salience of nuclear weapons, eliminate the most destabilizing types of weapons, and create the conditions for nuclear disarmament.

To start, all nuclear-armed states should reaffirm the 1985 pledge made by Soviet leader

Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought."

The Kremlin has recently proposed that U.S. and Russian leaders reissue a joint statement along these lines, but Washington has demurred.

Nuclear-armed states should agree to adopt policies that reduce nuclear risks, such as no first use of nuclear weapons. Given the risks of escalation, there is no plausible circumstance that could justify legally, morally, or militarily the use of nuclear weapons to deal with a non-nuclear threat.

Washington and Moscow also should extend New START by five years as allowed by the treaty and immediately begin talks on a follow-on deal to set lower limits on all types of nuclear weaponry, including nonstrategic nuclear weapons; a new agreement dealing with ground-launched, intermediate-range systems; and new restrictions on destabilizing missile defense deployments and long-range hypersonic weapons.

Further U.S.-Russian progress on disarmament would pressure the other nuclear actors, including China, to agree to freeze the overall size of their smaller but still deadly nuclear arsenals and agree to joint nuclear risk-reduction measures, such as ratification of the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and join talks on nuclear disarmament.

The catastrophic consequences of failure on climate change and nuclear weapons are well documented, the steps necessary to mitigate the risks are well known, and the public demand for action is powerful. But the political will to take action is weak.

To give future generations the chance to eliminate the nuclear danger, our generation must act decisively to reduce the threat of nuclear war and put us back on the path to global zero.

'More men opt for vasectomy'

By Felister Peter, Recently in Kasulu

TODAY in Kigoma region, more men are opting for vasectomy, a permanent pregnancy prevention solution for men only to reduce the burden of births to women and take full responsibility of their families.

"We encourage men to go for vasectomy since a single man opting for it, equals to 10 women using contraceptives", says Dr Norbert Nshemetse, medical officer in-charge at Bitale Health Center in Kasulu district, Kigoma region.

Dr Nshemetse highlighted that the mindset of Kasulu dwellers is now changing as the number of spouses seeking the service is increasing. He said previously the residents (men) were worried that vasectomy would lead into inability to perform sexual intercourse, but currently, the uptake of the method is promisingly improving.

"Men are now more transparent about this minor surgical procedure and its benefits. They previously considered family planning as a woman's privilege", he noted insisting that vasectomy does not affect penile erection.

He linked the mindset change with the continuous education the community receives from health care providers as well as community health workers empowered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project - 'USAID Boshesha Afya'. He said the project provides various supports in promoting family planning including training of health care practitioners, equipment and data collection.

According to Dr Nshemetse, 11 men have undergone vasectomy from January to August 2019, the number which is high compared to previous years. He however said 38 women opted for per-

manent contraception within the specific period.

Sabina Mandondo, a nurse at Bitale health centre responsible for maternal and new born health said: "Women in Kigoma region prefer giving birth to many children, for them it is a prestige. Some of them have more than 13 children".

She noted that the educative trainings conducted by USAID Boshesha Afya have helped to improve their skills especially in the treatment of new born as well as family planning services. She said women are educated on family planning during their monthly antenatal care (ANC) visits whereas more than 80 women have showed interest to adopt various family planning methods.

Mandondo who started working as a nurse in 1993 insisted that family planning services are crucial for both, men and women since they all need time to rest and take care of their children. She said once a woman conceives frequently, can hardly participate in income generating activities, hence poverty.

Following sensitization of the villagers which has been done by skilled health care providers at Bitale health center, the villagers are now changing their attitudes towards family planning as most of men are now seeking vasectomy services. Adriano Chambala (59) from Bitale village is among men who have made up their minds and adopted permanent contraception for men (vasectomy) and are enjoying making sex to their partners since they do not fear making their wives pregnant.

Chambala, a father to 9 children said he first heard about the minor surgical procedure from seminars conducted by health care providers, but also he read the same on posters.

"After I was satisfied that vasectomy does not have any negative health impact, I shared the



Adriano Chambala and his wife Abia Julius with their last two children. Photo: Felister Peter

idea with my wife, and she accepted. We all wanted to have enough time to care of our children and be able to engage in other economic activities", said Chambala insisting to be healthy since he went for the surgical procedure in February this year.

So far, he has been able to convince three other men to go for the services.

According to Chambala, permanent contraception for both women and men helps mothers to regain their health status after a

series of deliveries and provides time for the spouses to engage in income generating activities including farming.

His wife, Abia Julius (38) said: "I supported the idea because we already have 9 children. The first 7 children are from his earlier wife who died some years ago. He married me recently, and we now have two children. We agreed that he go for vasectomy so that we can comfortably take care of the family".

Julius who's last born is 9 months insists

that she can now concentrate with farming and other income generating activities.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) there are two factors affecting men's acceptance of vasectomy in many countries one being cultural patterns of male dominance, the thing that discourage men from choosing vasectomy and secondly, men mistakenly believe that vasectomy will negatively affect their masculinity or sexual performance.

Irrigation scheme boosts rice growers in Sikonge

By Guardian Correspondent, Sikonge

IMPROVEMENT of irrigation infrastructure in Sikonge District, Tabora Region has increased rice production from two to eight tonnes per hectare something that has transformed lives of hundreds of farmers in the area.

Secretary of Ulyanyama Irrigation Scheme Association, Simon Kalosa said when speaking to

journalists and officials from National Irrigation Commission (NIRC), who visited the scheme over the weekend.

He said: "Our production has increased soon after the government renovated the irrigation infrastructure and farmers trained on the wise-use of the facility."

According to him, on average rice production in Ulyanyama scheme has increased to eight from two tonnes per hectare

they used to get before the refurbishment of the scheme.

"This has improved people's lives in this area as many people have built modern houses and educate their children," he said, adding that the scheme has more than 300 farmers in the district.

One of the farmers who are benefiting from the scheme, Happiness Mpunda described irrigation as a game changer as

it has transformed her life to better. "I've enough food to feed my family the whole year," she said, adding that in the 2018/2019 farming season she harvested 35bags per acre but in the past she used to get six bags per acre.

"There is a big difference in rice production as compared to the past, when we're using traditional irrigation infrastructure. We're spending lots of energy with very low production," she

said. Mpunda revealed that she managed to send her five children to school, and bought transport that managed her to transport her crops to the markets.

Chairman of the Ulyanyama Irrigation Scheme Association, Dikson Simbila cited poor price of rice as a challenge thwarting their dreams.

In addressing the challenge,

Simbila said that the association bought rice processing plant to add value of the crop.

"We're using the plant to grade rice and sell it in different markets within and outside the district," he said.

Tabora regional irrigation engineer, Bahati Bulekele said that the region has 38 hectares of land which is fit for irrigation, though only 5,352 hectares have developed.

Eng Bulekele said that the region has a total of 58 irrigation schemes in different district councils and out of that only 16 are operating.

Established in 1987, NIRC is charged with coordination, promotional and regulatory functions in the development of the irrigation sector, has developed comprehensive guidelines to manage irrigation schemes countrywide.

Ebola one year on - the wins, setbacks, and way forward

KINSHASA

THE last five years have witnessed the two biggest outbreaks of Ebola, first in West Africa and currently in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The DRC is no stranger to Ebola and has battled the virus on nine previous occasions since 1976.

The current outbreak however, for a multitude of socio-political reasons, refuses to give in to efforts by an international team of health care workers, armed with vaccines and treatment regimes, which did not even exist during previous episodes. As the outbreak surpasses its one year mark, the virus has infected over 3000 people and claimed more than 2000 lives.

In July, the World Health Organisation declared the outbreak a public health emergency but recent weeks still saw an average of 80 new cases. Every new case is followed up with contact-tracing and ring-vaccination. To date, more than 200

000 people have been administered the Merck rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine in the country.

In addition to the vaccine, two treatments are also under trial and have shown promise to prevent deaths from Ebola, if administered early enough after infection. These drugs are based on "neutralizing" antibodies from Ebola survivors which bind to proteins on the virus and prevent it from infecting cells.

The exponential rise of infections in this epidemic was curbed by a rapid health response and the early use of an effective vaccine to immunize those at highest risk of exposure. On the other hand, 14 months on, the epidemic has not yet ended.

At this stage of the outbreak it's useful to take a step back and reflect on why the disease gets so much attention - and if it's justified. Second, to consider what the blockages have been, and finally, what the way forward might be.

Why so much attention?

The medical response to an Ebola infection is markedly more challenging than many other diseases. It is one of the most deadly viruses with a 60% - 90% mortality rate compared to 2% for measles.

The Ebola virus is extremely infectious and highly communicable. Treating the disease is resource intensive. Patients must be kept in isolation in specialised, well-designed treatment centres. Health care workers are at high risk of exposure and must take extreme precautions to examine patients. Breakdown in personal protection and infrastructure can be fatal.

In fact, approximately 6% of the victims have been involved in looking after patients. These issues bring logistical limitations to the management of this disease, especially in a densely populated region shouldering an extremely high share of the global infectious disease burden.



Benjamin Nkaka, acting director of retail banking at NBC, draws curtain to show the prizes to be awarded to winners of the bank's 'Ibuka Kidedea na NBC Malengo' campaign launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The drive is meant to mobilise the bank's customers and the larger public into cultivating a money-saving culture. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Prince Harry: Protecting nature 'may sound hippy' but is vital

LILONGWE

PRINCE Harry has said humanity needs to beat 'greed, apathy and selfishness' to guarantee its survival in the world.

He said it is essential to 'co-exist', and learn from mistakes 'to protect the world's most valuable assets'.

It comes as he prepares to visit a conservation project in Malawi.

On his visit to the Liwonde National Park, the duke is expected to pay tribute to Matthew Talbot a British soldier killed by an elephant earlier this year while working as a counter-poaching operator.

Earlier, at a reception at the of-

ficial residence of Britain's High Commissioner to Malawi, he said a major collaborative effort "across agencies, borders and continents" is needed to end the poaching of animals in Africa.

Prince Harry also held talks with Malawi's president Peter Mutharika.

The Duke and Duchess of Sus-

sex are on a 10-day tour to southern Africa, their first official overseas trip with their four-month old son, Archie.

Meghan and Archie have remained in South Africa while the duke is currently on a solo tour that has also seen him go to Botswana and Angola.

On Sunday, Meghan, met female

activists and leaders at an event in Cape Town, South Africa.

In his Telegraph article, Prince Harry warned of "vast ecosystems" set ablaze in Africa, communities destroyed for short-term gain, and said that a "natural order" between humans and wildlife must be restored. He said: "This may well sound hippy to some. But we can-

not afford to have a 'them or us' mentality. Humans and animals and their habitats fundamentally need to co-exist or within the next 10 years our problems across the globe will become even more unmanageable".

Prince Harry added that "Nature teaches us the importance of a circular system, one where nothing goes to waste and everything has a role to play". "If we interfere with it, rather than work with it, the system will break down".

It is not the prince's first championing of the subject of conservation. In the September's edition of Vogue - edited by Meghan - the prince spoke about environmental issues and his love for nature.

Measuring the scale of the conflict in South Sudan

IT was a quiet Sunday morning in January 2017, in the southern South Sudanese town of Mondikolok and some people were on their way to church, while others stayed home and packed suitcases, preparing for a long journey.

Chaplain Logonda was in his mud-walled house and getting ready to leave when he heard the sound of gunfire and rushed outside.

"I saw the government soldiers. They were coming and four of them lined up," he said.

They were in uniform, about 30 feet from where he stood.

"They started saying, 'You don't run,'" he said.

Mondikolok, in Kajo Keji county, is close to Uganda, to its south and further from Juba, the South Sudanese capital, to its north.

In southern South Sudan, citizens are often mistaken for opposition fighters and Logonda, a former county school inspector, knew better than to listen to the soldiers' orders.

"I had to run," he said.

Logonda ran behind his house, away from the main road and the village market, where he knew he would likely find more government soldiers. He went toward the narrow, beaten pathways through the bushes that lead into farmers' fields, over to the forest, and on to neighbouring villages. As he was running, the soldiers shot their guns.

"So, on my process of running, I was falling, they were shooting, I was falling, they were shooting," he said.

He dove into the bushes, tearing off his shirt to blend further into the bush and soil. He was barefoot, having been inside his house and running without time to prepare. He turned his phone off, fearing it would make a sound and give his location away.

As he lay among the grass, he heard a woman scream, "I'm off, I'm finished."

"I had to lie down flat on the ground," he said more than a year later, sitting on a blue plastic chair outside his home in the Palorinya refugee camp, in northern Uganda.

Logonda pulled up his sleeve, revealing the scars from when he rolled over rocks and away from the bullets. There were more on his legs and ankles.

He said he was laying in the dirt, watching the soldiers advance, hoping they would miss him when he saw one of them set the bushes on fire.

"I had to roll myself to escape," he said. "But fortunately enough, they did not see me. They advanced ahead."

South Sudan, the world's newest country, has been in civil conflict for more than five years.

After decades of struggle against Sudanese leadership based in Khartoum, the South Sudanese voted for independence from Sudan in 2011. But in December 2013, fighting broke out when President Salva Kiir accused his deputy Riek Machar of planning a coup. It quickly descended into ethnically-motivated violence.

Kiir is a member of the Dinka ethnic group, the largest in South Sudan, while Machar represents the second-largest, the Nuer. During December 2013 and ensuing months in 2014, hundreds of thousands of Nuer - as well as some other ethnic groups, such as the Shilluk, who were seen as siding with the Nuer - fled the country or crowded into United Nations or NGO-controlled protection camps inside the country. Most of those people have been unable to return home.

An attempt at a peace deal between the two leaders brought Machar back to South Sudan in March 2016, delayed after negotiations over weapons and conditions of merging the government and "in opposition" armies, called the SPLA (now renamed the SSPDF) and SPLA-IO respectively.

In July 2016, a few months after Machar returned, the peace agreement broke down again with fighting beginning at the statehouse in the capital Juba and spreading across the city. It triggered a fresh wave of violence, with the fighting pushing further south into a lush and fertile region comprising three provinces known as the Equatorias, where Machar and his troops passed through while fleeing into the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This led to nearly a million people from that region crossing the border into Uganda, registering as refugees. It is estimated that more than 383,000 people have died in the conflict, according to a report from the London School of



Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Nearly a million people have fled across the border into Uganda into camps like this.

A new peace deal signed in September last year has raised hopes that the more than four million displaced can finally return home. The negotiations, often stalling, have been delayed again, with a final peace agreement implementation that was expected in May now at least another six months away. A meeting between Machar and Kiir in Juba this September is sparking hopes the agreement will soon be implemented. The leaders are under pressure to meet a November deadline. And within the way of legal recourse or international support, analysts worry unresolved land disputes will sow the seeds of the next war.

Since the collapse of the peace deal in 2016 alone, more than a million people are said to have fled across the border, escaping rape, murder, destruction of property, and occupation of land. Nearly a million people have fled across the border into Uganda into camps like this.

Al Jazeera used a mobile phone survey, satellite imagery, submitted photos and public data to try to confirm these reports and shed light on the scale of the conflict.

We called more than 35,000 numbers by random dialling on the Zain mobile network in South Sudan. The survey was distributed by a company called Viamo. Of those calls, more than 2,900 people listened to the introduction and selected a language, and 405 people completed the entire 14-question survey, which was designed in consultation with South Sudan land rights experts and statisticians.

We prerecorded questions in six languages: English, Arabic, Dinka, Nuer, Bari and Madi, and participants could respond to those multiple-choice questions by pressing number keys on their phones. In a few cases, open ended-questions allowed people to record an answer, which was later transcribed. All the translations were verified by two different translators, to ensure accuracy, and the survey was tested several times before the collected results were considered useable. The survey included questions on demographics, displacement, destruction, and plans to return.

When Logonda felt safe enough, after the soldiers had left, he rose from the burned patch of bushes and walked back to his house. He gathered a few items, including his bicycle, and began the 40km journey south to cross the Ugandan border.

But back in Mondikolok, known for its prominent red-roofed hexagonal church, six people were dead, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW) and several citizens interviewed by Al Jazeera.

A catechist was shot on his way to church to help lead the worship. A woman, shot and left for dead in burning grass. An elderly man, disabled, unable to run, shot where he was left by fleeing friends and family.

Just a few days earlier, Logonda had been up late at night. He had been disturbed by an unusual noise coming from the main road.

"I heard a fleet of vehicles, so I came out," he said. "As I came out, I saw those vehicles were the vehicles of soldiers.

They were from Juba and they were going to the barracks. That gave me the sense that there was already a problem."

He decided to immediately send his wife and children to Uganda, to register as refugees and set up in the camp. He had a feeling problems were coming, but he never expected it to come so soon, just days after he sent them away.

What Logonda didn't know was that opposition soldiers were about to attack a government convoy a short distance from his village, according to a report by HRW.

In South Sudan, there is frequent fighting between the opposition soldiers, siding with former First Vice President Riek Machar and often controlling rural, forested areas, and the soldiers of the government army, who side with the country's President Kiir and have retained control in most cities and major towns. The tensions, often split by ethnic group, draw in citizens who happen to live in areas amid the fighting.

Opposition soldiers often fight from forested and overgrown areas, but single men found in villages in those regions can easily be accused of supporting them or even being one of their fighters.

Logonda said the soldiers were saying they were pursuing soldiers from the SPLA-IO (the opposition army).

"What I know is there are these soldiers in opposition," he said. "But not in Mondikolok; some kilometres away from Mondikolok."

He said none of those six killed by the soldiers was a member of the opposition troops.

"They were civilians, of course," he said. "The six were civilians. None of the soldiers were killed. They were all civilian."

The HRW report, based on interviews with more than 100 refugees and relying on multiple independent accounts of the same incident, said the soldiers "fired indiscriminately ... in what seems to have been retaliation for hit-and-run attacks on their forces, failing to take any precautions to protect civilians."

It is a common counterinsurgency tactic used by the South Sudanese military, said Alan Boswell, now Crisis Group's Senior Analyst for South Sudan, based in neighbouring Kenya and who has researched South Sudan since before the country gained independence. He said the tactic often follows an ambush on government troops - or simply reports of opposition fighters starting to mobilise.

"And then there would be a punitive attack, usually by the government forces, usually on a civilian centre, usually a town, a village," says Boswell. "Sometimes, a couple of people are killed in that attack; other times, it's just looting and burning. What tends to happen is that the civilian population tends to flee."

The government has continu-

ally denied that its soldiers target civilians as a way to force them to relocate.

"The Army leadership does not condone intentional killing of civilians and deliberate destruction of their homes," said Major General Lul Ruai Koang, director for media and press and spokesperson for the South Sudanese army (SSPDF), in a WhatsApp response to questions from Al Jazeera.

"A few rogue soldiers, who had taken the law into their own hands, had been tried and sentenced for various crimes committed."

He cited the example of the sentencing last September in a Juba military court of 10 soldiers for crimes committed during an attack at the Terrain Hotel in July 2016. According to Amnesty International, the soldiers were found guilty of raping aid workers and murdering 32-year-old John Gadluak Nhial, a South Sudanese journalist who left behind his wife, three children, and another child born the day after he died.

Of the 405 people who answered Al Jazeera's mobile phone survey, more than 40 percent said they had been forced off their land or out of their home since December 2013. Nearly half of those people blamed government soldiers.

The survey question asked: "Who forced you off your land or out of your home?" A fifth of those who said they had been forced off their land since 2013, 39 people, blamed opposition soldiers, and another eight percent said it was due to both government and opposition soldiers.

David Deng, a human rights lawyer and land rights researcher who has been working on South Sudan since 2008 and is based in neighbouring Uganda, said before 2016, population displacement could often be attributed to many parties, but that changed after the breakdown of the peace agreement.

"From 2016 to 2017, I think the dynamic shifted and the government very much got the upper hand militarily, which they have retained to this day and, for the most part, they tend to be the ones who are military aggressors."

Logonda is now teaching at an overcrowded makeshift school in a crowded refugee settlement in Uganda.

Students pile onto crooked wooden tables and sit on the floor to study. He doubts many have hopes of graduating. He lives in a mud hut in an open field on a corner of the camp, where his daughter plays with pieces of rubbish she finds in the streets. He can barely afford to feed his family and the teacher, who prides himself on his education, had to pull two of his daughters out of school.

"When South Sudan attained independence, we were happy," he said. "We thought we were going to have everlasting peace.

Now after five years' time, the reverse came true. People fled their homes ... people were forced into exile."

THE SPREAD OF WAR

Joseph Lugala Wani was one of South Sudan's millionaires. Back in 2014 or 2015, the businessman from South Sudan's Kajo Keji region could earn up to nine million South Sudanese pounds each month (worth about \$1.9m at the time, according to a calculation using UN data on the parallel exchange rate): combined income from the guesthouse, restaurant and shops he owned, where he sold spare parts for bicycles, cars and other items. After he had paid his many staff and covered expenses, he would be left with between 7,000 and 15,000 South Sudanese pounds of profit, between \$1,500 and \$3,200 each month.

When his Naya Guesthouse opened in Wudu in 2012, the town celebrated. It had bright blue walls, a red roof, 16 hotel rooms, 10 shops. It created jobs. Important government officials travelling through town would often stay there.

But as the war spread south through the country, wealthy businessmen became targets. Wani says he was threatened - people thought he was funding the opposition movement.

One day in 2016, not long after the fighting had begun and spread south, he was warned they were coming to arrest him. He rushed to pack his truck with possessions - spare parts he could sell, nice clothes, some of his favourite books - and he drove across the border to Uganda. He thought he'd cross back again when things calmed down.

It has now been three years. And much of what he left behind has been destroyed.

"I was told they put in tyres in the rooms for the house to get burned quickly," Wani said.

People who visited Wudu in December 2017 told him the hotel was still standing, though the residents of Wudu town had long since fled. A month later, he learned the building was in ruins - looted and burned.

Nearly half the people Al Jazeera surveyed, 196 people, said they were certain their properties had been looted, damaged or destroyed. Of that half, one-third said they witnessed the destruction of their properties themselves. Another 40 percent said that a friend or relative told them.

"Often, what you'll have is an armed group will move in, they'll fight with combatants in a particular area, then on their way out or afterwards they'll go destroy the infrastructure and the place as a means of sort of undermining communities that they perceive to be allied with their enemies," Deng said. "In rural areas, this

can involve burning huts to the ground as a way of undermining that base of support."

Those who ventured back to Wudu in January and February of 2017 returned to the refugee camps in Uganda with photos of the destruction. The Naya's red roof had caved in; debris covered the ground; a row of four rooms and a toilet were all burned - found with tyres inside and scorch marks on the walls.

Al Jazeera obtained copies of these photos from multiple sources, including those who took the images themselves. We are not naming the photographers or those who travelled home in order to protect their identities for their safety.

Al Jazeera matched those photos to satellite imagery, which we obtained through publicly available Google images as well as through a paid subscription service provided to Al Jazeera by African Defence Review, called TerraServer.

The imagery, which was taken by several satellites and together reveal snapshots every few weeks at different resolution levels, shows the building identified as Naya Guesthouse, located using the coordinates of nearby schools and landmarks, as well as descriptions of several refugees.

In the same satellite images, the town's market stalls appear burned and destroyed. Most of the thatched-roof houses circling the town are no longer visible.

"What we know is that all things are destroyed. The building is burned," Wani said. "It is the government. It's the government targeting the civilians."

While satellite images can help verify accounts of property destruction, they are unable to determine whether the destruction was deliberate or caused by natural fires, feeding on the overgrown bush in abandoned towns and villages - bush that ordinarily would have been routinely cleared by residents.

Wani's own home, in a village a few kilometres south of Wudu, just barely escaped destruction. Nearly every other thatched-roof house there is down to rubble, according to satellite imagery. Wani says he had built a barrier of plants that protected his home from succumbing to the fire, but that recent travellers to his village told him the windows and doors are gone, all scrap metal removed, and the inside was looted.

Wani blames the government soldiers.

"We blame the government, of course. We blame the government because they wanted to push us out," he said. "Otherwise, if we were to remain there, these houses would not have gotten burned."

We blame the government because they wanted to push us out. Otherwise, if we were to remain there, these houses would not have gotten burned. Joseph Lugala Wani

South Sudan's information minister, Michael Makuei, told Al Jazeera burned homes were a "normal consequence" of war.

"Fire is a normal thing here in South Sudan," he said. "If you have decided to vacate your village completely and the fire comes from somewhere and if there is no one there to protect your house from fire then, definitely, the fire will burn it. Yes, they left because of fighting, but the fact that their houses were burned - the houses were not burned by anybody."

"Is this the only place where destruction is happening because of war? Are you seeing what is happening in Syria now? This is the natural consequence of any war."

Wani now lives in a modest two-bedroom house in northern Uganda. He is what they call an urban refugee. He is renting the house from a friend and lives in a town just beside the border with South Sudan and opposite the Diocese of Kajo Keji. But he has not paid rent in months, relying on his friend's generosity with a lack of other options. **Agencies**



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TATOA all for easing of transit transport regulations, charges

By Francis Kajubi

THE government needs to continue softening charges and harmonizing regulations for cargo transportation for the sector to be competitive.

This appeal has been issued by Angelina Ngalula, speaking shortly after being elected board chairperson of the Tanzania Truck Owners Association (TATOA) for the next three years at the Annual General Meeting held last week in Dar es Salaam.

She urged the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to revise some regulatory provisions that act as impediments to efficient operation of the sector, thus become setbacks for the sector to compete regionally.

She said the taxman needs to extend the free transit period to at least 90 days for bulk import cargo including fuel, and 120 days for export in order to attract bigger volumes of fuel, fertilizer and sulphur. Currently South Africa and Mozambique offer 180 days of free transit, making the two countries more competitive in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

"Make use of the discretionary power provided in the East African Community Customs Management Act (EAC CMA) to waive custom warehouse rent on bulk cargo. To start with, the EAC Vehicle Load Control Act should be



Angelina Ngalula

worked on urgently if we are to realize the potential of the sector in the EAC and SADC sub-regions," said Ngalula.

She said if the challenges are to be resolved some quick results can show up after at least six months, for instance in attracting 2.45million tons in bulk transit cargo import volumes which can generate an additional income of US\$400million annually. Transit cargo was the main contributing factor in the growth of earnings in the transport sector in 2018, rising from US\$1.14billion in 2017 to US\$1.22billion in 2018.

Starting with the 2019/20 strategic plan to make the local transportation sector competitive, the board will focus on establishing and strengthening representative offices in Njombe, Morogoro, Arusha, Tanga and Mwanza for regional representatives of importers from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

"In the current financial year we expect to register 30 new members to the association, five being associate members, 10 silver and 15 in the platinum and gold membership model. We will also upgrade 20 silver members to gold and 10 gold members to platinum. We are also going to develop a drivers' data base," the board chairperson explained.

The association had 246 members as the end of last year where 180 were silver members, 26 gold members and 40 platinum members. Estimated resources for the association

to accomplish the work plan for 2019/20 show that TATOA needs a482.68m/- in allocations to accomplish its work, she further noted.

During last year's operations 100 members were facilitated by the association in license application from SUMATRA and TRA. TATOA registered 19 new members, 14 at silver level, three at platinum level, and two both gold level and associate members.

TATOA in collaboration with other associations worked on the need to institute Single Customs Territory arrangement between Tanzania and DRC.

TRA Customs Manager Robert Busumabu said in response to these concerns, that the government has already offered a lot of incentives to the truck owners but some have not been using those incentives accordingly.

"We have a lot of incentives that you can benefit through registering at the Tanzania Investment Center. But the problem with you guys is violation of the law. Some of you use the lorries to smuggle things into the country and some of you use those lorries contrary to what their licenses stipulate," he asserted.

"I urge you not to seek for someone to blame. Play your part fairly as the government is there to support the private sector. I would like to assure truck owners not to worry about the construction of the new Standard Gauge Railway as it is not meant to take away the stake of lorry transportation," the TRA manager added.

ALAF bemoans brand counterfeits, but puts blame on own success

By Francis Kajubi

A LARGE scale manufacturer of roofing materials in the country has commended the conducive environment for doing business set up by the government for private investors.

Aluminum Africa (T) Ltd (ALAF) Chief Executive Officer Dipti Mohanty said yesterday at an event to launch a new roofing gallery at Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam that construction and real estate is a booming sector that investors can't hesitate to get into.

The current production of roofing iron sheets by ALAF

stands at 85,000 tons a year, slightly below half of the country's annual demand estimated at 150,000 tons.

"We are here to stay and serve the Tanzanians with quality building materials. To put things in light, last year we again received the first prize award in metal and metal products for the large industries category, our ninth successive win," said Mohanty.

The ALAF head of Human Resource and Administration, Petro Kapembwa said with the trusted genuine products, counterfeiters are producing copycats in the dark but supplying

the market with impunity especially in rural areas.

"We are our own worst enemies because there are traitors among us. ALAF is a well established brand in the market and that is why we are the worst victims of counterfeiting when it comes to roofing materials," he said, noting that the counterfeiters import iron sheet coils and stamp them as genuine product brands.

Counterfeited iron sheets in the company name are mostly supplied in the rural areas of Coast, Morogoro and Tabora regions but intervention by the company in collaboration with



ALAF Head of Human Resource and Administration Petro Kapembwa (R) briefs Chief executive officer Dipti Mohanty (L) on the Kigamboni roofing gallery opened yesterday. Photo: ALAF Courtesy.

FCC has reduced this problem to a certain extent.

ALAF Export Sales Manager, Ephraim Kalinga said the company has formed surveillance teams to probe the market in at least ten regions where ALAF supplies its products most.

"The teams were formed about three weeks ago and came up with a good report on what is happening in the market. The main objective is to establish the extent of counterfeits in the name of ALAF especially in rural areas and suburbs," he said.

ALAF is a brand name where the government owns 24 per cent of the shares and 76 per cent shares are owned by Safal Group Ltd. Last year the company marked 58 years of its existence in Tanzania, manufacturing corrugated roofing iron sheets that are traded as SimbaDuma and roofing tiles. Currently ALAF has branches in Mwanza, Mbeya, Dodoma and Arusha.



Bruno Sarda, president of CDP North America, one of the research groups behind the SBTI.

NBC exhibition pulling small miners, buyers to access e-banking services

By Smart Money Reporter

The National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has urged small scale miners and buyers in Geita region to utilize its products for strengthening their businesses as technology allows banking services to be accessed through smart phones.

Speaking at the closure of the minerals trade exhibition over the weekend at CCM grounds in Geita town, the bank's Lake Zone Manager Japhet Mazumira told the residents and traders in minerals that NBC has plenty of products that guarantee loans for traders and small scale miners to

expand their businesses. He said petty traders and small scale miners are a pillar in driving economic activities in the region but are lagging behind in utilizing financial services.

"It has been a successful exhibition for us. We have met hundreds of residents and they have learnt a lot about our products. There is no way that small scale miners, traders and ordinary people can be uplifted from poverty and even grow their businesses out of banking services," said Mazumira.

He said that apart from educating residents on different financial matters, NBC was the main sponsor

of the exhibition. This is the second year the bank is sponsoring the exhibition and the bank has readied insurance products that are doing well on the market, benefiting the public and the business community, he pointed out.

"NBC is well established in customer care and new innovations that are dedicated at serving both urban and rural consumers. Products like First Account are more convenient as new customers can open an account and receive their ATM cards on spot," the manager noted.

Magdalena Shirima, Senior Business Officer for the Tanzania Trade Develop-

ment Authority (TanTrade), said that the authority took part in the exhibition to coordinate business clinics in the region.

"Our main objective for participation is to learn the challenges facing minerals traders here in Geita. We are offering them knowledge of how to access markets and raise funds to grow their businesses. We are bringing their insights on how they can apply technology in their daily business routines," she said.

The exhibitions are meant to showcase minerals and to educate respective local miners and business community on how to be competitive.

World benefits from 70 years of socialist practices in China



Streets of Beijing are decorated with thematic flowerbeds to celebrate the coming National Day.

BEIJING

SEVENTY years on, China has proved with miraculous development that a prosperous socialist country benefits not only its own people but also the rest of the world.

Xiao Zinan's family of five used to live in a small log cabin for 30 years in a remote village in the mountains, along with their pigs.

In the village of Jinman in Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan Province, most of the villagers used to earn less than 2,800 yuan (about 393 U.S. dollars) per year. "On rainy days, it always poured outside and drizzled inside," Xiao said.

Life in the shabby cabin ended in 2017 when Xiao and other 982 villagers moved to new houses in nearby developed areas thanks to the country's poverty relief relocation efforts.

With a deposit of only 2,000 yuan, Xiao's brand new 3-bedroom house with a river view is fully furnished. Between 2013 and 2018, China lifted 82.39 million rural residents out of poverty, about the entire population of Germany.

Over the past 40 years, more than 700 million Chinese people have cast off poverty, representing over 70 percent of global poverty reduction.

China has made historic achievements in fighting poverty over the past decades, making itself a major contributor to the world's poverty reduction endeavors.

China has provided the world with a model of development from poverty to prosperity in a single generation, said Bert Hofman, an expert at the East Asian Institute of the National University of Singapore.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), China had provided 400 billion yuan of assistance to 166 countries and international organizations, dispatched more than 600,000 assistance personnel and offered medical assistance to 69 countries, by the end of October 2015.

Over the past 70 years, China has managed to feed around one-fifth of the world's population with less than 9 percent of the world's arable land. Its grain output nearly quintupled, growing at an average annual rate of 2.6 percent from 1949 to reach 658 million tonnes in 2018, according to the NBS.

Hunger has long been a global problem. Around the world, more than 820 million people were hungry in 2018, according to a UN report. To help fight hunger, Chinese experts and entrepreneurs have shared their wisdom and experience and help those in need.

"If hybrid rice is planted in half of the world's 147 million hectares of paddy fields, the additional yield alone can feed 500 million more people," said Yuan Longping, an agronomist known for developing the first hybrid rice strain.

Since the 1980s, Yuan's team has offered training courses in dozens of countries in Africa, the Americas and Asia – providing a robust food source in areas with a high risk of famine.

So far, Chinese experts and technicians have carried out more than 300 small-scale projects in nine African countries, promoted 450 agricultural technologies, and trained nearly 30,000 local farmers and technicians, according to Ma Youxiang, an official with China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. Yuan was awarded China's Medal of the Republic for his great efforts to the well-being of mankind, prior to the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Nobel laureate Tu Youyou also received the medal for her consistent contributions to the control of malaria. With the discovery of artemisinin, a group of drugs used to combat malaria, the 89-year-old scientist has saved the lives of mil-

lions. In June, Tu announced her team had proposed solutions to the problem of artemisinin resistance, providing new evidence that artemisinin is still "the best weapon" against malaria.

Since 2017, no malaria cases have been reported in China, meaning that the epidemic has been eradicated in the country.

But China has continued to carry out research on malaria control and prevention and develop artemisinin-based antimalarial drugs for the global fight against the disease.

"Global malaria control is in line with the thrust of the Chinese government's initiative to build a community with a shared future for humanity," said Pedro L. Alonso, director of the Global Malaria Programme of the World Health Organization.

China has proposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the concept of building "a community with a shared future for humanity."

More than 166 countries and international organizations have signed BRI cooperation documents with China so far. The concept of building a community with a shared future for humanity has been endorsed by documents of the United Nations, the Group of 20 and other international organizations, playing a positive role in promoting peace and progress of humanity."

Amid the tide of globalization, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has integrated the national development strategy with the world development trend and put forward the epoch-making concept of a community with a shared future for humanity," said Hu Jianjun, a member of the standing committee of the CPC Lianyungang Municipal Committee.

From 2013 to 2018, China contributed more than 28 percent of world economic growth on average, according to a white paper titled "China and the World in the New Era" that was issued by China's State Council Information

Office.

Estimates show that without China, the average annual growth rate of the world economy from 2013 to 2016 would have slowed by 0.6 percentage points and the intensity of fluctuation would have increased by 5.2 percent, the white paper said.

It also noted China has become the world's second-largest economy, largest manufacturer, largest trader in goods, second-largest consumer of commodities, second-largest recipient of foreign direct investment, and largest holder of foreign exchange reserves.

China has the most promising consumer market in the world, the white paper said, adding the country's imports of goods and services are expected to exceed 30 trillion U.S. dollars and 10 trillion U.S. dollars in the coming 15 years.

The speed of China's shift toward greener growth is equally impressive. China's per unit of economic output is obtained with 43.1 percent less energy consumption in 2018 than in 1953, and 11.4 percent less than in 2015.

Instead of pursuing reckless industrial expansion, Chinese officials now show little tolerance for smogstack factories and energy waste, even if that means slower GDP growth.

Apart from economic achievements, China has been making tremendous efforts to improve and protect the environment. The "China speed" in greening the Earth is leading the world and is visible from space.

A study using data from NASA satellites revealed that China contributed to a quarter of the increase in global green leaf area since the turn of the century. For those who have undergone dark days of their own, it is easy to imagine how the Chinese people cherish peace and yearn for prosperity.

Today, with a population of 1.4 billion, China's development creates a vast range of opportunities for the rest of the world.

Xinhua



Chinese president Xi Jinping

Hedge funds resume selling oil as focus turns back to economy

LONDON

HEDGE funds resumed selling petroleum as Saudi Arabia ramped up output following attacks on its oil installations and the focus shifted back to the poor health of the global economy and oil consumption.

Hedge funds and other money managers sold 16 million barrels of futures and options in the six major petroleum contracts in the week to Sept. 24, after buying a total of 144 million in the previous two weeks.

Funds sold Brent (-15 million barrels) and ICE and NYMEX WTI (-8 million) though they were small buyers of U.S. gasoline (+4 million), U.S. diesel (+1 million) and European gasoil (+3 million).

Reports that Saudi Arabia has managed to replace much of the production lost in the attacks by increasing output from offshore fields and drawing down inventories have eased earlier fears about a shortage of crude.

Front-month Brent futures prices had already given up about two-thirds of their post-attack increase by Sept. 24 and the nearby backwardation had eased significantly as traders became more confident about availability.

But as the perceived risk to production fell, traders' attention returned to the state of the global economy and consumption (tmsnr.rs/2nUcwXj).

Despite the resumption of trade talks between China and the United States, expectations for an early agreement have fallen.

Most economic indicators point to a worldwide slowdown in economic growth, led by business investment and manufacturing.

Global trade volumes are falling at the fastest rate since the recession of 2009. New export orders have been shrinking for 12 months.

There is not yet enough evidence to conclude whether this is mid-cycle slowdown or marks the end of the current business expansion.

Until the economic outlook becomes clearer, however, most hedge fund managers prefer to have only modest exposure to oil prices.

Their dynamic positioning across the six petroleum contracts, minus structural elements, is equivalent to a relatively modest net long of 137 million barrels.

The dynamic position is up from a net long of just 8 million barrels in early September, when recession fears were at their height.

But it is sharply down from recent highs of 420 million in April and 609 million barrels this time last year – showing how cautious fund managers have become about the economic outlook.



An oil tanker is being loaded at Saudi Aramco's Ras Tanura oil refinery and oil terminal in Saudi Arabia May 21, 2018. REUTERS

World shares steady as investors shrug off delisting threat by US

LONDON

World shares yesterday largely shrugged off reports that Washington is considering delisting Chinese companies from U.S. stock exchanges, with market players downplaying the likelihood of such radical escalation of the U.S.-China trade war.

U.S. President Donald Trump is looking at the move as part of a broader effort to limit U.S. investment in Chinese companies, sources told Reuters on Friday, though it was not clear how any such delisting would work.

But MSCI's world equity index, which tracks shares in 47 countries, was little changed, down 0.1%. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS also slipped just 0.1%.

Europe's Euro STOXX 600 turned positive, eking out a 0.1% gain after opening lower. Markets in Frankfurt .GDAX, Paris .FCHI and London .FTSE were flat.

Wall Street futures gauges NQcV1 suggested that U.S. stocks would bounce back, indicating gains of 0.4%. The concern around the latest Sino-U.S. tensions had caused U.S. stocks to fall on Friday, with the Nasdaq .NDX losing 1%.

The news also knocked Chinese shares listed on U.S. exchanges on Friday. Alibaba Group (BABA.N) and JD.com (JD.O) both lost 5% to 6% on Friday.

China warned on Monday of instability in international markets from any "decoupling" of China and the United States following the reports, noting a U.S. Treasury response that said there were no immediate plans to block Chinese listings. Market players said equity markets thought the threat of delisting was just a tactic before U.S.-China trade talks resume next week. Investors are accustomed to belligerence from Trump before he dials down his rhetoric, said Luca Paolini, chief strategist at Pictet Asset Management.

"It's a strategy that we have seen in the past – keeping the pressure very high and then settling for whatever deal is possible," he said.

Any progress in talks next month would probably fall short of a comprehensive deal, he added. "It's more likely than not that there will some kind of agreement that would be more cosmetic in nature."

Also supporting the mood in Asia was economic data from China on Monday that showed sustained weakness in exports but a surprising improvement in domestic consumption indicators.

"This is better than what the market was expecting," said Alessia Berardi, senior economist at Amundi Pioneer, adding that markets were downplaying the likelihood of a major escalation in the trade war by Washington.

"The probability of implementing the (delisting) decision for the market is still quite low," she said. Chinese markets will trade only on Monday before a week-long holiday that marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. World shares have shed 0.1% this quarter after gains in the previous two quarters. In currency markets, the dollar found broad support as investors stuck to assets perceived as safe havens.

The dollar was little changed against a basket of six major currencies .DXY at 99.077. Earlier this month it reached 99.37, its highest in more than two years.

China's offshore yuan CNH=EBS also held steady, trading at 7.135 per dollar.

Oil prices slipped after the Chinese economic data, with the trade war weighing on growth in demand at the world's largest crude importer. Brent crude LCOCl futures fell 44 cents to \$61.47 a barrel by 0812 GMT.

AB InBev's Asia unit rises in second-biggest IPO of 2019



Sealed green Stella Artois lager beer bottles pass along a conveyor at the Anheuser-Busch InBev NV brewery in Leuven, Belgium, July 17, 2019. (File photo)

By Bloomberg

THE Asia-Pacific beer unit of Anheuser-Busch InBev NV gained as much as 7 percent in its Hong Kong trading debut, a positive for the lackluster global market in initial public offerings and vindication for the beermaker in its second attempt at an Asian listing.

Budweiser Brewing Company APAC Ltd raised US\$5 billion selling shares at the bottom of a price range last week, in the world's second-biggest IPO this year behind Uber Technologies Inc.

That gave the Asian unit an enterprise value of US\$45 billion, helping the parent company reduce its massive debt load and laying the groundwork for possible future acquisitions.

The shares rose to as high as HK\$28.90 in Hong Kong trading yesterday, from the offering price of HK\$27. The benchmark Hang Seng Index increased 0.6 percent. Shares of the parent company slipped 0.4% in early Brussels trading, but they've risen 50% so far this year.

"We've seen very solid demand for our stock when we did the management roadshow," said Jan Craps, chief executive officer of Budweiser Brewing APAC, in a briefing in Hong Kong yesterday. "We are confident there's a strong foundation here."

The result provides an encouraging conclusion to what's been a rocky

IPO path for the Asia arm of the world's biggest beer company. Budweiser Brewing originally expected to storm into Hong Kong as a US\$64 billion company, but the deal was shelved in July amid lackluster demand.

It was a high-profile setback that spotlighted the growing disconnect between companies' lofty private valuations and investors' expectations, with would-be buyers skeptical of even well-known brands.

Second Try

AB InBev revived the offering after selling its Australian operations to Japan's Asahi Group Holdings Ltd for about US\$11 billion. That roughly halved the size of the Asia-Pacific offering, giving investors a more focused stake in faster-growing parts of the regional business, with brands like Cass in South Korea and Harbin in China.

"It is certainly a more reasonable level than the first time around," Andrew Sullivan, director at Pearl Bridge Partners Ltd., said of Budweiser's valuation on Bloomberg Television. "Looking forward, it gives them an opportunity to build more deals in Asia."

The gains in Budweiser's trading debut may give some hope to a global IPO scene unsettled this year by volatile markets and geopolitical uncertainties. Multiple companies have halted their scheduled listings in Hong Kong, which is facing twin pressures from protests that show no sign of abating and a trade dispute between the US and China.

Budweiser's launch helps propel Hong Kong past Shanghai as the world's No. 3 market for IPOs this year. It may also shore up investor sentiment for upcoming IPOs that may include the lucrative secondary listing of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

"This IPO is quite different to many others that have faced headwinds recently," said analyst Euan McLeish at Sanford C. Bernstein. "BUD APAC is widely recognized as a high-quality company." He added that "strong earnings visibility" will drive continued investor interest.

The share offering helped AB InBev further trim down its US\$100 billion-plus debt pile after its purchase of SABMiller in 2016, letting it accelerate its goal of creating a regional champion in Asia, especially through acquisitions.

CEO Craps said Monday the company can create a lot of value with regional players in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia.

The sale of the Australian unit to Asahi lopped off about one-fifth of the Asia-Pacific unit, cutting its annual sales to about US\$6.7 billion, according to the latest preliminary prospectus. But the deal increased Budweiser Brewing's 2018 growth rate by more than a percentage point, to 7.4 percent, as it removed operations in a more mature market.

Track Record

The track record for IPOs hasn't been impressive lately.

Fitness startup Peloton Interactive Inc. on Thursday dropped 11 percent on its first day of trading. That same day, the Hollywood agency Endeavor Group Holdings Inc. shelved its IPO, citing unfavorable market conditions. WeWork, the office-sharing company, was forced to put off its offering to next year in the face of tepid demand.

Uber, which raised US\$8.1 billion for its May IPO, is down 33 percent from its offer price.

Corporate earnings show signs of resilience despite macro challenges

By George Efstathopoulos and Stuart Rumble

CHINA'S economy is slowing and this can be seen at the company level as well. But despite the downturn macro sentiment and further concerns over the trade spat with the United States, some bright spots in recent company earnings reports suggest that discerning investors can still cherry-pick interesting opportunities.

China's slowing growth is weighing on the prospects for its companies, but some sectors are proving more resilient than others.

Profits earned by China's largest industrial firms dropped by 1.7 percent from a year earlier in the first seven months of this year, according to official data, but dig a little deeper and the picture is more nuanced.

The profits of domestically-focused private firms in China are holding up better than expected against macro headwinds, rising 7 percent as of July. That compares with a drop of 8.1 percent in profits at State-owned industrial firms.

Some of the better performance of private companies are due to cyclical improvement, but structural changes in the Chinese economy are also adding resilience to certain sectors.

For example, food and beverage companies with premium brand positioning continue to show pricing power, even during the current deep decline in retail sales.

And despite lower interest rates, profits among insurance companies continue to grow, as households diversify their savings and real estate investments into other financial products.

The stark disparity in performance across stock markets on the mainland and in Hong Kong and Taipei this year highlights their compositional differences and shows just how important it is to get the right tactical allocation within the region's markets and sectors.

Onshore mainland equities have far outperformed Hong Kong and Taiwan stocks. All are exposed to macro risk, but the returns are mostly being driven by the growth prospects for individual companies.

By now most companies have reported second-quarter or interim results, and analysts have been revising 2019 earnings forecasts downwards as a result. But some sectors have held up better than others.

The consumer sectors have seen the best upward revisions to earnings,

and are also among the top performing in the market, showing investors have been rewarding the improvement.

A-share price multiples have expanded as a result, but they are still below long-term averages, in contrast to those of Hong Kong and Taiwan stocks. The question is, where will the catalyst for further price appreciation come from?

The potential for policy support could provide a case for optimism. China's policymakers have put in place various measures in recent months, mainly aimed at improving the framework of the economy-but these are targeted and not intended to boost growth at any cost.

China is investing to improve its infrastructure and reducing taxes and administrative costs for private companies. The plethora of measures employed this year to improve credit conditions are also having an impact. While leading economic indicators still point to weaker growth, there has been some stabilization in hard data such as car sales and freight activity.

It's difficult to see the authorities taking the foot off the fiscal and monetary accelerator in the lead up to the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, on Oct 1. This should start to benefit some of the industrial and utility companies that have so far lagged the rally.

On the other hand, technology stocks have a more challenging earnings outlook due to the US-China trade dispute. This comes at a time when most tech supply chain companies have seen margins shrink, as smartphone demand failed to keep pace with elevated expectations.

However, there are now signs the cycle of earnings downgrades for the sector has turned, with higher marginal demand coming from 5G, both for network equipment and handsets. So, any positive developments to alleviate trade tensions should give an extra boost to the tech sector.

There are positive signs in company fundamentals that support the long-term case for China equities, which would be further boosted by any positive developments in the bilateral talks.

We see scope for upward earnings revisions in certain sectors such as industrials and technology, as policy support flows through the economy. And given current valuations, a meaningful de-rating of China equities would be a buying opportunity, in our view.

Xinhua



A clerk counts cash at a bank in Huaipei, Anhui province.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Report: No-deal Brexit could leave UK with medical shortages

LONDON

BRITAIN'S government watchdog says there's still a "significant amount" of work to do to make sure the country has an adequate supply of licensed drugs in case of a no-deal Brexit.

In a report issued Friday, Britain's National Audit Office said additional shipping capacity chartered by the UK for sending goods across the English Channel might not be operational until the end of November – one month after the Oct 31 deadline for Britain to leave the European Union.

Of the more than 12,300 medicines licensed in the UK, about 7,000 arrive from or via the EU, mostly across the Channel.

Meg Hillier, who chairs a committee overseeing the audit office, called the findings "deeply concerning." She said she had seen "countless examples" of the British government missing deadlines, but that this one was particularly striking.

"If the government gets this wrong, it could have the gravest of consequences," she said.

Alan Boyd of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges said people with epilepsy were a particular concern in the event of any drug shortages, noting that "one seizure can have a life-changing impact."



An employee of Eurotunnel and his dog check trucks on their way to Britain during a day of test in case of no deal Brexit, at the exit of the Channel tunnel in Calais, northern France. (File photo)

According to the British government's "reasonable worst-case" scenario, the flow of goods could be cut by half on Day One of a no-deal Brexit and could take a year to recover. It said time was "extremely limited" if the shipping issues were to be resolved by the end of October.

Dr David Nicholl, a neurologist who helped draft the UK's no-deal Brexit planning and went public with his concerns this month, said he felt vindicated by the audit office report. He said during his work consulting for the government, there were concerns

about adequate supplies for treatments for conditions including epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, diabetes and certain cancers including leukemia.

"It's incredibly troubling and reckless," he said. "I don't think there's any evidence that we're in any better situation than we were before." Nicholl said British politicians were still refusing to honestly acknowledge the harm that would be caused to patients in Britain by a no-deal exit. He predicted there would be a spike in illness and deaths if Britain does leave Europe without a divorce deal.

In early September, Nicholl publicly raised the issue of drug shortages on a London radio show when he pointedly asked Jacob Rees-Mogg, the leader of the House of Commons, what level of excess deaths he would be willing to accept in a no-deal Brexit.

Mogg dismissed Nicholl's warnings and later compared him to the disgraced researcher Andrew Wakefield, who published a now-discredited paper linking a childhood vaccine to autism. Mogg later apologized for the comparison.

"It's completely surreal," Nicholl said, describing how politicized the situation has become. "I still don't think there's been an honest conversation about the harms that will be caused by a no deal."

Britain's department of health said it has taken measures to prepare, including ordering six weeks of extra medicine stocks across the country and securing specialist courier services to deliver products with a short shelf life.

But not everyone was convinced by the moves. "One thing is clear about a no-deal Brexit and that is that no amount of preparation can fully eradicate the risks it presents to patient safety," said Donal O'Donoghue of the Royal College of Physicians. "It is impossible for me and my colleagues to reassure patients

that their health and care won't be negatively impacted by the UK leaving the EU without a deal."

Steve Bates, CEO of UK's Bioindustry Association, said that unlike the last Brexit deadline – March 31 – the government has given companies much less information about alternative routes in case a no-deal Brexit results in jammed ports.

"Last time, we knew which ferry services had been commissioned on alternative routes with pharmaceutical companies encouraged to book space to ship their products," he told reporters last week. "But the same approach has not been adopted this time."

The audit report released Friday also said there was "incomplete information" about the levels of medicine stockpiling but that levels were increasingly daily. As of Sept. 20, suppliers reported that 72 percent of medicines had a six-week stockpile.

Boyd said drug shortages already happen every month even without Brexit and the department of health typically issues a list of affected medicines and in some cases, suggests possible alternatives. He said the group was also concerned that a no-deal Brexit would mean that Britain would be kicked out of a Europe-wide program to identify counterfeit medicines.

WORLD

US House impeachment inquiry to intensify; Trump remains defiant

WASHINGTON

The House of Representatives impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump over his request that a foreign power investigate a domestic political rival is set to intensify this week with testimony due from witnesses concerning allegations made by a whistleblower within the U.S. intelligence community.

The whistleblower's complaint cited a July 25 telephone call in which Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate Joe Biden, one of the leading Democratic candidates seeking to challenge him in 2020, and his son Hunter, who sat on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

Democrats have accused Trump of pressuring a vulnerable U.S. ally to get dirt on a political rival for personal political gain. Trump's July 25 phone call came after he froze nearly \$400 million in aid intended to help Ukraine deal with an insurgency by Russian-backed separatists in the eastern part of the country. The aid was later provided.

The House Intelligence Committee

is leading the impeachment inquiry. The inquiry in the Democratic-led House could lead to approval of articles of impeachment against the Republican president and a subsequent trial in the Republican-led Senate on whether to remove Trump from office.

Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said on Sunday he expects the whistleblower to appear before the panel very soon.

While Congress is on a two-week recess, members of the committee will return to the U.S. Capitol this week to carry out an investigation that is likely to produce new subpoenas for documents and other material.

The committee is scheduled to hold a closed-door hearing on Friday with the intelligence community's inspector general, Michael Atkinson, who concluded that the whistleblower complaint was of urgent concern and appeared credible.

House investigators are set to take the first witness testimony from two people mentioned in the whistleblower's complaint.

On Wednesday, three House committees - Intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Oversight - are due to get a deposi-



US President Donald Trump speaks to reporters after arriving aboard Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, U.S. September 26, 2019. File Photo

tion from former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, who Trump labeled "bad news" during his call with Zelenskyy.

On Thursday, the committees are set to get a deposition from Trump's former special representative for Ukraine, Kurt Volker, who resigned last week after the whistleblower complaint named him as one of two U.S. diplomats who followed up with Ukrainian officials a day after Trump's call to Zelenskyy.

The whistleblower has not been publicly identified. Trump, in a series of Twitter posts on Sunday evening, said he wanted to "meet" the whistleblower, who he called "my accuser," as well as "the person who illegally gave this information" to the whistleblower.

"Was this person SPYING on the U.S. President? Big Consequences!" Trump wrote.

Some House Democrats said articles of impeachment against Trump could move to the House floor as soon as next month.

"In my mind, it's several weeks," House Judiciary Committee member David Cicilline told re-

porters last week. "He has already admitted that he contacted a foreign leader and discussed with him ginning up a fake story about one of his political opponents."

Last Friday, the House Foreign Affairs Committee issued a subpoena to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for documents related to the Ukraine scandal. House Democrats also have sought material from the White House and Justice Department.

Schiff said any effort by Trump to stonewall the probe could be used to impeach him for obstructing Congress.

Trump has withstood repeated scandals since taking office in 2017. House Democrats considered, but never moved ahead with, pursuing articles of impeachment over Trump's actions relating to Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election aimed at boosting his candidacy.

The United States has been giving military aid to Ukraine since Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Agencies

Austrians boost Kurz's conservatives, Greens in snap poll

VIENNA

AUSTRIAN ex-Chancellor Sebastian Kurz is poised for a return to power, after his conservative People's Party won a snap election on Sunday that was called following the collapse of his government with the far-right Freedom Party in May.

Kurz's party was expected to get 37.1% of the vote in parliamentary elections, a gain of 5.7 percentage points compared with 2017, according to projections released by public broadcaster ORF.

"Today, the people have voted us

back in again," Kurz, 33, told cheering supporters after the election, even as he refrained from saying which party he would seek to form a new government with.

The environmentalist Greens are one possible option. The party, which failed to enter parliament two years ago, looked set for a big comeback and was projected to get 14% of the vote. Austrians, like voters elsewhere in Europe, have expressed increasing concern over the past year about climate change, the party's core topic.

The far-right Freedom Party was forecast to lose almost 10 percent-



age points and come third with 16.1%, a sign that voters were punishing the party for a leaked video that showed its long-time leader, Heinz-Christian Strache, appearing to offer favors to a purported

Russian investor. The center-left Social Democrats were projected to come second with 21.7%, a loss of over 5 percentage points compared with 2017.

The Alpine country of 8.8 million has been run by a non-partisan interim administration since June, after Kurz pulled the plug on his coalition with the Freedom Party over the Strache video. The footage, published by German news outlets Der Spiegel and Sueddeutsche Zeitung, showed Strache pandering to a woman claiming to be a Russian tycoon's niece at a boozy gathering in Ibiza two years

ago. About 6.4 million Austrians aged 16 and older were eligible to vote. The turnout was 75.5%.

Speaking alongside other party leaders late Sunday, Kurz said his 17-month alliance with the Freedom Party had been "very good" until the Ibiza video was published and pledged to hold talks with all parties represented in parliament.

The Freedom Party, whose anti-migrant message failed to resonate so strongly with voters this time, indicated it would prefer a spell in opposition.

Agencies

Saudi crown prince denies ordering journalist's murder

NEW YORK

SAUDI Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in a television interview that he takes "full responsibility" for the grisly murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but denied allegations that he ordered it.

"This was a heinous crime," Prince Mohammed, 34, told 60 Minutes in an interview that aired Sunday. "But I take full responsibility as a leader in Saudi Arabia, especially since it was committed by individuals working for the Saudi government."

Asked if he ordered the murder of Khashoggi, who had criticized him in columns for The Washington Post, Prince Mohammed (pictured) replied: "Absolutely not."

The slaying was "a mistake," he said.

Khashoggi entered the Saudi consulate in Turkey on Oct 2, 2018, to collect a document that he needed to marry his Turkish fiancée.

Agents of the Saudi government killed Khashoggi inside the consulate and apparently dismembered his body, which has never been found. Saudi Arabia has charged 11 people in the slaying and put them on trial, which has been held in secret. As of yet, no one has been convicted.

A UN report asserted that Saudi Arabia bore responsibility for the killing and said Prince Mohammed's possible role in it should be investigated. In Washington, Congress has said it believes Prince Mohammed is "responsible for the murder." Saudi Arabia has



long insisted the crown prince had no involvement in an oper-

ation that included agents who reported directly to him.

"Some think that I should know what 3 million people working for the Saudi government do daily," the powerful heir told 60 Minutes. "It's impossible that the 3 million would send their daily reports to the leader or the second-highest person in the Saudi government."

In an interview Thursday in New York, Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, told The Associated Press that responsibility for Khashoggi's slaying "was not limited to the perpetrators" and said she wanted Prince Mohammed to tell her: "Why was Jamal

killed? Where is his body? What was the motive for this murder?"

Prince Mohammed also addressed the Sept 14 missile and drone attack on Saudi oil facilities. While Yemen's Iranian-allied Houthis rebels claimed the assault, Saudi Arabia has said it was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran."

"There is no strategic goal," Prince Mohammed said of the attack. "Only a fool would attack 5% of global supplies. The only strategic goal is to prove that they are stupid and that is what they did."

He urged "strong and firm action to deter Iran." Agencies

Johnson denies any wrongdoing in ties with US tech exec

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson denied wrongdoing Sunday over his links to an American businesswoman who allegedly received money and favorable treatment because of their friendship during his time as mayor of London.



Asked during a BBC interview about his ties to tech entrepreneur and model Jennifer Arcuri, Johnson sought to suggest that political motivations were behind the decision Friday by the Greater London Authority to refer a conduct matter to a police watchdog agency.

The matter arose from a Sunday Times report saying Arcuri was given 126,000 pounds in public money and privileged access to trade missions to the United States, Israel and Asia that Johnson led as mayor, even though her fledgling business had not yet met eligibility requirements for such trips.

"Everything was done in accordance with the code ... and everything was done with full propriety," Johnson said Sunday. When pressed again by BBC journalist Andrew Marr, Johnson added: "There was no interest to declare."

The scandal worsened Sunday as Johnson's Conservative Party was opening its annual party conference in Manchester following a tumultuous week for a leader who has only been in the job since July.

In just the last few days, the UK Supreme Court declared Johnson's attempt to suspend Parliament illegal and he cut short a trip to the United States, racing home to face the House of Commons, where lawmakers greeted him with cries of "Resign!" He then lost a vote on a normally routine matter - a request to adjourn for a week so that Conservatives could attend their conference.

Agencies

Tanzania-China bond remains unshakable, says Dr Salim

REGARDLESS of the ever-changing world landscape, the bond between Tanzania and China remains unshakable, former Tanzanian Prime Minister Dr Salim Ahmed Salim said recently in a written interview with Xinhua.



China and Tanzania have a very special relationship that has endured several decades, Salim (pictured) said.

"It is anchored by those who see the bigger picture and always believe that only we have the capacity and ability to promote socio-economic development and prosperity," he said.

"It is a tie of friendship and trust. Over the years, China has made important contributions to Africa's economic development and has been critical to advancing Africa's economic emancipation," he said, adding that he hopes China and African countries will boost cooperation to further help Africa fulfill its economic transformation.

"I believe that the relationship between Tanzanians and the people of China will have a role to play in fostering that development. As they say in Kiswahili, Tupo Pamoja (we are together)," he said.

In 1971, Salim, then representative of Tanzania to the United Nations (UN), spearheaded the campaign for the People's Republic of China (PRC) to restore its lawful seat in the United Nations.

"It was a historic moment. And for me, personally, a great occasion. For Tanzania, for all of Africa, for all of us who worked so hard to make it happen," Salim said about the time when the PRC was recognized as the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations.

The restoration is key to making the organization vibrant, he said.

China, one of the most important countries in the world, plays a pivotal role in the UN's vitality, he said.

Salim was among the six foreigners who were granted China's Friendship Medal recently for their great contributions to supporting China's socialist modernization, promoting exchanges and cooperation with China and safeguarding world peace.

"It is truly a great honor for me. Really, I did not expect it," said Salim.

As the PRC prepares to celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding, Salim said China's prosperity over the past seven decades is a testament to the viability of the Chinese path of development.

Xinhua

China has contributed greatly to global prosperity

TODAY marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. In a matter of seven decades, China has evolved from a third-world country, devastated by two world wars, to an emerging power. It is a strong economy and a beacon of hope that is stabilizing global economic order, acting as a defender of a multipolar world, exercising its sovereign rights without external influences, and bringing about new institutions to spur economic growth.

China as a culture, civilization and nation has had an extraordinary global footprint. It is engaged in every continent and today, the Chinese language is part of primary school education systems in countries including many in Europe and North America.

However, to understand more clearly how China is contributing to a better world and the concept of a shared destiny, we can look at its global influence - policies that have been consistent since 1949 and have proven China's concern for global prosperity and peace.

When China officially began its foreign aid in 1950s, the majority of countries receiving aid at the time were Africans. Between 1970 and 1975, China provided an interest-free loan for the construction of the Tanzania-Zambia railways.

The loan was an extraordinary financial gesture from China, which had just begun building its own economy at the time. During the same period, China also financed several other pro-

jects such as football stadiums, public buildings and health missions that still have an impact on African citizens today.

With this newfound strategic partnership, China and African countries established the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2000.

Today, with \$60 billion dedicated to African development, China has steadily demonstrated that it has one policy and one vision, and has kept its promises to African countries. This policy of prosperity did not stop at Africa - we can see it also in Latin America.

By bringing Brazil, the powerhouse of Latin America, to the BRICS platform, China made it clear that South America is a strategic partner for

South-South Cooperation.

As a result, the commerce between China and Latin American nations has been steadily growing.

In only 20 years, China became the second-largest trading partner of Latin America. China is a major market for soybeans from Brazil. Brazil is followed closely by Peru, Argentina, Venezuela and Mexico in this regard.

Additionally, China is now the main source of international credit lines for Ecuador, Venezuela and Argentina, and China's economic developmental banks invest more in Latin America than the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The support that China has committed to the region has allowed many Latin American states to flourish

economically. Another aspect of China's active role in supporting global prosperity over the last 70 years is its contribution to achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG). When the MDG were established in 2000, China was already on the path to succeed in bringing the largest population in the world back from the brink of poverty.

The Communist Party of China constructed the country to become the second-largest economy in the world, and lifted over 800 million people from poverty, transforming its status to global consumer.

China was given an important role in the MDG program, particularly after the 2012 and 2013 summits in Kunming and Beijing. China's accomplish-

ments, experience as a beneficiary of developmental aid and its expanding role as a provider of developmental assistance to other developing countries assured its role.

China is now the sixth-largest contributor to the UN budget, the 11th-largest contributor to UN peacekeeping operations and is a party to more than 5,000 international treaties.

China has focused on building its economy and providing sound policies over the last 70 years to establish a strong, stable country and a unique growth model.

However, it did not forget its role in international affairs or its commitment to building a shared destiny, and we have 70 years of achievement to prove it.

Global Times



Dar es Salaam resident, Frank Victor Kimambo (R), the winner of a promotion known as 'Faidika na Jero', organized by gaming firm SportPesa in cooperation with telecom firm Tigo, receives a smartphone from Yanga winger Issa Bigirimana in the city yesterday. Kimambo was among five winners of the prize unveiled after the last week's draw. SportPesa and Tigo present prizes which include smartphones, presented every week, and a new car, Renault Kwid, which will be handed to the promotion's last draw's winner. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Dar music, art training centre launched

By Guardian Reporter

PROMOTION of arts and music in Tanzania has gathered pace, given a new training center, known as MAK Music and Art Center, was launched in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Head Councillor to India's High Commission to Tanzania, Ashok Kumar Pande, graced the launch, with scores of music enthusiasts from across Dar es Salaam attending the event.

Krishna Soni, MAK Music and Art Center's Director, noted it will be open to all age groups, with affordable fees having been set for the latter. "The center will offer classes to children, adults, beginners and enhance skills to people with music knowledge," she disclosed.

She pointed out lessons will be conducted theoretically and practically to all.

Krishna noted MAK Music and Art Center is affiliated to the world's renowned Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, which is based in the UK.

She disclosed the UK center's knowledge will, for that matter, cater for all important things about music at the Dar es Salaam center.

She pointed out successful students at MAK Music and Art Center will be awarded local and international certificates.

She insisted the center is an ideal place for kids as it is secure place where the kids can get valuable knowledge on music and arts.

"The center will make students learn and play music instruments, which include piano, guitar, violin, horn, cello and saxophone, professionally," she disclosed.

She pointed out the students will as well learn how to perform on stage.

She noted students will have to undergo serious training and practices to master music and art.

"People who are skilled in music and want to offer their knowledge to the students are welcome to join us," she disclosed.

"Music is one of the most precious gifts from God, which have been bestowed on mankind, through which people enjoy their leisure time and can alleviate their burdens," she disclosed.

She noted music, moreover, creates jobs and contributes to the national gross income.

"MAK Music and Art Center is unique and aims

at grooming the trainees to become professional musicians in terms of singing, dancing and playing instruments professionally," she pointed out.

She disclosed through MAK Music and Art Center, the owners have learnt that the country, despite having plenty of talented and successful musicians, availability of music education has been a big challenge.

"We are here to support our country as we understand music can play big role in creating jobs and improve one's life and contribute to creating a better society," she disclosed.

Krishna expressed sincere regards to her husband, Rupesh, for seeing to it the establishment of the music and arts training center comes to fruition.

Peter Haule, MAK Music and Art Center's Head Tutor, disclosed although it is located at city centre, with mostly well-to-do families residing at the area, the center has as well set its sight on training children from low income families.

Haule pointed out he expects training fees will be affordable for all people with a view to seeing to it children from all walks of life that have interest in excelling in music and arts can train at the center.

He noted the center will train various types of music, including traditional music, choir and Western music, as well as offer training in visual arts.

Haule also said there is a need for music stakeholders in the country to invest in music training centers, insisting the investment will offer employment.

He pointed out there are many talented youths that have no employment, adding the latter can land employment in music should they have knowledge in the profession.

"These youths can create self-employment in music, they though cannot meet their targets if they are not professional musicians, you cannot be a professional musician if you have no knowledge in the profession," he noted.

He urged people to establish more music centers in Dar es Salaam and other parts of the country in an effort to give a bigger number of youths chance to get professional training in music.

Yanga ask for postponement of VPL clash with JKT Tanzania

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MAINLAND Premier League giants, Young Africans Sports Club (Yanga), have written the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) to postpone their match against JKT Tanzania, which has been slated for Wednesday at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga information officer Hassan Bumbuli said his club wrote the TPLB last Thursday asking the body to postpone the game due to travel logistics from Zambia to Dar es Salaam.

He said Yanga, who were in Zambia for the return leg of the CAF Champions League's first round encounter with Zesco, will arrive in Dar es Salaam in two batches. The first one is set to jet in today while the last group will arrive on Tuesday.

Yanga were eliminated by Zesco in the continental tournament with 3-2 aggregate loss to the Zambia side.

"We have written TPLB so that they postpone our game against JKT Tanzania, we have done that because we booked Kenya Airlines' flight and due to logistic problems, the team will arrive in the country on two batches," he noted.

"The first one will jet in tomorrow (today) while the final group will be in the country on Tuesday and the game is expected to be played on Wednesday."

"You can see the team will not have enough time to prepare for



Yanga Information Officer, Hassan Bumbuli.

the match."

He, however, said TPLB has yet to respond to their request.

Bumbuli, however, said the team will be ready for its game against Coastal Union, which will be played in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Boniface Wambura, TPLB Chief Executive Officer, yesterday could not be reached on his mobile phone when The Guardian wanted to know if they are in possession of Yanga's request letter.

Yanga have played one Vodacom Premier League game against Ruvo Shooting, with the latter posting 1-0 victory.

Commenting on his team's performance in Zambia, Bumbuli said despite the defeat he is happy with the way the team played.

After having being eliminated from the CAF Champions League by Zesco on Saturday in Ndola, Yanga will now play in a playoff to seek progression to the groups' stage of this season's CAF Confederation Cup. Yanga will know the playoffs' opponents soon.

Meanwhile, Tanzania's representatives in this season's CAF Confederation Cup, Azam FC, who were eliminated from the competition's first round by

Triangle FC on 2-0 aggregate, said they lost to a better and organized team.

Etienne Ndayiragije, Azam FC head coach, said Triangle FC were a better and organized side and they deserve to proceed to the playoffs and seek qualification for groups' stage.

The coach said his side's focus now is on the Vodacom Premier League games.

"We lost to a better side, they are well organized, we played well but we could not score, we are now focusing on our Premier League games," he said.

Day of Family, Love and Fidelity celebrated in Dar



A couple consisting of a Tanzanian and Russian feature in an event, known as 'Day of Family, Love and Fidelity', which took place in Dar es Salaam on Friday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF RUSSIA-TANZANIA CULTURAL CENTER

By Guardian Reporter

ON September 27, Russian compatriots and Tanzania's graduates of Soviet and Russian universities celebrated an event, known as the 'Day of Family, Love and Fidelity', in the Big Hall of the Russia-Tanzania Cultural Centre in Dar es Salaam.

The event was instituted in Russia in the early 2000s. On behalf of

the Organizing Committee for the celebration, five sets of medals 'For Love and Fidelity' were awarded to couples who had been happily married for over 25 years.

These are Tanzania's graduates of Russian universities and their Russian wives. On one side of the medal there is a chamomile flower - a symbol of love among Russians, and on the other - the faces of saints Prince Peter and his wife

Fevronia, who patronize the family and marriage in the Orthodox traditions.

While accepting the congratulations, the heroes of the occasion talked on how they had found each other, how they had lived together for so many years and raised wonderful children.

They displayed on the big screen their family photographs - current as well as of many years ago.

And, of course, at this festival there

were flowers, a wedding cake and champagne as it has to be at a real wedding party. Favorite songs of the 70s and 80s were filling the air.

Within a short time, the 'Day of Family, Love and Fidelity' has become a popular holiday not only in Russia.

Now it is also celebrated in Bulgaria, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Germany, Great Britain, France and other countries.

Mother's Day: Fraser-Pryce, Felix get golds at worlds

DOHA, Qatar

ONLY moments after Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce zoomed past the finish line Sunday night, she scooped up something more precious than gold.

Her 2-year-old son Zyon came down to the track to join her for the victory lap. What a fitting way to celebrate the Jamaican speedster's fourth and hardest-earned 100-meter title at world championships. "A victory for motherhood!" Fraser-Pryce said.

Sure is. And if 2019 has been the Year of the Mother in track and field, then Sunday was Mother's Day. Only moments before Fraser-Pryce - this time with her long hair arranged in a rainbow-pastel pastiche - blasted past the field

in a season-best 10.71 seconds, new mom Allyson Felix surpassed none other than Usain Bolt with her record 12th gold medal at worlds. This one came in the brand new mixed relay, in which two men and two women team up for four trips around the track.

Felix was among the Americans who banded together in protest this summer, getting Nike to change a long-standing policy that stopped payments to pregnant athletes in this sport. Her 10-month-old daughter, Camryn, was with her at the stadium. Felix said she got goose bumps watching Fraser-Pryce cross the finish line first .12 seconds ahead of Dina Asher-Smith of Britain.

"What she's done is amazing," Felix said. "She's had a hard road, too. She keeps encouraging me.



The United States team of Allyson Felix, Wilbert London, Michael Cherry and Courtney Okalo after winning the gold medal in the mixed 4x400 meter relay race at the World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019. (AP Photo)

Her first year wasn't the best, but her second year, she's better than ever. Women are amazing and she's leading the way."

Fraser-Pryce said she sat on her bed and cried the day she found out she was pregnant. Not too much after that, she heard people saying it might be time to quit.

"Everyone's entitled to their opinion," she said. "I knew how I felt and I knew I wasn't ready to go. I had something left to do, and I stayed focused on the goal."

And that, in many ways, has been the point of this year for her, for Felix, for any woman who has ever been told it's over once she decides to start having kids.

Felix spent more than a decade cultivating a reputation as a classy champion, but a very private person. When she went public with her issues with Nike, it served as a tipping point to the movement begun earlier in the summer by Alyssia Montano in track, and members of the U.S. women's soccer team, who were fighting a similar battle on different turf for equal pay during their run to a World Cup victory.

SPORT

Alli faces uncertain future
as Spurs splutter

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam basketball players take part in training at JMK Youth Park courts in the city yesterday. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

Christina Shusho urges Tanzanians to dream big, build more powerful nation

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's renowned gospel musician, Christina Shusho, has organized a landmark international conference in Dar es Salaam, which will bring renewal to Tanzanians and other nations that will be represented at the meeting.

She disclosed the six-day event, titled 'Eagles Meet International Conference (EMIC)', is set to start on November 1 and will be powered by inspirational speakers.

She noted there will also be music, thanks giving and the event as well looks forward to what people, nations, can achieve if they fear God, stay in love and work hard.

"In Tanzania, momentum developments are taking place. In the spiritual world, people need to look at this - to thank God, but also pray they get the wisdom so that they can act, do the right things at the right time for posterity of our nation and for individual development," Christina noted.

The musician is also the president and founder of Dreamers Center Fellowship in Tanzania.

She noted it is her prayers for every single Tanzanian to trust in God and start having big dreams.

To Christina, dreams and visions are extremely important for an individual, family, and country, and they open up doors for blessings.

"I have big dreams for my country, for myself and for the church," she said.

"President John Joseph Magufuli has shown us the way. Look at the huge infrastructure projects in our country never seen before. It can be done," she pointed out.

"We must stop feeling small- and dream big. I am talking about everyone, children, adults, leaders and all," she said.

The gospel superstar's songs are played all over East and Central Africa, where Kiswahili is a major language.

She noted some of notable gospel icons, who will speak at the conference, include Jeremiah M. Kapotwe (South Africa), the author of a book titled What Do You Do When Trouble Comes?, and Stephen Kato (Uganda), the author of a book titled Man of Destiny.

Kenya's Bishop Chris Mwashumbe, the founder of River Of Life Centre, is as well among the conference's speakers.

Christina disclosed Tanzania will be represented by such renowned speakers like Mwalimu Teddy Kwilasa, Bishop Mulenda Omary, and Reverend Joseph Mayala, among others.

Moro school to host international music day

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO International School (MIS) is expected to host an event, known as international music day, in the region on Saturday.

Some of famous African musicians and their domestic counterparts, including aka Mimi Mars, will serve as judges at a music competition that will take place on the day, the school noted.

The event has been sponsored by KCB Bank, SBC firm through Pepsi brand, Nashera Hotels, Babu Garage Services and Foxes Safari Camps.

Kevin Otwisa, MIS music teacher, disclosed to The Guardian music and arts are presently important.

The school, therefore, feels it is committed to encouraging and nurturing youths' skills by hosting such an event annually.

"Music and arts are important, the school is committed to empowering both students and the community in the two aspects," he said.

Otwisa mentioned music varieties students are expected to perform in the event as karaoke, rap and drama.

He disclosed talents are identified at school so it is teachers' role to develop them.

The school, has, as a result, opted host the event for the Morogoro community, he noted.

"Our target is to have a fun filled day of music and arts, while bringing out our students' creativity and confidence through dancing, singing and all kinds of artistic performances on the day," he noted.

"Our school and community have very talented youths and we are proud to showcase them."

Christiane Manyeye, KCB Bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, said her institution is committed to seeing to it youths value fitness training and playing sports.

A strong nation, she insisted, is built by strong people.

"KCB Bank is eager to support sports not only in Morogoro and its schools but also across the country as the institution, for three years, has been financially backing the Mainland Premier League," she said.

The MIS has been inviting Morogoro community and local celebrities at the event every year.

Last year, a popular Bongo Flava musician, Espen Sorensen, alias 'Mzungu Kichaa', was invited to engage with the students, judge their performances, as well as perform on stage.



Azam FC assistant coach, Iddi Cheche.

Mwinyi Zahera, Cheche defend Yanga, Azam FC team selection

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) and Azam FC coaches have defended their team selection following CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup exit last weekend.

Yanga failed to progress to the lucrative CAF Champions League 's groups' stage, after suffering a 2-1 away loss to Zambian side, Zesco United, in the first round in Ndola on Saturday.

Yanga have, as a result, dropped to the CAF Confederation Cup where they need to win a two-legged playoff to qualify for the groups' stages of the second tier of continental club football competitions.

The stages' draws will be conducted in Cairo on Wednesday.

Yanga head coach, Mwinyi Zahera, has defended his decision not to make substitutions earlier against Zesco United.

There were calls from fans for defenders, Ally Ahmed Ally and Ally Sonso, as well as

Patrick Sibomana, to be substituted but Zahera only made his first change on the 82nd minute when Yanga were chasing the game.

Forwards Juma Balinya, Mrisho Ngassa and Maybin Kalengo were brought in the last 10 minutes but could not get the elusive equalizer. Zahera explained that he could not take out some of his best penalty takers when the game was in the balance.

"I was holding out on a penalty shootout, I could not gamble with taking out our best spot kick takers when the game was in balance. Patrick Sibomana was obviously tired but he is one of best penalty takers," Zahera noted.

"I could not substitute Abdulaziz Makame as he was helping out Ally Sonso who was being overrun by Zesco United strikers. Some players are nervous penalty takers, I was trying to see the game out," he said.

On the other side, Azam FC assistant coach, Iddi Cheche, said the outfit's loss in Zimbabwe has nothing to do with inclusion

of youngsters, Abdul Omary and Masoud Abdallah, ahead of experienced players.

The Ice Cream maker's technical bench threw a few curveballs, with Omary and Abdallah, alias Cabaye, in the starting side.

Midfielders, Frank Domayo and Abubakar Salum 'Sure Boy' were left on the bench and Donald Ngoma was completely absent from the squad.

But for all their youthful energy, their soft underbelly was exposed, though Cheche disclosed the two are not related.

"I don't think it relates at all. It is not the first time they are playing. We have good integration of youth players in the senior team, they played in the Kagame Cup tournament and have enough game time in local top flight," he explained.

Azam FC exit means Yanga are the only Tanzania team remaining in the 2019-20 CAF club competitions, despite an unprecedented six representatives at the start of the campaign, including two from Zanzibar.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



5 EATV **TONIGHT @21:00**

NIRVANA

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Dakika 10 Za Maangamzi
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewZ
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Nirvana
21:30 Wakilisha
22:00 Grace Na Asili Yangu
22:30 Bongo Hits

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eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Msolili to lead Comoros at COSAFA men U-17 Championship

MORONI

COMOROS will be competing in the COSAFA men's Under-17 Championship for the first time in their history as they seek to develop a new generation of young stars for the national team.

The Indian Ocean Island is one of eight sides that will compete at regional finals, which take place in Blantyre, Malawi from October 11-20.

The team will be led by coach, Zainouddine Msoili, who will have the task of moulding the teenagers for international football and showing them what participating in a major tournament is all about.

Comoros have been drawn in the same pool as Lesotho, Mozambique and defending champions Angola, with the top two sides in each group advancing to the semifinals.

They have already defeated Mozambique twice in the last three years but lost to Angola in the preliminary rounds of the 2017 African Under-17 Championship.

Comoros football is on the rise at all levels and having reached out to the diaspora in Europe to bolster the senior national team, they are also eager to develop home-grown talent.

There are several Comoros players at clubs in France, Belgium and the Scandinavian countries, and this COSAFA Under-17 Championship will give scouts the opportunity to run their eye over more.

Comoros have been a COSAFA member since 2006 and have played in several senior and age-group tournaments in the recent past. They have never qualified for the continental or global finals at this age-group level.